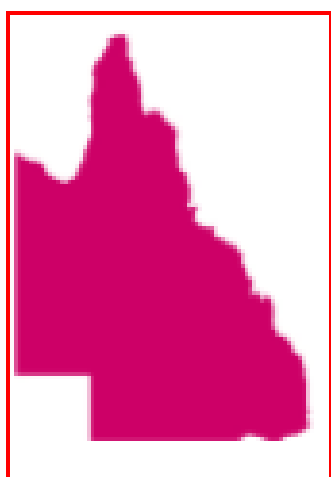


The Early Days of Queensland Bridge

Part Five

Pre-1955 Country Bridge Clubs



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Country Bridge Clubs

We probably know more about country bridge clubs than we do about the smaller local clubs in Brisbane but the coverage was not consistent, particularly for smaller settlements.

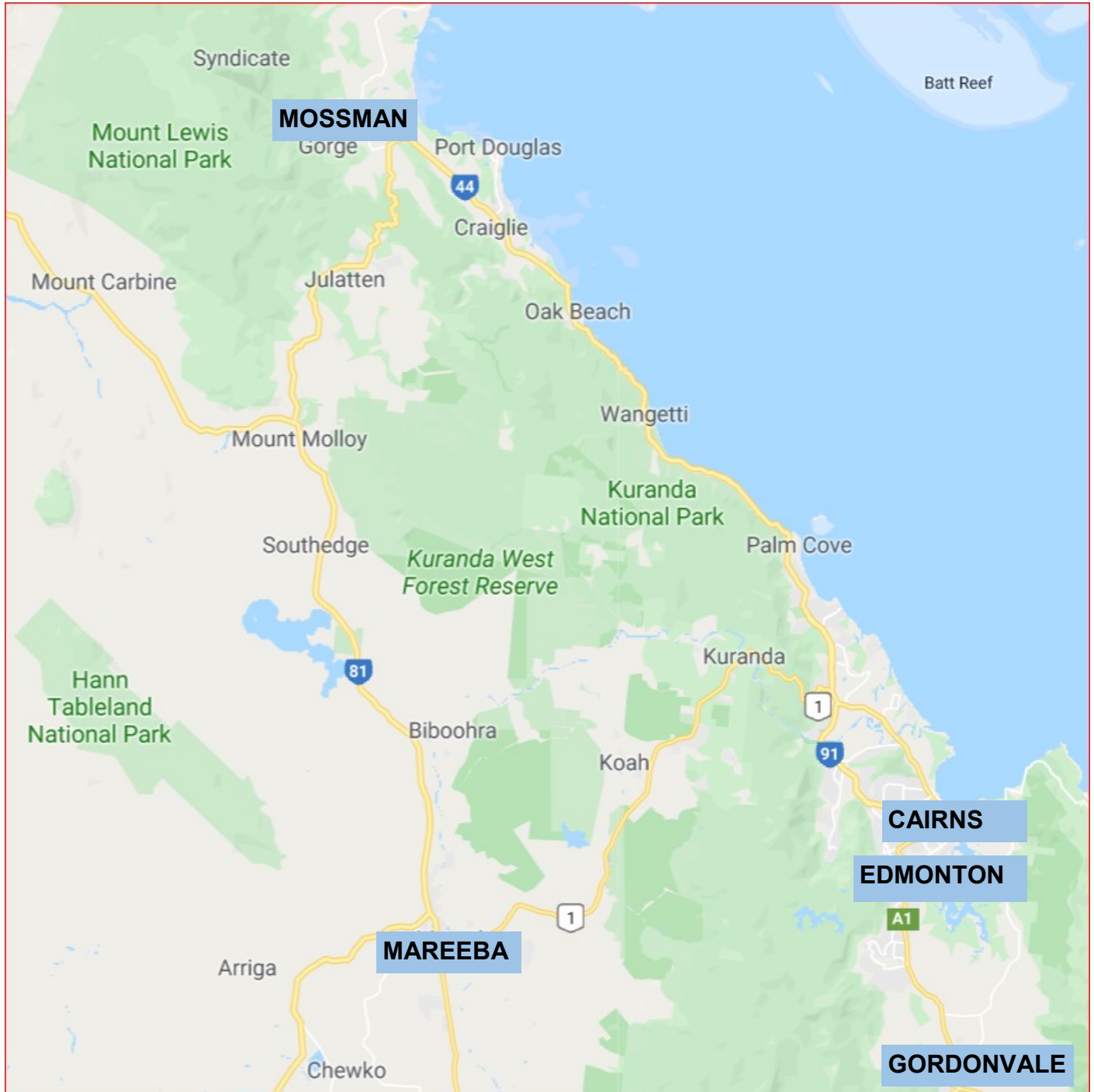
With limited space, reports from outlying towns, which covered the whole range of activities in the district, had to be very selective about what was newsworthy. Newspapers, therefore, are not usually a reliable source of information on the longevity of clubs.

A club mentioned in 1933 and 1947 might, in the absence of other evidence, be the same organisation or two completely different entities. It may have existed before and/or after.

More evidence may come to light from local historians in places where records of organisations like the local CWA, Soldiers' Club or School of Arts have been well preserved. A further search of newspapers may also unearth more information.

What follows, therefore, is a first effort to present an outline of current knowledge in the hope that it is something on which others can build.

Cairns and Far North



 = Location of one or more pre-1955 bridge clubs

Bridge Clubs in Cairns

The CWA Bridge Club

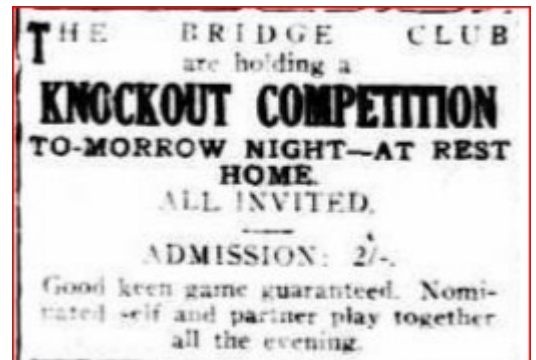
The first bridge club in Cairns appears to have been organised by the Cairns sub-branch of the CWA. It began in March 1929 and played every Thursday afternoon.

