



From Long Beach club: Amanda Moore, Margit Hillebrand, Nancy Toussaint, Florence Cooper, Lynn Danielson, and Colette (bridge friend) with Auckland in the background

## Playing Bridge Down Under

In April five players from Long Beach Bridge Club joined Jeff Grotenhuis and Agile Bridge Club on a cruise Down Under. Beginning in Sydney, we visited Dunedin, Christchurch, Tauranga, Auckland, and Bay of Islands (all in New Zealand). Unfortunately, we missed

sailing the south island's scenic sounds because of rough seas. We had a small meeting room exclusively reserved for our bridge group. In all I played 17 bridge games during the cruise - all silver points. We usually had 6 or 7 tables.

Truly a highlight of our trip

was playing at the Christchurch Bridge Club. Their meeting place was destroyed in a 2011 earthquake. After meeting in a bowling alley for a while, the 800-member club built a beautiful state of the art clubhouse. It has ample parking, a large kitchen, a playing area that could be partitioned, and a full bar. One oddity: they don't use bidding boxes. Instead, a preprinted pad of paper was on each table with one sheet used for each board. After playing the hand, it is tossed in a small green plastic trash bin beside each table. Halfway through the game, we had teatime. Each table had a plate of finger sandwiches and sweets and, of course, tea and coffee. After the 17-table game, they hosted a private lunch for us. What a feast! We had pumpkin soup, a kumara vegetable salad, cheese rolls (grilled cheese bread rolled up), pizza squares, and the iconic pavlova for dessert.

The flights to/from Sydney were very long, but the cruise was interesting, and the bridge games were fun.

-by Nancy Toussaint

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## Status Changes

Junior Master	Susie Armstrong
	Kay Bailey
Sectional Master	Eric Kaplan
	Amanda J Moores
	Libby Tigner
Regional Master	Rita van Lierop

### New Members

Cathy Crane	Deke Thomas
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Duncan holds  
virtual games 7  
days a week.

All Regular Games  
\$5  
Special Games  
\$6 or \$7

This is the direct  
link to those  
games: [CLICK HERE](#)  
(after clicking the  
link, save to your  
favorites). Part of  
the proceeds go to  
LBBC.



## May Birthdays

Left to right: Jim Keese, Fred Willbanks, Rosemary Ford, and Nancy Toussaint

### TABLE TALK

Editor	A.K. Laine
Contributors	Leo Dittmore
	Fern Dunbar
	Lyn Kraatz
	Lillian Slater
	Nancy Toussaint

#### Article Submissions

We welcome articles, ideas and  
photos pertaining to our club.  
We reserve the right to revise  
submissions. Contact A.K. at  
[ardeaux1@gmail.com](mailto:ardeaux1@gmail.com).



## Tuba Notes from the Bored

Do winners ever cheat? That's a question we have asked for many years. We've been told cheaters never win but it's not necessarily true in my experience. There were the garbage can World Series Astros in 2019, Lance Armstrong's Tour De France rides, and even the Italian Blue Team using cigarettes in the 70's to send unauthorized information while bidding in bridge tournaments. They all got

caught but only but only after multiple wins and championships.

If you have read the ACBL Bridge Bulletin anytime in the last couple of years then you have seen they are working hard and spending money to control cheating while playing on-line or at clubs. ACBL has developed a computer program called EDGAR (electronic data gathering and anti-cheating radar). This system analyzes hands sent to it from BridgeMates, BBO, and other sources looking for patterns of play by individuals, partnerships, and teams that are unusual such as never losing a finesse or always making a killer lead. The system reports these patterns to an ACBL Committee for further review and action.

The Committee has authority to suspend people from playing in ACBL sanctioned games online, such as BBO, in tournaments, such as the

upcoming Long Beach Regional, and in clubs including the Long Beach Bridge Center. We recently began receiving notice for players in Unit 557 that have been investigated, reviewed, and suspended. The people are given time to explain their actions and appeal their sentence. They are not allowed to play once they agree to the judgement.

We all want cheating to stop. Cheating hurts everyone. Skills will be lost due to inactivity. Partnerships and relationships will be injured. Clubs, units, and tournaments will lose revenue. It is too easy to cheat online simply by playing in the same room. Take extra precautions to be sure this does not happen. This is too late for some people and we will miss you and look forward to your quick return. There are upcoming band concerts you can still attend!

Cya'

- Leo Dittmore





# Another Bridge Apparently Not Too Far

Thanks to Nancy Toussaint for filling us in on history and bridge cruise news. And thanks to Margit Hillebrand, Amanda Moores, and Florence Cooper, for providing us with insights into the Down Under “culture” they sampled during their brief visit.

Although the cruise was primarily to New Zealand, our LB people took a side trip to Australia. At the Sydney Opera House, Margit and Amanda experienced the original Gladiator movie with orchestra and choir supplying Oscar-winning music to the film and receiving a standing ovation at intermission. Amanda described it as the highlight of the Australian



side trip. Margit's highlight was her visit to Featherdale Sydney Wildlife Park where she petted a koala. No one mentioned eating at milk bars in Sydney where the most popular fare is Marmite sandwiches. They dodged



that bullet!

Florence opted for less strenuous activities offered by the cruise and thought it was hilarious that her husband raced her through crowds in a wheelchair she didn't actually need to the ship's buffet and evening entertainment. She described one meal eaten off the cruise and very different from American fare: clam chowder including clams, mussels and perhaps other seafood. Delicious! Her overall impression of New Zealand: clean to a fault. “You could eat off the freeways.”

Some New Zealand side tours were cancelled due to severe weather: cyclones and volcanic activity. However, they did offer river walks, a visit to a Māori Village with lamb lunch and Māori fare provided, and the highlight of the trip for most, a visit to the Christchurch Bridge Club (CCBC). “Who knew Kiwis were such avid bridge fans?”

