

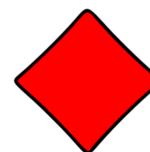


BRIDGE MATTERS



March 2017

Caloundra, Coolumb, and Sunshine Coast Bridge Clubs



SUNSHINE COAST NEWS

John Stacey

The renovations to the toilets and kitchen have been so successful and well received that the Committee decided to proceed with two more projects.

First, the North end of the playing area has been modified to incorporate a library and book exchange in the form of new shelving and storage. The appearance of the wall has been enhanced and made more user-friendly.

The second is the replacement of the screen and plants on the exterior wall facing the carpark. This work is expected to be completed by the end of March.

There has been increasing pressure on the carpark with more players coming to our sessions and the Committee has approached Council for an increase the size of our carpark. Council was not expecting to need to take any action on this matter for many years so it may take time; though we are working on it.

We congratulate two of our members, Janice Little and John Burt, who capped a very successful 2016 by winning the James O'Sullivan Award for the highest point scores achieved by Queensland Local Masters.

The Northern Suburbs Teams congress was held on 22nd January and was attended by quite a few of our members. Maureen Jakes and Alison Dawson were half of the winning team in a strong field. This was an excellent effort and we congratulate them on their win.

The QBA Senior Teams was held at our Club on 4th and 5th February and was contested by 28 teams. A number of our members played quite well but not well enough to fill the major places. The congress was very efficiently organised by our Congress Secretary, Ursula Shelden and the kitchen staff, helpers and contributors lead by Fay Stanton produced excellent food to sustain the players.

We have re-started Tuesday afternoon bridge and the interest has been quite encouraging with seven tables for the first two-week event. Players on Tuesday morning who continue in the afternoon do not have to pay again for the afternoon session. It is a pleasant format with three nine board matches played in each session. Hopefully, the interest will be sufficient for us to be able to continue with the concept.

Our oldest member, Mary Murray has turned 99 and still holds a driver's licence and is an active player at the Club. You can read more of her fascinating story on Page 10 of this issue of *Bridge Matters*.

CALOUNDRA NEWS

Bob Galvin

Bridge Classes

The September 2016 evening beginners' classes started with 39 aspiring players of whom 30 went on to participate in the supervised play. Some of these joined our Club while others moved back to their local clubs. Only a few 'saw the light' and probably went on to play bowls.

The first evening beginners' class for 2017 has begun. Any existing Club member can, for a fee of \$15, attend all the classes or any classes they select. The subject matter for each of the classes will be shown on the notice board so choices can be made to attend as you desire.

Advanced classes are now being run on Friday mornings from 10.30, details posted on the notice board for each of the classes.

Our thanks to Randall for his excellent work in organising and delivering these classes.

Team Sessions

Caloundra Club has commenced a monthly team Session on dates shown in the 2017 Program booklet. These replace the scheduled standard Pair Sessions.

While players participate in their normal pairs, the number of tables must be even and known prior to the commencement of the Session. Players are required to register their intention to play by recording the names of their pair on the registration poster on the notice board. The red lines on the poster indicate the points at which the Director will choose to cap the number of pairs playing so that the number of teams is even.

We will endeavour to find additional pairs if the number of registered pairs does not make up even tables. However, if this cannot be done, the pairs who have registered after a cut off line cannot be assured of a game. Teams are only formed on the day of play. Pairs not familiar with teams' play will be teamed up with an experienced pair so that can readily learn the nuances of team play.

For the tentative souls who would like to know more about team play before trying it, Peter Busch has given an excellent introduction to the topic on Page 9 of this issue of *Bridge Matters*. The first few team sessions were something of a learning experience even for our Directors.

Phantom Player

A Phantom Player system is still in operation at the Caloundra Bridge Club for Tuesday afternoon, Thursday Twilight, and Friday afternoon sessions. Players can arrive alone and will be guaranteed a game by either pairing up with another lone player or with the Phantom player, depending on the number of players being even or uneven.

Drew Dunlop is kept busy maintaining a roster of phantoms but there is always room for more. Anyone who would like to be included in the roster should contact Drew.

Playing Cards

An interesting, and sometimes frustrating, situation has developed with the latest supply of playing cards that the Club uses. Some confusion has been reported to Directors regarding the differentiation between the ace of spades and ace of clubs. QBA have been consulted and they have confirmed the cards in question are approved.