Initially, it was located at the Oddfellows Hall, In 1930, it moved to the Soldiers' Rest Home (which had been developed by the CWA) and also ran Saturday night competitions there.

In 1930 the sessions changed to Wednesday afternoons. These continued regularly through until at least the mid-1950s and featured both single day and multi-week events.

Members took it in turns to be responsible for the organisation of the afternoon.

The main venue was the Rest Home, but for a time in 1953 sessions were held at the Soldiers' Club. In 1954, the club moved to the new CWA Paulina McManus Assembly Hall that opened in February 1954.



1930 advertisement for Cairns CWA Bridge Club evening knockout competition.

Cairns and District Bridge Club

The Cairns and District Bridge Club was formed at the Cairns Soldiers' Club in June 1929. It was open on Monday and Friday nights and one afternoon a week. The Friday nights were for progressive competitions and the Monday nights for social play.

The first President was a Dr Clarke. Another major driver of the club was Alderman O.B. Balfe, the Vice-President of the club and donor of the Balfe Cup, which was the club's main trophy event.

Alderman Balfe was also President of the Soldiers' Club. He also appears in the histories as one of the participants in the failed negotiations leading up to the 1932 'Battle of Paramatta Park' when police and local vigilantes violently removed the unemployed camping at the Cairns showground.

The Club flourished for several years in the early 1930s. However, there is no record of its existence after 1935.



Cairns Soldiers' Club in the 1930s

The Patsy Bridge Club

Cairns was also the site of the first known franchise or sub-branch of a for-profit bridge club.

The Patsy Bridge Club opened in Brisbane in January 1934, operating from Commerce House in Adelaide Street. Almost simultaneously, it opened a branch in Cairns' newest commercial/residential building, Aston Court.

The key selling point for the club was that it offered contract as well as auction (bridge in other clubs was almost exclusively auction). It had a reasonably high profile in Brisbane for a while. Mrs A.F. Fitz-Henry of the club broadcast a regular program on bridge for 4BC in Brisbane from July 1934.

The clubs themselves though seem to have struggled. In Cairns, it may have attracted 6 tables at its peak. In June 1934, it moved out of the premises at Aston Court and operated from the Golden Vale. In both Brisbane and Cairns, it seems to have ceased operating towards the end of 1935.

THE PATSY BRIDGE CLUB.

Lovers of bridge will be interested to learn that a Bridge Club is about to be opened at Suite two, Aston Court, 77B Lake-street.

Attractive surroundings, light refreshments, teas, cigarettes—indeed, all the privileges of a social club—will be found at The Patsy. Bridge lessons will be given by experts.

The club will meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings and on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Special parties by arrangement.

The organisers and supervisors of this interesting social association are Mesdames J. Clifford and Browne, of the Patsy Club, Brisbane, who have an announcement in this issue.

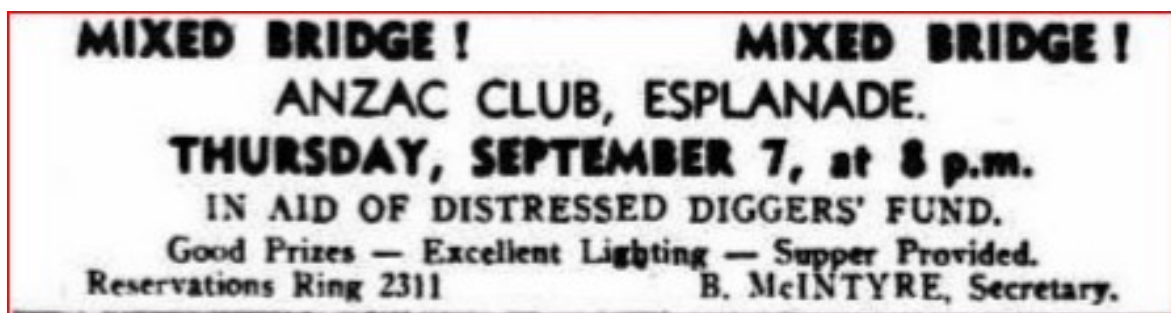
February 1934 *Cairns Post* article on the opening of the Patsy Club

The Cairns RSL Women's Auxiliary

This was one of the longest running of all the organisations hosting bridge in Cairns in the 1930s and 1940s.

During the 1930s it ran what seems to have been semi-regular bridge afternoons and evenings at the Anzac Club. In the 1940s these became regularly scheduled monthly events, with the afternoon and evening sessions on alternate fortnights.

There are no reports on bridge events organised by the Auxiliary after 1948.



1944 advertisement for a bridge party at the Anzac Club

The Tropical Bridge Club

This club is briefly mentioned in March-April 1941 when it held monthly sessions in the Masonic rooms.

The group had over twenty members. It is not known how long it lasted or whether it was affiliated with the Masons or some other body.



Cairns Masonic Temple: Home of the Tropical Bridge Club in 1941.

Cairns Catholic Daughters of Australia Bridge Club

The CDA Bridge Club was another long-running bridge club in Cairns in the 1930s to 1950s. It began in 1930, holding irregular bridge afternoons at various locations, beginning with the lounge of the Post Office Hotel.

These sessions became regular Tuesday events in around 1934 and were held in the Catholic Young Men's Society rooms in Lake Street. At some point in the late 1930s the club moved to rooms in the rebuilt St Monica's Cathedral where it continued until at least 1954.

A distinguishing feature of the CDA bridge club was that it is known to have catered for both auction and contract players. The organiser of the contract section and teacher from the 1940s was Mrs Alice Purcell.

Mossman

Drumsara Bridge Club

The existence of the most northerly known bridge club in Queensland—in Mossman—is reported between 1937 and 1939. The club met one evening a fortnight, rotating between members' homes. It appeared to have a stable attendance of around 15.

