

Production Team: Carly Sebestyen and Marcia Scudder

WELCOME TO CANBERRA

The enormity of the events of Boxing Day is uppermost in all our minds. Thankfully I am not aware of any bridge player or their immediate family suffering a loss as a result of the tsunami. However there was a near miss, (see the article on page 7). Several players have approached me with ideas which would raise money for a substantial donation to a relief fund. If each of us donated just \$1 every time we sat down at the table during the Summer Festival, we could raise a much needed \$25,000! Val Mitchell, the President of BFACT has volunteered to coordinate a fund raising effort on behalf of the Festival. There will be a Red Cross donation box at each Secretary's desk, and no doubt they will appear at other places too.

This is the last time that I am able to welcome you to a Summer Festival. The petrol gauge is showing empty so it is time to hand over the keys to the next generation. From 2006, you will be looked after by Sean Mullamphy. This year Sean is the Assistant Convener (aka my shadow) as I show him all the things that have to be done to produce a flawless (well, almost!) tournament for you.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my family, Marcia, Nathan & Amy who have contributed enormously to the success of the Summer Festival over the last decade. Without their diverse skills and hard work I could not have given you the enjoyable Bridge that typifies the Summer Festival. I would also like to thank the entire team, some forty people, who have worked tirelessly to put my vision into practice. Most of the staff have worked on all of the Summer Festivals that I have organised.

This year you are in for a treat. Mark Horton from the United Kingdom, editor of the Bridge Magazine and an editor of the Daily Bulletin at most WBF events, has come to Canberra to organise what he said will be "the best bulletin the Summer Festival has ever had". That's confidence for you! As experienced and prolific as he is, Mark still needs you to report those interesting or quirky happenings at the table. Please take five minutes to jot down a hand or an anecdote and then hand it one of the Bulletin Staff or one of the Festival Secretaries. Share your triumphs (and disasters!) with all of us.

This year there has been a reshaping of the schedule. As the Seniors Teams have outgrown the Hyatt, this beautiful venue is no longer being used for playing bridge. So the Seniors have

Cont. on p2

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OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW





TUESDAY II JANUARY 2005		
North South		
B Bradshaw & R Carter 69.2%		
C Gilje & T Romine 64.1%		
L Bedford-Brown - S Grenside 62.6%		
S Donnan & M Tayles 58.8%		
East West		
M Machado & D Fraser 65.5%		
A McKay & B Hardy 64.1%		
N Burica & T Mangos 62.9%		
G Daniel & P Havlicek 58.4%		

WARM-IP PAIRS

TEAMS FIELD SIZES as of 11th January

	This year	Last year
NWT	48	56
NST	98	92
Non-Life	32	42
Novice	16	

TIMETABLE (Wednesday - Friday)

National Womens Teams

Wed 12 - Fri 14 January at the National Convention Centre Stage One Session Times: 11.30, 3.00, 8.00

National Seniors Teams

Wed 12 - Fri 14 January at Rydges Lakeside Canberra Stage One Session Times: 11.30, 3.00, 8.00

National Non-Life Masters Teams

Wed 12 - Fri 14 January at the National Convention Centre Session times: Wed,Thurs 11.30, 3.00, 8.00 Fri 11.30, 3.00

National Novice Teams Wed 12 - Fri 14 January at the National Convention Centre Session times: Wed, Thurs 11.30, 3.00, 8.00 Fri 11.30, 3.00 moved to the Lakeside, the Womens Teams, Non-Life Masters Teams & Novice Teams are being played the National Convention Centre. The Australian Open Pairs has been removed. I am guilty of killing this event by introducing the Swiss Pairs on the Sunday. What was a 100 table event had dwindled to a 25 table event. I hope that the ABF can find another congress into which to place this event as one of the centrepieces. Instead, the various types of pairs events, Mens, Mixed, Novice, Seniors & Womens have been collected together on the one day. I have listened to the criticism that the Mixed Pairs was too short to produce a winner reliably so all these pairs events will be run over three sessions. The South West Pacific Teams has been altered to be four 16-board matches per day and will have category finals over 32 boards. To ensure that you do not run out of steam there will be no play on the Wednesday evening (19th January). Finally the NOT starts on Friday morning with all stanzas being 64 board knockout matches.

