

Allan Doig Life Member 2006



Allan is a revered member of the Undercroft Bridge Club and this book serves as a tribute to his contribution to the 'Social History of the Undercroft Bridge Club'.

When I invited Allan to write his autobiography, he offered a humble refusal. I stated that he was too modest.... *I have a lot to be modest about!* This is a classic example of his disarming sense of humour – and his modesty.

Allan Doig was born a TEACHER arriving on the 3rd of May, 1937 in Kalgoorlie. He received his 12 years of schooling in Boulder Primary and Eastern Goldfields High School. Allan was keen to apply State-wide for his first teaching appointment but he was obliged to return to Kalgoorlie and assume the role as head of the family at the age 21 due to the unexpected death of his father.

Allan attained a Teachers Certificate and fulfilled many roles including teaching experience in Canada, where he was invited to join the Alberta chapter of Phi Delta Cappa. He was such a successful teacher that he was appointed as a 'Reading Consultant' that enabled him to advise teachers on successful approaches to the teaching of reading. Subsequently he was selected as a consultant to the Commonwealth Education System on Aboriginal Education. Again, he shared his talents and expertise across the entire State.

He retired from teaching in 1996 and learned to play Bridge at the Undercroft Bridge Club. His love of the game and natural teaching instinct lead Allan to conduct Bridge classes for 17 years. So many of his graduates are now accomplished Bridge players and they express a deep sense of gratitude for his teaching and subsequent mentoring. His initiatives are a key factor in enabling the Undercroft Bridge Club to be one of most successful clubs in Western Australia. He continues to assist with the coaching and mentoring today.

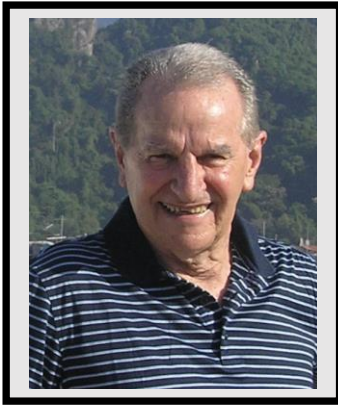
Allan is a much loved-member and was a very popular recipient of his Life Membership in 2006. A huge party was held to celebrate his distinguished service for the Undercroft Bridge Club with a twelve-page publication, acknowledging his commendable attributes.

At the table Allan is ideal to play with and against. He may well be self-critical, but is never critical of his partner (maybe nonplussed sometimes). He is also invariably polite and welcoming to the opponents. Allan is a credit and a great asset to the club. - Peter Wilson.

Allan maintains a beautiful balance in his life with his friendly demeanour, his wicked sense of humour and personal fitness. He continues to bash the Badminton shuttlecock around the court and rides his electric-bike to Bridge each day. While in Canada he retained his interest in golf, while maintaining his Western Australian handicap of 5.

He also was handy cricketer. When playing at Cowaramup, Allan was taken off after bowling 2 overs with a return of 2 for 0. He was told that if he kept bowling...the pub didn't open until 5!!

His love of life and people pervades his personality and this is extended to 'Socks', his beloved cat. He remains intellectually alert and is an active member of the Mature Age Learning Association and the University of the Third Age.



Jack Bana

I have enjoyed being a member of the Undercroft Bridge Club for around 25 years, playing with Dorothy Stagoll twice per week on most weeks, but not always on the same days. I also played with Christine Shawcross on some occasions, and Sheila Byfield is my partner now.

I grew up on a farm near Nannup, where my parents, older sister and I all had to work extremely hard. There was never a tractor nor a car at any time, so we had to use genuine horse-power for both farm-work and travel.

As I had to walk six kilometres to school, my parents delayed my start of school by a year, but I always had to milk several cows before heading off. I did my last three years of high school as a boarder at Aquinas College. Then it was a year at UWA and a year at Claremont Teachers College. I started teaching at Pemberton with a class of 53 Grade 3s. There I met Ronda, my current wonderful wife of 60 years.

I taught primary classes at Pemberton, Busselton and Scarborough for nine years; during which time I completed a BA at UWA through external and part-time study. I was then seconded to the Curriculum Branch for 1966-67 to write a new primary mathematics curriculum. In the following year I was appointed as acting principal for a year at Boyup Brook Junior High School with about 400 K-10 students. Next year I was appointed as a lecturer at Claremont Teachers College, and a year later as a foundation staff member at Mt Lawley Teachers College, which eventually became Edith Cowan University.

