



## Newsletter No: 1 for 2019

4 February 2019

It is hard to believe it is February already. I hope everyone had a good time over Christmas and New Year with family and friends.

The bridge calendar for 2019 is starting to wind up. January was dominated by the Canberra Festival where once again New Zealand players prevailed.

Michael Cornell, Ashley Bach, Michael Whibley and Matthew Brown won the South-West Pacific Open Teams Championship for the second year in a row.

Others who fared well were Geo Tislevoll winner of the Penline One Day Swiss Pairs; Susan Humphries who finished 2nd in the National Women's Teams.

Also performing well reaching the semi-finals of the National Women's Teams was Christine Gibbons, Jenna Gibbons, Carol Richardson and Andi Boughey.

This month a significant contingent will be heading to the Gold Coast.

The Board had an away in December. The take outs from that session were:- 1. A task force to look at the manual and regulations as part of the constitutional review.

2. The Regional Bridge Mates Initiative is well underway. An analysis of the pilot will be completed in the second quarter 2019.

3. Our communications reach remains sub optimal. We need to develop better ways of reaching players.

4. Demand for ongoing education remains high.

5. Dealing with shortcomings with our operating platform.

6. Developing strategies to grow the game.

7. Developing funding strategies.

Also we identified a long list of items that we should be focusing on- 1. More ways to interact with clubs.

2. Help with growing club membership.

3. Access- play in a range of situations, play anytime.

4. Reduce the bar to play.

5. Grow club and tournament participation.

6. Help create an environment that is enjoyable and fun.

7. Help stamp out bad behaviour.

8. Provide a club operating manual.

9. Sessions on BBO.



10. Tip of the month.

11. Annual club and player survey.

The Board had a scheduled Board meeting in January. This was pretty much business as usual. Not too much to report.

In accordance with the constitution we have two board members retiring- Anne Barrowclough and Greg Whitten.

Both are eligible for re-election and have indicated a willingness to continue. Those wishing to stand for the Board only have a few days left to submit their application.

I am pleased to report we continue to be financially prudent and should conclude the financial year with a small surplus.

Best wishes

Allan