



DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

We remember with gratitude and sadness the passing of Alan Haslett....a man who touched the lives of all who knew him. Our sincere condolences to his loving and loyal wife, Julie. The following poem was penned and read by Noel Chambers at the service for Alan.

The Battler

When I met him over 40 years ago.
He was some blonde's fantasy, he told me so.
Julie paid money, all of 10 bucks
Without guarantee she'd get any (custom-made leather handbags)
Not that he was interested in that
He was looking for long-term love.
For a few years they lived in sin
Her attempts at cooking he bore with a grin
Lots of parties with copious amounts of rum
Broken stereos and records, all jolly good fun
When she reached the altar, she said, "I love you honey"
He said, "I love you too," and refunded her money
I first noticed Ally wasn't quite right
When we played indoor cricket one night
He looked slender, fit and tall
But had trouble getting bat to ball
Diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at 21 years old
He had it fifty-four years and change, all told
He managed life well and I'm not being unkind
Behind that slow drawl was a pretty sharp mind
An electrician by trade he did very well
After some hiccups, a good business to sell
And all the while that creeping disease
Gradually bringing him to his knees
He's fought valiantly for many a year
To keep himself out of that dreaded wheelchair
You never heard complaints or moans
Whiles life's shit sandwich, just threw more stones
Ally Welly was a very cool dude
Facing his problems with fortitude
Sometimes we would hurt him when trying to help
But you never would hear a groan, or a yelp
His willpower to raise himself out of his seat
Determination and guts - that was hard to beat
Forced to make changes in his lifestyle
Extended his life by quite a while
Crap food and excessive booze went out the door
Lost the smelly fart championship title he wore
As you slide down the banister of life so they say
You need most of the splinters to face the right way
Ally has had more than his share
Of splinters that he's had to bear
When he'd not long to go and not to be missed
The amount of times by Jules he was kissed
The sudden winks and smiles when you think he's comatose
Reaction to those voices he knew, and held close
He's stopped breathing, oh that could be good
No, off he goes again, another cord of wood



Look around you Jules and see all your mates
And you can believe me, we have what it takes
Today, tomorrow and far into next year
When you need us we will be here
Ally Welly we love you and will all miss you so
Your battle is over and it's time to go
Although you kept on struggling with all your might
You had nothing left in the toolbox with which to fight
Rest in peace, at least until we can join you mate
I promise a few of us will get pissed at your wake

CHRISTMAS PARTY

What a delicious feast we enjoyed on Sunday. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation and serving. The decorations and conviviality added to the ambiance and festivity. However, special acknowledgement goes to Debbie Gibson, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes – doing all the planning, shopping and heaps of prep at home....a remarkable job accomplished with enthusiasm and passion. Thank you SO much!



Our multi-talented, obliging new Club President, Colin Dolley



Some of the helpers. L – R Sally Woods, Shona Richards, Linda Smith and Robyn Andersen



Winners of the Bridge session following the Christmas lunch.

L – R: Trish Patterson, Shona Richards, Lyn Bocock and Julie Haslett

Well done!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To all the recipients of trophies, trays and other prizes that were handed out at the AGM. What a lot of talented and committed players we have in the Club – all worthy of recognition.

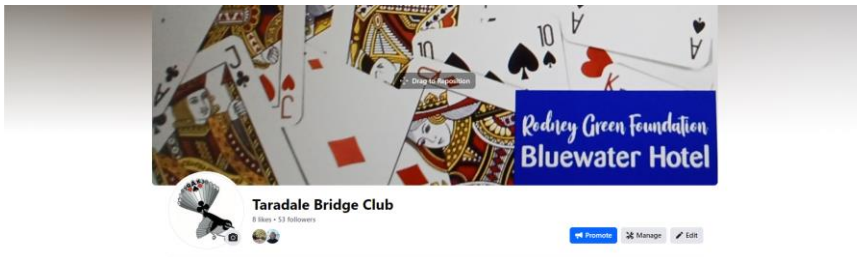


Noel Chambers was the deserving recipient of the Ngaire Bright Trophy which is awarded for exceptional service to the Club (but not in an official capacity). Noel has been very supportive of new bridge players, some of whom he has introduced to our Club - playing with and coaching them along the way. He has also fundraised a considerable amount of money for our club. He's our barman extraordinaire, which involves a considerable amount of work behind the scenes and time behind the counter!

It didn't take long for the award to go to Noel's head!!

CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE

Grateful thanks to Margaret Williams for her commitment to managing the page. There's a lot of work required to keep it updated and interesting.



This is an increasingly effective way of communicating with the community and public at large. Have you liked our page (cover photo on the left)? We'd love you to become a follower too and spread the word!

*Wishing everyone a relaxing, enjoyable and safe festive season. Whether you're spending time with family or friends, may it be pleasant.
P.S. Here's hoping Santa brings you your heart's desire too!*



Supported by

Rodney Green Foundation
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