

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Dear Members of the Victorian Bridge Centre,

I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to all of you during this festive season. For many this year has brought challenges, adversity and great sorrow, particularly from the horrific events at Bondi this December. I hope you all find comfort and support with your families and friends.

I thank the Victorian Bridge Centre Operations Committee, Keith Bold, Neil Ewart, Phyllis Moritz and Club Manager, Viv Dacey for their hard work throughout 2025.

I would like to remind members that the VBCOC is run by volunteers who assist the Club Manager in day-to-day operations of the club, freely giving their time to make the club run smoothly.

Many thanks to our Teachers, Phil Fent & Danny Sharp and to our Directors, Martin Willcox, Val Daly, Viv Dacey, Alex Zarnowski, Len Meyer, Andrew Macready-Bryan, Terry Crawford and the inimitable Laurie Kelso.

I also thank the many club members who have helped the VBC in various ways such as assisting with supervised bridge, mentoring new players, donating prizes for the charity silent auction, tidying the bridge rooms, cleaning playing cards and baking delicious cakes for all to enjoy during bridge sessions. Every contribution makes our club stronger. I applaud the sportsmanship and generosity that so many of our club members display at the bridge table, making the VBC an enjoyable venue for bridge.

There have been many outstanding achievements by VBC players this year at all levels of competition including duplicate, congress, State events & National Events. The most notable results are as listed below:

The VBC Team won the **2025 Australia-Wide ABF Club Open Teams Knockout event**. The team members were Kevin Chan – David Beckett – Martin Willcox – Neil Ewart – John Yang.

The following VBC club members represented Victoria at the **Australian National Championships** in July.

- Franci Halmos, Bertha Dembo, Kitty Muntz & Kim Frazer in the Women's State Team
- Neil Ewart, Dee Harley, Paul Ruan, David Beckett, Simon Henbest, Chen Ding captained by Jenny Thompson in the State Open Team
- Rebecca O'Reilly captained the State Youth Team
- Robert Gallus and Stephen Weisz captained by Jenny Thompson in the State Seniors Team.

At the **Kooyong Teams Congress** in June, Russ Eason, John Lawton, Philip Riska and Keith Bold won the Restricted Teams event.

Viv Dacey & Jan van Riel won the **Barrier Reef Congress** Restricted Pairs event in May.

Congratulations to all who have achieved their personal goals in bridge.

I am proud that the VBC held two charity days in 2025, one for the ABF Foundation for youth bridge which raised over \$1000 and another for the JMB Foundation (James Macready-Bryan Foundation) which raised over \$3000. This is a great reflection on the community spirit of our club members.

I also thank our sponsors who supported the VBC this year, including Fixed Income Solutions, Kieser and Unique Upholstery.

All the very best to you all for 2026.

Maryanne Bird

VBC Chair

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