

Club History

In the 1990s, a group of bridge enthusiasts began meeting at the Southport Community Hall. With the opening of the Southport Community Centre in 2011, the group relocated there and became known as the **Southport Bridge Club**. Weekly sessions were later introduced at Helensvale, prompting the adoption of the name **Southport Helensvale Bridge Club**.

The Club's early sessions were initiated by **Gaston De Renauds** who for many years managed all aspects of the Club's operations, including set-up, scoring, and administration. Gaston also established the tradition of twice-yearly members' lunches. On 2 April 2014, the Club transferred its Wednesday sessions entirely to Helensvale, initially meeting at the Senior Citizens' Hall before moving to the Helensvale Community Centre.

Following Gaston's retirement, in 2007, **Roy Hindmarsh** became President and continued in that role for many years as well as being Secretary, Treasurer and Director. As time progressed, Roy needed assistance and **Libby Burne** took over the position of Secretary. Following Roy's retirement, **Maggie Boniface** served as President for one year, succeeded by **Harold Bancroft**. Unfortunately, Harold resigned mid term and **Gerry Greenwood** served as President until 2019.

Joan Gooding undertook scoring duties for many years using Scorebridge and continued to assist after the introduction of Bridgemates whenever needed. She also served as Masterpoint Secretary for many years. **Aileen Gear** made significant contribution as Treasurer and Vice President respectively, with **Beth Greenwood** joining the committee in 2010 also dedicating considerable time to teaching beginner players.

The Club was first affiliated on 1 November 1999 and registered on the Australian Business Register as **The Helensvale and Southport Bridge Club Inc.**, with registration effective from 13 September 2000.

Affiliation with the Australian Bridge Federation was initiated by Roy Hindmarsh. In December 2014, the Club formally changed its name to **Helensvale Bridge Club Inc.**

In 2021, pre-dealt hands and Bridgemate scoring were introduced following the generous donation of equipment from the Beenleigh Bridge Club upon its closure.