In the 1966-1974 period at UWA, on a part-time basis, I completed a BEd then an MEd which included a thesis on educational administration. In 1975 the College gave me leave to go to Canada to complete a PhD in the teaching and learning of primary school maths. Upon return in 1977 I was appointed a senior lecturer, and I also joined the committee of the Mathematical Association of Western Australia (MAWA).

I was soon introduced to kitchen Bridge at lunch times in the staff-room, and played that way for around 15 years. Then in the mid-90s, I met Mario Rubanatham, who was on the IT staff at ECU, and is now a regular Undercroft player. I played real Bridge with Mario for a year or so at the Malaga Club, managed by the famous Terry Glover and Robyn Illing.

My role on the MAWA Committee (now as a Director on the MAWA Board) has involved developing and managing all the student activities in the State continuously for over 44 years. I was also President for two years, and am an Honorary Life Member. I have co-authored many maths books since the 1960s, and I am still writing with several colleagues. I have presented at international conferences in Germany, the USA and China; as well as at national conferences, and I still present every year at the MAWA annual conference. In 2015 I was a judge to select the top primary school in the State for the Governor's inaugural STEM Award, undertaking that task for five years. For the past 15 years my wife and I volunteered to organise an annual coach tour for 50 Old Aquinians & Friends.

I'll never fully retire, because keeping active – including playing Bridge – keeps me alive!



Judy Clear

I was born in Tresillian hospital in Nedlands in 1932. When I was two years old my father began country service with his government job and we spent time in Leonora, Beverley, Cue, Wiluna and Kalgoorlie in that order. In Wiluna we lived on the Moonlight Gold Mine lease and my two brothers, my sister and I seemed to be allowed to roam at will among the disused mind shafts and slag heaps at the back of our house. What was my mother thinking! Anyway, it was a happy and carefree childhood despite money being tight and to this day I still have a hankering for the 'bush'.

After finishing school in Kalgoorlie I joined the Commonwealth bank there and subsequently transferred to the Head Office in Forrest Place in Perth. In 1956 I took a year's unpaid leave from the Bank and went with two friends on a working holiday to London. We had a great time living in a flat in Clapham and managing to get over to the Continent for 6 weeks in the summer cycling and hitch-hiking. I met Ron Clear during our stay in England and came back to Perth engaged. Then I went back six months later to be married in the lovely old Catholic Cathedral in Arundel where Ron grew up.

A couple of years later Ron agreed to give Australia a 'go' and came out as a '10-pound Pom'. We settled with our family back in Perth, or so we thought, but ended up spending 3 years over East with Ron's work. Later Ron got a job with Hamersley Iron in Perth with 2 years on site in Karratha. I enjoyed all our travels and felt lucky to have seen so many different places.

When we lived in Brisbane, with all the children at school, I heard of this lady who taught Bridge. As my parents played quite a bit of social Bridge, I decided to give it a go and was instantly taken with it. There were only four of us in the class and she was a great teacher.

I had a dear friend, Pat Cole, who lived in Sydney briefly and who also learnt Bridge there, so when we both found ourselves back in Perth in 1992, we looked for a club to join and the Undercroft in Waterman's Bay provided an opportunity. We struggled a bit for a while, but Ossie Trigwell told us we would 'do' and I have been around the club ever since. Unfortunately, after many years my friend Pat had to go into care due to failing health.

After the club moved to the new premises in Duncraig in 1993, I took over the Secretary's position from Syd Noakes and served for three years then again for another two years later. Billie Skinner, Sheila Parker and Tony Martin were all lovely Presidents to work with.

I have enjoyed playing with a series of partners, one of whom was Sadie Findlay, which was always an experience. Sadie was most inquisitive of our opponents when they came to the table. Julia Corr was most amused one day when in the middle of the bidding, Sadie asked her "what shampoo do you use on your hair?" I also played with Aidie Silbert (Sadie and Aidie) for a few years. She was a great lady with many artistic talents.

People often suggest that I take my bed to the club as I do spend a lot of time there, but I reckon it's the best game in the world and the best Bridge club.



Sue and Richard Grenside
Bridge – A Shared Life



The Undercroft Bridge Club has many hidden talents within its membership.

The Grensides are a classic example:

- Richard was the Chief Director of World Bridge Championships over many years
- Sue participated in International Bridge Competitions all around the world.

Richard was born on 21st September 1938 in Harpenden Herts, England. During the war his family sought refuge in New Zealand and was later repatriated to the UK in 1943. Bridge had been a key part of family life, and he commenced play at the age of 9. This early experience was a pivotal feature of his life as he has continued to play Bridge for the next 75 years. Then in 1970 he emigrated to Melbourne Australia.

