



SEPTEMBER 2017



President's Corner

Dear Members,

As I settle in to write this month's comment, I cannot help but reflect upon the past three weeks I have spent here in Queensland enjoying the weather and playing Bridge of course.

I was made most welcome at Surfers Paradise, Sunshine Coast and Caloundra Clubs where I played; the latter two Clubs with my regular partner Trevor.

I am planning on being home for Monday night Bridge and the build up to our annual congress the following weekend. I love participating in our Congress as I see it as both competitive, friendly and hospitality plus. There is still room for more members to participate in our Congress.

Our Canberra visit is now on the radar and entries are being finalised so please let me know if you are interested. I will have the program details We have billets available to assist our members if required.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for October 26th and we also have the Warrnambool Congress on the 15th and 16th, so plenty of Bridge for those willing to travel.

Enjoy your Bridge.

Richard

Promotions

Janet Oates Local Master

Evelyn Ebbs State Master

Kath Connors *National Master

Anne Fennell **National Master

Directors needed

Our club needs additional directors

Training and mentoring are provided.

Come and help us run our club competently and professionally

Any questions?

Ask Tim Woodley

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sep 9 & 10 Ballarat Congress

Sep 14 Nation Wide Pairs

Sep 21 & 28 Ballarat Teams

Championships

Sep 24 Geelong Region GNOT Final

Anne Beck: Her story

I was born in Chippenham, Bath, England. Initially I had three brothers but only one now. We came to Australia in 1948 aboard the HMS Moloya. It was a brave move as all our family were still in England. However, my father wanted a fresh start as England had been decimated by the War. The trip took six weeks.

I went to Coreen Grammar initially, in Heidelberg, then transferred to Rosanna P S. I loved school and only ever wanted to be a teacher. I used to make books for my dolls. I started a club at Rosanna called the AC club. The Advance Club [as I called it] and used to write little newsletters and have quizzes etc. I made badges for all who wanted to join and held meetings. Those not in the Club thought it was the Anne Crocker club as Crocker is my maiden name. [An apt name for Ballarat and the Antique shop just five houses down is run by Gregory Crocker- no relation]. I think this made up for having no relations, etc.

I then went to Macleod High. My father had not wanted me to do Matric. So with seven honour subjects I managed to get into Coburg Teachers' College. I was one of the youngest at sixteen when I started and very naïve.

I did two years teacher training and taught at my first school in Keon Park. It was a huge school of one thousand kids. I had a grade three. I gave demonstration lessons in Cuisenaire to other teachers; quite a daunting task for a graduate. Teaching was different back then. You had to sign in of a morning and, were not allowed to wear pants. In 1971 we were allowed pant suits only. How times have changed! I had a Ford Cortina then and had a roster for the kids each week to wash it! Imagine doing that now!

I met my husband Colin in 1964, just after I got my car. A friend and I drove down to a jazz dance on the corner of Toorak and Punt Roads [can't recall the name]. I had taken up two spaces to park [in case I couldn't get out again!!] and he was there with his two mates. They asked me to move the car; the rest is history! Colin had a twin cam MG A; quite rare and very temperamental. He was a rep. for Davison Paints and used to visit the panel shops around Melbourne. He loved cars and resigned and made hard tops for all the MG's, Healeys and the like.

We married in 1965 and Adam was born in 1966 and Angela in 1968. We lived in Hawthorn then bought our home in Heidelberg West in 1967. This we renovated, extended and added a larger garage. Colin and I both loved cars and owned many MG's, A & B, Triumph TR4, Jaguars and a V8 Valiant. In 1969 we bought an Alfa Romeo 1750 GTV; a great car. We joined the Alfa club in 1969; then a fledgling Club! It was great! We drove all over Australia as a family and competed

in many events. In 1983 I was awarded Life Membership. The first to be given the honour! I drove at Winton, Calder, Phillip Island, Templestowe Hill-climb, Lakeland, Hume Weir and many interstate tracks. I also did motor-kanas, observation runs etc. All before CAMS intervened and it became too expensive and seriously competitive [slicks etc, spare cars...]

Colin went to work for 3 Point Motors in North Fitzroy as a spray painter in their panel shop [he taught himself the trade and became one of the best] ... winning many awards with cars he restored. This included the prestigious Geelong Concourse outright and many awards with Alfa and Mercedes. As well as cars Colin and I both played competition squash at Lower Plenty. Both Adam and Angela played at State level. Adam still plays in Ballarat and my grandson Ned is now playing.

I had resigned from teaching in 1996; as was necessary then with no maternity leave etc. I returned to fulltime teaching in 1971 after being very bored at home. Beginning at Heidelberg Heights PS, where my son commenced school. I taught at ten schools in all. I was at three that closed; being Heidelberg Heights, Macleod and Banyule; restructuring they called it. The children came with me at Banyule until they went to Ivanhoe GS for their secondary education.

It was difficult being a female teacher in the early days as I had only completed two years at CTC. I had to upgrade my qualifications. This took four years night school as well as teaching fulltime and initially with two small children. My teacher at Macleod told me my place was at home, not going for assessment, as was required in those days. Macleod PS was a difficult school because of the Army barracks. Kids were used to physical punishment and were quite violent and hard to discipline. I took long service leave and had my appendix out at that school so missed a bit of time fortunately.

I always taught grade five and six in my later years. I had some tough kids but managed to tame them! I was promoted up through the ranks and my last years were as Vice Principal and Principal. In 1990 Jeff Kennett started offering packages to Senior teachers for early retirement. I resisted the first few but in 1994 I gave in. 1999 was probably one of my highlight years career wise. It was the Centenary year for Princes Hill PS and I was principal. My Dad was unwell and I thought I could help Mum, plus the endless School Council meetings, sub committees, School Charters etc.



