

The History of the Redcliffe Bridge Club

This snapshot of our journey began at the home of **Mrs Lincoln** where the **Redcliffe Bridge Club** was formed on **10 March 1967**. Various members' homes were utilised as playing venues for a period of ten years.

For the then seventy-five members, the **Scouts' Association Hall** became the home of the Redcliffe Bridge Club for the following four years. It was during this time that silent bidding was officially adopted.

Our next move took the club to the **Redcliffe City Council Community Centre** at a cost of \$90 per month. Here players tolerated many inconveniences such as a lack of air-conditioning as well as a lack of window coverings and carpets. This became home to the club for fourteen years with a brief move during the tenancy to an alternate room during renovations. It was during that time that the first Honorary Life Memberships were conferred on Edna Hodgen and Nora Hodgen. It was also a period of change as this venue saw the Redcliffe Bridge Club become an incorporated club in 1992. That original constitution has served the club well up to the present day with minor changes, the most recent being in 2011.

Following our departure from the Community Centre, the **Redcliffe RSL Club** provided rooms in **1995** where our club could set up for playing sessions. This involved accessing tables and arranging chairs for each session as well as physically moving the boards, cloths and other necessities from storage rooms which were often on different floor levels. At the end of each session, this situation had to be reversed and all our belongings had to be put back into storage.

Whilst renovations were occurring at the RSL, the club relocated in **1997** to the Lions Den at the **Redcliffe Harness Racing Club**. An interesting anecdote was the fact that insect spray had to be provided at this venue to deter the ants from biting the feet of players!

We were never to return to the RSL Club and in **1999**, the **Redcliffe Leagues Club** became our next sojourn where a familiar scenario occurred with the laborious arrangements of moving furniture and playing equipment each time a bridge session was conducted.

On **20 November 2001**, at a Special General Meeting of the Redcliffe Bridge Club, it was decided to accept the offer outlined by the Redcliffe City Council to share rooms with U3A at **157 Sutton Street**. A special ceremony was held there on 6 December 2002 to commemorate the opening. The Scrabble Club began sharing our rooms in 2003 and for close to a decade, our almost 200 members have been accommodated very comfortably in a harmonious relationship with our tenants.

Discussions with Moreton Bay Regional Council about an Expression of Interest to apply for new premises began in July 2011. Soon after, at a Special General Meeting of the Redcliffe Bridge Club, a decision was made to put in an Expression of Interest to apply for a lease of the old **Redcliffe Bowls Club in Irene Street**. Late in **November 2011**, an offer was made from the Council to the club to acquire the lease of one of the available rooms. A meeting between the Mayor and representatives of the Redcliffe Bridge Club Committee ensued and the negotiations extended the lease to ten years, along with an agreement to a variety of alterations with the Council agreeing to share some costs. It was with pleasure that an application by the Redcliffe Scrabble Club to continue sharing rooms in the new premises was accepted.

On **24 June 2012**, the last session of bridge at **157 Sutton Street** was held.

On **28 June 2012**, the first session of bridge was held in the new club rooms of the Redcliffe Bridge Club, formerly Bowling Green Lane, now known as **Centenary Park, 2A Irene Street**.

The Mayor of Moreton Bay Regional Council, Allan Sutherland officially opened the new premises of the Redcliffe Bridge Club on Friday **17 August 2012**.

This History of the Redcliffe Bridge Club

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