Its current membership is 700 active members with an incredible clubhouse with a full kitchen. Lunch included pumpkin soup and pavlova. And they played



bridge of course! However, CCBC brought in their top players, international stars, and LB didn't stand a chance! However, Kiwis were so friendly, so nice, that LBBC had a great time despite the intimidation. by Lyn Kraatz

# Fun In and Around the Club

Nancy's friendship star quilt complements Kay Tseng's decorations. Nancy chose this pattern to represent all the friends we make at bridge



Celebrating Betty's Birthday



End of Semester Potluck



Cinco de Mayo



Memorial Day!







Long Beach



*The Friendliest Bridge Club since 1986*

*Bridge Center*

**Extra MP's**

# BRIDGE & BRUNCH

*Special Game*

Last bridge day before we close  
for Long Beach Regional

**Open & NLM**

**Pairs Game**

**Noon**

**Director: Sean Lui**



**JUNE  
29  
SUNDAY**

# Unit 557 Spring Sectional Winners



**Kar-Yee Nelson and  
Gordon Innocent**  
1st N-S  
morning session



**Justin Ryan and  
Rebecca Ortega**  
1st E-W  
morning session



**Our Sympathies  
to Family and  
Friends of  
Joyce Roberts**



**C.C. Pulitzer and Kyle  
Miller**  
1st N-S  
afternoon session



**Vince Vilker and Jim  
Werner**  
1st E-W  
afternoon session



We all know that bridge has been linked to cognitive benefits for those at risk for dementia, including Alzheimer's, but did you know that card games such as bridge are great models for war games? Check out [this article](#) published by the Wall Street Journal to learn more.

# June 2025



Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
<b>1</b>		<b>2</b> \$1 12:30 9:30 9:30 Director Alan	<b>North Amer</b> 50% <b>50%</b> OPEN Hank Tourney Sel Topics Rob	<b>3</b> \$1 12:30 9:30 9:30 Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	<b>North Amer</b> 50% <b>50%</b> OPEN Hank Tourney 199'r Game	<b>4</b> \$1 12:30 9:30 199'r Game Dir: Leo	<b>North Amer</b> 50% <b>50%</b> OPEN/NLM	<b>5</b> 25% 12:30 Director Alan	<b>Silver</b> Quest GO	<b>6</b> 25% 12:30 Director Nancy	<b>Silver</b> Quest GO	<b>7</b> 25% 12:30 Director Steve	<b>Silver</b> Quest GO
<b>8</b>		<b>9</b> 12:30 9:30 9:30 Director Alan	OPEN Hank Tourney Sel Topics Rob	<b>10</b> 12:30 9:30 9:30 Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	OPEN Hank Tourney 199'r Game	<b>11</b> Unit Game Lunch included 12:00 12:30 9:30 Dir: Leo #L2506557D	OPEN/NLM 199'r Game	<b>12</b> 25% 12:30 Director Alan	<b>Red Hot</b> Challenge GO	<b>13</b> 25% 12:30 Director Nancy	<b>Red Hot</b> Challenge GO	<b>14</b> 25% 12:30 Director Jo	<b>Red Hot</b> Challenge GO
<b>15</b> Unit Team # L2506557C 12:30 Dir: Alan		<b>16</b> Longest Day \$1 12:30 9:30 9:30 Director Alan	OPEN Hank Tourney Sel Topics Rob	<b>17</b> 12:30 9:30 9:30 Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	OPEN Hank Tourney 199'r Game	<b>18</b> 12:30 9:30 199'r Game Dir: Leo	OPEN/NLM	<b>19</b> North Amer \$1 12:30 Director Alan	<b>North Amer</b> 50% <b>50%</b> OPEN/NLM	<b>20</b> North Amer \$1 12:30 Director Nancy	<b>North Amer</b> 50% <b>50%</b> OPEN/NLM	<b>21</b> North Amer \$1 12:30 Director Steve	<b>North Amer</b> 50% <b>50%</b> OPEN
<b>22</b> Unit Game L2506557A 12:30 Dir: Sean		<b>23</b> North Amer \$1 12:30 9:30 9:30 Director Alan	<b>North Amer</b> 50% <b>50%</b> OPEN Bridge1/Hank Sel Topics Rob	<b>24</b> North Amer \$1 12:30 9:30 9:30 Dir:Chuck Rob/Fern	<b>North Amer</b> 50% <b>50%</b> OPEN Bridge2/Hank 199'r Game	<b>25</b> North Amer \$1 12:30 9:30 199'r Game Dir: Leo	OPEN/NLM	<b>26</b> North Amer \$1 12:30 Director Alan	<b>North Amer</b> 50% <b>50%</b> OPEN	<b>27</b> North Amer \$1 12:30 Director Nancy	<b>North Amer</b> 50% <b>50%</b> OPEN/NLM	<b>28</b> 12:30 Director Chereene	OPEN
<b>29</b> Bridge and Brunch! 12:00 Dir: Sean		<b>30</b> 12:30 9:30 9:30 Dir: Sean	OPEN/NLM	<b>1</b> 9:30 Bridge1/Hank	<b>2</b> 9:30 Bridge2/Hank	<b>3</b> 9:30 199'r Game Dir: Leo	OPEN/NLM	<b>4</b> 12:30 Director Nancy	<b>5</b> 12:30 Director Chereene	<b>6</b> 12:30 Director Nancy	<b>7</b> 12:30 Director Chereene	<b>8</b> 12:30 Director Chereene	<b>9</b> 12:30 Director Chereene

Long Beach Regional Tournament at the Long Beach Hilton

Club Closed \*\*\*\*\* See you at the REGIONAL \*\*\*\*\*