The name relates to the Drumsara sugar estates and mill that dominated Mossman. Mrs W.S. Johnston, wife of the estate manager, was a member of the club.

Mossman also had a "Pastime Club" which met on Friday afternoons during this time, at which bridge was a major activity.

Edmonton Bridge Club

The Edmonton Bridge Club was formed in October 1930 with 40 members. The first President was Mr Escuder. In December 1930 the club played a match against the Cairns Bridge Club at the Edmonton Memorial Hall. In January 1931 it played against a team from the Hambledon sugar mill.

The club was still operating in mid-1932 but there are no news reports after that date.



The CSR Hambledon sugar mill adjacent to Edmonton in 1935. At peak season it employed over 400 people—and had enough players for its own bridge team.

Gordonvale

The Anglican Schools' League Bridge Club

This club was founded in 1930. It originally met once a fortnight in the Anglican rectory. By 1932 it had reduced to monthly meetings. There is no record of its existence after this time.

Mareeba Bridge Club

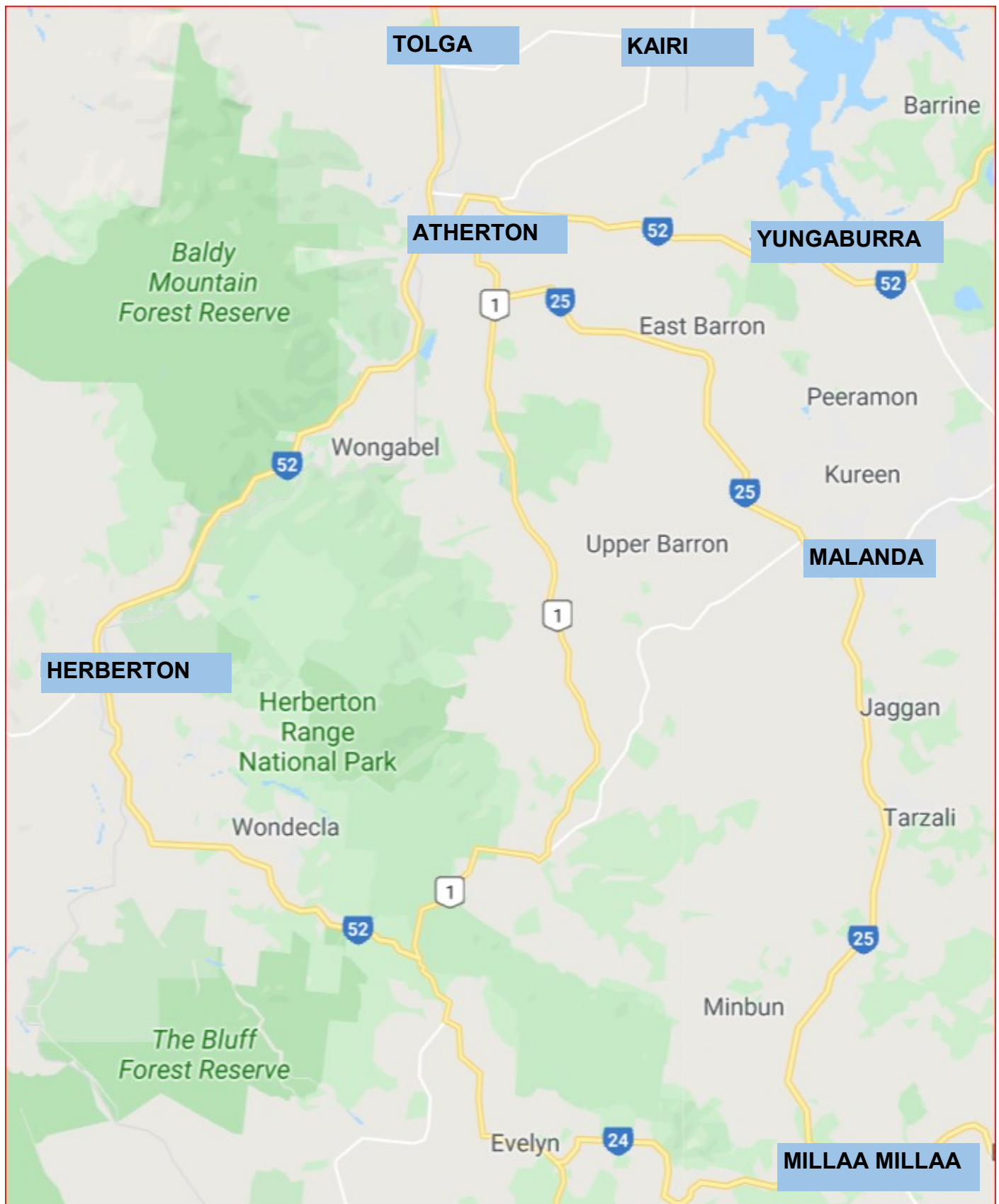
This was formed in September 1932 during the monthly bridge evening organised by St George's Anglican church. The first President was Rev A.D. Thorpe. At the meeting there was confidence that the club would succeed because of the large number of bridge players in Mareeba.

The club met fortnightly at St George's church hall. At the initial meeting the intention was announced to have special tables for beginners.

In September 1933 the club had 45 financial members and an average attendance of 20 at the fortnightly evenings. In early 1933 it played a match against bridge players from the golf club.

There is no further reporting of the club until May 1950 when it was still meeting fortnightly at St George's church hall. The club was then called the Mareeba Anglican Bridge Club, but appears to be a continuation of the original Mareeba Bridge Club.

Atherton Tableland



 = Location of one or more pre-1955 bridge clubs

Herberton Bridge Clubs

The first known recorded bridge club in Herberton was formed in July 1928 at John Ledlie's house. Membership was by invitation and a subscription of two shillings and sixpence. Members took it in turns to host the sessions in their homes.

This club was known to operate until late 1930 and took part in competition against Atherton Bridge Club. There is then a large gap in mentions of bridge clubs. The Herberton CWA is known to have organised ad hoc bridge events from 1936 onwards but there is no mention of a formal bridge club until 1952.

