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# **Finesse**

**July 2025**

Newsletter of the Hutt Bridge Club



**Hutt  
Bridge Club**

## News from the committee

### Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou.

### Warm greetings to you on these cool July days and welcome to our July Finesse.

It's a busy winter at the Club.

In addition to our regular programme and interclub (did you know we have 11 teams entered this year?), many of you have enjoyed King's Birthday Bridge, Janet Paape's amazing Fashion and Style Fundraiser, and our Matariki celebration.

Hot on their heels in July is the **Regional Club Championships** (Saturday 12 July) and the following Friday (18 July) is **Quiz Night**. Our **Intermediate Tournament** is set for Saturday August 18.

On the learning front, 2025's second set of beginners are well underway with AJ, and our Improvers series with Kathryn and Paul Badcock has just kicked off. They're held on alternate Saturday mornings with AJ's popular revision sessions. Also, our esteemed Vil Gravis is offering Thursday night players a chance for feedback and comment on selected hands. There's more information later in this newsletter.

Behind the scenes, your manager is keeping the wheels turning on day-to-day business, and helping plan and execute special events. Thanks Ruth.

Your committee has finalized the Club's new Constitution which will be on the website shortly.

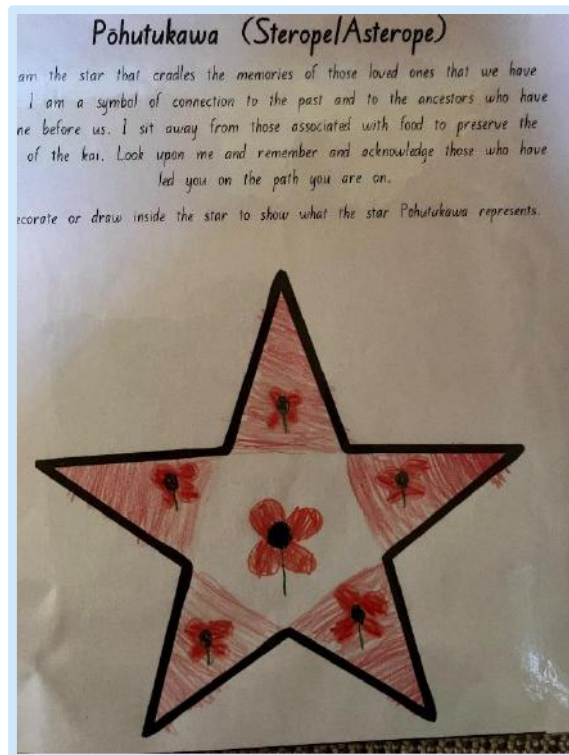
We've created a *Tips for Directors* booklet which we'll soon be making available. It lets everyone know what to expect from our directors at club sessions.

We're steadily building up our club reserves so we can replace some of our aging assets, like carpets, ovens and club software. And we're continuing to roll out our new branding, as you can see in this Finesse.

I'm looking forward to some time in the sun soon – we're off to Tahiti, the Tuamotu and the Marquesa Islands in French Polynesia. More on that next time...

Ma te wa

*Lesley*



*Pohutukawa - by Ngaire Haines, aged 7*

## Matariki

### Manawatia a Matariki me ngā mihi o te tau hou Māori!

Almost 50 members gathered at the club on Friday afternoon to celebrate Matariki.

As we stood silently we remembered members who've passed away over the last year - Therese Keating; Dr Ken Chin, Michael Ward, and others important to each of us.

We acknowledged the natural world that sustains us by sharing fruit, plants and seeds. Thanks to all who contributed and good luck to those who took plants and seeds home!

After a karakia by Angela Duthie, we had a wonderful afternoon tea to celebrate the event, then fun at the bridge table.

Thanks to everyone who came and contributed.

It was a lovely afternoon.

## SERIES WINNERS

May	Event	Winners
Monday	High Street Pairs	Martyn Hartigan & Tani Blackburn
Tuesday	Margaret Oxnam Memorial Pairs	Martyn Dowman & Mary Rundle
Wednesday	Queens Pairs	Janet Paape & Alan Jennings
Thursday	Punga Pairs	Martyn Dowman & Jeffry Craanen
Friday	Totara Pairs	Lynne Bruce & Mary Rundle



June	Event	Winner
Monday	Lincoln Pairs	Stephanie Grummitt & Vil Gravis
Tuesday	Keesing McLeod Handicap Pairs	Madeleine Askew & Kathryn Badcock
Wednesday	Naenae Pairs	Kären Balshaw & Margaret Gallaher
Thursday	Shona McFarlane Retirement Village Pairs	Madeleine Askew & Jeffry Craanen
Friday	Jan Devereux Memorial Pairs	Lynne Bruce & Jeffry Craanen

