



# FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2026.

The Australia Day Congress was once again well supported by members from other bridge clubs in our area.

Numbers of players were similar to last year, with 11 tables for the walk-in pairs, 32 pairs competing in the Swiss Match point pairs, and 16 teams in the Swiss Teams event. Congratulations to the winners and place getters who feature in this newsletter.

On behalf of the Club, I would like to thank the directors, and everyone who worked hard to make the Congress a great success.

Beginners' classes have now commenced on Tuesdays at 9am and Wednesdays at 5.30pm. There are 20 people taking the classes, which shows strong interest in learning to play bridge. It is good to see graduates from previous classes now starting to play on Wednesday night sessions.

I have been asked to remind Wednesday night players to please be considerate of the people attending the classes by keeping noise to a minimum until the class has finished.

The director in charge of each session is responsible for setting the air conditioners and fans. Please do not touch the controls, and if you have a problem, please see the director in charge.

The 2026 Barrier Reef Congress being conducted by our club is only 3 months away. The Congress sub committee under tournament organiser Toni Barrell now meets each fortnight. Nominations are strong with most categories full or almost full. If you are intending to play, please get your nominations in.

As the Congress gets closer, we will be asking for volunteers to help.

While we all may have different personalities, the committee would like to remind everyone to please be courteous and respectful to each other. Aggressive or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated.

**Wilfred Tapiolas**



## **New Bridge Lessons for Beginners**

Start on Tues 10th Feb at 9:00 am and for those who prefer the evening 5:30 pm Wed 11th Feb. Contact Di 0439598019 Tell your friends

## RECENT PROMOTIONS

Carol Blackman	<b>LIFE</b>
Helen Tapiolas	<b>BRONZE STATE</b>
Luthile Arlett	<b>STATE</b>
Stephen Lee	<b>SILVER LOCAL</b>
Annette Lee	<b>BRONZE LOCAL</b>
Michelle Jones	<b>LOCAL</b>

## RECENT GRAND SLAMS

- **JAN MANDERS / KEN MANDERS**
- **JACKIE SEGANFREDDO / VIVIENNE OTTO**



# Happy Birthday

Jackie Seganfreddo - At the Australia Day Congress.  
93 years young.



Courtesy – Adrian Raeside



# AUSTRALIA DAY TOWNSVILLE CONGRESS RESULTS

## WALKIN PAIRS



1<sup>st</sup> Place E/W Ched Twyman and John Tredrea



2<sup>nd</sup> Place E/W Diane Holewa and Max Holewa



1<sup>st</sup> Place N/S Bill Redhead and Phil Rains



## SWISS PAIRS



1st Place Cat A - **Bill Redhead and Phil Rains**



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Cat A – **Tex Sheedy and Janelle Conway**



1st Place Cat B – **Lydie Martin and Renate Feige**



## SWISS PAIRS

1<sup>st</sup> Place Cat C – Michelle Jones and Jan Nettle



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Cat B – Ian Leach and John Larkin



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Cat C – Gary Bolton and Greg Lawler

1<sup>st</sup> Place Cat D – Mary Overall and Toni Barrell



# SWISS TEAMS

1<sup>st</sup> Place Cat A – Max Holewa, Diane Holewa, Terry Sheedy and Janelle Conway



2<sup>nd</sup> Place Cat A – Ian Patterson, Betty Hobdell, Sandra Elliott and Robyn Nolan



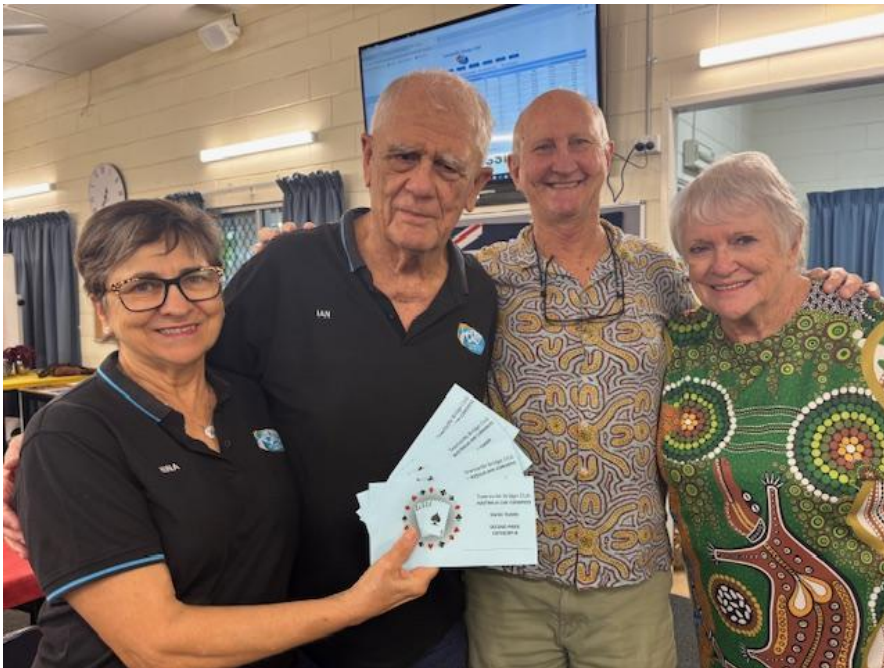
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Cat A – Ched Tywman, Bill Redhead, Phil Rains and John Tredrea