The bridge club reported in 1952 met on Thursday nights in the Janet Newell CWA Memorial Hall.



Janet Newell CWA Memorial Hall: Site of the Herberton Bridge Club in 1952.

Yungaburra Bridge Club

All that is known of the Yungaburra Bridge Club is that it started a new round of Tuesday evening competition in October 1930. It was based in the lounge of the Lake Eacham Hotel.

The lounge was a popular place for card enthusiasts. Also in October 1930, 80 people attended a bridge and euchre evening in the lounge in aid of the local Catholic church.



The Lake Eacham Hotel, Yungaburra, in 1929.

Atherton Bridge Club

The Atherton Bridge Club was formed in November 1929 following a match between players from the town and local public servants. It played on Tuesday nights, initially with around 40 players. For all of its history it played in the CWA rest room and the CWA members were heavily involved in the club.

In 1930 the club operated for two evenings a week. One night was for multi-week formal competition and one for social play. By 1935 the club had gone back to one night a week.

The club continued to operate during the war, helped by new members for the servicemen stationed in Atherton. The last report of the club is in June 1944 but it is very likely to have operated well beyond this date.

The first President was Mr J G Williamson. Other known Presidents are Mrs L N Tait (1934-36), Mrs P Rappolt (1936-?), Mr N H Fitchett (1941) and Mrs Wolfe (1944).

The CWA also had a ladies daytime bridge club, which operated between 1929 and 1930 and a Younger Set bridge club, which was established in June 1934.

The Atherton Catholic Daughters of Australia also ran card evenings but does not seem to have had a formal bridge club.

Malanda Bridge Club

The earliest report of the Malanda Bridge Club occurs in December 1932 , although it may well have been operating earlier. From 1932 until at least 1936 the weekly evening session was held in the lounge of the Malanda Hotel (below).



The club seems to have shifted to the Malanda School of Arts sometime in the late 1930s. Its AGM was held there in 1940. It may have ceased operating for a while during the war but certainly resumed from 1946.

It was still meeting regularly on Tuesday evenings in 1952. Its long-term President was Mr R T Croker but the main work of directing in the 1940s and 1950s was done by Mr Leandra (Leon) Cloutier, a local farmer.

Kairi Bridge Club

Little is known about this club. The only reports relate to what appear to be regular matches against the Malanda Club between 1948 and 1950. The competition reports suggest that the club had at least 24 active members.

Millaa Millaa Bridge Club

This is known only from a reported donation by the club in April 1936. The club was run by the local Ambulance League.

Tolga Bridge Club

This was formed at a meeting in December 1929. In February 1930 it was reported that its evening meeting at the Memorial Hall had attracted 32 players who had played past midnight.

At the Annual General Meeting in February 1930, work pressures prevented the original President and Secretary (whose names are not known) from continuing. Mr J Stewart was elected President, and Mr Cox, the Secretary.

A team from the Atherton Bridge Club visited Tolga for a match in April 1930. There are no reports of the club after that date.

INNISFAIL TO INGHAM



 = Location of one or more pre-1954 bridge clubs

The Innisfail Anglican Bridge Club

This was the only recorded bridge club in Innisfail prior to 1954. It was first recorded in 1938 but may have started earlier.

The primary drivers were Miss E. Boyett and Miss H. Jerrold. The club met one evening a fortnight at the St Alban's Church Hall with an average attendance of around 40 players



St Alban's Church,
Innisfail.

Site of the Innisfail
Anglican Bridge Club

Tully Bridge Clubs

Two bridge clubs, both with religious affiliations, were formed in Tully in 1932, The Catholic Daughters of Australia club began in October and held a weekly Monday daytime session.

The St John's Church of England Bridge Club was formed in June 1932 and played on Thursday evenings.

Of the two, the Church of England club seems to have been the longest-lived. It was still operating in 1941 but on Wednesday during the day.

Mourilyan Bridge Clubs

The 1930s Mourilyan Bridge Club was associated with the School of Arts. It is known only because of reports of its occasional matches against South Johnstone Bridge Club in 1935 and 1936.

Between 1942 and 1945 the Mourilyan Red Cross ran a successful weekly bridge club. Miss E Boyett and Miss H Jerrold were the principal organisers.



Mourilyan School of Arts Building in 1922

South Johnstone Anglican Bridge Club

Reports on this club appear from 1935 to 1941. The club played fortnightly on Wednesday evenings in the Parish Hall.

In 1935 and 1936 it held a series of matches against the Mourilyan School of Arts Bridge Club.

The 1935 match was played in Hing's Picture Hall, which apart from being a cinema was used for church services and other community activities. It was described in one newspaper report as the "only decent building" in the business area of town.

In 1936 the venue for the challenges was the School of Arts.

For the 1935 matches at least, the two clubs fielded both men's and women's teams. The President of the South Johnstone club was a Mr Sheppheard and the match referee, Mr M Schafer.

The club also held events at the local School of Arts and may have normally held its sessions there.


Ingham Bridge Clubs

In the years 1930-32 Ingham is known to have had two well-supported bridge clubs. The CWA Bridge Club was formed in 1930 and by 1931 was the organisation's largest single source of income.

The Church of England Bridge Club operated on Tuesday evenings. It had sufficient players to have competition in two grades.

