



SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AGM 2026



Members this will be my last AGM report to you as president.

The committee has had a number of changes from that elected at the last AGM. Unfortunately, Michelle Jones was not able to take up the position of Secretary. Greg Lawler accepted the position and was appointed at the next committee meeting along with Trevor Hunt and Audrey Ledbrook as committee members.

Towards the end of last year, the Cleveland Bay Bridge Club approached the committee to share our premises, as the lease on their existing clubhouse would not be renewed. Representatives of both clubs met and arranged a sub lease of the clubhouse for 12 months with an option to extend. This arrangement was approved by the Townsville City Council. While there were some initial teething problems, the arrangement is working well to the benefit of both clubs, particularly in relation to both clubs' teaching programmes.

Although the club has lost some members throughout the year, new members have joined from the teaching programme and membership numbers have increased. The Tuesday morning supervised play and afternoon game sessions continue to be successful and contribute to the Club's healthy financial position. Allowing non-members to use the clubhouse on games days has assisted the club in obtaining a number of grants to improve the building.

The Townsville Bridge Club hosted the 2026 Barrier Reef Congress at the Townsville Stadium from 11 to 15 May. Toni Barrell took on the role of Congress facilitator and quickly formed a committee and team of volunteers who did a marvellous job in organising and running the congress. The club was successful in obtaining a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to purchase 70 new tables.

Unfortunately, our application to the Townsville City Council for a grant to cover venue hire was not approved. All seventy tables at the Congress were sold and the Congress was a great success. Both the ABF president Steven Fisher and the QBA president Richard Ward were in attendance and congratulated the club for holding the best Barrier Reef Congress to date.

The Director training classes introduced by Bill Bishop have produced a number of new directors and they have helped to ease the pressure on our existing directors.

Last year I mentioned that our club is one of only three clubs in Queensland who own their own premises.



The building is now over 50 years old and while it has been well maintained, a number of major items including repainting and refurbishment

will need to be done. The Club is lucky to be in a sound financial position to meet future commitments as they arise.

When I first joined the committee, I did not realise just how much hard work it takes to keep a bridge club functioning, particularly one which owns its own clubhouse. The club is lucky to have so many members who are willing to help. I will not even try to mention you all but thank you on behalf of all club members. Thank you to all members of the outgoing management committee and in particular to Vice President Peter Elliott, Secretary Greg Lawler and Treasurer Gary Bolton. I would like to thank Bill Bishop and our Club and Congress directors. Thanks to Bill Pickering and Kevin Barker and the dealing team and to Sam Bishop and Robin Nolan and all those who help unpack the cards. Thanks to Di Garside and those who help conduct our teaching programme. It is good to see a steady flow of new membership applications. The club now has a number of youth members and the committee has adopted the QBA recommendation of charging youth players 50% membership and table fees. Thanks to Robin Nolan, Judy Hunt, Ann Smith and Ian Leach and everyone who has helped conduct supervised play sessions. The newer players are now starting to play in Club sessions. Thanks to Devan Mitchell for preparing last year's calendar and to Mary Overell for taking over this year's calendar. Thanks to Albert Beric for producing our newsletter. Thanks to Sam Bishop for organising partners and Audrey Ledbrook for running the website and to John Tredrea our Zonal Secretary. Lastly, I would like to thank Joan Elliott and the collections team and Ann Smith our providore who work tirelessly for the club.

It has been a privilege being your president for the last six years. All organisations benefit from a change of leadership, and I couldn't think of anyone better than Anto Wilson to take on the position of President of our club. I wish him and members of the incoming committee all the best.

Wilfred Tapiolas



Courtesy – Adrian Raeside



RECENT PROMOTIONS

Jeff Stephens	Regional
Chris Johnson	Bronze Local
Gary Hayman	Graduate
Joan Elliott	Silver Life
Donna Fitch	Bronze Life

RECENT GRAND SLAMS

GREG LAWLER / TONI BARRELL



BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Dwight Eisenhower, former US President and former five-star general of the US Army liked to play contract bridge.

It has been reported that Eisenhower's Wartime Bridge Habits included:

- While leading up to major campaigns like D-Day, Eisenhower played bridge to deal with extreme stress.
- On the night while waiting for news of the Allied invasion of North Africa), Eisenhower, including General Alfred Gruenther, passed the anxious hours playing bridge.
- His favourite bridge partner was General Alfred Gruenther, widely considered the finest player in the U.S. Army.
- Throughout his life, Eisenhower was a very competitive and intense player of bridge. His wife Mamie did not like to play with him because of his intensity. She liked to play bridge to socialize, whereas Ike played the card game to win.