It took just one year for Richard to be recognized in Australia as a highly accomplished Bridge player and director. In 1971 he was appointed as Manager and Chief Tournament Director of the Victorian Bridge Association.

Not only was Bridge an enjoyable activity, but he amplified this by establishing a 'Bridge Cruise' experience with Sitmar Cruises and asked Ron Klinger to undertake the teaching.

Richard progressed in his role to become Director of the Australian National Championships in 1977. His reputation then extended to invitations to direct in various Australian States, New Zealand and the Far East Zone.

He has enduring influence, as he co-wrote the 'Guide to Tournament Directing' that sold over 100,000 copies world-wide. And he was a contributor to the Encyclopedia of Bridge 5th Edition.

Richard was a Chief Tournament Director for international Bridge events from 1980 to 2016 that included events in Tenerife, Florida, Tunisia, Lille, Istanbul, and Paris. This included the Yeh Bros cup event in Japan with \$250,000 prize money – the biggest in the world. This event was held at various locations in the Asia Pacific Region

Sue, correspondingly participated in a series of World Championships from 2001 to 2010 including: Montreal, Verona, Philadelphia and Paris. She enjoyed considerable success.

While playing in an International Bridge Tournament in Cairo, she was asked to substitute for a very good-looking man – Omar Sharif. They gained 15th place out of 215 pairs.

A most satisfying achievement was convening the 1999 Australian National Championships at Observation City in Perth. This event included a novice tournament for social players – an initiative that promoted Bridge playing in northern suburbs. Some of our Undercroft Bridge members may be the beneficiaries of such an initiative.



Nick Jakowyna

I was born in Duisburg Germany in September 1946. My parents were Ukrainians living in a refugee camp post WW2 and, after a long wait there, eventually received an offer to settle in Australia. They travelled by ship, arriving in Fremantle in 1948 with my younger sister and me and a suitcase with all their worldly possessions. We lived for some time in the Northam camp for displaced people and then, after my father obtained a position with the WA railways, we lived in small country towns such as Burracoppin and Cunderdin until we eventually bought a house in Mt Lawley. Our family grew to six with the arrival of another sister and brother. My education was at Burracoppin PS, Cunderdin DHS, Maylands PS and then Mt Lawley SHS and Governor Stirling SHS. I attended the University of WA and Claremont Teachers College and completed a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education and a Masters of Education (UWA) and happily began a long career in Education. I progressed from being a classroom teacher, Head of Department, Deputy Principal and then Principal of Senior High School. In addition, I spent a number of years in the Department of Education Central Office as an administrator of the Secondary Gifted and Talented program.

My teaching career began in Katanning and like most young teachers I became involved in the local community sports, playing Aussie rules football, basketball and golf. In 1970, I married Lynley and we had three wonderful children. Now I am the proud grandfather to five grandchildren – two-year-old twins, a six-year-old boy, and 15 and 17-year-old girls. Our generational family provides us with enough activity to keep us both involved and interested in the world around us, and also encourages us to travel overseas extensively.

My country football career was cut short with injuries, but I continued playing basketball with the Perth Basketball Club until I was in my late 40s. My other sporting interest was golf, and I was a member of Lake Karrinyup Golf Club for 37 years, until a bad back forced me to reluctantly give this up.

In 2015 I retired from my position as Principal of Belridge Secondary College, which I had held for 15 years. My wife encouraged me to find a hobby/activity in which I could become involved, meet new people and exercise the 'grey matter'. When I called The Undercroft Bridge Club to enquire about membership, Alan Doig, a professional colleague, answered and persuaded me to join UBC. As the lessons had already commenced, Alan said I could come down and learn to play and everyone would be supportive. He was right! I even joined the Management Committee and spent time as Vice President of UBC. The club ethos is to be supportive, and I am consistently amazed by the experienced players' willingness to run courses, mentor inexperienced players and make supportive comments. I have mostly played with John Frzop, Patrick Campion and Robin Clarke. The friendship amongst players makes it a pleasure to play bridge at UBC.

Winsome Nordstrand

Winsome Nordstrand (nee de Beaux), was born in Amritsar in India on 1st Dec 1924. Her French and British parents were both the first of her family to be born in India. She was educated in the hills of Simla and had a very happy childhood with her beloved three brothers. Life in India with servants must have been a dream, but she came to reality after marrying a British soldier when she was 21 years of age and had to leave India after the Partition. She had to learn to cook and clean house which she had never done before! She was a very good cook especially of curries!

Army life meant travelling around the world to places like Hong Kong, Germany, Singapore and England which sounds fabulous. She did though have to pack up all her family possessions every two and a half years and resettle her children into new schools, organise accommodation and re-organise all that comes with moving to another country. Making new friends was paramount to cope with this transient life. She was very good in making and keeping her friends.