CCBC 2-day Teams Congress.

At Caloundra, 8th and 9th of April.

- 9.00 am for 9.30 start on Saturday
- 8.30 am for 9.00 start on Sunday.

A good time is guaranteed.

Restricted Pairs Event

The Club's restricted pairs event, open to member with less than 150 masterpoints, was held over a recent 3 week period. could participate. It was disappointing that only 8 pairs participated. However, those who did had a good time, with Tony Sizer and Bob Davies coming out the winners.

CALOUNDRA AGM

FOR YOUR DIARIES

1.00 Thursday July 27th

CALOUNDRA'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA

Thursday 25th May

In conjunction with the scheduled bridge session, commencing at 9.00 am, plus a Devonshire Morning Tea and a glass of bubbly. Entry fee \$10.

Last year, with generous donations from the Club and local businesses, we raised \$4,321 for Cancer Council Queensland.

Work has already commenced to generate prizes and you are kindly requested to consider donating any unwanted Christmas or Birthday gifts which may be given as door prizes or sold on our Bring-and-Buy table which was a huge success last year. And plenty of notice to the keen gardeners amongst you who may also like to polish up your green fingers and propagate some cuttings for the event. Plants sell well.

Since the sale of raffle tickets generates the largest part of our income, we are seeking volunteers to sell tickets to their family, friends and perhaps even to members of other Clubs to which they may belong, such as Probus or a bowls club. Worthwhile prizes are promised.

Most of us are affected in some way during our lives by Cancer so we hope to raise at least as much as we did last year and all donations and help will be gratefully accepted.

Contact- Anne Manester 5437 3314

COOLUM NEWS

Ken Dawson

Negotiations with Council in regard to leasing the old cinema building have proceeded to the point that Committee has decided, as authorised at the last AGM, to raise the table fees to \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for visitors

Coolum's table fees have remained unchanged since 2004. I'm sure that all members appreciate that costs have increased substantially during that time and our continued viability requires us to make this change.

VALUE MANAGEMENT

Editor

Table fees at our three Clubs are now all \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for visitors. It makes the Treasurers happy, paper money easing the chores of counting and reconciling the cash.

Those who feel groovy could whizz down to Sydney for a session at the Grand Slam in Double Bay: \$17 for members and \$20 for visitors.



NEW
to
**FUTURE ISSUES OF
BRIDGE MATTERS
QUESTION
CORNER**

Our panel of experts will respond to any queries you might have on tricky aspects of our game: rules, systems, bidding, play, defence, or etiquette..

Please direct your questions initially to the Bridge Matters Editor:

Peter Bishop
pibishop@aapt.net.au
5437 6009



NEW MEMBERS

Caloundra

Jenny Albiez	Heather Andrews
Peter Andrews	Philip Benjamin
Janie Brennan	Frank Castle
Greg Davis	Greg Harding
David Morphett	Bronwyn Sawers
Kathryn Sivell	Karen Skippington
Felicity Stephens	Kerry Thorp
Glenda Vincent	David Wilke

Four of the above sixteen have transferred from other Clubs.

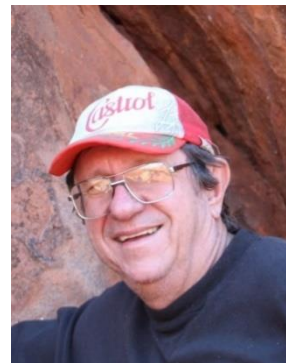
The Club membership presently stands at 275, 215 of whom are home members and 60 are away members.

Sunshine Coast

Louise Bogdanovic	Esperanza Cadavid
Brett Whitehill	Dawn George
John Gilmour	Pat Hawes
Adam Hertelendy	Ian Pitts
Linda Taylor	Chris Trimblett
Petra Vanneste	

KEN'S KORNER

Ken Dawson



Ken's Chestnut-

Playing at the five level belongs to the opponents

N	E	S	W
1S	2D	4S	5D
		?	

This chestnut comes from the fact that it is very rare that both 5D and 5S will be making contracts. It is very likely that both 5D and 5S will fail.

If North follows this chestnut, he should pass or double 5D and not bid 5S.

Does North really know what South has for his 4S bid? I doubt it. That is a good reason to pass with ordinary hands.

