



# Bridgemates

Issue No. 14



## MARIO'S MESSAGE

My Friends,

As this will be our last newsletter for the year, I am delighted to report that club matters are "bubbling along" nicely. There have been a couple of minor issues but these have been resolved .

You are aware that a Christmas party sub-committee with four members has been appointed. I am keen to report that they have been excitedly working to ensure the success of the function and the pleasure of all who attend. Please come along bringing cheer and goodwill, and if possible, your most imaginative Christmas garb or hat. Under the very enthusiastic and energetic direction of Marie Hall, local businesses have been approached with the outcome of almost \$2,000 in vouchers being obtained. What a wonderful effort.

For those who are not aware I must repeat that \$412.00 of the vouchers will be used for our own in-house raffle drawn at the party, and the remainder will be sold on the internet for drawing mid-December. This is rather marvellous as it is at no effort to the club members (other than those who set it up) and at no expense. has been a terrific idea and greatly appreciated. This information is also available in the November meeting minutes.

Our good friend, Jean Thompson along with her trusty sidekick Eric Simpson, have retired from setting up tables etc. before play which is tremendously important for the club. They have been doing this for many years and we appreciate their commitment.

Thank you Jean and Eric.

Recruits have consented to undertake the directors' course under the able tutelage of Norm de Chastel with his team of assistants. We now have five new directors: Murray Schlecht, Kim Schlecht, George Kavanagh, Upasana Shanti and Greg Lawler. Congratulations. We look forward to their joining the current team.

It is timely for me to wish you all the compliments of the season. May you be surrounded with affection from your families or friends, and may your God go with you.

Buon Natale

From President Mario



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## Two Events to look forward to

1. **TEAMS** - You need to nominate a team of **four** players to compete in the **TEAMS AFTERNOON OF BRIDGE** on **Wednesday 15 November** starting punctually at 12.30pm. This promises to be another great day of bridge and an opportunity for new players to team up with the experienced players.





## CHRISTMAS PARTY - Friday 1 December

11.30am

Drinks (Wine & Soft), Nibbles, Lunch

**Prizes** for the best Christmas **costumes** and Christmas **hats**

Lucky spot prizes  
Some bridge  
and lots of fun

Steve Ormerod as MC

Raffle drawn after lunch

\$25.00 Payable in advance by cash or eft.

(Bank account details: **BSB** 124 081 **Account No** 1035 7121)

### MEET YOUR MEMBERS

*Continuing our series of conversations with Bridge Club members*

#### **Bev Barton**

I was born in New Zealand and spent the first few months of my life there until my parents received a call to go to Rhodesia/Zimbabwe as teachers for one year. So we set by ship to Africa. My brother was three years old, and I was 13 months old.

My parents had good friends there who had bought a ranch and started a small primary school on the ranch to teach the little African children. Gar was the farmer and Grace the teacher.

We settled in well and Dad took over running the school whilst their friends returned to New Zealand for a year.

My parents loved it so much, that my widowed mother returned to New Zealand for her retirement after 27 years. Under my father's guidance, the school grew to become not only primary, secondary and teacher training. Unfortunately, Dad died in 1964 and the teacher training had to cease. Mother stayed on for another 11 years. In fact, she was the only white face on the place during the early war years. Due to the nature of their teaching Africans, my brother and I went to boarding school for most of our lives because of apartheid in Africa.

After I completed school, I undertook my nursing training in Bulawayo and on completion I decided to see the world. As I was eligible for a New Zealand passport I obtained one and took off. In those days, 1969, a Rhodesian passport only allowed you into South Africa and nowhere else because of sanctions.



I travelled firstly to New Zealand where my brother was learning to be a farmer, and also to get to know my relatives whom I hardly knew. After spending the remainder of that year in NZ, I then thought I am this close to Australia; why not visit, so I did. Whilst in Sydney, I applied to immigrate to Canada. This had always been my dream.

Off I went, to settle in Toronto. I arrived with only \$80. I thought as I'm a nurse, I'll be able to find a job easily. That wasn't to be. Educated in Africa, I had to sit an English exam. Really, was I not communicating well enough with the registration board! As I couldn't do that for a few weeks, I sought any employment. Eventually a kind GP took me in and I worked for him for 3 ½ years. In the meantime, in a pub, I met this guy called Gary. He was from NZ, a bit of a rogue really but a lovable one. We dated for 3 months and then he suggested we get married because he would ensure my life was never to be dull. Oh my, sometimes over the years I thought, let's settle down. Life was on the move but fun.

We had our son Brett in Toronto but living with a baby during the winter there was not my ideal, so we packed up and moved to NZ. Gary was a builder by trade, so he started to work for himself again and I easily returned to my nursing. Our daughter was born in NZ and that was our family complete. We lived in Wellington for seven years when one day, Gary went up to Hawkes Bay and bought a little 14 acre property. So we went again, having had three moves in our time in Wellington. I had the house of my dreams, only to be told, someone came down the drive today and made me an offer I couldn't refuse.

We enjoyed our years in Hawkes Bay, the little farm with a menagerie of animals; great for the children. Then we moved on to Hastings where I was a charge nurse at the local hospital.

I had always wanted to own and run my own nursing home. Over the years we were always looking for the right property for me to fulfil my dream. Eventually, we heard that the hostel that housed intellectually handicapped adults was to be sold. It sat on three acres on the outskirts of town..... very suitable. So we bought it and started Graceland's Aged Care Centre. With an initial 30 beds, every one of them spoken for the day we opened, we were bought out 10 years later with 90 beds and a 70 unit retirement village. Whew, what a 10 years. We loved every minute of it. We were lucky to get one weeks holiday a year. Our children remained sane and have turned out to be fine young people.

After we sold Graceland's Age Care, we came to the Sunshine Coast for a week's holiday.. Initially, we looked at Noosa, but bought a house in Minyama. Gary rebuilt the house and we had many very happy years there. In the meantime, I did do a bit of nursing here when I first arrived. However, one day whilst looking after two palliative care patients, I enquired about Hospice care, only to discover the other staff did not know about Hospice.

I have another passion which is to get a sustainable Hospice here on the Sunshine Coast so that people can have an alternative choice as to where they want to spend their last days. Home is best, acute hospital - no not so good, a nice homely hospice - that's next best. Therefore, for the past 10 years I have been on this journey. Two nurses started the Sunshine Hospice Charity. Thus, I jumped on board with them doing the fundraising for 3 ½ years, as well as most of the public speaking. We started our Hospice - Katie Rose Cottage. However, 5 years later we had to close due to lack of funding. The government does not see the value in Hospice.

In NZ there are about 34 hospices for the same population. Hospice is a free service to their patients, all over the world but not in Queensland.

I now sit on the Board of the **Sunshine Hospice** and along with my colleagues; we are determined to get our purpose built hospice a reality here on the Sunshine Coast. We have five Op shops, all trading and the monies banked in anticipation of building the Sunshine Hospice.

In the meantime, I enjoy playing bridge, going to Aqua Aerobics and also working as a member of the Zonta Club of Caloundra.

Gary is currently president of the Maroochy Bowls Club that keeps him busy.

We moved in to Cotton Tree in December 2015 and really enjoy it.

Our son lives here but our daughter lives in Montreal in Canada. Yes we have gone full circle.

### **WHO'S WHO IN THE COMMITTEE**

President **Mario Cresta**

Vice President **Greg Jellis**



Secretary **Therese Conroy**



Treasurer **Lynda Laffan**



Committee: **James Bazzo, June Beasley, Murray Schlecht, Sandi Owen, Upasana Shanti, Kay Manthei**

