

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022

This year has been the first full year back from the Covid disruptions, and I want to thank Club members for coming back to play, as anecdotal evidence is that this has not been the case at other regional clubs.

The Club had many anniversaries in 2022: 40 years since the Mollymook Bridge Club was first formed; 30 years since it was first incorporated; 25 years since the Clubhouse was opened; and 20 years since the inaugural Mollymook Bridge Congress.

The Club is successful on the back of hard-working volunteers, and I want to first thank Kevin Tant, our Senior Director, who co-ordinates the calendar, and the Directors' roster to ensure that each session has a Director, as well as being our Masterpoints secretary, and our liaison with the Australian Bridge Federation and The New South Wales Bridge Association. He is much appreciated by the other Directors, who when there is an issue, go knockin' on Kevin's door (as we expressed at the Christmas Party).

I also want to thank the other Directors: Graham Evans, Ken Harrison, Tony Rolfe, and John Reid who devote a lot of time to this task. Others have also contributed: Graham Evans and Jim Thomas who look after the gardens; and Deb Skinner who was partnerships co-ordinator and supported supervised play.

I have had the benefit of a fantastic committee to work with this year, and to them I am especially grateful. Lauri Perino, as Vice-President and Treasurer has done an enormous job with the professionalisation of our accounting system, the hard work of rationalising table money and individual accounts, as well as co-convenor of our Congress, and assistance with the planning of our Christmas Party. Rae Duffy has worked hard as Secretary with minutes, notices and correspondence, and has had an important role in getting Thursday Night Bridge back up and running.

Elainne has had a huge impact on the skills development of our members, including beginner lessons, intermediate lessons, Monday Night supervised play, and assisting on Thursday nights. Helene Downs has been Welfare and Purchasing Officer, and has continuously purchased all of the food and tea/coffee for club games as well as our wine and cheese functions. Rowena has upgraded our website and Facebook (with help from John Reid) as Publicity Officer. Margaret Callan has been organiser of our social functions, as well as the introduction and organisation of the training for our new Defibrillator, an important addition for the health and safety of our Club.

Finally, John Reid has been our everywhere man; IT support (especially for me); support for social events, and support for the evaluation of a new software system (see below). One of John's other projects has been to put in print our history. In this we received a surprise: a lady had moved into a house in Sydney, and found a large box entitled "Mollymook Bridge Club" in the Basement, with the name of Ruth Lumbers (the original founder of the Club) on it. Nance Tierney remembered they had a daughter called Eugenie, and indeed she had previously owned the house and left it there when she moved! And, even more bizarre, I used to work with a Eugenie Lumbers, and it turned out to be the same person. So we

obtained a box of old press clippings, scoresheets with the names of all of the original members, and other bits of history.

In 2022, we moved the Mollymook Congress to the Dunn-Lewis Centre. This was fitting, as that centre was built to commemorate the lives of two local boys in the Bali bombings, and it was the 20th Anniversary of that event. This bigger space also allowed us to expand the number of tables at the event, and we had 30 tables (120 people) for the Pairs event, and 24 tables for the Teams event. It was extremely successful, and I want to thank many people who helped co-ordinate the massive logistics of moving tables, and all the other material into and out of the venue. Special thanks also go to Mike Spicar and the Milton Bridge Club for the use of their equipment.

This year we emphasised player development and bringing new members into the Club, and thanks to the work (mentioned above) of Elaine, and others in support, this has been extremely successful. Through these efforts, 23 new members have joined the Club. These new players are the life-blood of the club, and this will have significant long-term effects. In fact, the Mollymook Club is one of only 3 regional clubs that have not seen membership decline. As we now have almost 40% of our membership with less than 15 Masterpoints (MPs), we ran 2 inaugural Championships in 2022 in addition to our existing ones: the Club Classic for those with 5-15 MPs; and the Rookie Pairs for those with less than 5 MPs. This was a fantastic day and much appreciated by those who attended. This is important for another reason, because above all else, we are a social club, and it is essential that we create an environment that is inclusive and welcoming, especially to newer players. I want to thank all those members who have welcomed and assisted the new players as they have joined the regular games.

We lost one of our long-time members during 2022 in Ray Parris. I have never seen anyone so enthusiastic about Bridge, and so determined to play on despite his considerable illness. He is missed by our members.

Finally, during 2022, the Directors have been evaluating software options for the scoring and running of club games including inter-club events, and for integration of this software into other programs that might be useful to the club. This has been an enormous exercise, because some of the documentation was scant, and I want to particularly thank John Reid and Kevin Tant for their contributions.

Thank you to all of our members who have supported the Club during 2022.

Ross Milbourne