

May Newsletter

Our Directors

The smooth running of any competition relies heavily on our Directors. It is one of the most important jobs in any club. One of the things that drives our directors to distraction is the placement of the playing boards. It is important that they flow in the right direction. The playing of wrong boards in a competition disrupts play, and causes headaches for directors. Whilst we are all human, and make mistakes, please pay more attention to checking your boards before each hand is played.

Malanda Club hosted a GNOT qualifying event on Monday 20 April. Twelve teams participated, which was quite a squeeze for our club room. The first two places were taken by Cairns teams, with the Ramsund team from Malanda taking third place. Good to see our new members taking part, and doing well. Many thanks to our organisers for their hard work in ensuring the day went smoothly. Also thank you Doris for answering our call for help, and getting to the venue so quickly after Linda fell ill.

Two intrepid players from our club journeyed to Hobart in March for the Tasmanian Festival of bridge. Sonja and Kate acquitted themselves well, coming in at 51 out of 142 in the swiss pairs event. Well done.

Player Profile

Sonja Ramsund



Q. You grew up in Sweden. What did you study?

A. I studied two year business admin, worked for six months, then started travelling at 19. I spent two years in Europe and USA, then met a an American jazz musician, and he came back to Stockholm with me. After a couple of years, I wanted a different life, so I flew to Australia.

Q. I know that you sailed around the high seas, and I think it was with your partner, Rod. Where did you meet him, and how long were you sailing.

A. After hitching around Australia for three months, I joined a 50ft. cruising yacht in Sydney. Rod was one of the crew. We were shipwrecked south of Byron Bay in 1975. We got jobs in Ballina, where Rod designed and built a 32ft. steel yacht.

We spent 17 years sailing and working around the world.

Q. I once took a photo of a ship chandlery shop in the Azores, thinking that you had probably been there during your travels. How long did you live there?

A. We spent three years on Faial, looking after yachts, and renovating a tiny stone cottage that we bought for \$3000.

After Azores, we spent two years in the Mediterranean, sailed back to the Caribbean, got good jobs in St Maarten, and saved enough in three and a half years to buy property in Australia. We sold our yacht.

Q. You have lived on the Tablelands for quite some time now. Of all the places in the world, why did you settle here?

A. We bought 100 year old cottage in Bridgetown, WA. (lovely, but too dry). We then moved to Penguin, TAS. (lovely, but too cold). Someone told us about the Tablelands. We bought the worst house in Malanda on two acres, 24 years ago. We have spent years renovating, and creating a garden. We realised that there is no better place for us to live.

Q. You have been a mainstay of the Malanda Bridge Club for many years, particularly with your computer skills. How long have you been playing bridge, and where did you learn.

A. A friend introduced me to Margaret Azar, who loaned me a book on how to play bridge. I started playing, and soon became hooked. That was 22 years ago.

Q. What other hobbies do you have?

A. Gardening, especially growing food. Ballroom/sequence dancing, walking, kayaking, and enjoying life.

Coming Events

Townsville - Barrier Reef Congress.	Monday, 11 May, 2026.
TBC - Red Point	Thursday, 21 & 28 May, 2026
Cairns - GNOT Qualifying 2	Sunday, 24 May, 2026.
Malanda - Mayday Red Point	Monday, 25 May, 2026.
TBC - Interclub, 8.45 start.	Thursday, 4 June, 2026.
Cairns - Novice Pairs	Friday, 12 June, 2026.
Cairns - Zonal Pairs	Sunday, 28 June, 2026
Cairns show Congress	Sat.18 & Sun.19 July, 2026.
Malanda GNOT Regional Final	Sunday, 26 July 2026. 8.45 Start.