TOWNSVILLE TO MACKAY



 = Location of one or more pre-1955 bridge clubs

Townsville Bridge Clubs

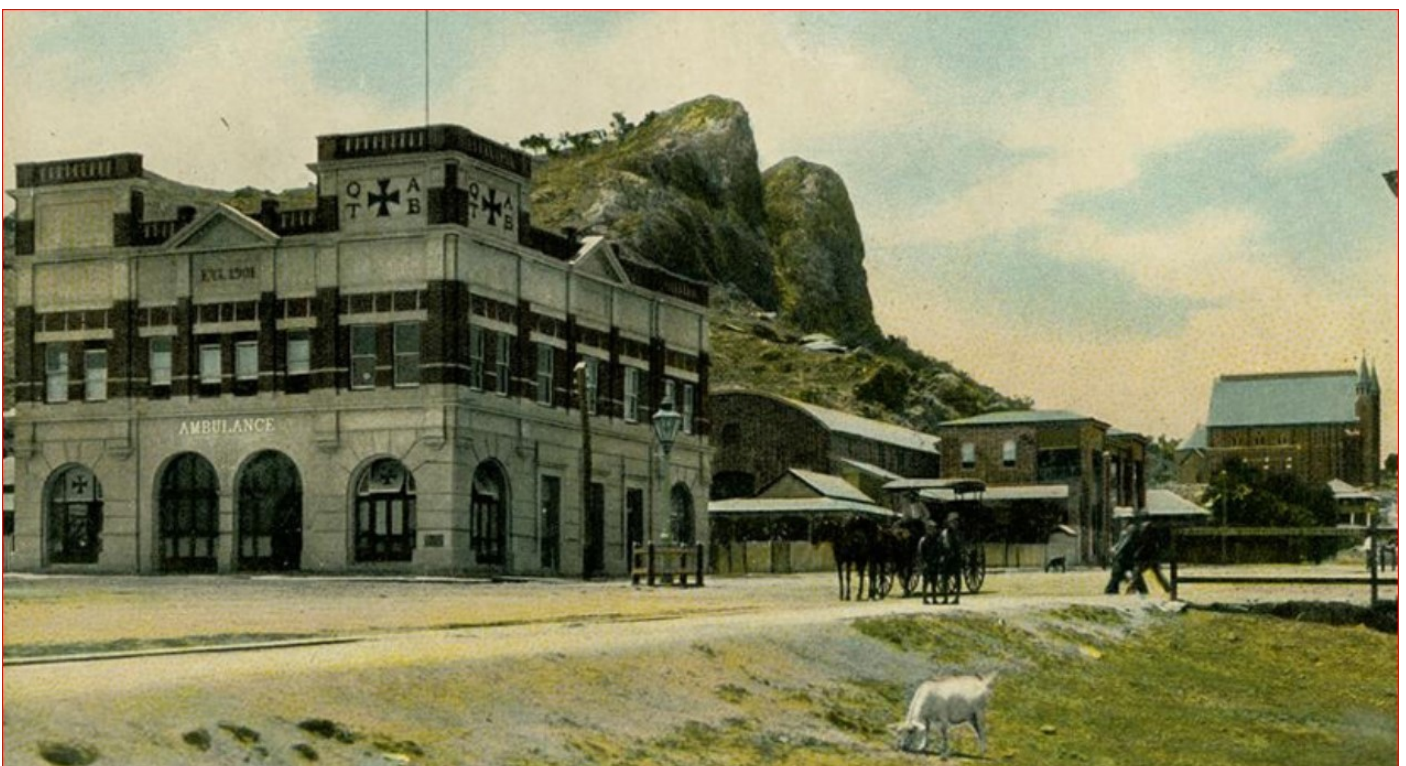
The Anglican Schools League Bridge Club

This club opened in March 1930. The *Townsville Daily Bulletin* thought it 'would supply a long-felt want at a very moderate cost'. This would have been one of the few bridge clubs that played outdoors. The setting, presumably weather permitting, was the well-lit tennis court at St Anne's school. Payment of the annual subscription entitled the payer to three lessons from experienced members.

The organiser was Norma Donald. The club met weekly on Thursday nights and operated until at least 1935. Up to 17 tables could be in play.

The Regal Bridge Club

We know of this club from a single report in 1935. It operated from the Townsville Ambulance Headquarters (picture below) and presumably raised funds for the ambulance service.



The Townsville Bridge Club

The Townsville Bridge Club was formed in March 1953. It was an initiative of the local Young Women's Christian Association but was open to all male and female bridge players.

It played weekly on Wednesday nights in the YWCA rooms. Average attendance appears to have been around 40. The club was still operating in 1955.

The first President was Mrs H P Lowes JP (pictured on right).



Mackay Bridge Clubs

The first recorded bridge club in Mackay appears to be the CWA Bridge Club, which was founded in March 1948. In 1950, it was reported to be operating 16 tables. It was still in existence in 1954 but operated only between May and October.

It was not the only site of bridge in Mackay. In October 1949, a bridge championships over several weeks was held on Thursday evenings at the Ambulance Centre.

The Bowen Ozone Bridge Club

The Ozone Bridge Club in Bowen was formed in June 1932. Its name derived from the fact that it met on Wednesday nights in the lounge of the Ozone Hotel in the town.

The President was Mr R J Arthur and the Secretary, Mrs Moore. Profits from the club went to the Kennedy Hospital. There are no further reports on the club or its membership.



Opening of the Ozone Hotel in Bowen in 1926.

Site of the Ozone Bridge Club.

Home Hill CWA Bridge Club

This was known to be operating in 1931.

Charters Towers CWA Bridge Club

The first CWA club for bridge was formed in June 1935 but also featured other games. It was known as the CWA Bridge and Card Club. This appears to have been short-lived. In 1939 a new club focussed only on bridge was formed under the name of the CWA Bridge Club.

ROCKHAMPTON TO MARYBOROUGH



 = Location of one or more pre-1955 bridge clubs

Rockhampton Bridge Clubs

The Central Girls School Progressive Bridge Club

This appears to have been the first formal bridge club in Rockhampton. It operated on Wednesday nights, with the game being progressive bridge. The only information about it comes from a single advertisement announcing its re-opening for the new year in February 1933.

The Rockhampton Interclub Bridge Club

The Rockhampton Interclub Bridge Club was formed in October 1935. It was the initiative of Mr H Arthy, a member of the Anzac Club. The club was essentially a league—a competition between the smaller clubs in town associated with local bodies.

The original participating clubs were Holy Name, Old Grammarians, Rockhampton Golf Club, Rockhampton Bowling Club, the Rockhampton Club and the Anzac Club.

The participants appear to have been men only and the game was auction. In 1936 Mr Arthy commented that, particularly among female players, contract was rapidly supplanting auction in Rockhampton, and suggested the formation of a club, where presumably, mixed play and contract would be possible.

