

August Newsletter

The following is an extract from an article written by Paul Marsden for the Australian Newspaper.

“Cheating at bridge is hardly new, but the online explosion of bridge that came with COVID brought new problems. You are not allowed to draw inference from partner’s tempo or demeanour, but that is hard to enforce when the partners are on their own.

Happily, a new software tool named EDGAR is doing a good job at keeping everyone honest. EDGAR accumulates statistics, e.g. how often did you lead away from an ace when your partner had the king. Once a pair has played a fair number of hands, EDGAR can tell whether they are playing by the rules.

The ACBL now publishes a list of online players who are under discipline, having been sprung by EDGAR. You might see a touch of irony about one pair on the list. He is Edward, a dentist, and she is Karen, a psychiatrist, their last name is Zuckerberg. You may have heard of their son.

Like most on the list, they waived their defence as part of a plea deal. In other words, even their vast legal team could not see winning a case against EDGAR.”



July and August have been quite busy. Starting with the Cairns Show Congress, and then the GNOT finals in Malanda.

Four members attended the Cairns Show Congress, and acquitted themselves well. Sonja and Sue came 8th, with 54.2%, and Lynn and Linda came 25th, with 47.3%.



The gnot finals were held last Sunday at the Malanda Club House. An enjoyable day was had by all participants. Team Ramsund acquitted themselves very well, coming second out of nine teams.



Coming Events

Malanda - Interclub 8.45am start

Monday, 6 October 2025

Tropical Spring FNQ Congress - AIC 17th - 19th Oct

Player Profile



Jon (Buz) Lewis

Q. You grew up in the U.S., and had a career in the military. When, and why, did you decide to move to Australia?

A. I did grow up in the United States, but I did not have a career in the Military. I joined the U.S. Army in 1968, turning 21 the day I finished Basic training. I then trained further in the Army for a year or so, and followed that with a tour in Vietnam for one year. I served actively for three years, and was honourably discharged in 1971.

I had decided I would move to Australia before I joined the Army, and did that service because I knew Australia was a long-time ally of the United States. I therefore felt that doing the military service first was the right thing to do. I applied for the immigration visa to Australia after my discharge. I had visited Australia for one week for my "R & R" from Vietnam during my tour there.

Q. Do you have any Family here?

A. Yes. My first Daughter was born in Cairns in 1973, the same year I became an Australian Citizen. Her first Daughter was also born in Cairns about 30 years ago. My second Daughter was born in Herberton, and my Son, though conceived while I was still living on my property near Raven-shoe, was born in Tennessee.

Both Daughters, and my 5 Grandchildren, live in Australia. My Son lives in Japan.

Q. You had a career teaching in Australia, then retired. What prompted you to learn to play bridge?

A. I had a short career teaching. I taught High School in Cooktown, then Primary at Tolga. I taught a total of 14 years.

When my Wife returned to China for 4 years to look after her elderly mother, I put an ad in the local paper to find some social activity, as I had just retired and my connections locally were all to do with the school system. Margaret Azar, who was president of our club that year, called me and invited me to join our bridge club. I told her I was not the sort to take cards seriously, but she assured me the club was for people to have fun, not to be overly serious, so I joined. Sue Hosie kindly taught me to play.

Q. Do you play any other card games?

A. Not now, but, yes, I started playing complex card games when I was 9 or 10 years old, as well as chess. Double-deck pinochle was a game my Father loved, and my Sister and I had to partner for him and his wife when we were 10 and 11. That game is far more complex than contract bridge, and at 10 I was holding the 20-card hand properly, doing the complex bidding and melding, as well as playing out the hand to win our bid.

As an adult, I had quite a good record in standard poker, both 5 and 7 card stud, as well as standard draw poker. I still like the game, but never play it now.

Q. Do you have any other hobbies?

A. My present hobby is living like a human being on Planet Earth after 50 years of being a workaholic that few would believe possible. The main reason I chose the Atherton Tablelands is because it truly lends itself to this hobby.

Throughout my life, from an early age, creative writing has also been an ongoing hobby. I still do some, such as writing songs, but not as much as when I was younger.

I have also always had an active interest in people, and sought to relate to people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. As it turned out, one of my degrees is a Bachelor of Social Science with Honours in Anthropology, so I ended up qualified as an Anthropologist, specialising in cultural anthropology. I chose to use the Education degree for a profession, though, as I feel I could contribute more to my community that way. That "hobby" of learning to communicate with and understand a wide variety of people is ongoing, and was no doubt the one that brought me to Australia in the first place.