## AROUND THE REGION

Tournament	Congratulations to...	Placing
Kairangi Junior Pairs	Stephanie Grummit & Anne Harland	1st N/S
Kairangi Junior Pairs	Jacob Pilalis & Genevieve Pronk	3 <sup>rd</sup> N/S
Hutt Open Swiss Pairs	Russell Dive & Johnny Davidson (Wgtn)	1 <sup>st</sup>
Hutt Junior Pairs	Angus McKay & Peter Hawkes	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Hutt Junior Pairs	Stephanie Grummit & Anne Harland	Top Novice Pair
Otaki Multi-grade	Jacob Pilalis & David Haines	2 <sup>nd</sup> & top junior pair
Otaki Multi-grade	Eleisha Hawkins & Alan Grant	Best open/intermediate, top 2 <sup>nd</sup> session
Karori Junior Tournament	Mel Rowe & Margaret Gallaher	2 <sup>nd</sup> N/S
Upper Hutt Multi-grade	Tani Blackburn & Jeffrey Craanen	Top open/intermediate & 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Upper Hutt Multi-grade	Elesha Hawkins & Walt Davis	Session prize



### Junior Pairs

Our 18 May Junior tournament was sponsored by the Ron Fisher Trust so everyone was able to enter at a subsidised price.

We were lucky to have Ron's daughter Robyn Fisher (who is a recent new graduate) attend to give out the prizes.

- **1<sup>st</sup>** – Craig Jackson and Murray Lobb
- **2<sup>nd</sup>** – Angus McKay and Peter Hawkes
- **3<sup>rd</sup>** – Kate Morrison and Mary-Jane Hayward
- **Top Novice Pair** – Stephanie Grummit and Anne Harland

### Open Swiss Pairs

The Open Swiss Pairs were held at the same time as the Junior Pairs, with 26 pairs competing.

- **Top prize** – Russell Dive and John Davidson



## Fashion and style fundraiser

Fashion and style fairy godmother, Janet Paape, bought her magic wand to the Hutt Bridge Club on Saturday 24 May. About 100 ladies came along as she hosted fabulous fashion and style extravaganza.



*Janet shows trickery to get a fabulous photo.*

As we laughed, sipped bubbles and nibbled treats, Janet sprinkled her magic advice, over us as we learned which body-shape we (thought we) were, the best way to tidy our wardrobe, choose clothes and colours that suit, and how to cleverly disguise wrinkles when we're having our photo taken.

'Cinderella' came to the party! Janet sprinkled fairy-dust over our lovely Sue Boaden, transforming her into a classy princess. Even her new black boots were far superior to any glass slipper Sue's Prince Charming might find.

"Sue had elegance, grace, and even more sequins than a Las Vegas revue!", Janet said.

Janet was quick to acknowledge those who helped make it a fabulously successful fundraiser.

"A massive shoutout to the dream team, I couldn't have done it without you (and I wouldn't have wanted to try)!" she said in her post on the Club's Facebook page.

"There was Doug, our hammer-wielding hero — thank you for bringing the muscle (and the noise), Jeff Tucker, who hunted down a runway stage like a man on a mission and built a step so solid even a circus elephant could sashay down it. Bravo!

"There was Toni the sound technician, Cecelia, who didn't flinch at the furniture mountain — those tables and chairs never stood a chance!

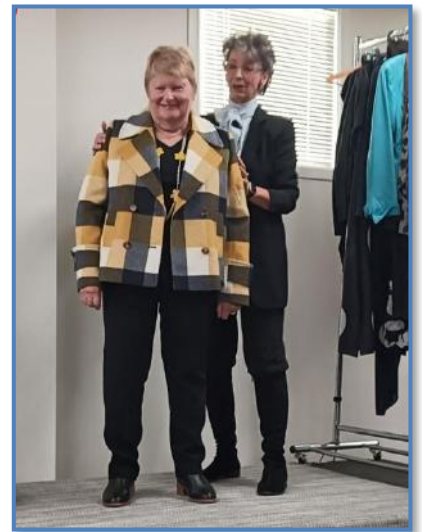
"And let's not forget Angela, the absolute crowd favourite — holding court at the bar like a glamorous hostess from the golden age of Hollywood.

"Big love to all the girls selling raffle tickets and manning the door — charm, sparkle, and enough hustle to make a carny proud! "It takes a village — and what a cheeky, wonderful village you are" exclaimed Janet.

The afternoon raised over \$2,500 for the club, and the audience had a ball.