The competition was still going in 1941 but may have been suspended as the war progressed. In 1947, the *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin* reported that the Association was being re-formed. The tournament that year was won by Old Grammarians. There are no further records of its activities after that date.

The Rockhampton YWCA Bridge Club

The Rockhampton YWCA Bridge Club started in April 1936. Although run under the auspices of the YWCA it was open to all. It operated monthly on Thursday evenings and offered lessons to beginners. The teacher was a Mr Macanah. These monthly evening sessions were still continuing in the early 1950s.

During the war, the Red Cross and the Patriotic Fund Auxiliary began bridge afternoons in the YWCA rooms. At some point in the mid-1940s, the YWCA took over the organisation of these afternoons as part of its bridge club.

From 1949 onwards until at least 1952, these Monday afternoon sessions were regularly seating 90 to 100 people or more. In terms of attendance, this made the club the biggest in Queensland at the time.

**LESSONS in
CONTRACT
BRIDGE.**

By
Miss Jose Radeski
(WHO HAS BEEN HOSTESS ON
THE S.S. TAIPING.)



Miss Radeski will
be at Kirby's Cafe
Thursday After-
noons, commen-
cing Today, and
you will spend a
very pleasant
afternoon with her
as your hostess.

2/6 AFTERNOON SESSION. Com-
mencing 2.30 p.m.
**TEMPTING AFTERNOON TEAS
SERVED.**



Rockhampton had enough bridge players for R F Foster to visit in the early 1930s. In 1940, Jose Radeski, a well-known musician, originally from Rockhampton, returned home to teach bridge, when war disrupted employment on the ocean liners

Gladstone Bridge Club

The Gladstone Bridge Club, which is known to have operated at least between 1937 and 1940, was organised along the same lines as the Rockhampton club—being a forum for competition between representatives of different organisations and clubs in the town.

In 1940, the participating teams were the Gladstone Golf Club (two teams), St Saviour's, Friendly Societies, Diggers' Club, Holy Name, Bluebell, and St Andrew's.

Cracow Contract Bridge Club

Cracow has the distinction of being the site of the first bridge club in Queensland exclusively devoted to contract bridge—preceding the QBA by around two months.

The Cracow Contract Bridge Club was formed in January 1934 with Mr W J Turner as President, with about 20 members, playing at the Plateau Café.

It had an initial successful year and ran a series of inventive competitions.

A new committee was established for 1935 but there are no further reports of its activities.

A new bridge club was formed in November 1950, playing every Monday night but its location or longevity is not known.

Maryborough Bridge Clubs

Early Bridge Clubs

Maryborough features strongly in the earliest recorded history of bridge in Queensland. One of the earliest bridge drives was held in 1905 for 20 people at Camden House, the home of a Mrs Fred Bryant.

In 1908, Finney, Isles & Co, became the first department store in Queensland to run a progressive bridge event (combined with euchre).

**A Progressive Euchre and Bridge
Party and Dance
WILL BE HELD IN
FINNEY'S NEW BUILDINGS,
ON
Wednesday, May 20th, 1908.
GROSS PROCEEDS in aid of LOCAL
CHARITIES**

TICKETS, 2/6, may be had at Messrs.
Finney, Isles & Co's, or from any Mem-
ber of the Committees for the various
Charities; also, from all Stationers.



Finney, Isles & Co, Maryborough. Site of one of the earliest bridge drives in Queensland.

By 1908 bridge was well enough established to be part of the program in a party at the Oddfellows Hall involving the Maryborough, Bundaberg and Gympie Bowling Clubs.

The first appearance of programmed bridge evenings came in 1909 when the Recreation Club within the School of Arts decided to run bridge tournaments. These continued successfully through 1910 but there is no further record.

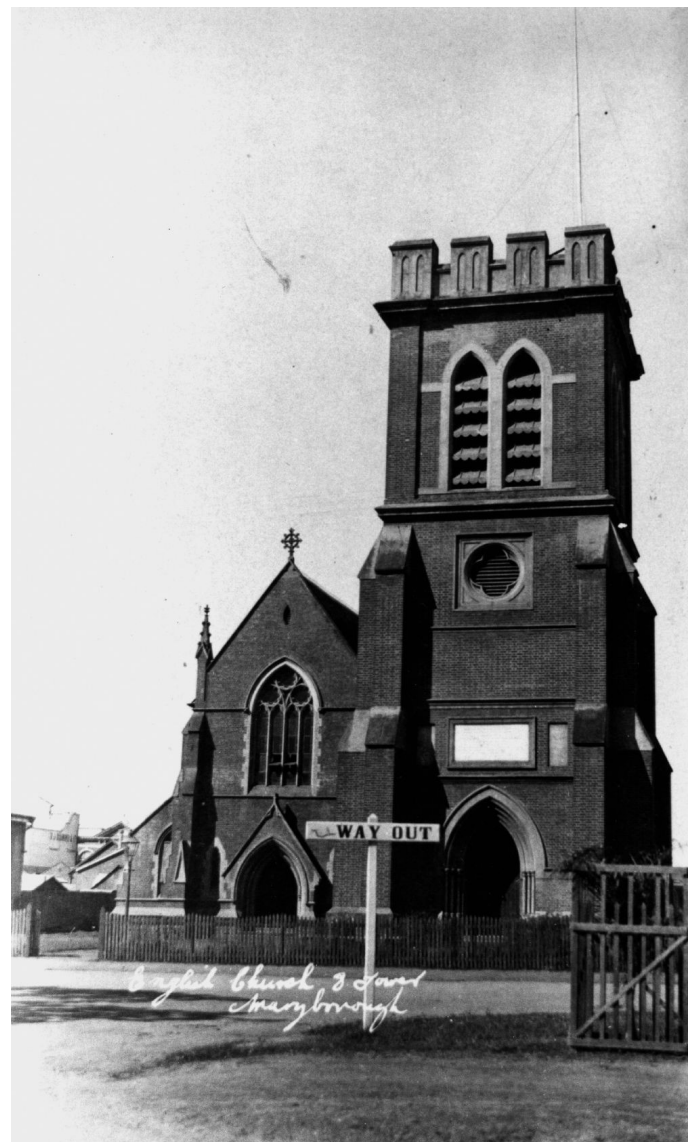
St Paul's Bridge Club

The first recorded regular evening bridge club in Maryborough was the St Paul's Club.