Of course, there will be exceptions. If you opened 1S with 10 HCP and a 7 card suit, you have a better case for bidding 5S.

If you are sure 5D is going off without spade tricks, then opener should double; if only to keep partner quiet.

If opener wishes to investigate slam – great hand, diamond void etc – he needs to bid 5H. That shows a better hand than a 5S bid.

In summary, this chestnut applies for ordinary hands. Both sides are probably out of their depth at the 5 level.

Ken's Konundrum #6

♠Q5
♥KQ2
♦QJT6
♣KJ97

♠K8
♥AJ6
♦A543
♣A842

After a crisp 1NT – 3NT, west leads a low spade. Plan your play.

Despite all those high cards, you need a finesse in one of the minors. Which one?

The first move, is to put up the SQ. Why? Because, if it holds the trick, west will probably not know that the SK in your hand is now bare! If you play low from dummy, the stiff queen will be there for all to see. So, the SQ holds the trick.

Now what? If you enter hand to take the club finesse and it fails, the spade return will come through you so fast that it will make your eyes water.

For that reason, you should play on diamonds, not the clubs. When that loses, west will pause for thought while you hold your breath.

Chances are, he will try to get to east's hand with a club or heart so that the spade can be led from that side. Now, you grab your tricks.

♠Q5
♥KQ2
♦QJT6
♣KJ97

♠AT732
♥864
♦K9
♣T63

♠J964
♥T973
♦872
♣Q5

♠K8
♥AJ6
♦A543
♣A842

Tip: When experienced pairs play :- *"When the opening lead is won in dummy with an honour, partner gives count"*. Here, east plays S9, ready to play high-low to show an even number of cards in the suit. West considers all four cards before turning over his card and quitting the first trick. He will be thinking :- *"Where are the small cards? Partner must be preparing to play high-low!"* If he has four, my ace will deck the SK.

LEAD-DIRECTING DOUBLES

Introduction- Randall Rusk

Occasionally in defence, the opportunity arises whereby you can inform your partner that you would like a specific suit lead. The play by which this information is conveyed is the **"Lead-Directing" Double**, which makes a request for a specific lead by the Doubler's Partner.

The most frequent cases are a "Double" of any artificial bid, some examples being subsequent to a Stayman **"2C"** or **"3C"** bid, a Jacoby Transfer bid, responses to the Gerber, Blackwood or Roman Key Card Ace-asking conventions.

Below is an example, with West doubling South's 2 Club Stayman to request a Club lead from East, should N-S finish in a NT contract.

W	N	E	S
-	1NT	Pass	2C
Double			

This article is merely an introduction to lead directing doubles for those who have never used them and, like any new convention, understanding or agreement, make sure you discuss it thoroughly with your partner before you implement any changes to your play.

Having said that, the pain of a mishap is always a pretty good teacher, so enjoy.

Also; a One-Club opening in the Precision System is a huge topic in itself and only a pair of experienced defenders with a well-established system would double over that opening bid.

LEAD-DIRECTING DOUBLES

A Double Dilemma- Mike Phillips

Your opponents bid to 3NT and your partner doubles, You are on lead. Partner is trying to tell you something, but what? This doesn't occur often but when it does you must have an agreed understanding in place.

Some people play that if neither defender has bid a suit, or doubled for a lead, a final double of 3NT calls for a spade lead, while failure to double denies immediate interest in spades. This is a somewhat blunt weapon.

The next possibility is when the defender not on lead has bid a suit - does her subsequent double mean lead my suit, or don't lead my suit? Likewise, if you yourself have bid a suit does partner's double say lead your suit, or don't lead it?

To avoid these ambiguities, my preference is for the double in any of these circumstances to be a Lightner double (named after its inventor, Theodore Lightner). A Lightner double asks partner to make an unusual lead rather than the obvious one. Most often this would mean the first suit bid by dummy.

Here is an extreme example from a teams congress as reported by Derrick Browne, the owner of Trumps Bridge Centre in Sydney, in the newsletter Bridge-Game.Info. Sitting East, Derrick held these cards:

♠ A9
♥ AT75432
♦ 6
♣ T43

Dealer West. N-S vulnerable.