The Lakeside will be providing a bus and in addition we have hired a 22seater bus to be driven by Christian Deschamps to enable you to move easily from the NCC to the Lakeside. These are not on-demand taxis, they will run to a schedule which will be displayed each day in the foyer at Rydges and the NCC.

There is a secretary's desk at each venue. To enter more events approach Sue at the Lakeside or Pam at the NCC. They will also be able to help you with information both about the Festival and Canberra in general.

A special prize-giving ceremony for the Non-Life Masters Teams & the Novice Teams will be held in the Geneva/ Nyanza Room at the Lakeside at 7pm on Friday 14th January, a couple of hours after these events finish. I would like to see all competitors in these two events come to this cocktail party to congratulate the winners. Prizes for all other events will be presented either just after the event concludes or on the following day. In common with many other ABF events, the medals will be engraved with the year and event only.

The Novelty Pairs event was such a hit last year that it is on again (Friday, 21^{st} January). Indeed some of the

TSUNAMI RELIEF APPEAL

I am sure that like the majority of Australians you have all been made aware, through newspapers, television and radio of the destruction amd upheaval to lives, that took place in our near neighbours in Asia. Appeals for financial assistance has been made in many ways by the various care agencies that are working in the devastated areas to help where they can and Australians have been very generous in this regard. However the need for financial help for the care agencies will not stop in the near future for the rebuilding of villages and towns and the infrastructure for them is a much longer job.

There will be over 1500 Bridge Players' present at Rydges and the Convention Centre during the Summer Festival. If each person attending gave a \$1 per day at the end of the Festival we will have raised \$15,000 – a very substantial donation to a very worthwhile cause.

SO PLEASE HELP IN THIS EFFORT TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED SO TERRIBLY AS A RESULT OF THIS DISASTER.

I have collected from the Australian Red Cross a number of their sealed 'Money Buckets'. These 'Buckets' will be available near the Secretary's Desk at each location. If you will be making a substantial donation I, or one of my helpers will take a note of your name, address and amount of the donation and the Australian Red Cross will post you a receipt – there will be a volunteer to take this information at each venue (near the desk) during each lunch break. The NOT News will record and tally monies collected each day.

Please make a donation to this appeal that will be open from the 12th January to 24th January. The money that is donated will be given to the Australian Red Cross. Like all the care agencies collecting for this appeal they have declared that no more than 10% of the money raised will be spent on administration of their organisation.

If you would be available to help at one of the lunch hours could you leave your name and contact number at either Secretary's Desk.

Good Luck in your bridging endeavours.

President Bridge Federation of the ACT

players entered for this year as soon as the 2004 event finished. Ron Klinger commented to me that the players in the NOT in the adjacent room did not mind hearing the laughter as it was obvious that everyone was having such a good time. You will read more about the interesting bridge that the evening's host, Neville Moses, has planned in a later NOT News.

Val Mitchell

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Penny Crittle. Penny, and her sister Prue, in the guise of Bridge

Buffs, were involved in the Summer Festival for a number of years, organising partnerships. Bridge Buffs also donated one of the trophies. Apart from that, Penny invariably appeared at the Festival as a player. Her smiling face will be sorely missed.

I hope that you enjoy the next twelve days of Tournament Bridge and garner a bushel of gold masterpoints.

John Scudder Convener

INTRODUCING ... The not news editor ... Mark horton



Mark has been Editor of Bridge Magazine since 1995. He is Editor to the World Bridge Federation and the European Bridge League. He works free-lance on all aspects of bridge and is about to sign a contract with the ACBL to be one of the Editors of the next edition of the Encyclopaedia, due to be published January 2010! His latest book, The Hands of Time, is due to be published by Masterpoint Press next spring, and he is currently working on a book with the world's best known woman player, Sabine Auken entitled For the Love of the Game. In addition he is working on new editions of some classic books by Terence Reese and Roger Trezel that will appear under the Better Bridge Now banner in the autumn. Mark is a winner of many UK National Championships including Crockford's Cup, The Spring Foursomes, the Grandmasters Pairs and the Life Masters Pairs. Mark has won major events all around the world, including the Hoechst and the Dunhill Cup. He has represented England and Great Britain on several occasions. His infrequent appearances at the table are now mainly overseas. On a recent trip to America he reached the final of the prestigious Reisinger Trophy. Mark captained Great Britain's women when they won the Silver Medal in the 1992 Olympiad.