*The bridge room full of ladies at Janet's fashion and style fundraiser.*



*Sue Boaden - elegance and grace!*





## Helping Ramone to do his work at the club

From Stephanie Grummit

Thank you for welcoming Ramone and me into the club. I bring Ramone to the club because he helps me pick up things I've dropped. I often drop my keys to the van, and he'll pick them up for me including from in between the foot pedals. This is a really big energy saver for me, especially at the end of bridge.



Ramone is building a lovely relationship with some club members – he enjoys coming to bridge and saying hello to everyone. But he's enjoying it a little too much and isn't focused enough on following his commands.

Ramone recently had his annual licensing assessment. He passed his assessment, but the licensing agency noticed that his 'stay' command is broken. They've recommended I retrain him to 'stay' using a different word.

Ramone needs your help to do his work well at the club. **It's important you ask me first** to pat him or to talk to him. The best time to pat him is before the session starts, at the end of the session, on a break, or if we have finished playing our boards early. It takes energy for me to resettle him, so it's much easier for me if he stays when I've asked him to. It might not look like he's working, but he is.



Thank you for your help!

Thank you also for your help with sorting my cards and being accommodating about using the bidding boxes. These accommodations make a huge difference to me. They significantly reduce my fatigue and pain during bridge and through the next day. It makes bridge fun for me instead of a big physical challenge.

Thanks again

*Stephanie*



We now have bidding boxes available for use. They're helpful for players who have eye, hand or arm conditions and are simple to use. They're beside the bidding pads and pens. Please return them there at the end of play.



## Hutt Bridge Club team for Wellington Regional Champs

Thank you very much to those who expressed an interest in being part of our team for the Wellington Regional Club Champs on Saturday 12 July. You gave us good information on your bridge record.

The Committee appointed James Fulton, Lesley Haines and Doug O'Halloran as selectors although Doug has gone AWOL in Scotland, so James and Lesley just got on with the job since time is of the essence.

The selectors have prioritised established partnerships with a good track record and think they've selected a very good team, as follows:

**Open:** Vil Gravis and Russell Dive

**Open Restricted:** Jeffry Craanen and Deidre Stallinger

**Intermediate:** Marian Loader  
Eleisha Hawkins (Captain)

**Junior:** Peter Hawkes and Angus McKay

**Novice:** Stephanie Grummit and Ann Harland

**We'll all be cheering you on!**

**Go Hutt!!**

## Welcome to our 35 new members

A huge warm welcome to our 35 fabulous new members who graduated on 28 May.

A group of 35 bridge learners is possibly unprecedented for Hutt Bridge Club, but what a fabulous crowd you are.

It's such a joy to see your confidence and skills grow over the weeks — your energy and enthusiasm and brought so much to our group.

A massive thank you to AJ and all the wonderful helpers — your time, effort, and good humour were absolutely invaluable.

Here's to new friendships, new skills, and many great times ahead!



### **Tips for Directors – available on our website soon**

We've created a document that provides some guidance for Directors when they're managing a session at the Hutt Bridge Club. They have an important role hosting and managing the room to make sure everyone enjoys the session, and our Club's values of being welcoming, inclusive and supportive are met.

The new booklet includes guidance and information including:

- how to keep the room moving so players can play as many games as possible
- how to manage Wednesday sessions – which are different to other sessions because of number of people still learning the game
- when a player isn't happy with a Director's ruling

Director should attend to any individual player's needs, for example seating rights, pre-sorted cards, bidding aids, and communicate any special arrangements to the room where this is appropriate.

The *Tips for Directors* document will soon be available for everyone, on the 'Read' page of our website [www.hutt.bridge-club.org/newsletter](http://www.hutt.bridge-club.org/newsletter)



## Esavra Delaney

### Member profile

**I was a bit surprised about being asked to spill the beans about myself for this newsletter, but here goes...**

My name is Esavra, and I'm a proud Wednesday night bridge enthusiast. Most folks seem to be curious about my name. My mum hails from Chile, and my name is as ancient as a dinosaur (well, maybe not that old). It means something like 'the most beautiful, funny, amazing one'. Just kidding, but not even Google knows what it means!

At the bridge club, many struggled to pronounce it, so I suggested they just call me "E." But my dad (who started playing bridge at the same time as me), was having none of that. He insisted my full name suits me perfectly and just makes me more fabulous.

I'm currently a proud member of the Lower Hutt Hospital Orderlies and Security team. I started my journey here as a cleaner way back in 2006. I wasn't the biggest fan of school – rules and I are not exactly best friends (maybe that's why I struggle to learn Bridge). My parents said I could leave school if I found a job, so I did.

