

February

Newsletter

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UPCOMING EVENTS CCLCBC

1. **Monthly Shield 4th March**
2. **Presentation Day Prs 10th March 9.30am**
3. **Pauline Evans Novice Prs 12th March**
4. **State Teams Qualifier 24th March – 9.30 start**

April birthdays

Lyn Baber, Steve Calcraft, Janet Davies, Karen Flesch, Kerry Garnsey, Kevin Hughes, Lorraine Lindsay, Lisa McNamara, Gillian Sadler & Suzanne Whelan

Enjoy your day



The BridgeMate scores will not be on in March



*Keep up to date via our Facebook page.
Thanks to Gina for keeping it updated*

January Handicap Winners

Monday: Frik Gautschi & Lyn ne Harrold 77.42

Monday evg: Eunice de Vries & Wendy Mitchell 78.44

Wednesday: Barbara Grant & Brian Warburton 74.26

Thursday: Kerry Garnsey & Eric Fairclough 90.85

Thursday evg: Frik Gautschi & David Roberts 72.32

Friday: Raema Nash & Julie Sadler 73.24



Need a JP

Leonie Lovell is available before and after
1pm Monday session & Wednesdays

Bright & Bubbly
for Presentation Day.
No Black . Held in
Parkview Room

Bridge begins at
9.30am followed by
lunch at 1pm.



9.30

10th

M
A
R
C
H

PRESENTATION DAY 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS - APRIL

1. Monthly Shield 1st April
2. Easter Prs 8th April
3. Club Novice Prs 23rd & 30th April
4. Anzac day Prs 24th April

It will be the first time some will be competing in the Novice Prs. Please give it a go



Jan & Sylvia

State Mixed Prs Q Final

Held earlier in February.

1st Jaan Oitmaa & Sylvia Foster

2nd Eunice de Vries & David Bowerman

3rd Louise Lewis & Vic Pietraszkiewicz

This also doubles as our Club Mixed Prs

VALENTINE DAY PRS

1. Barry & Sylvia Foster
- 2 & 3. Trish Dennis & Wendy Mitchell tied with Julie Sadler & Anne Grayden

SUMMER PRS

1. Eunice de Vries & Wendy Mitchell
2. Paul & Kerry Garnsey
3. Janet Davies & Frik Gautschi

CENTRAL COAST PLAYERS TRAVEL TO GREAT LAKES CONGRESS 28TH FEB – 1ST MARCH

Around 22 players from the Central Coast competed over the weekend in the Great Lakes Congress, at Forster-Tuncurry, in pairs & teams events held in their home club. It was pleasing to catch up with Hope Tomlinson who moved up some time ago & she played with her old partner, Barry Foster. Sorry Barry I mean old in terms of the partnership being in the past, when Hope lived on the Central Coast.

Jaan Oitmaa & Sylvia Foster were the best placed in the pairs coming in sixth with Pauline Caust & Alan Bustany 10th; Dasha Brandt & David Bowerman 11th; Barry Foster & Hope Tomlinson 13th; Louise Lewis & Vic Pietraszkiewicz 15th; while Sally Clarke & Sharon Mayo were 19th & the remainder of us finished outside the top 20.

Sunday saw most of us lining up for the Teams event with the Central Coast being well represented among the place getters. Team Caust took out 1st place, Team Weston which included Sharon Mayo & Sally Clarke 2nd place. Team Foster came in 4th. It was a nice friendly Congress with 34 Teams & 68 pairs. Ronnie Ng directed calmly & fairly, as always, making both days run extremely well. He obliged by taking the included photo of the winning team.



This win means a lot to the members of Team Caust as the team was entered by Chris Williams & meant to be a 'girl's weekend' away. Alan Bustany, one of her regular partners stepped in to take her place. Thank you Alan.



VALE CHRIS WILLIAMS

Chris passed away on Sunday 25th January 2026. Most people were shocked to hear the news. Included here are some memories of Chris written up by several of her closest friends.

Memories of Chris

Sharon's memories

I was lucky enough to be part of Chris's bridge world, our friendship wasn't just about cards. It developed over the last few years playing bridge firstly in Toronto & then we moved on to stronger competition in Gosford but a lot of my memories that I want to share with you are what happened on the train. Everyone knows that Chris had a "quirky" personality right?

Our weekly train trips were a ritual in themselves. They began not with bidding systems, but with logistics. Choosing the correct carriage was critical – not just any carriage would do. It had to stop closest to the lift. To save time we said but no, it was about taking care of Chris as walking became more difficult.

Once aboard there was the seat selection, we knew we were going to have a good day if her favourite seat was available. Three seats facing two..., preferably downstairs, I'm still not sure why but I was happy to comply. The 40 minute journey would then become a discussion usually dissecting a recent problem hand

– how would I bid it? and then how "the cartel" would bid it. Cartel was the name Chris gave to the group who she played with. She was very excited to be learning a strong club system with Alan, bridge wasn't just a pastime for Chris it was a puzzle to enjoy.

