



# UNDERCROFT BRIDGE CLUB

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021



## **This Issue:**

- ✓ *Women in Bridge*
- ✓ *Conventions by Jane Adams*
- ✓ *Tony Martin by David Cowell*
- ✓ *Women's History - Quiz*
- ✓ *Don't Rush to Draw Trumps by Anna Valenti*



**International Women's Day (IWD)** is dedicated to celebrating women's achievements in the social, economic, cultural, and political spheres. The day, collectively founded by women, also brings attention to gender parity and women's rights.

IWD is celebrated on the 8th of March every year.

There are a lot of distinguished women bridge players both of today and yesterday. Their life and position in bridge, the success, their love and devotion to this marvellous sport, serves to show and teach us what it means to have been a Great Champion.

## Women Stars

Source: World Bridge Federation - <http://www.worldbridge.org/women-stars.aspx>  
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Josephine CULBERTSON (USA) 1899-1956



Josephine M. "Jo" Culbertson was a bridge player, teacher, theorist and writer. She worked as secretary to the auction bridge authority Wilbur C. Whitehead in the early 1920s and married Ely Culbertson in 1923.

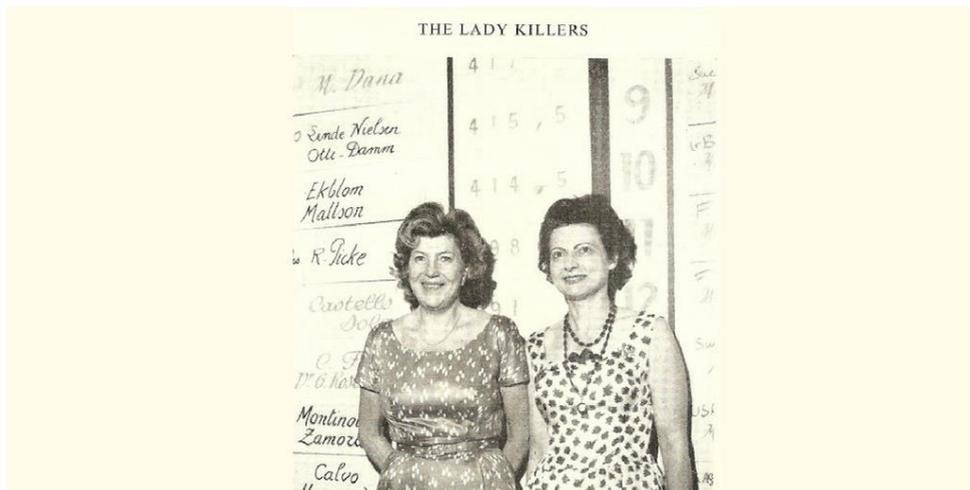
After the two had played bridge together for the first time, Ely Culbertson wrote that Jo had "a man's mind — and something else more precious; something so rare that only one in a thousand women is endowed with it: charm. It emanated in tranquil waves from the attitudes of her heart, that angle of her thoughts, her pregnant silences, the dignity of her movements, the shyness of her voice, the structure of her smile."

The Culbertsons developed and taught the Approach–Forcing System of bidding at auction and later at contract bridge, and founded The Bridge World magazine in 1929.

Josephine 5NT - the Grand Slam Force - convention was originally created by Culbertsons the way back in 1936.

Fritzi GORDON (Great Britain) 1916 – 1992

Rixi MARKUS (Great Britain) 1910 – 1992



Fritzi Gordon and Rixi Markus were an Austrian-born English bridge players famous for most tempestuous female partnership in the game's history.

When the European Bridge Championships came around in 1950, Markus and Gordon teamed up for the first time as bridge partners. They were so successful that from 1955 to 1975 they were a regular team, winning competitions handily — but not peacefully.

They were like fire and ice, two brilliant and opinionated women whose arguments could be heard from tables away. Spectators referred to Fritzi and Rixi as “Frisky and Bitchy.”

Markus's game was more aggressive, and Gordon's more controlled. But they were both intense ladies. When Gordon was 9 months pregnant, she took a quick break from bridge to participate in a poker game. She

had been dealt a royal flush as she went into labor, and finished the game before going to the hospital to deliver her daughter.

Rixi Markus was the most colourful as well as one of the most successful, winning seven European and four world titles for Britain, becoming the first Woman World Grandmaster.