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♦	3♥	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Dbl	All pass		

Having no agreement with this partner on this, Derrick was in a quandary as to his opening lead. Is West asking for a heart, or a spade? After agonising, he chose a low heart. Had he led the ♠A, the defence would have taken the first 11 tricks, for 2,000 points. Declarer, a sound player, won the heart lead, cashed the ♦A and, mindful of East's pre-empt, crossed to dummy to finesse in diamonds, making 12 tricks for 1,350 points. The swing on the lead was 3,350 points. This was the full deal and, yes, it really happened.

	♠	--	
	♥	K6	
	♦	AKJT975	
	♣	J875	
♠ KQJ73			♠ A9
♥ Q98			♥ AT75432
♦ Q32			♦ 6
♣ 62			♣ T43
	♠	T86542	
	♥	J	
	♦	84	
	♣	AKQ9	

Lightner doubles are more commonly used against a trump slam contract, often to indicate a void in dummy's suit. Just be sure that you and partner are on the same page.

MORE FROM MIKE I

Mike Phillips



INCORRECT INFORMATION & ETHICS

A recent incident at the table raises an interesting point of bridge ethics. These were the four hands.

	♠A732	Dlr: E
	♥	Vul: N-S
	♦QT9842	
	♣QJ7	
♠865		♠JT
♥AJ8762		♥K9543
♦3		♦KJ
♣KT2		♣9643
	♠KQ94	
	♥QT	
	♦A765	
	♣A85	

The auction began thus:

E	S	W	N
Pass	1♣	2♠!	3♦
Pass	?		

At this point South asked for an explanation of the 2♠ bid, was told "6 spades and less than opening strength." and bid 3NT, passed out.

West led a heart. On seeing Dummy, South asked again about the overcall and was told the same again. South asked if the 2♠ bid could be a two-suiter: "No." East-West, of course, had the first six tricks in hearts. Given a normal auction North-South would have played the board in 4♠ or 5♦, in each case making comfortably.

The Laws of Bridge allow no redress if an opponent simply makes a mistake that disadvantages you. You have to take your lumps. West did nothing wrong in Law, but did bridge etiquette require something more of her?

If this should happen to you - and, let's face it, we all seem to be having those occasional "senior moments" - *say nothing*. Try quietly to correct the situation as best you can. If West realised her mistake before her opening lead, she should have led a *spade*. If it was Declarer's robust questioning that jogged her awake, she should have switched to a spade as soon as possible. I hope that this is what you would do. In Law West was not cheating, but she missed an opportunity to capture the true spirit of the game.

The Director should be called at the end of the hand, of course, but don't expect much joy from that. (In the actual instance there was also an exchange of unauthorised information, and the Director awarded an adjusted score.)

On another matter: the Laws of Bridge require us to count our cards before looking at them so that any discrepancy can be corrected without damage to anyone. A lot of players tend to count their cards directly onto the table in front of them. I strongly recommend that you count your cards in your lap, below the level of the table if possible. Why?

If you play a lot, two or three times a year you will encounter a faced card when you draw your cards from the board. If you count onto the table your card will be exposed, it will be treated as a penalty card, and your side may be damaged.

Why am I going on about this, you may well ask. Well, the other day at our club I picked up a hand that contained not one, not two, but eight faced cards! It could happen to you.

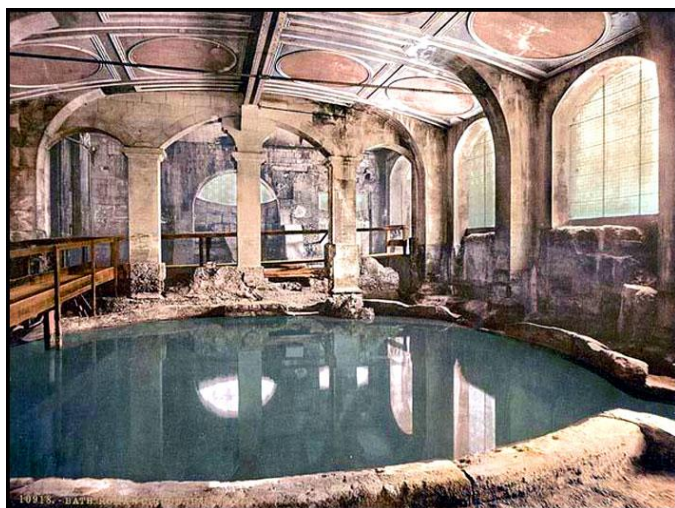
The lesson is, count cards carefully and, equally, check your cards when replacing them into the board.