The club was formed in 1932 and still running in 1943 and possibly longer.

In 1954, an advertisement appeared for a Men's Bridge Club, which played in the St Paul's Memorial Hall on Monday nights.

It is not clear whether this was a newly-formed club or a renaming of the original St Paul's club.



St Paul's Anglican Church and Hall

The Maryborough Diggers Bridge Club

This club was formed within the Maryborough RSSAILA club in 1938. From that year, until at least 1943, the club held a regular monthly tournament against the St Paul's Club, with a cup presented to the winners each year.

The RSSAILA club also hosted a weekly afternoon charity bridge club, known as the Maryborough Charity Bridge Club. The only reference to this club comes from 1939.

The Maryborough Red Cross Bridge Club

The intention to form this club was reported in 1948 but there are no further reports of its activities. The organiser was Mrs Forbes of 125 Lennox Street.

The Mimosa Bridge Club

The aim of this club was to raise funds for the Maryborough CWA. It met on one afternoon a month from at least 1949 to 1951 at the Mimosa Café.

The club convenor was Mrs E Whitelock.

The Maryborough Ladies Bridge Club

This was a private club with 12 members that met weekly at least from 1951 to 1954, rotating through members' homes. Members also paid a weekly fee, the proceeds of which were donated, at least in part, to local charities.

The club convenor was Mrs Barker.

Theodore Bridge Club

The Theodore Bridge Club is known to have been operating between 1948 and 1950. It met at first in various cafes—Brown's, Dawson's and George's—before moving to the Soldiers' Hall.

It met weekly on Thursday nights with, as reported in October 1948, a consistent attendance of 24 players. In 1950, it was offering a beginners' class,

Mt Larcom Bridge Club

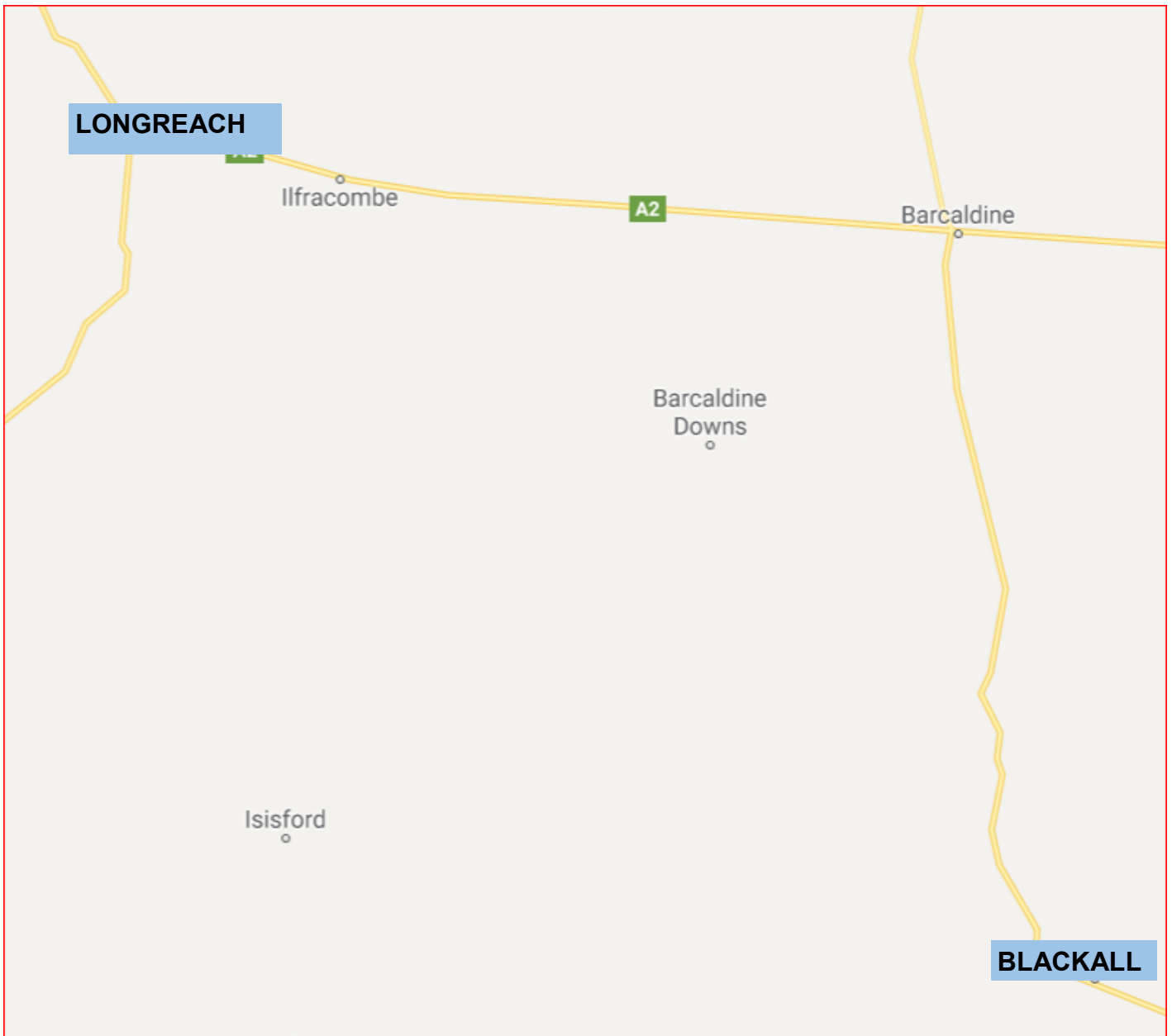
The only direct reports of the Mt Larcom Bridge Club come from 1933 when it was meeting on one evening a week at Neilsen's Café. A report on the farewell for a local teacher tells us that a bridge club was operating in 1939.