## SWISS TEAMS



1<sup>st</sup> Place Cat B – Jane Lake, Kenn Winter, Ruth Morris and Audrey Ledbrook



2<sup>nd</sup> Cat B – Nina Doyle, Ian Leach, Anto Wilson and Sam Bishop

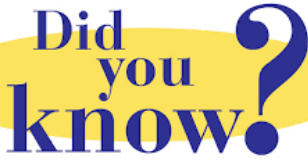


1<sup>ST</sup> Place Cat C – Bill Pickering, Jana Zrno, Gary Bolton and Greg Lawler





- Walkin Pairs and Swiss Director – **Bill Bishop**
- Swiss Teams Director – **Jan Smith**



## AUSTRALIA DAY

### Interesting Trivia - BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- *The Nullarbor Links Golf Course is the longest golf course in the world! The 18-hole par 72 golf course spans from Kalgoorlie in WA to Ceduna in SA*
- *The Dingo Fence (or Dog Fence) is the world's longest fence, stretching approximately 5,614 km (3,488 miles) through Queensland, New South Wales, and South Australia. Built between the 1880s and 1885.*
- *Before the arrival of humans, Australia was home to megafauna, three-metre tall kangaroos, seven-metre long goanna's, horse-sized ducks and a marsupial lion the size of a leopard.*
- *Termite mounds in Australia, specifically those built by *Nasutitermes triodiae* (cathedral termites), are considered among the tallest non-human animal structures on Earth, reaching heights of up to 8 meters (approx. 26 feet).*
- *The oldest known fossils in the world are cyanobacteria from Archaean rocks of western Australia, dated 3.5 billion years old.*
- *The Great Barrier Reef is the largest ecosystem in the world. It is made up of nearly 3,000 individual reefs and can be seen from space.*
- *The Indian Pacific train has the longest straight section of train track in the world.*
- *The largest cattle station in the world is located in Australia, Anna Creek Ranch in South Australia and it's bigger than Israel.*
- *Australia is the only continent in the world without an active volcano.*
- *Australia is the only continent covered by a single country.*



# Bridge for Beginners

The term "**vulnerable**" in the card game of bridge was introduced to make the game more challenging and interesting by influencing bidding strategy and penalising risky decisions.

The concept of vulnerability in contract bridge was a key innovation introduced by **Harold S. Vanderbilt** in 1925.

The primary purpose of vulnerability is to vary the scoring and discourage players from making overly aggressive bids (known as "sacrificing") simply to prevent their opponents from scoring a game in a rubber. Vulnerability significantly impacts the risk/reward ratio of bidding:

This mechanic forces players to carefully weigh the potential points gained from a successful, higher bid against the increased penalties of a failed one, adding a significant strategic element to the auction and play of the hand



## Psychic bids

Psychic bids (or "psychs") in bridge come from a deliberate, gross misstatement of hand strength or suit length to deceive opponents, a tactic popularized by Dorothy Rice Sims in the 1930s who also coined the term, though the core idea of bluffing is as old as the game itself. They're used strategically to disrupt opponents' bidding, often when vulnerable or in specific positions, by misleading them into thinking you have a strong hand or suit when you don't, aiming to prevent them from reaching game or finding their best contract.

**Dorothy Rice Sims** wrote the first book on the topic, "Psychic Bidding", making it famous in newspaper columns.

In Old, a player may make any call or play without prior announcement provided that such call or play is not based on an undisclosed partnership understanding.

A player may deviate from his side's announced understandings, provided that his partner has no more reason than the opponents to be aware of the deviation. Repeated deviations lead to implicit understandings which then form part of the partnership's methods and must be disclosed in accordance with the regulations governing disclosure of system. If the Director judges there is undisclosed knowledge that has damaged the opponents he shall adjust the score and may assess a procedural penalty.



Bridge Topic of the Week

## **PSYCHE BIDS**

- A psyche bid is "a deliberate and gross misstatement of honour strength and/or of suit length".
- Psyche bids should be reported to the Director by the psycher or their partner, and if the Director agrees that it is a psyche, it will be recorded in the Club's Psyche Register.
- Partnerships that have a track record of psyches may need to modify their system card accordingly.



# BRIDGEMATES

Jan Manders, John Tredrea, Devan Mitchell, Sandra Bunnett, Robert Mischlewski, Fred Cole, and Lyn Joye



Sandra Bunnett, Robert Mischlewski, Fred Cole, Lyn Joye, and Jillanne Dillon





Phil Johnson

THE EVENTS  
LEADING UP  
TO THE  
TRAGEDY

ONE  
NO TRUMP!

THREE  
SPADES!

THREE  
NO TRUMPS!

↑  
NOT A  
SPADE

LEWIS