MORE FROM MIKE II

Mike Phillips

THE ORDER OF THE BATH

The lovely little city of Bath is in the West of England. It is famous for its Georgian architecture, and especially for its well-preserved, eponymous Roman baths (see picture).



Bath has also given its name to a bridge tactic called the Bath Coup. You've probably all done it at some time or other without knowing that it has a name. Here's an example from a session at SCBC.

♠	K643				
♥	AKT				
♦	85				
♣	7632				
♠	AQJ2				♠ 987
♥	854				♥ QJ76
♦	KQ73				♦ 942
♣	K9				♣ J85

South was declarer in 2♣ after West interposed a take-out double. West led the ♥5, taken in Dummy, and declarer continued with a club to the ten, losing to West's king. Now West switched to the ♦K, East playing the 2 and smoothly ducked by declarer, and continued with the queen, setting up three diamond tricks for declarer, who finished with ten tricks. West had been "Bath Couped", and East was partly to blame.

When, in this sort of position, your partner leads the king of a suit, presumably from a holding of KQ, the card you play must be an attitude signal as per your partnership methods. If you hold either the ace or the jack (or both) you must *encourage* a continuation, but if your hand contains neither of those cards you must *discourage* to ask for a switch, restricting declarer to one less trick.

A Bath Coup opportunity can also exist when the ace and jack of the suit are split between Declarer's hand and Dummy (either way), as in this example.

	Jxx	
KQxxx		xx
	Axx	

Work it out.

Far more interesting and very rare is the Anti-Bath Coup, described by Alan Truscott in his bridge column in the *New York Times* of 8 April 2002. In this example deal South is declarer in 3NT. West leads the ♥K.

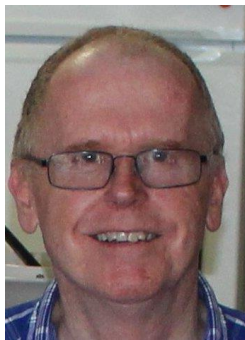
♠	KJT								
♥	865								
♦	72								
♣	AQT96								
♠	962							♠	8743
♥	KQT94							♥	73
♦	JT8							♦	KQ953
♣	42							♣	K3
♠	AQ5								
♥	AJ2								
♦	A64								
♣	J875								

Declarer could have ducked this trick in order to lure West into a Bath Coup, but he could see that a diamond shift might be fatal, so in order to muddy the waters he played the ♥J on the first trick! Our (gullible) West assumed that declarer had started with ♥AJ doubleton and continued hearts, won by declarer's ace. The club finesse was lost, but East was out of hearts and Declarer had 9 tricks. Of course, a diamond shift at trick 2 defeats the contract, but declarer's clever false card diverted West from the winning play.

I hope that you have learned enough about Bath Coups that when one comes up, whether as declarer or defender you are on the ball. And, if you're ever in Bath, do visit the baths: they are spectacular!

THE BUSCH BASCH

Peter Busch



WHY PLAY TEAMS?

Many players prefer playing Teams to Pairs, mainly due to different method of scoring. To those unfamiliar with teams scoring, here's a summary of how it's different from Pairs.

You enter a Teams event as two pairs. Both pairs play as partnerships just like in a Pairs event. However, you are drawn to play each match against another team of two pairs, and you and your opponents are pitted against each other – your EW pair goes to their home table to play their NS pair, and the opponent's EW pair comes to your home table and plays your NS pair. You are playing the same boards at both tables, but the key difference is that one pair in your team is NS and the other pair plays the same board as EW.

In a normal club Pairs session, your result on each board is compared to the rest of the room, and you get matchpoints based on that ranking. If you are NS and get the best results score NS, you earn the maximum for that board, and so on.

In Teams, all that matters is what happens at your home table and your opponent's home table. What the rest of the room does on a particular board is not relevant. For each board, you add the score obtained by each pair in the partnership. Say both tables played in 3H making 10 tricks for +170 NS. At your home table where your NS are playing their EW, you got +170, but at the other table your teammates who were sitting EW got -170. Added together these give 0, so that board is flat.

But imagine that at your table, your NS bids game, making +420. After adding the scores, you get $+420 - 170 = +250$.