After a year of cleaning, I joined the Security Orderly team and have tackled various roles since, but now I manage the team – a delightful bunch of 64 incredible people! It's like a work family reunion every day, and half of us are literally related! My partner is part of my supervisor team, his mum is a nurse, my cousin is the security lead, and my dad even dabbled in building services for a bit. I often joke that my aunty is the CEO and my nana runs payroll 😊.

Now, about my home family... I have the most amazing and supportive partner, and we've been on our wild ride of life together for 15 years. We have three wonderful kiddos who fill our lives with joy and laughter. Yes, I know, I look far too youthful for

that – thank you). Our two sons are 17 and 10, and then there's my favourite (shhh, don't tell the boys), sweet little Bella, who's 7.

So, why did I get into bridge? After my dad retired we thought it would be fun to find a hobby together. While I was eyeing up glass-blowing (just casually becoming a master of molten glass) my dad spotted an ad for bridge lessons. He said, "You're great at card games, Esavra!" Sure, if you count five-cards and SKIPBO! So off we went, and boy, did we quickly realise this was no ordinary card game – it felt like learning a foreign language.

A massive shoutout to AJ for being a patient guru – but I still think my unique system deserves a training class of its own!

Thank you all for welcoming me and my Dad (Greg), you're some amazing, kind, and funny people. We're absolutely thrilled to be part of it and are committed to one day figuring out what we're doing so you'll be stuck with us for at least another 20 years!

**Here's to laughter, fun, and, of course, Bridge!**

### Have you got a number in our weekly Lotto fundraiser?

We have a few numbers coming up for sale in our weekly fundraiser. It's \$5 a week with a maximum of 40 tickets.

You could win \$100 if your ticket matches the week's bonus Lotto number.

Contact Ruth to secure one of the following numbers – you can pay for a few weeks in advance too.



Like us on Facebook to keep up-to-date with what's happening  
[www.facebook.com/huttbridgeclub](https://www.facebook.com/huttbridgeclub)



## Howell Movement

The Howell movement in Contract Bridge is a logistical marvel, designed to ensure each pair competes against every other pair in a session. Unlike the more static Mitchell movement, where players stay in predictable seats, the Howell movement turns the session into a nomadic adventure.

Each round, players rotate – sometimes shifting seat, and creating a delightful puzzle of organization that leaves even seasoned players checking the movement chart with furrowed brows.

By the end, everyone has faced every opponent, partnerships have been tested, and if nothing else, players get their cardio in by constantly relocating. It's strategy, memory, and navigation rolled into one chaotic masterpiece.

So, when you get to the table please check the BridgeMate to see which seat you should be in.

## KING'S BIRTHDAY BRIDGE



We held another popular public holiday bridge event for the King's Birthday on Monday 2nd June.

Eleven tables of happy loyal subjects attended. Many were dressed up in fine items of royal regalia and delicious food was contributed for a lovely high tea.

Prizes in the form of Queen Anne chocolate fish were awarded for best attire, best bridge and various other regal categories, including for correctly answering questions about Kings.

It was a great afternoon of social bridge – lots of fun, lovely food and drinks, and interesting cards.

What more could a King want?

## Tournaments around the region

Have you thought about playing in a grade above at a tournament? Playing against good opposition increases your skills and can be a great confidence booster. If you think you're ready, give it a go.

### Dates for your diary

6 July	Kairangi Intermediate Pairs
12 July	Wellington Regional Clubs Teams Play-off
16 July	Poppy Roberts 5A Pairs
17 July	Kapiti Horowhenua Open Area Pairs <b>5 (Online)</b>
<b>18 July</b>	<b>QUIZ NIGHT</b>
20 July	Karori Intermediate Pairs
20 July	Paraparaumu Junior Pairs
27 July	Wellington Peter Benham Memorial "Pairs Open
3 August	Waikanae Multi-grade Pairs
10 August	Kapi-Mana Intermediate Pairs
17 August	Upper Hutt Multi-grade Pairs
21 August	Kapiti Horowhenua Open Area Pairs <b>6 (Online)</b>
24 August	Karori Open Swiss Pairs
24 August	Otaki Junior/Intermediate Pairs
27 August	Poppy Roberts 5A pairs Prelim 6 Open
<b>30 August</b>	<b>Hutt Intermediate 5B Pairs (sponsored by Ryman Healthcare)</b>
31 August	Kairangi Multi-grade Pairs
7 September	Wellington Sixes 3A/5B/3B Open /Intermediate /Junior
14 September	Victoria Junior/Intermediate Pairs
18 September	Kapiti Horowhenua Open Area Pairs <b>7 (Online)</b>



## Thanks to our sponsors



## Finesse is the newsletter of the Hutt Bridge Club

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