Main Hobbies: Reading, cooking, theatre, old movies, wine, chess (he was twice British Speed Champion) & watching sport.

Attributes: Can always raise a smile, even in adversity, and has a fantastic

sense of humour. Hair now vanished. Tall, and still reasonably slim!

Ambitions: To sail on an exact replica of Titanic. To drink a bottle of Margaux 1961 (or Grange 1955!). To be able to afford a new BMW.

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THE ROLE OF A BULLETIN EDITOR

by Mark Horton

I am constantly asked ... well, frequently ... well quite often ... well I was once asked 'How does one become a Bulletin Editor and what does it entail?'

The answer to the first part of that question is by accident. In 1994 Patrick Jourdain asked me if I would care to be his assistant at the European Mixed Championship in Barcelona. It was at that tournament that Patrick decided he wanted to reduce his involvement in the production of bulletins and so I was in the right place at the right time.

The only problem was that working on the Bulletin meant not playing, and in those days I was still considered good enough to represent England (and in Albuquerque later that same year, Great Britain). I had to make a decision, and when the coin was tossed it came down heads.

We must now consider the requirements to adequately carry out this onerous task. (As you see, plagiarism is one of them). A Bulletin Editor needs, and the list is in order of priority:

- A corkscrew
- A fridge
- A coffee machine
- Patience (an infinite amount)
- A reserve corkscrew
- A sense of humour (an optional extra,
- q.v. Brian Senior)
- A skilled layout Editor

Several nubile assistants (I would have put that higher up the list but it might have been misinterpreted)

The ability to persuade at least one lunatic to act as a proof reader.

The observant reader will have noticed that I have made no reference to bridge ability. What is needed most is the ability to understand that a player at the table sees only 13 cards, (then 26) not the 52 that are on view to those in the VuGraph theatre or on the Internet.That they manage to make so many brilliant plays is to their eternal credit. Having spent the last ten years watching the world's finest players I have come to the conclusion that the game is just too difficult.

Let me conclude by saying that there are two signs in every Bulletin Room.

One says 'You don't have to be mad to work here, but it helps.'

The other says 'A mistake in the Bulletin? Oh Really!'

TIM BOURKE'S DAILY QUIZ Once again, Tim Bourke has provided a set of quizzes for you to solve. One will appear each day with its solution later in the same NOT News (no peeking !). You should put aside part of your day at the Festival to try solving these problems, it will improve your bridge. I. EASY WHEN YOU SEE IT Dealer North. EW Vul. NORTH **★**KO42 ♡85 **AK73** 7 6 2 SOUTH ▲ | 8763 **VAK7** ◊ Q J 5 A K North East West South Pass Pass 2 🌢 Pass 4 NT Pass 5 🏚 Pass 6 🌢 All pass As South, you use of Roman Key-card Blackwood to discover that North held two key cards (the ace of diamonds and one of the two top trump honours) alongside the trump

queen. How do you plan to make

your slam when West leads the \Im !

PERSONNAE DRAMATIS



Richard Grenside Senior Director & Appeals Adviser



Laurie Kelso Senior Director & Appeals Adviser



lvy Dahler **Appeals**



Eric Ramshaw Tournament



Martin Willcox Chief Scorer



Pam Crichton **Recorder**



Neville Moses Recorder



Brian O'Hara **Recorder**



Sue Waters Pam Fein Lakeside NCC **Festival Secretaries**



Frances Adams Financial Controller

HONOR YOUR PARTNER

by Mark Horton

As printed in the Boston NABC Bulletins, November, 1999.

Mark Horton is an English bridge journalist who discussed "How to be a good partner" at recent World Junior Bridge Camp.