The next step is to convert the difference on each board to "IMPs" (International Match Points). There is a standard IMP Conversion Scale used across the world, and 250 converts to 6 IMPs. The greater the value, the more IMPs you earn. So your team earns +6 IMPs and the opponents (420 + 170) get minus 6 IMPs.

This calculation is done on all the boards played in the match, and then all your IMPs are added together to get your total. Your opponents will get the opposite of what you get – if you netted +18 IMPs, they will have netted -18 IMPs.

In many Teams competitions, IMPs are further converted to VPs (Victory Points). This is done using another conversion table, and the sole purpose is simply to flatten out extreme scores.

As you can imagine, this difference in the scoring method calls for a different play philosophy. If you make enough tricks for game, the difference between being in a game or not in game might have minimal effect in matchpoint scoring, but can be significant in IMP scoring, especially if you are vulnerable. That's why, with IMP scoring, you must bid even the thinnest of games. For similar reasons, the effect of an overtrick in an IMPs-scored board is very small, whereas in matchpoint scoring it can be the difference between a top and an average.

In short, with IMPs scoring, you don't have to worry about overtricks too much, and you must bid your games, especially vulnerable ones.

People who like Teams say this reduces the pressure a bit – you don't have worry about how to squeeze out an overtrick, and you don't have to think too hard about bidding or not bidding game – just bid it!

ABF NEWSLETTER

AUSTRALIAN BRIDGE FEDERATION INC.



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COVER GIRL: MARY MURRAY

There is only one reserved seat in the Sunshine Coast Bridge Club and that is kept for Life Member, Mary Murray – and it is well used: she plays most days of the week.

Mary has been described by some members as 'formidable', but, for those who know her well, a more apt description would be 'remarkable'.

Two years ago, coiffed and elegant, she became a media darling for the over-70s when the Government toyed with the idea of setting an age limit for drivers. Pointing out she had been driving since she was 27, which meant she gained her licence in 1945 at the end of World War II, Mary's close-to-unblemished driving record (one speeding fine) impressed. She won that hand, and regulations introduced by Queensland Transport allowed Mary, and anyone over 75 years, to drive with an annual medical certificate and eye test.

In January this year, she passed the medical and the eye test and turned 99 years old with a renewed licence. She had expected, as you would, to be rejected, but instead the Queensland Department of Transport officer asked Mary how many years she wanted on her licence. Mary, in her laconic style, said, "I'll take two, thank you." It's not surprising when you consider Mary is a former champion rally driver and founder of a Nambour Driving School for Women.

At a time when few women held a driver's licence and even fewer raced, Mary and her husband, Fred, were keen members of a Nambour car club, and entered local car rallies. Mary regularly won the lady drivers' competition. In fact, during the 1950s, Mary Murray was the Queensland Champion Rally Driver three years in succession. She also took a shot at stock car racing, driving her brother's vehicle. She won at her first attempt.

In 1958 Mary and Fred entered the famous Ampol Round Australia Rally. Driving about 12,000km through four States in 14 days, was a herculean effort. Roads back then were mostly muddy and dusty and light on signage. That year Mary took out the lady drivers' prize and they also won the married couples' prize.

So one would expect that playing bridge would be a pushover for Mary, particularly considering she played her first hand of Auction Bridge as an 8-year-old. But bridge was put aside for marriage, raising a family and, for many years, as wife of a local government elected representative when Fred became a councillor and later, Mayor of Maroochy Shire.

Mary was awarded an OAM for her charity work, which included forming a welfare committee which she chaired for nine years, raising \$400,000 on the way.

More than 50 years ago, Mary, a mother of six, was asked by a friend to attend a bridge lesson. "Our first lesson scared the living daylights out of me. I didn't go back," she said. "But my friend was insistent so I started socially, taking lessons at her place."

Mary, never short on courage, went back to the club "quaking and quivering". And the records show that she put her fears of the game aside and did what she has always done best: set out to make it better for everyone.

And so we have the Buderim Club House, thanks to Mary who joined the committee, as well as her club colleagues of the day, who raised the funds for our present building. Long-time members still talk about Mary and her team making more than 500 dozen lamingtons (that's 6000), sold at street stalls.

She is a lesson for us all, as Mary, still driving herself to the club, is indeed a formidable presence as she plays with skill and alacrity. One remarkable woman.



Pauline Clayton (Buderim)