In 1975 Rixi received an honour from the Queen, MBE (Member of the British Empire) "for services to bridge". The next year, after the 1976 Olympiad in Monte Carlo, the partnership of Rixi and Fritz came to an end.

The stories of Rixi's colourful character are legend. When the captain enquired about the best line-up, Rixi would reply "I must play at both tables." She was the centre of numerous stormy scenes, even a famous libel case (the jury could not agree), but as Victor Mollo reported "more often than not they end with flowers". Her concentration at the table was ferocious, she had criticised the world's best players as if they were beginners, yet her friends knew her to be generous and loyal. None who met her can forget her presence.

Helen SOBEL (USA) 1910 - 1969



Helen Sobel Smith is said to have been the "greatest woman bridge player of all time" and "may well have been the most brilliant card player of all time." She won 35 North American Bridge Championships, and was the first woman to play in the Bermuda Bowl. She was a long-time partner of Charles Goren.

Once she wearied of a female kibitzer who was all but sitting in partner Goren's lap. When the woman asked Sobel, in the middle of a hand, 'How does it feel to play with an expert?' the best female player in bridge pointed to Goren and said: 'I don't know. Ask him.'

She often parlayed her strawberry-blonde good looks into advantage at the bridge table. As Eddie Kantar claims: Helen Sobel seldom, if ever, misguessed a queen in a slam contract when she was playing against two men. Her trick was to lift her skirt a little above her knees. It never

failed that the one with the queen of spades was too nervous to look around, but the one without the queen always looked.

Notable Quote: *"More points are lost at the bridge table through bad or pointless overcalls than any other way."*

Dorothy HAYDEN TRUSCOTT (USA) 1925 - 2006



Dorothy Hayden Truscott was a winner of four world championships and the top-ranked woman for many years. She wrote two books on the game in the 1960s and later co-wrote two with her husband Alan Truscott.

Among new ideas attributed to Truscott are an unusual jump to show a singleton or void along with support in partner's suit (a splinter bid) and responses to Blackwood after interference (DOPI).

Both of the systems are now commonly found in bridge partnerships worldwide.

Anna VALENTI (Italy)



Anna Valenti had been a constant member of the national Italian team. She learned to play bridge as a child and has played now for 45 years. She and her husband enjoy many successes together, including two Italian open team championships. In the women's team her partner in recent years has been her sister-in-law, Marisa Bianchi, who herself is married to one of Italy's top players.

Mrs Valenti has a high competent, not to say formidable, presence at the bridge table and plays an aggressive game. Her tip is entitled, 'Don't Rush to Draw Trumps':

'When you have a trump suit divided 4-4, you should bear in mind that the outstanding trumps will break poorly (4-1 or 5-0) nearly one third of the time. If you cannot withstand such a division, you should give serious thought to playing out the hand without touching the trumps.'

## Betty Ann KENNEDY (USA) 1930 - 2016



Betty Ann Kennedy won five world championships, including four from 1974 to 1984 in partnership with Carol Sanders of Tennessee and the 2003 Venice Cup. Analyst Eric Kokish wrote concerning the 2003 final match that "Kennedy was a standout, doing virtually nothing wrong."

She studied bridge on her doctor's recommendation when she suffered from encephalitis and consequent depression. Sanders and Kennedy were known as "the Southern Belles" or simply "The Belles". They compiled 10 NABC wins and 8 runners-up together.

## Emma Jean HAWES (USA) 1912 – 1987



Emma Jean Hawes, the seventh woman to earn the World Bridge Federation's highest rank, World Grand Master, was a force in bridge for more than three decades.

Dorothy Truscott, writing about Hawes in 1987, said her longtime partner "had one of the brightest minds in the bridge world. But she belonged to an age where men preferred to think of brains as a masculine attribute, and intelligent women did best not to disillusion them. Emma Jean radiated charm and good manners as she clobbered her opponents."

Longtime friend, Betty Ann Kennedy, playing with Hawes at a San Antonio regional: "We were leading the field after the first session. I went to dinner with some other friends and we got back 10 minutes late for the evening session. "Al Sobel, who was the chief tournament director, got on the microphone and announced that in view of my tardiness, we were being penalized three-fourths of a board. "Emma Jean leaned across the table and said, 'don't worry about that, honey; we won't need those points.' "She was right," remembers Kennedy. "We won by a wide margin. That (the penalty) was no hill to a climber." ●



Gwen JOHNSON

Eve DARBY

By Billie Skinner

**Gwen Johnson** and Eve Darby, with the assistance of others, were responsible for the formation of **Undercroft Bridge Club**. The club was initially set up in the basement of a building in Elsie Street, Watermans Bay. In 1972 when Gwen Johnson was teaching bridge at the YMCA Bridge Club, she met Eve Darby, a resident of North Beach who informed her that she knew several people in her district who were keen to play bridge. Eve asked Gwen if she would take a class in the North Beach/Waterman's Bay area if enough prospective learners could be found and the two agreed to attempt to form a club in that area. The first meeting of the club was held in September 1972. Gwen Johnson was elected as President and Eve Darby as Secretary-Treasurer.