Consider your partner to be a friend.Treat your partner well, even (especially) if you are playing together for the first time. Always offer your partner a drink -- tea or coffee is a good starting point.This will lead to a relaxed atmosphere, enabling you both to play your best. By the way, always be a pleasant and courteous opponent.

Tolerate errors. Never go on about partner's mistakes -- just forget about them and move on to the next deal. You may be able to make a constructive comment at the end of the session. Your partner will surely show you the same consideration.

Be encouraging. Always be prepared to support your partner -- "well played" always goes down well and a "thank you" for the dummy does not go amiss. In one of my partnerships, if dummy was exactly what was needed, "mille grazie" would let partner in on the good news!

Keep a straight face. Never make the mistake of pulling a face or raising an eyebrow. Apart from hurting your partner's feelings, being deadpan does not let your opponents know that something may have gone wrong.

Win or lose, always stay calm at the end of the session and thank partner for the game. This is especially important if things have not gone so well. In my most successful international partnership, the first time we played together was absolutely hope less but we stuck with it.

Coping with disaster: The best way to cope with the inevitable disasters is to laugh them off. This tends to disconcert even the best opponents who are used to seeing their opponents argue.

Conventions: Stick to the ones you both feel comfortable with. A player trying to remember some convention he is not familiar with will make errors in other departments.

I recently played in a tournament in the Netherlands with a strange partner. We

would have won but for a couple of expensive mistakes when I forgot a couple of things because we were playing some conventions I was not familiar with.

Who's the boss? In most partnerships, one player tends to be regarded as the boss. If you are the stronger player, go OUt of your way to make life easy for your partner.

As you have no side-suit losers, you need concern yourself only with the situation in the trump suit. In such circumstances there is really no excuse for failing to work out the safety play required. Here you can easily make the slam if trumps break 2-2 or 3-1, so you must make your mind up what can be done against a 4-0 break.

The bad news is that if East holds all four trumps it's time to concede down one and move on to the next hand.When West holds four trumps you can pick them up for one loser, but only if you play the jack on the first round of trumps! Here, West wins with the ace and you can later run the 8 and then the 7 through West, evading the loss of a further trick to the 10 or 9 of trumps.

The same sort of play would have been required if all the pips were moved up one and you held like A-K-5-3 opposite Q-9-8-7-4. You can only pick up J-10-6-2 on one side, so you should begin by playing the queen.

Vale **Penny Crittle** 1945-2004

By Ross Moore



Penny Crittle passed away on the morning of 4 August, finally succumbing to an aggressive lung cancer that had been diagnosed five months previously.

Christened Penelope Margaret Watson, she was always known as just "Penny", especially in the bridge world where she made many, many friends.

Her cheerfulness and wisdom will be sorely missed, not least by her four grown-up daughters, her sister Prue Lawford and partner Ross Moore, and ex-husband Peter Crittle (of Rugby Union fame).

As the daughter of Mel Watson, she took up bridge rather late in life and frequently accompanied and kibitzed Mel at the playoffs and tournaments.

Penny met Ross at the 1984 ANC, held in Perth, and he became her partner in life as well as at the bridge table.

At the national level Penny had some significant successes, mostly in Women's bridge:

1988 National Women's Teams (with Anita Curtis, Berri Folkard, Judy Frazier);

1990 GNOT (with George Bilski, Richard Brightling, Terry Brown, Steven Lester, Ross Moore);

1994 Interstate Women's Teams (for NSW, with Pamela Blinman, Marilyn Chadwick, Berri Folkard, Rena Kaplan, Carolyn Molloy, captained by Dick Cummings);

1999 & 2000 Interstate Women's Pairs (with Ruth Jamieson).

But Penny's greatest achievements in bridge were not so much at the table, as in what she did behind the scenes. Always very generous, both with her time and financially, she helped Paul Lavings improve his editorial skills when he took over Australian Bridge back in 1985, and gave significant support to Richard Brightling when he was establishing the Trumps bridge club and The Bridge Shop in Mosman. In the late 1980s the World Junior Teams Championships were started, but Australia had not sent a team to this biennial competition. Penny set about rectifying this, by gathering a group of six young talented players from around the country, to make a proposal to the ABF

that this team could perform significantly at the next event.