But there was so much more to Chris than bridge, she loved horses, gardening, reading, mind games and lots more. We shared stories of childhood riding adventures and our love of horses. And I suspect not many of you know that her favourite television show last year was Pro Bull riding on SBS, every time I flick thru the channels and see it I think of her. It makes me laugh thinking of Chris secretly cheering on bull riders.

Chris was careful with money but spent up on one very special purchase. A Japanese toilet, complete with all the bells and whistles. It was in her words expensive and it was complicated to install. And once installed she declared that it didn't suit the shape of her backside....but changed her mind after the

Sharon cont.

families' visit who all gave it their tick of approval. Then on one train ride home Chris asked if I would come to a poo party.....??

Definitely no, I said...laughing and said we would have to rename it first. After much laughter and brainstorming we came up with Louise more emphasis on loooo and so Louise it was!! That afternoon we nearly missed our stop at Fassifern from laughing and we'd only had one glass of bubbles. The poo party was still in the pipeline...

She loved to come over to the car to see Ellie (my dog) and say hello to Greg. She said Ellie made her feel special and she loved that they shared a birthday.

After her family left following Christmas, on our first train trip of the New Year, I asked how it had all gone, she smiled and said "it was great. I feel loved". I will cherish that memory.

For all of us who who were hern ike-minded minded bridge friends, we were lucky to have had Chris in our lives. And Chris wherever you are I hope you have found the perfect seat – three facing two – and a hand worth bidding!!

Jan's memories

I think I am mildly responsible for Chris playing at CCLCBC! I first played with Chris in about 2005 when we played in a one off at Central Coast BC. Many years later, I came across her on Stepbridge and we decided

Jan cont

to play regularly. When Pauline Evans first moved to the Coast, it was suggested she try and form a partnership with Chris and she subsequently started playing regularly at CCLBC. Between Di, Pauline, Chris and I, we evolved a bidding system which Di and I largely still play today. When Pauline sadly passed, this system was also adopted by Alan Bustany when playing with Chris.

Chris had many bridge successes but the one I will remember the most is when she participated (playing with Sally Clarke, Di Coats and myself) as part of our Women's Team in 2024 when we made the semi-final of the Australian Women's Team Selection.

Chris was fiercely independent in her private life and hated imposing on her friends. On the contrary she bent over backwards when anyone else needed help of any kind. She particularly loved her garden and had planted many cuttings from my garden into hers. She was also my Costco shopper when I needed something particular as she lived just a few blocks away.

Her transport trips (and accommodation choices) to Sydney (with multiple train and bus changes), Orange and all over NSW are legendary among her friends. I hold Chris responsible for my decision to 'go grey'. When Chris was recovering from a serious illness and had lost her hair because of chemo – one afternoon I tried on Chris's wig in the ladies toilets and the consensus was it didn't look too bad!! My hairdresser took care of the rest!!.

I will miss her.

Di's memories

I am so sad to be sitting here writing this. I was actually playing "CueBids" on line with Chris on the day she died which makes it all the more unbelievable. I know others have written about her bridge prowess and her great ability to think outside the square . I got to know Chris as a great friend as we have shared accommodation on numerous occasions over the years. She was a no fuss no sugar (literally) girl with a great " outside the square" sense of humour; always up first in the morning and sitting outside rain hail or shine doing wordle or other trivia . She enjoyed her garden which was amazing and wherever we went we ended up either checking out the local botanical gardens or just doing a walkand a coffee .
I will miss her .

Pauline's memories

I first met Chris when she started playing at CCLCBC with Pauline Evans. I don't remember how I came to play with her but I'm very grateful that I did. We played together each Wednesday afternoon at the club for about 2years and went away to some Congresses together. We were scheduled to have a 'girls weekend' at Great Lakes Congress in Foster at the end of February. She was funny, quirky, she loved games and she was good company. She said she really enjoyed my company and that "... you've got a lot to learn about playing bridge." She was a good bridge teacher and mostly patient with me, but her feedback could be brutal. When she reached 3000MP she thanked me for playing with her so she could reach that milestone.

I miss her.

2025 CLUB TITLES WON BY CHRIS

- 1, EASTER PRS with Pauline Caust
2. INTERCLUB TEAMS with Ian Lincoln, Steph Mathews & Gary Heyting
3. TEAMS CHAMPIONS with Ian Lincoln, Adele Mills & Dorothy Berzins



With ian Lincoln

Another Vale . John Davenport passed away on 25th February. He had a fall after Christmas when he broke his back. Rehabilitation followed but he had a major stroke which led to his death. Although he was relatively new to the club you may remember him as the very likeable 96 year old who was driven to & from bridge by his daughter or granddaughter. RIP John