During the presidency, Eisenhower hosted many bridge games in the White House. Ike's secretary, Ann Whitman, was able on very short notice to round up several of Ike's friends who were talented bridge players for an evening of cards at the White House. When he was at his farm in Gettysburg, Ike and his friends normally played bridge in his den. (*Source: National Park service USA*)



RECENT RESULTS

GNOT Regional Final Northern (August 2026)

- 1st KELLY WALKER - LEIGH OWENS - JAN SMITH - BILL BISHOP
- 2nd BETTY HOBDELL - JOAN ELLIOTT - KEN MANDERS - LUTHILE ARLETT - MARGARET DOUSSET
- 3rd JOHN TREDREA - ROBYN NOLAN - DI GARSIDE - CHED TWYMAN

Cassowary Coast Congress - Notable Mentions

1. Cassowary Walkins – **1st place N/S Ian Patterson – John Tredrea**
2. Cassowary Matchpoint Pairs:
 - 1st Place Di Garside / Donna Fitch (Graded B Cat overall first out of 60)
 - 1st Place C Category Heater Colbert/ Ann Smith (overall 11 out of 60)
 - 1st Place D Category Toni Barrell/ Mary Overall (Overall 33 out of 60)

Magnetic Teams Congress

WALKIN PAIRS



1st Place NS -
PHIL RAINS /
ANN SMITH

1st Place EW -
ANGELA
LITTLE /
WILFRED
TAPIOLAS





TEAMS

1st Place A Category

LEIGH OWENS - KELLY WALKER - BILL BISHOP - TAMATI GREIG



1st Place B Category

PAT LEIGHTON - BARBARA HOSPERS - RAY MULD - CATHY CRAWFORD





1st Place - C Category

JOAN ELLIOTT - MARGARET DOUSSET - DI GARSIDE - DONNA FITCH



RENATE FEIGE - ELAINE KIPPEN - HELEN LOVEGROVE- JANA ZRNO -





GARRY BOLTON - MARY OVERELL - TONI BARRELL - DELMA JOHNSON -



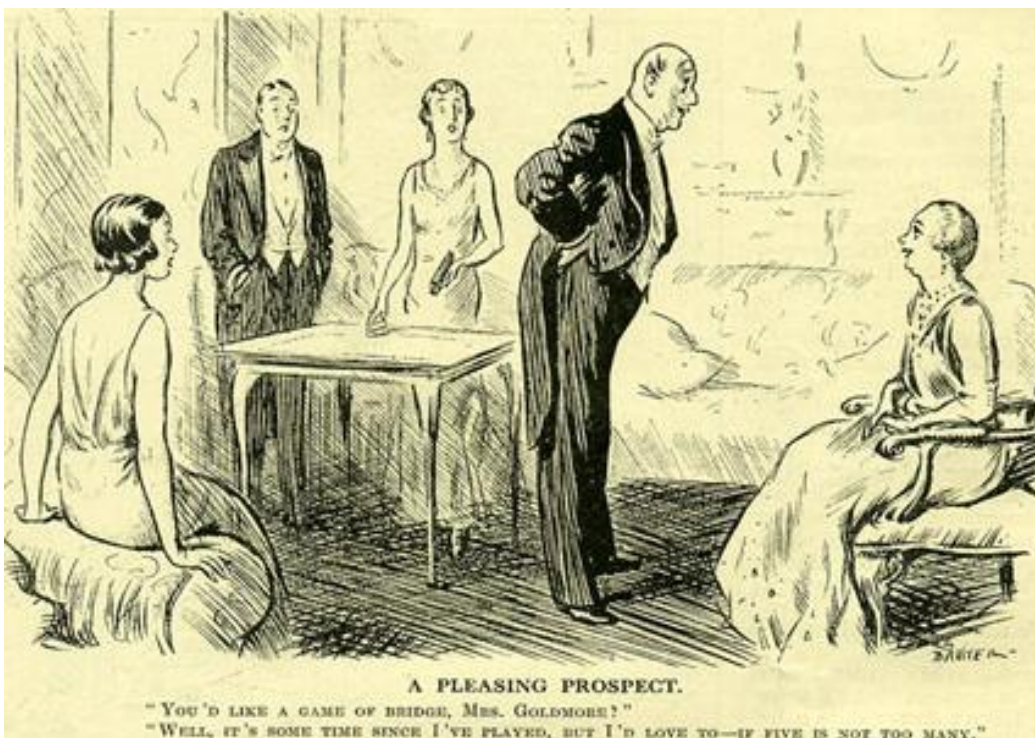


Monday Teams (September 2026)