The team was accredited and went to Nottingham in 1989, with Bob Richman as captain and Penny as Team Manager.

Following this she captained the NSW Youth Team to success in 1990, and helped to select the Australian team for the 1991 Junior Teams.

Since 1993 there has been a separate ABF selection event for a representative Junior team; nevertheless, Penny has been described as the "matriarch of Australian Junior Bridge". Another service that Penny helped to establish is "Bridge Buffs" – initially run as a dating agency that paired beginners (and others) with an appropriate "pro" player for lessons or tournament experience. This was run initially by Dena Blackman and Penny, then later by Penny and her sister Prue after she started to take an interest in the game.

It has since passed out of the family's hands, but the service continues to operate.

Over the years Penny has been on the committees of the Lindfield Bridge Club and of the New South Wales Bridge Association (NSWBA).

Many bridge players' lives have been enriched by knowing Penny and some have enjoyed special relationships due to her kindness, generosity and support.

Among these (in no special order) are: Margot Brown, Sean Mullamphy, Geoff Lathbury, Michael Prescott, Brad Newman, Bob Richman (yes Bob, she did jump out of an aeroplane!), Rena Kaplan, Jon Hunt, Sheila Bird, Matthew Mullamphy, Steven Lester, John Arkinstall, Maryanne Brifman, Tim Posney and Patsy McCartney.

One of Penny's last actions – just a week before she died – was to attend the ANC in Melbourne to pull a few last cards and say goodbye to many of her bridge friends.

Of course there was a whole other non-bridge aspect to Penny's life, being mother of four daughters and doting grandmother "Nellie", twice over – but that's a different contract, so to speak.

It was standing room only at the funeral service (9 August), attended by more than 300 friends, family, colleagues and bridge players.

Thank you to all who attended, and to many others who sent their best wishes but couldn't make it from being too far afield.

Goodbye Penny, may you rest in peace.

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SYSTEMS REGULATIONS

All events at the 2005 Summer Festival will be subject to the ABF Systems Regulations, in force from October 1, 2004. Yellow systems must be disclosed on two identical WBF or ABF Standard System Cards but all other systems may be disclosed on two identical ABF Standard System Cards.

The following is a summary.

- There are four categories of system coded by colour and based upon your 1-level opening structure.
- GREEN Natural systems. All one-level opening bids are natural, not conventional. Exception:- A 4432 shaped hand may be opened 1.
- BLUE Strong Club / Strong Diamond Systems, including systems where
 - (a) one club / one diamond is artificial and always strong; and
 - (b) one of a major and INT are natural; and
 - (c) the one-level opening in the other minor may be artificial with various possibilities not covered by the other opening bids.
- RED ARTIFICIAL SYSTEMS including
 - (a) All systems employing artificial one-level openings that do not fall under the definition of Yellow (HUM) systems (see below), other than Strong Club / Strong Diamond (Blue) systems.
 - (b) Any system in which the basic structure (other than the no trump range) varies according to position and/or vulnerability
- YELLOW Systems which exhibit HIGHLY UNUSUAL METHODS with one or more of the following features
 - (a) A pass in the opening position that shows at least the values generally accepted for an opening bid of one, even if there are alternative weak possibilities.
 - (b) An opening bid at the one level that may be made on values a king or more below average strength (0-7 HCP).
 - (c) An opening bid at the one level with alternative possible meanings that the hand may be long or short in the suit specified.
 - (d) An opening bid at the one level with alternative possibilities that show length in one specific suit or length in another specific suit (Exception: one of a minor in a BLUE system).

In addition some conventional higher-level openings, as well as certain types of overcalls, may be restricted if they fall into a category valled BROWN STICKER

- BROWN Conventions and treatments with any one of the following characteristics
 - (a) Any opening bid of two clubs through three spades that could be weak and does not promise at least four cards in a known suit except where
 - (i) all the weak meanings show at least four cards in one known suit and only the strong options do not; or
 - (ii) a two level opening bid in a minor shows at least five cards in either major and a weak hand whether with or without the option of strong hand types.
 - (b) An overcall of a natural opening bid of one of a suit that does not promise at least four cards in a known suit except where the overcall is
 - (i) a natural bid in no trumps; or
 - (ii) any cue bid that shows a strong hand; or
 - (iii) a cue bid in an opponent's known suit that asks partner to bid 3NT with a stopper in that suit.
 - (c) Any weak two-suited bids at the two or three level, whether offensive or defensive, that may, by agreement, be made with three or fewer cards in one of the suits.

