



Noosa Bridge Club has a long and interesting history beginning in 1977 with the eventual melding of two groups who were teaching and playing at separate venues.

Luc Turschwell opened Belmonto's in an old house in Hasting Street and began looking for bridge players. A small group began playing with Luc, and his bridge partner Simon Andrew gave lessons. Penny Sykes and Sally Simmonds lived across the street and were early members of the group.

At a similar time, Kath Finnemore (late Kath Neilson) was giving bridge lessons in her home. The two groups combined, and the inaugural meeting of the Noosa Bridge Centre was held on 13 September 1977 with nine members. The foundation president was Luc Turschwell; vice-president, Freda Ellis; secretary, Kath Finnemore and treasurer Mike Marc. Freda Ellis was the first director for the club.

In the following years, play took place at players' homes, Pine Trees Resort Motel, Noosa Bowls Club and later Sunshine Beach Surf Lifesaving Club.

The first congress for the Noosa Bridge Club was held in November 1980 at Pine Trees Resort and 1981, 82 and 84 congresses were held at Noosa Shire Council Gallery.

The club wanted to have their own premises and worked hard fund raising to achieve this.

On the 28th of October 1986 the president at the time Rosemary Green, oversaw the purchase of a church and land in James Street. The cost was \$85000, and some members went guarantor on the loan.

The club was incorporated on 19/8/1997 and the name changed to Noosa Bridge Club Inc.

The building was used extensively over the next years by the bridge club and other groups hiring the space, so tables and chairs were set out and put away after each session.

As James Street became increasingly developed and the vacant block next door that the club used for parking was to be developed, the Club applied to Noosa Council for land to move the club to. The Council offered land in Wallace Park and the James Street building was relocated to its current location on Wallace Drive on 16 March 1994. Anticipating growth in member numbers, a large extension was added. The new wing was named the Les Shearer Room in honour of the president at the time. The James Street land was sold to pay off the loan.

At 4am on the 16th March 1994 four members of the NBC arrived at James Street to witness the removal of the old hall to Wallace Park. These members were Ian Smith, Pat Rapson, Laurie Cowled and Peggy Hillhouse.

Peggy remembers it as a slow moving journey as they followed the truck on foot, with many tree limbs in the way which had to be trimmed, so there were many holdups. They eventually arrived at Wallace Street in daylight, and joined by architect John Mainwaring and another club member Helen Karpin and her son who joined in the celebratory glass of champagne.



Laurie Cowled remembers the moving of the building as follows:

"On March 15, I note that I watched the club house being loaded onto a truck and took many photos. I set my alarm for 4am the next morning. On 16 March I awoke before the alarm went off and from 3.45am until 11 am watched the bridge club move ever so slowly to Wallace Park.

"What a job! At various corners, power lines had to be taken down. In other spots, it was touch and go as to whether the truck and its load would fit through.

"Looking back, I remember that the roundabout where you enter Wallace Park was so new that the trees had not yet been planted or that they were so small the truck with the club aboard went straight across it.

When it and the hangers on (like me) arrived at its new site, we were all on a high!"





With the renovations going on it was back to temporary premises in the Bicentennial Hall, Sunshine Beach, for the next four months until the new clubhouse opened on Friday the 8th July 1994. The new clubhouse was officially opened by the then Mayor Noel Playford on the 5th of August 1994



(Left to right, first president Luc Turschwell 1977/78/79 Les Shearer, president 1993/94/95 and Noosa Mayor Noel Playford.

Players present for the first day of play in the new clubhouse were: **Philippa Barnett**, Christina Bringau, **Doug Byrnes**, Audrey Clarke, Joy Coop, Lawrie Cowled, Pam Cross, **Hilary French**, Joan Grant, **Rosemary Green**, Peggy Hillhouse, Caroline Jackson, Sandy McCulloch, Carol McDonald, Daph McGhee, Sharon McGhee, Heather Mott, Ellie Nimmo, Jan O'Connell, Cathy Reed, Bev Salter, Ann Simpson, **Penny Sykes**, Trish Tanner and Audrey Wansley.

Our club logo was designed by Helen Lawson and adopted by the committee in 2017.

Peggy Hillhouse designed and made the first holders for the bidding slips used since the early 2000's.

Today: The Noosa bridge Club members are still enjoying having their own clubhouse, not having to set up and take down tables and chairs each session, thanks to the hard work and foresight of our early members.