1st Place JOAN ELLIOTT - ROBYN NOLAN - BETTY HOBDELL - KEN MANDERS

2nd Place ANN SMITH - HELEN LOVEGROVE - JOHN TREDREA - CHED TWYMAN

3rd Place LEIGH OWENS - LUTHILE ARLETT - BILL BISHOP - ANTO WILSON



A pleasing prospect

“You’d like a game of bridge, Miss Golmore?”

“Well, its some time since I’ve last played, but I’d love to – if five is not too many”

Circa 1933. The humour relies on the fact that bridge is a four-player game, revealing that the guest does not actually know how to play.

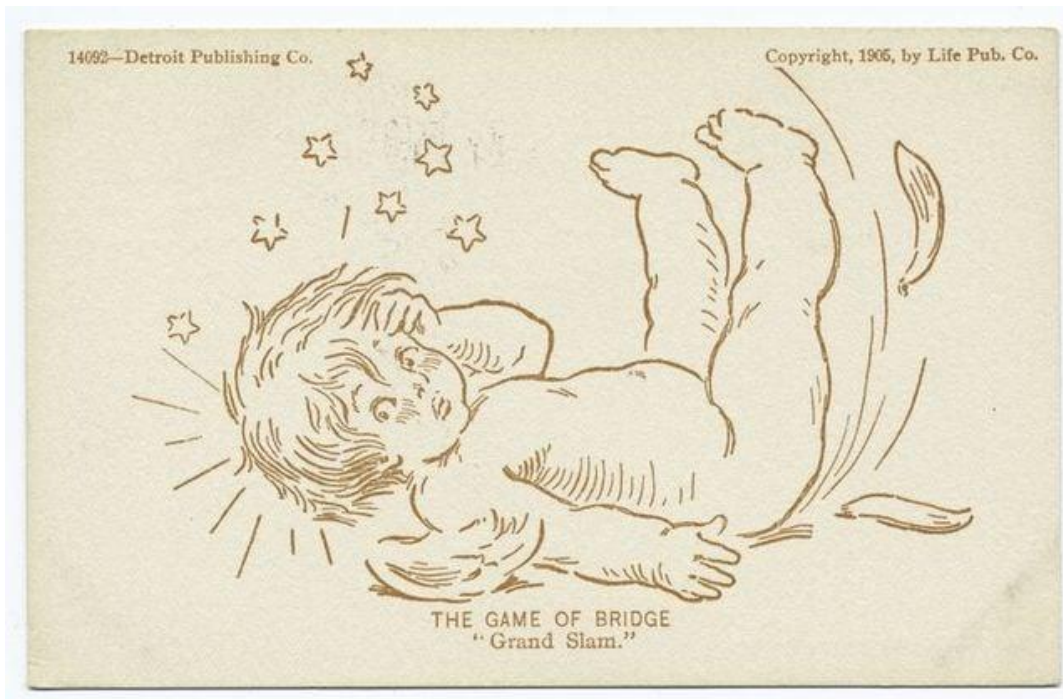


Did you know?

The term "grand slam" comes from The term '*grand slam*' originated in whist-type card games, when it referred to winning all of the tricks, and it was subsequently used in contract *bridge*.

A "slam" meant taking every trick, and a "grand" slam was recorded in bridge by 1892 to signify the ultimate total victory.

Journalists later borrowed the phrase to describe a total sweep or winning all major events in a single season, such as in golf, baseball, and tennis.



Cartoon –
dated 1906

Interesting Trivia

The **Michaels cuebid** was devised by **Michael Michaels** of Miami Beach, Florida USA in the 1960's. Its an over caller's cuebid in opponent's opening suit and is normally used to show a two-suited hand with at least five cards in each suit and eight or more points.