I decided I didn't need any more!

Also it was the twenty first celebrations for the Alfa Club; both huge milestones that required much research and organisation. The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Trevor Huggard [whose daughter attended Princes Hill] managed to close the area outside the Windsor Hotel for us. We assembled two hundred Alfas there. We drove in convoy out to Domain Chandon Lilydale, and we were their first ever luncheon. It was huge!

Princess Hill PS was a fabulous school and I was privileged to teach and administer.

I think it took me two years to unwind after retiring. I went to the gym, did some emergency teaching but needed something else. So I joined the Austin Hospital Auxiliary. We called ourselves 'The Austriches'. All we did was hold events and raise

money with many varied functions. I became Treasurer and stayed involved until 1999.

In 1998, my daughter Angela then thirty, was looking for a change of direction. She wanted to start a business and open a Ladies clothing boutique. She said, "You've got the money [my super] and we both love clothes. I have the expertise. I think we can do it!"

Colin said, "Go for it! You're bored. It will give you a new interest again."

The rest is history. We opened FRISK in Rathdowne Street, just down from Princes Hill PS. Instead of working with the parents I now dressed them!! We had a two storey terrace that we fully renovated [thanks to a very talented husband]. We opened our door in April 1999. We sold mainly up market Australian designer labels, clothing, jewellery, handbags, accessories and imported our shoes from Spain and France. It was a huge success! Angela did all the buying and I did the finances. We employed some part time staff and were open seven days a week.

In 2002 we opened another store in South Melbourne; another renovation! This store was not quite the success of Carlton and we closed this store after three years and concentrated on Carlton. Adam had travelled extensively overseas for many years. When he returned he moved upstairs while studying at the University of Melbourne. In 2005 he left to teach in Ernabella, a remote Aboriginal community in

Angela moved upstairs in 2007 and was living and working at the shop! Adam had met and married a lovely girl. They had a son Ned the same year.

In June 2010 my family life took a tragic turn. Out of nowhere Colin suffered a major seizure at work. He was diagnosed Cat. 4 brain tumour and we were told he had less than a year to live. He was no longer able to work [much to his consternation] and became housebound. My son's second child was due in November so he took leave and his family moved home with us...so I had help in looking after Colin for a few months. Natasha was born in November and during Christmas 2010 Colin suffered more seizures and was hospitalised. It became evident that I could not look after him. Adam returned to work in Ernabella for the 2011 school year. Colin went into care and died in May 2011; six years ago.

After several years in Ernabella, Adam and his family bought a house in Ballarat in 2010 and he started to work and complete post-graduate work at Fed Uni. In retail at that time Zara, Topshop, Uniqo and H&M all moved into Melbourne making it increasingly difficult for a small business to survive. After consultation with our financial advisor we went into liquidation and in September 2013 closed FRISK. It had given us fifteen fabulous years and a great lifestyle and me a second career. Angela moved back to Heidelberg with me and we decided two years max and then we would decide what next!!

The next step was obvious; I would move to Ballarat. I came up to Ballarat during Christmas of 2014 and stayed with my son and looked for possible homes. The first house that came up was in Pleasant Street, a few blocks down from Adam. Within a week I had committed to buying the house-sight unseen. I sold Heidelberg, Angela bought an apartment in Preston. She began working for E3 Learning and she plans to move here in the next two years.

I moved to Pleasant Street in May 2015 leaving the home I lived in for forty seven years with a beautiful big garden. I have now downsized to what I call my 'dolls house'!

Since then everything has fallen into place for me. Adam lives ten houses away with his wife and three beautiful children aged 10, 6.5 and 2.5. I see them almost every day-what could be better?

A passion of mine is playing cards. It is something my family has done all their lives -bridge, solo, poker, slippery Anne, crib, canasta etc...It is a very British pastime. You can imagine my delight when I discovered the Bridge Club around the corner!

I play there at least twice a week.

Another love in my life are dogs. My elder brother bred Airedales and Corgis out the back of the family home in Rosanna.



We always had a dog when I lived in Heidelberg. So my home has never been without a dog. My latest loves are two Ruby Cavaliers that I bought when Colin went into Care.

I enjoy the daily walks with them around the lake or exploring the streets of Ballarat; plus they are great company.

Following the footsteps of my mother, who worked as a volunteer for many organisations over her life, I joined the STJOG Auxiliary where I am now the Treasurer of the Auxiliary and help buy for and manage the shop.

One thing you should also know about me is that I am an ardent Collingwood FC member and travel down on the Gold bus to all MCG games... tragic eh!

I have also discovered there is a goldfields chapter of the Alfa club and have renewed a friendship with John Emery whom many of you would know. I am now enjoying outings with the Alfas again! I have travelled far and wide in Australia but overseas has been limited to New Zealand and parts of Asia. Colin and I had planned to travel to Europe once he retired, before fate intervened.

I joined the Goldfields Probus in 2015 to meet more like minded people and really enjoy the company and outings etc.

My life here is full and this year my daughter in law is studying for an Early Childhood Certificate. This had given me a chance to take Jasmine to play group, the library Story Time, Botanic Kids at the gardens and any other place amenable to 2.5 year olds.

My life...quote ordinary really but I am blessed with a great family and many good friends; all who love to come up to Ballarat for a visit.

Melbourne shopping is only an hour away, that I do miss. Shopping here is woeful!

My goal is to maintain a happy, healthy existence and live as long as my Mum who died two years ago aged 103.5.

Thanks