Winsome had trained in Simla as a nurse. After she had three children she was able to refresh her training in London so she could work to help support the family.

Winsome's parents had emigrated to Perth, Western Australia after they too had to leave India. She knew one day she also would emigrate here, which she did in with her family in 1968.

Winsome was very good with her hands, knitting the most exquisite jumpers for the whole family, embroidering and also fine sewing such as handmade silk lampshades. She also was a very keen and successful card player! Initially she played anything like whist, then discovered bridge. She would play with 3 different bridge partners in a week, and she loved to win! She joined Westcoast initially then when Greenwood merged with Undercroft, she joined the Undercroft Bridge club. She won congresses at both clubs and her name is on the Westcoast honours board. She would play in Canberra at the Gold point events. Some of her partners were Carol and Brian Fensome, Clare Quesnel, Margaret Szymakowski, Ken Smith, Liz Bennett and Vina Maia.

She played bridge until sadly the covid pandemic put a stop to it. She died

31 Dec 2021 (aged 97).

Peter Peles



I was born in November 1931 at Florina, Northern Macedonia. At the age of 7½ years, my family, including my mother Maria and sister Nita, emigrated to Australia in April 1939.

Upon arrival my dad purchased a small farm at Hester near Bridgetown. The farm was located in a forest of Jarrah and Red Gum trees with dense bush undergrowth.

I started school at Chatterick, which served the 'group settlement' families in the area. At the age of 14 years I left school as there were no high school facilities in the area.

I showed personal initiative by rabbit-trapping, and sold the skins to Elder Smiths in Bridgetown. Also, I dressed the rabbit flesh and sold it to the local Charlie Carters store. It was an efficient system, as we stored the rabbits in a roadside cooler safe, and Charlie Carters would pick them up three times per week. My average earnings for the week were three shillings and sixpence. I thought that I was the richest kid in the district.

At the age of 15 I went to Moora to work with friends of my parents. I was offered an apprenticeship in repairing shoes. It was pleasing to be immediately welcomed into the community, so I joined the Moora Brass Band, and Moora Fire Brigade. My sporting life included playing with the local football and tennis clubs.

My initial shoe-repair training enabled me to secure my first job in a big shoe repairing company in Central Arcade, owned by Mr Laws. After a few years I decided to try something more interesting and so joined the AMP Insurance Company in William Street as a sales representative. It was apparent that I had a natural aptitude for sales and I was the proud recipient of a number of awards.

I married my wife Helen in June 1954, and we have two boys and two girls, together with six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Having established a family, I decided to join the WA Government Tramways, that ultimately became the Metropolitan Transport Trust. This work and the opportunities for promotion were very fulfilling, so I worked there for almost 30 years. Unfortunately, I had a bad car accident in 1986 when I was severely crushed by a Peters Ice Cream truck in Mandurah. I felt that this was the end of me. I asked myself, 'What can I do now?'. A friend suggested that I join a Bridge club. I asked, 'What is that?' When my friend explained that it was a card game, I immediately showed interest, as I loved playing cards. So, I joined the Undercroft Bridge Club and some associated clubs including the Mirrabooka Club. It was at Mirrabooka that I learned more about the game, through coaching opportunities that were provided by the club.

I have been an active member at Joondalup, Maylands and Undercroft and have been very grateful to the Undercroft Bridge Club for the kindness extended to me over many years. I am now 90 of age years, I still enjoy playing Bridge.

I will sign off with a call of 7 NO TRUMPS and make it! NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE.

I'M POSSIBLE

Lynn Smith



I was born in Perth WA to a loving and hardworking family with four children. My Father was a Metallurgist and eventually bought a Swan Taxi which he worked until retirement. My Mum never worked after having children as my father insisted that he be the bread winner, as it was in those days.

When I was about 3 years old my father had a mate whose family owned a dancing school, and Dad was very impressed by the talent of the students, so I'm off to dancing school where, over many years, I learnt many dance styles including Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Theatrical, Highland and Acrobatics. All this training led to participating in concerts, dance exams, floor shows and stage shows, which all involved many hours of training and my Mum sewing thousands of sequins onto costumes.

When I was about 10 years old the dancing school formed an acrobatic performance group called the '8 Imps' and I was one of the 8. We did shows all over Perth and country WA for Balls, Weddings, Social evenings and Major events. I was the main contortionist which meant I did very supple movements within the show including standing on my hands with my feet round my chin, putting my hat on with my feet while standing on my hands. From this at about 15 we split into two separate groups, and I was given the opportunity with three other girls to go on Showcase, which was a major TV competition show recorded in Melbourne. We were very successful in the show, which meant traveling to Melbourne about 10 times that year.