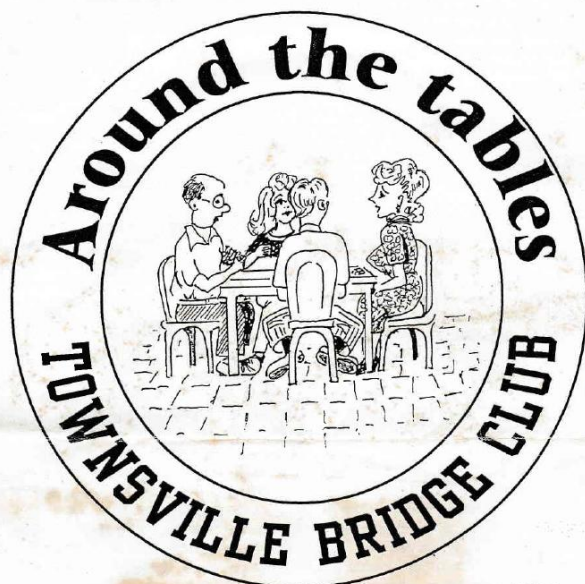
While a physician was examining a new patient's ruddy complexion and blood pressure, the patient said, "I already know I have very high blood pressure, Doc."

"Does it come from your mother's side or your father's?" the doctor asked.

"Neither," Wayne replied. "It's from my bridge partner'



**Memories from the past
Townsville Bridge Newsletter – 1993**



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LOOKING BACK

Some of us came to the game of Bridge in later years. Not so some distinguished members of the TBC.

Richard Ward, Lindy Vincent (nee Ward), Brian Blyth, Barry Kemthorne, Laurie Kelso and Matt Mullamphy. All these players came to the club as teenagers, and went on to win National Titles as members of youth teams around the nation. Matt and Laurie were members of the Queensland Youth Team in:-

1982 - Sydney (Matt-16, Laurie-21)

1984 - Perth, 1985 - Brisbane,

1986 - Canberra.

Matt was in the winning Youth Team in Canberra in 1989 and Laurie a member of the Queensland Team at the GNT Finals in Sydney in 1987.

Richard and Brian won the State Pairs Championship in 1977 and were members of the victorious Queensland Team in 1988 at the Australian National Championships.

Richard also won the Mixed Pairs Championship with Ivy Dahler in 1983 and 1985.

Lindy Vincent was a member of the Australian Women's Team which won the Far Eastern Championship in 1984 in Macau.

Agnes Brown and Barry Kemthorne won the Dunhill Cup in 1982, and the State Pairs in 1985.

In 1988 Matt was a member of an Australian Team which competed in the World Youth (under 25) Championships - held in Nottingham (UK).

*There are gains for all our losses,
There are balms for all our pain;
But when Youth, the dream, departs,
It takes something from our hearts,
That never comes again.*

AUSTRALIA DAY CONGRESS

Wednesday, January 26, the TBC is holding an all day Congress. The event will commence at 9:30am and resume after a break for BYO lunch. Doris Mann will be the Director.



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FOR ALL THOSE BORN BEFORE 1950.

We are survivors: consider the changes we have witnessed.

We were born before television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill.

We were before radar, credit cards, lazer beams and ballpoint pens; before panty hose, dishwashers, clothes driers, electric blankets, airconditioners, drip dry clothing and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first, then lived together. How quaint can you be! We were before house-husbands, gay rights, computer dating, dual careers and computer marriages.

We were before daycare centres, group therapy and nursing homes. We had never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric type writers, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt and guys wearing earrings.

For us time sharing meant togetherness not computer or condominiums. A 'chip' meant a piece of wood, hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word.

In 1950 'MADE IN JAPAN' meant junk, and the term 'making out' referred to how you did in an exam or interview.

Pizza, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mown, coke was a cold drink and pot was something you cooked in.

Rock music was Grandma's lullaby and AIDS were helpers in the Principal's office.

We were certainly not before the differences between the sexes was discovered but we were surely before the 'sex change'.

We made do with what we had and were the last generation to be so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder we are so confused and there is such a generation gap.

BUT WE SURVIVED. What better reason to celebrate.



Bill Redhead, ?, Phil Rains



Di McAlister, ?, Hugh McAlister



LILLIAN, THIS IS THE SECOND TIME
TONIGHT YOU'VE TAKEN ME OUT
OF A BUSINESS DOUBLE. I AM
NOW ABLE TO VIEW THE IMMINENT
DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD BY
THE ATOM BOMB WITH A
DEGREE OF COMPLACENCY



THE PHILOSOPHER

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Heister