

Franklin Bridge Club Table Talk July 2026



We promote Face to Face (F2F) Bridge

The Auckland/Northland Regional Tournaments, Sat 18th July and Sun 19th July

We are getting very close to our next tournament, the Auckland/Northland Regional Championships, held over two full days – day one for pairs, day two for teams. We host this important regional tournament every third year, and are confident of filling our clubroom, as the top players compete for the 10A points at stake. Please make a note of the dates and help where you can – Neil Miller is co-ordinating the kitchen

**Saturday and Sunday, 18 and 19 July 2026
It'll be chock-a-block!**

Lessons

Lessons have been completed, and the graduates are continuing with supervised play, then will be launched into club nights for the Restricted Pairs series, starting Wednesday 5th August. If you are willing to play with a graduate for this series, please contact Maureen Nelson. The event following the Restricted Pairs is the annual Wednesday Social Teams, always a fun event.

Player News

- We commented in our last issue that bridge isn't only a game for "oldies" – but on a recent Wednesday night, it was great to see Margaret van der Coer playing with Ken Craze – both in their early 90s and still going strong.



- Our former patron Nelda Wormald celebrated her 92nd birthday at the end of June. She has relinquished her driver's licence, and will now walk down to the Waiuku Library to play her weekly game of rummikub. She is toying with the idea of a mobility scooter!
- Gerda and John celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June, and Gerda brought morning tea to the Friday session, and a copy of their wedding photo taken in Rotterdam back in 1966. Arie Geursen was amazed to see it, and told Gerda that he recognised the staircase, because it featured in his own parents' wedding photo some years earlier



- Still on celebrations – Happy 80th birthday to Cam Gooder, who will reach the milestone on 19th July
- We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Judy Fawdray, who is in Auckland Hospital following both knee replacement surgery and heart surgery. Get well soon, Judy!
- We are sad to record the passing of long-time club member Dermot Murphy in late June, aged 86. Dermot was a bridge player and cricket enthusiast, and a dedicated farmer. He was “one of a kind” at the bridge table, and although we haven't seen him there for some while, Gill had continued to play on Fridays until recently. May Dermot rest in peace.

- There are relaxing holidays (Christine Godding just back from a week on Niue) and energetic holidays. The indefatigable Mary Crawford, with Pip Wooffindin and Teresa Phillips have just tramped and cycled round for a week in the Waikato.



- Lynne and Arie are enjoying their winter holiday in sunny Queensland. Arie celebrated his birthday last week with their beautiful 2 year old great-granddaughter, Charlotte Rose.



Out and About in Franklin

Health: We note that in the May budget this year, “money was set aside” to purchase land for a hospital in Drury. Land not yet purchased, so who knows it will come to fruition – good start though.

And last week the first sod was turned to build the new Franklin Hospice facility in Foy Road (off Waiuku Road, not far from the Indian Hall). Construction is under way, but they are still fund-raising for \$3 million to complete the project.

Did you know that once there really was an ostrich farm in Ostrich Farm Road? In 1903, 34 ostrich chicks were transferred from an existing ostrich farm in Whitford, and set up on a site in Helvetia, on land owned by the Schlaepfer family. These original chicks were quickly followed by 230 mature birds in February 1903. The reason for farming them was for their feathers, which were in the height of fashion. The birds were plucked every 8 months, and some of the male feathers sold for up to 20 pounds per pound weight. Also used for feather dusters, boas, and refurbishing some articles made of feathers. But the first World War 1914-18 was the end of feathers-as-fashion, and the industry gradually disappeared.

***May all your finesses work
May all your slams be grand***