Gwen, a very keen and competitive bridge player, was

responsible for Undercroft Bridge Club becoming affiliated with the Western Australian Bridge Club and Australian Bridge Federation. This led to the club eventually becoming incorporated and the first constitution being organised.

Gwen encouraged the club to join other clubs in teams of 4 and teams of 12 competitions. All her contributions were voluntary including the organisation of the first congress held by the UBC, and eventually the Grand National Open Teams event. She directed the Grand National Open Teams event for some years at Undercroft Bridge Club.

Gwen remained an active director, also organising monthly meetings for current directors until she passed away aged 87 years of age.

Gwen's passion for bridge was significant and she helped many bridge clubs become established in metro and country areas, including Dianella, Esperance, Kalgoorlie and the YWCA where

she also taught and directed. In 1976 she was appointed as the BAWA Promotions Officer travelling the State helping to promote bridge in Albany, Busselton, Bunbury, Mandurah, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie. She was a foundation member of Kalgoorlie Bridge Club and instrumental in its initial set up. For many years, she organised a group to travel by train to the Kalgoorlie Annual Congress.

Gwen was not only involved in bridge. She was a keen golfer, and member of Hartfield Golf Club. She also had an interest in, and supported, a wide range of charitable organisations and social clubs. In 2001 she was awarded the Order of Australia for her contribution to the community. In 2003 she was awarded BAWA's Recognition of Outstanding Service.

**Eve Darby**, a long-time resident of North Beach, who swam in all seasons and also played golf, was a very keen bridge player. Her passion to play bridge was instrumental in the formation of Undercroft Bridge Club. She was very active in setting up and supporting the fledgling club. She encouraged local participation by teaching

others the rules and pleasures of club participation, thus increasing the numbers of competitors and club membership.

Initially the club only played one night a week and Eve was eager to increase the opportunity to play. She organised more evening games and eventually increased this to daytime meetings and evening social events. With the increased membership, Christmas parties soon became large enough to need to be held in larger premises.

Eventually the club outgrew the Undercroft building, in which there was just one toilet to serve as many as 50 people of both sexes, parking was limited and there was only one exit. Eve and other members approached the City of Stirling to try and organise bigger premises. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful. The very active Undercroft Bridge Club committee however was not deterred and approached the City of Wanneroo who gifted the use of the land and parking area, at Percy Doyle Reserve.

And thus, a new era was born.●

## President's Report

### From Connie Coltrona

The New Year has begun again with the Corona Virus causing the closure of the Club and the Syd Noakes Trophy shortened to two nights, and to cause more problems the Club was without water for three days. Thank you to all members for your patience.

The garden was totally dug up to lay electricity cables. My grateful thanks go to Jenny Dawson for all the replanting and apologies to all of the members who miss the native hibiscus!! We will try to replant a new plant.

The Annual General Meeting is on 23rd March 2021 and I would encourage members who would consider coming onto the Management Committee or to assist in some other way to please come and talk to me. Many hands make light work.

The approaching International Womens Day reminds me of the Voluntary work I do with the Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs packing Birthing Kits for the Birthing Kit Foundation who then distribute to many under privileged communities in Nigeria, Uganda, Congo and Papua New Guinea to name a few.

The Kits cost \$5.00 to produce, but can save life of Mother and Baby.

The ZCPNS made 1000 kits at the Sorrento Tennis Club in October 2020.

The WA Gov has made mandatory the registration of entry to the Club using the Safe app or signing the sheet at the entrance. You are encouraged to continue using hand sanitizer.



Congratulations to Joanna Tennyson, Chris Jenkins and Jenny Skinner who completed the Joan Butts teachers Accredited Training Course.

The Lessons have begun with Lesley Routledge and welcome to all the participants to the Club.

Again, many thanks to all who give time voluntarily to the Club. ●

Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday 23rd March 2021  
@ 4pm.