YELLOW systems may, subject to the conditions specified in their Supplementary Regulations, only be used in the South-West Pacific Teams, the National Open Teams and the National Womens Teams.

BROWN STICKER methods and RED systems may be used in all events at the Summer Festival but pairs playing any BROWN STICKER methods or a RED system must revert to a GREEN or BLUE system when drawn to play against a Protected Pair in those events where protection applies: i.e. in the National Non-Life Masters Teams, National Novice Teams and all pairs events.

GREEN & BLUE systems may be used in all events.

PROTECTED PAIR STATUS.A pair, playing a GREEN system without the use of any Brown Sticker conventions throughout the National Non- Life Masters Teams, National Novice Teams or a pairs event at the Summer Festival, which has both of its players below National Master or one player below Local Master may apply to the Senior Tournament Director to be a PROTECTED PAIR identified by a ORANGE sticker on the front of its system card for that event. Pairs playing BROWN STICKER methods or a RED system must ascertain before the start of each round whether their opponents are a PROTECTED PAIR. If so, the pair playing the BROWN STICKER or RED methods must revert to a GREEN or BLUE system for that round. Coloured stickers are available from Directors prior to each session.

SYSTEM DISCLOSURE.YELLOW: Pairs wishing to use a YELLOW system must submit a concise summary, printed or written in black ink on a WBF or an ABF Standard system card plus a maximum of two supplementary A4 sheets and a bona fide suggested (counter-) defence. This must be lodged with the Convener on or before 5.1.2005 unless the YELLOW system is to be used only as a defence to other YELLOW systems in which case it must be lodged with the STD before the commencement of the event in which it is to be used.

The onus rests with all players to classify their systems appropriately. You are advised to read the article on the ABF's Web site before classifying your system.

HOUSEKEEPING

by John Scudder

- 1. TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE - it is bound to ring just as you are about to make the killing switch in defence. If you must have it on so that you can be contacted during the session, leave it with a Director. There are heavy fines imposed whenever a mobile phone rings.
- 2. Smoking is not permitted anywhere within any venue for the Summer Festival. When you want to smoke you will have to venture outdoors. During the session be wary of the time that will be needed to light up.
- 3. As usual the caddies will be wearing yellow polo shirts and the directors, blue jackets to make them easy for you to locate. When you need a board please look around for a yellow shirt, call Caddy!! and put your hand up so that the caddies can find you
- 4. The directors can also do with help in locating you, so please put up your hand after you have called Director!!
- 5. On each table you will find four plastic A4 wallets with a blank label. Please write your name on the label before you start play and place it in the small pocket inside the wallet so that your name can be read clearly from the back. This ensures that it can be returned to you if it gets lost. To help you do this there should be four pens on the table as well.
- Each event will have its own specially designed score booklet. The booklets will be on your table at the beginning of play, you need to keep them for the entire event.
- To get the extra scorebooks, wallets and pens, teams of six need to consult the relevant Operations Supervisor, either John Hempenstall (Lakeside) or Angela Little (NCC).
- 8. If you are skilful enough to win a prize in one of the Walk-Ins, please collect your prize from the Festival Secretary at the NCC. Remember that the Walk-Ins are playing the same boards as the main events

so you can compare your scores with the datums published in the Bulletin or with your friends over a leisurely drink in one of the comfortable bars near the venues.

- The Scoring Room is unable to provide an email service for you. Please do not impose yourself on them as refusal often causes illfeelings.
- Greet your opponents when they first come to the table. Friendliness should be the hallmark of tournament bridge.
- If you are a substitute lodge a substitute's form obtainable from the Registration Desk. No form, no masterpoints.
- 12. No flyers on the tables there are carousels and noticeboards for this purpose. See a Caddy if you need help.
- 13. With the use of circles of six for a set of boards wherever possible in teams events, the board movement should be smooth and the number of Caddy calls limited. You will find that there are two colours of boards in play in each session; these colours alternate between circles. Please do not play a board which is of a different colour to the colour that you have been playing. This ensures that boards do not migrate from one circle to another causing a bank up of tables wanting the missing board.
- 14. You should be using the ABF Standard system card for disclosing your system to the opponents. There should be two copies on the table. If you need a blank copy just ask a Caddy.