As a young adult I travelled all over Australia with stage shows and ended up living in Melbourne forming my own act 'Lyndell the international Contortionist' and had contracts to clubs all over Melbourne. Home called so I headed back to Perth where I was still doing shows, but I had to get a real job to pay the bills. Luckily my parents made me do a secretarial course after I finished school, so for several years I worked in offices (boring) until I got a Job with Roche Pharmaceuticals as a representative in Perth for several years, then I moved to Sydney with Roche to improve my career.

Sydney was a fabulous place to live and work but when I was offered a position to come back to Perth to manage Lederle Laboratories OTC Pharmaceutical I was ready to come home again.

While working for Lederle I was on a country work-trip when I met a man (Glenn) at the Lord Forrest Hotel in Bunbury who, 34 years later and two beautiful children, is my soulmate and the love of my life.

After having our children, I still worked in the pharmaceutical industry with several companies including Pfizer where I came across Brian Welton, who we all know at the club today. I retired about 6 years ago to enable me to take Mum and a disabled sister on holidays and be able to travel with Glenn, as he does a lot of country and interstate travel.

Retirement gave me time to learn Bridge (still learning) and enjoy the wonderful and diverse people who are involved in the club. Now Glenn has semi-retired, and we have bought a caravan and are out travelling at every opportunity, which unfortunately means I miss too much Bridge.

Alice Wouts



I was born in The Netherlands on a farm in the Wierigermeer polder, which is reclaimed land since 1932. We were 8 in the family, 6 boys and 2 girls and I was near the top. At that time there was no school and transport was the bicycle or horse and cart. I went to boarding school from the age of four, from Monday till Saturday. For secondary education we all went to boarding school and I learned to pack suitcases from a young age.

On 17 April 1945 the Germans, occupied The Netherlands, blew up the dyke and we had to flee. The water came in so fast that they had to rescue us with little dinghies. For seven years we lived in various accommodations from hotel to stables during the summer and then a one-bedroom house with an attic. In the lounge were two cupboards and behind it were beds where two young people could sleep.

When I finished high school, I attended pharmacy training at Alkmaar and met Wim my husband. Our GP had a pharmacy connected to his surgery in which I worked part time while finishing my training. After graduating I stayed a few years and then went to Nijmegen to work in a city pharmacy close to a teaching hospital. We had many interesting prescriptions to be filled. In those days we still poured our own suppositories, folded the powders and rolled the pills.

After military service Wim studied in Wageningen which was only an hour by train to Nijmegen. He invited me several times to a student ball, and we became an item. I tired of 'prescriptions' and worked in a pharmaceutical laboratory. After a few years I became head of that lab.

I began a new and wonderful stage in my life when I married Wim. A few months after our wedding Wim finished his studies and got a job in New Zealand. At the end of 1964 we emigrated to Nelson NZ when I was almost seven months pregnant. Our two sons were born in Nelson. Wim wanted to extend his studies and so we let our newly built home in NZ and went to America, for Wim to study for his PhD. I was not allowed to work, but had a creche at home, looking after young children. In the Xmas breaks we went to San Francisco to visit my three brothers.

We returned to Nelson and had our third son. When he was nine months old, Wim got a scholarship in Germany and stayed there for 2 years. Then we returned to Auckland NZ. Wim was often away on lecture tours, and I remained in Auckland to care for our young family. The children were settled in schools, and I worked as teacher's aide for a year. But when there was no funding for aides, I did voluntary work. We sponsored refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Our last family was a Czech family, who are now living in Perth, and we have regular contact with them.

When our youngest son was 15 I obtained a position in a hospital pharmacy and worked there for 10 years. On our return from travel to Russia and Germany I decided to retire. Back in Auckland I joined the local Probus Club and eventually became their president. Wim was going to retire, and our son in Perth asked us to live in Perth. With one son married in America, the other son living in London, Perth looked a good choice. In 2004 we made the move and bought a house not far from the Undercroft Bridge club. I joined the Glengarry Bridge Club and going through the ranks became their president. On one of our evening walks, we came past the Undercroft Bridge Club; the door was open and an evening session about to start. We walked in and John Beyfus gave us the information we needed. We joined Allan Doig's Saturday morning classes for years until it was time to go into the "Lion's Den" to play Bridge. We have moved into a retirement village close to the Bridge club. After Wim's passing, I went back to Bridge and hope to do it for many more years.