## Conventions

By Jane Adams

*Invention describing our bidding intention,  
Partners agreement for card game success.  
When both teams are bidding, competing for contracts,  
Prevention of excess should lessen distress.  
Standard American, Acol, Precision,  
Flat suited hands, distributional spread.  
Conventions adhered to will shape our decision.  
Or should we have laid down a pass card instead?*

*Blackwood or Gerber, Key cards or Aces,  
Multi two diamond, or Benjamin Two's?  
Intense concentration on everyone's faces  
Examining cards, all looking for clues.  
And when a convention has not been remembered,  
'Director!' is called, with an arm in the air.  
Mistakes are explained, a decision is rendered  
To ensure that the contract and game play are fair.*

*Conventions both complex or uncomplicated  
Are meant to be used to make playing more fun,  
Enhanced description is why they're created.  
Its only a game, when all's said and done.  
Sheep stations aren't offered as prizes, I promise.  
Just time spent with partners, playing cards on the baize  
Conventions just help grand master and novice  
Choose whether to bid 2 hearts or 6 spades.*

## Quiz

### Women's History

Source: <https://www.bing.com/search?q=International+Womens+Day>

Do you know these famous females?

1. Amelia Earhart was the first woman to do what in 1932?
  - A. Climb Mount Everest
  - B. Fly Solo Across the Atlantic
  - C. Sail Around the World
2. Marie Curie won Nobel Prizes in Physics and which other field?
  - A. Economics
  - B. Chemistry
  - C. Physiology
3. Which country was the first to grant women the right to vote?
  - A. New Zealand
  - B. Canada
  - C. UK
4. Who was the first woman in space?
  - A. Sally Ride
  - B. Valentina Tereshkova
  - C. Svetlana Savitskaya
5. The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inducted its first female performer in 1987. Who was it?
  - A. Aretha Franklin
  - B. Etta James
  - C. Whitney Houston
6. In 2010, Kathryn Bigelow became the first woman to win a Best Director Oscar. What was the film?
  - A. Detroit
  - B. The Hurt Locker
  - C. Zero Dark Thirty
7. What year was International Women's Day first celebrated?
  - A. 1901
  - B. 1911
  - C. 1921

*Answers on page 18*

## Tony Martin

By David Cowell

Many of you will have had contact and played the odd game with Tony during your bridge playing career. He was always helpful, and when he started to play with someone new on a regular basis, he would immediately start to teach them various conventions he knew – he liked his RCO - Rank, Colour and Opposite, played with Multi two diamonds. I always enjoyed playing bridge with Tony we played together for a period of time in which we played several different conventions, we had a private challenge when playing together, it was for him to get me to play in N/Ts and I the same for him, we never forgot and continued having fun in later years.

I don't remember the year, but some years ago, the first congress we played in together was at Maccabi. We won the Plate, wow, we were chuffed, and we were really a couple of beginners. We played in the Bunbury/Busselton congress teams one year, with Brian and Jenny Gristwood, I was staying

with relatives in Busselton so agreed to meet Tony at Bunbury Bridge Club, along with Brian and Jenny. Tony travelled down from Perth and was late, arriving about 10.30. Tony was shaken - but not stirred: he had had an accident on the way down and had written his car off. Such was his love for bridge he had got a lift and a bus to the Bridge Club and wouldn't let the accident spoil his day's bridge.

Tony's driving was something to be desired, he drove everywhere fast, not always in a hurry but if he didn't have much time he could do the trip in less time than most of us!

I'm sure many of you will have fond memories of Tony. Over the years at the bridge club, Tony formed many regular partnerships, I think I was the first. He went on to play with Max Havercroft, Brian and Jenny Gristwood, Joanna Tennyson, John Beyfus, Philip Oldershaw, Mary Lang, Jenny Dawson. There were others he would have had a game with too.

Tony served several years on the Undercroft Bridge Club committee, culminating as president from 2009 -2011. He was also a fine director.

When playing bridge, he could be heard at the other end of the room, not that he shouted, his voice just sort of carried.

Before I close, I would like to say, Tony was a very private man, I never got to know anything about his family and relatives, but in saying that – we here at Undercroft Bridge Club were his family. ●

*The inaugural Tony Martin Masters and Teams of 3 was held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020.*

The winners were:



1<sup>st</sup> Nesha Shah, **Jenny Skinner** (Master), Peter Malan and Katrina Will.