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Parking at the National Convention Centre

Multiple entry parking is available on weekdays underneath the NCC for \$5. Parking on weekends is free.

like Mother Like daughter

by Neville Moses

Alexa Moses is a journalist with the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH). She and her partner Robert were spending Xmas in Thailand and had the misfortune to be staying in a hotel at Khao Lak when the tsunami struck. However at the critical moment they were in their room on the top (3rd) floor of the building and managed to escape to the roof where they huddled with two other couples while the waves battered and surrounded the building and almost reached them.

In a video interview on the SMH website (www.smh.com.au) Alexa told how they escaped from the wrecked building first stopping briefly in their room to retrieve their passports and a couple of other things. Outside they struggled through muddy water dodging fallen trees, boats, cars and far too many bodies trapped under debris or floating in the water to finally reach safety.

Nick Fahrer and Linda King, watching the interview, were deeply moved, especially by Alexa's description of the plight of the few survivors, most injured, some seriously with broken bones protruding, and many distraught with the loss of family and in particular their children.

Not knowing the names of the Moses children, Nick and Linda speculated as to whether Alexa was Kinga's and Neville's daughter. Half-way through the interview suspicion became a certainty. The give away: one of the few things Alexa was able to salvage from her hotel room was – her knitting!

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RYDGES CANBERRA HOTEL FOOD & DRINK FACILITIES

Peta's Pantry

This is the popular sandwich & fast food service available on the first floor (convention area) throughout the Summer Festival of Bridge.

Some prices on popular items are:

- Assorted bagels, baguettes and sandwiches from \$3.80
 - Pies and pasties @ \$3.00
 - Sausage rolls @ \$2.80 each
 - Sushi plate @ \$4.50 each
 - Caesar salad or fruit salad @ \$4.00
 - Scones, muffins, slices etc from \$1.80
 - Ice creams, chocolates, lollies from \$0.50
 - Soft drinks, juice, bottled water from \$2.50 each
 - Coffee or tea from \$2.00 per cup
 - VB, Crown Lager, wine from \$4.50

Bobby McGees Restaurant (ground floor)

- Breakfast is 7 am to 10.30 am
- Buffet Dinner with a different menu daily @ \$15.00 pp)

The Burley Griffin Skyline Restaurant

- Located on 15th floor (good views)
- Open for lunch every day and dinner on Sunday -Wednesday
- Seafood Buffet (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) @ \$28.00 pp - booking essential (6247 6244)

The Lobby Shop

- Open 7 days in morning and evening but has limited hours. (depends on demand)

- If it is closed then the hotel reception desk holds limited stocks of basic items like toothpaste, toothbrushes etc.

Cahoots Bar

- This traditional type bar is open from 4pm tillate!

(As you descend the grand staircase turn right, up the steps and then right again).

NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

PLAYERS' MENU

Hot selection

Hot chips	2.50	
Hot dish and jasmine rice (see blackboa 8.00		
Quiche with garden salad	6.50	
Assorted pies	4.00	
Sausage rolls	3.50	

Additional items will also be available each day

Cold selection

Smoked chicken caesar salad	6.50
Greek salad	5.50
Sandwiches premade	3.50
Sandwiches to order	4.00
Assorted filled rolls	4.50
Assorted filled rolls to order	5.00
Cake of the day (see blackboard)	3.50
Assorted slices	2.00
Chocolate bars	2.50
Chips	2.50
Fruit salad	3.00
Fresh fruit	1.00
Additional items will also be available	each day

HOW TO CONTACT THE STAFF OF THE 2005 NOT NEWS

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Feel free to contact us at any time, or leave your articles or comments in the NOT NEWS boxes at either venue. The NOT News will be posted daily on the Internet at the following address:

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