2<sup>nd</sup> Melissa Underwood, Sharon Dyball, Bernie Plath and **Connie Coltrona** (Master)



3<sup>rd</sup> Marilyn Letts, Jeanetta Fink, **David Burn** (Master) (and Avril Atkins)

*Grateful thanks to the Masters who volunteered: David Burn, Lynne Milne, Tad Bieganski, Jenny Skinner, Judy Clear, Chris Jenkins, Maragret Melsom, Beata Biaganski, Stella Steer and Connie Coltrona. ●*

# RESULTS

## New Year Pairs (34)



1<sup>st</sup> Lilia Male and Beata Bieganski

## J&I Sanderson Pairs (30)



1<sup>st</sup> Richard and Sue Grenside



2<sup>nd</sup> Jenny Skinner and Angela Newton



2<sup>nd</sup> Joanna Tennyson and Lynne Errington



3<sup>rd</sup> Gill Blakey and Ross Blakey



3<sup>rd</sup> Martin and Valerie Broome

## Syd Noaks Pairs (18)



1<sup>st</sup> Chris Jenkins and Peter McCann (pictured)

2<sup>nd</sup> Satish Bedekar and Brian Kaye

3<sup>rd</sup> Tad Bieganski and Andrew Swider

## WABC Super Novice Congress – 14 Feb 2021



Congratulations  
Willy Dadour and Gwen Kremer  
coming second in Finals  
and  
Bernie Plath and Sharon Dyball  
(pictured) winning WABC  
Super Novice Plate

## 70 Percenters Club

Merilyn Letts and Jeanette Fink	77.1%	23-FEB-21
Martin Broome and Valerie Broome	75.9%	8-JAN-21
Joe Peci and Satish Bedekar	74.9%	28-JAN-21
Tad Bieganski and Brian Fensome	74.0%	13-JAN-21
Gill Blakey and Ross Blakey	71.9%	1-JAN-21
John Bayly and Linda Reading	71.0%	23-JAN-21
Jairo Giraldo and Trevor Burr	70.6%	27-FEB-21
Joan Schneider and Edward Roscoe	70.3%	25-JAN-21
Joe Peci and Anthony Eardley	70.0%	7-JAN-21
Richard Grenside and Sue Grenside	70.0%	29-DEC-20



Continuing to play on cross-ruff lines, you cash the king of clubs, ruff the jack of diamonds, a winner, and ruff a spade. You refrain from ruffing the next lead and when West is forced to ruff you triumphantly make the king-jack of hearts at the finish.

Whenever there is danger of losing too many trump tricks, you should hesitate to launch a frontal assault on the trump suit. This is especially so when there has been competitive bidding, for a favorable break in trumps is then less likely.

S: Dlr	♠ AJ75		
NS: Vul	♥ T73		
	♦ A4		
	♣ A762		
♠ 6		N	♠ QT98
♥ AK86		W	♥ 942
♦ T87		E	♦ 965
♣ KQT98		S	♣ 543
	♠ K432		
	♥ QJ5		
	♦ KQJ32		
	♣ J		

You play in four spades after West has overcalled in clubs. West begins with the ace of hearts and switches to the king of clubs.

Because the diamonds are more or less solid, it is tempting to draw trumps. However, you lose

### Did you know...

*That a deck of playing cards has 52 cards that represent 52 weeks in a year?*

*It also has four suits which represent the four seasons of the year: winter, spring, summer, and fall. The total number of cards in a deck is 365 (with one joker) to represent 365 days in a year, and 366 (with two jokers) to represent a leap year.*

nothing by beginning with a club ruff and setting out to establish your trick in hearts by advancing the queen. (This is safe, because if the opponents could ruff a heart they would have done so.)

If West returns a third club you ruff, cash the heart winner, and cross to the ace of diamonds to lead dummy's last club.

Suppose that East discards a diamond. You ruff and cash the king of spades and a second diamond. You have won eight tricks, the defenders two. You ruff the next diamond with a low trump and East is endplayed.

If East elects to ruff the fourth round of clubs, you overruff, cash two diamonds and endplay East as before.

Even when your trump suit is solid it may still be fatal to touch this suit too early.

The next example is one of my favorite hands:

W: Dlr	♠	KQJ8							
Nil: Vul	♥	A							
	♦	T9753							
	♣	K64							
			N						
♠ -			W		E				
♥ K742									
♦ AK82									
♣ QJT73			S						
	♠	A973							
	♥	QJ85							
	♦	Q							
	♣	A985							
	♠	T6542							
	♥	T963							
	♦	J64							
	♣	2							

South was in four spades and West led the queen of clubs, won by dummy's king. Instead of testing trumps straight away, South's first move was to lead a diamond, establishing communications. West continued with the ten of clubs and East ruffed. East correctly returned a trump and West showed out, dummy winning with the eight.

After this unfavourable development declarer saw that she would need a second trick in hearts. The ace of hearts was cashed and the closed hand entered with a diamond ruff. The queen of hearts was covered by

the king and ruffed in dummy. After another diamond ruff, the jack of hearts was cashed and the fourth heart was ruffed. South had taken eight tricks and still had a high trump in each hand.

If South had taken even one round of trumps early on, East would have been able to play a second trump when he ruffed the club, leaving South with only nine winners.

My BOLS bridge tip is this:

*Don't rush to draw trumps.*

On some hands you may be unable to draw them successfully; on others, even if you can draw them, you may find that you are left with too few tricks. On all such hands you should consider whether it may be better to make as many tricks as you can by cross-ruffing." ●

*BOLS Bridge Tip* downloaded from [www.bridgeace.com](http://www.bridgeace.com)

## Women's History

### Quiz Answers

#### 1. Fly solo across the Atlantic

The American aviation pioneer took off from Newfoundland in Canada in her single-engine Lockheed Vega

5B, bidding to become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean without stopping. Fourteen hours and 56 minutes later, she achieved her goal, landing in a field near Derry, Northern Ireland. When a farmhand reportedly asked, "Have you flown far?" Earhart replied, "From America"

## **2. Chemistry**

The Polish-born French scientist was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize when she and her husband Pierre, along with Henri Becquerel, were awarded the Physics Prize in 1903 for their discovery of radioactivity. She won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1911 for the discovery of the radioactive elements polonium and radium, becoming the first person and only woman to win the Nobel Prize twice, and the only person to win the Nobel Prize in two different scientific fields.

## **3. New Zealand**

In 1893, following some 20 years of activism by suffrage campaigners, led by Kate Sheppard, and a 32,000-signature petition, New Zealand became the first nation in the world in which all women had the right to vote in parliamentary elections.

## **4. Valentina Tereshkova**

The Soviet cosmonaut is the first and youngest woman to have flown in space. On 16 June 1963, aged 26,

she was launched in the spacecraft Vostok 6 and orbited the Earth 48 times, spending almost three days in space. She remains the only woman to have been on a solo space mission.

## **5. Aretha Franklin**

The Queen of Soul's hits like Respect and Natural Woman earned her a spot in the Hall of Fame and on many other lists, including Rolling Stone magazine's 100 Greatest Singers, where Aretha came in at No.1. Respect, indeed!

## **6. The Hurt Locker**

Bigelow made history at the 82nd Academy Awards as her Iraq war drama won six prizes, which also included Best Picture. The Hurt Locker triumphed over the 3D blockbuster Avatar, directed by Bigelow's ex-husband, James Cameron.

## **7. 1911**

International Women's Day was first marked in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on 19 March 1911. Over one million people attended rallies campaigning for an end to discrimination that year. The first National Women's Day had been held two years earlier in America. The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day on 8 March in 1975. ●

## **Contributors are Always Welcome**

Please feel free to forward material or suggest topics you like to read about to Beata Bieganski  
b.bieganski@hotmail.com or Suggestion (Red) Box

### **Committee Contact Numbers**

Connie Coltrona (President)	0417 184 640	Committee Members	
Alan Tolley (Vice-President)	0416 089 256	Sharon Dyball	0419 848 002
Rupert Dodd (Treasurer)	0407 985625	Chris Jenkins	0424 453 726
Debbie James (Secretary)	0400 420 339	Bernie Plath	0417 013 292
Gwen Kremer (Masterpoint Secretary)	0487 443 805	Peter Stephenson	0412 715 546
Nesha Shah (Office Manager)	0433 965 088	Katrina Will	0422 814 766
De'arn Alexander (Partner Organiser and Membership Secretary)			0422 868 121

## **Undercroft Bridge Club**

Percy Doyle Reserve

20 Ron Chamberlain Drive, Duncraig

Postal Address: PO Box 41, Duncraig East 6023

Telephone: 9447 3226 (Clubrooms)

Email: [ubcinc@westnet.com.au](mailto:ubcinc@westnet.com.au)