Biloela Bridge Club

This was formed in May 1939 and met on one evening a month. It was somewhat unusual in that men and women played on the same night but in parallel competitions. The men played at the club premises while the women played separately with the venue rotating through each other's homes.

The club was still operating in 1946.

Central Queensland



 = Location of one or more pre-1955 bridge clubs

Blackall Bridge Club

Blackall in the mid-1930s had two bridge clubs, probably with overlapping membership. There was an evening mixed bridge club which met at the Central Café and conducted challenge matches against the Barcoo Bridge Club (about which no details are known).

There was also a Blackall Ladies Bridge Club.

The Clubs were definitely operating in 1934 and 1935 but there is no information on other years.



Blackall Central Café Dining Room in 1929. Site of the Blackall Bridge Club in 1935.

Longreach bridge clubs

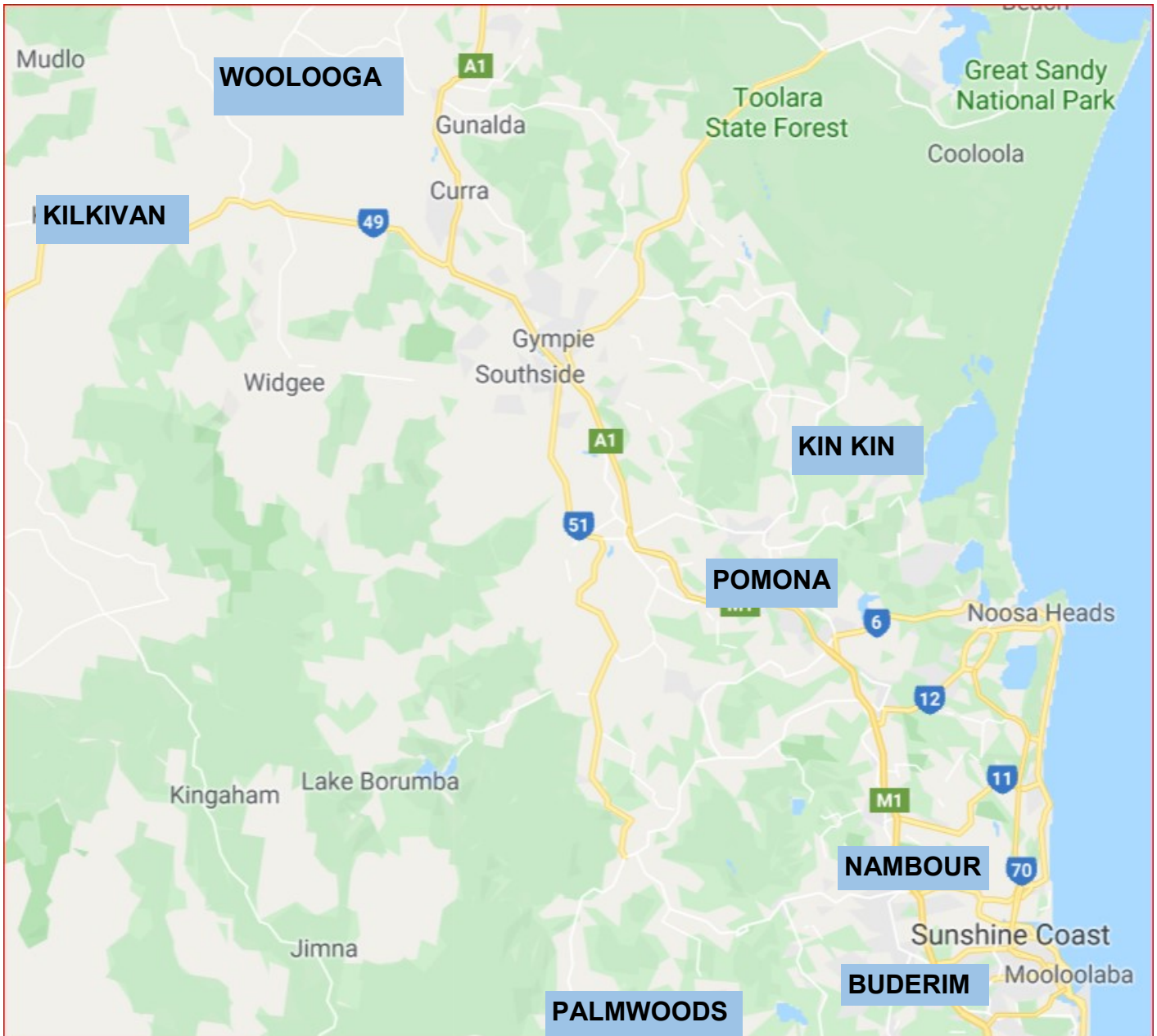
The first recorded organiser of bridge in Longreach was the local Ambulance League, which was running euchre and bridge tournaments in 1935.

In June 1935, parishioners of St Brigid's Church, with the involvement of the Parish Priest, Father McKeen, formed a Catholic Bridge Club. This met in the evening fortnightly in St Columba's Hall. It was known to be still operating in late 1942.

Barcoo Bridge Club

This is known only through reports of the club having played matches against the Blackall Bridge Club in 1935. Its location is not known.

SUNSHINE COAST AND SURROUNDS



 = Location of one or more pre-1955 bridge clubs

Pomona Bridge Clubs

The Pomona School of Arts Bridge Club

The club was formed in August 1936. Mr G G Holland was President and Mr L. Lewis, Secretary/Treasurer. The club was still operating in 1939 but there is no information after that date.



Pomona Memorial School of Arts Hall in 2019.

The Pomona Ladies Bridge Club

This was formed in July 1936, initially called the Cooroora Bridge Club. It was still operating in 1937. No information is available for other years.

Buderim School of Arts Bridge Club

An early attempt was made in 1931 by Mr G H Ott to start a School of Arts Bridge Club following a card evening at the School. It is not clear if this eventuated but, at best, it seems to have been quite short-lived.

There are no further references until July 1934 when it was announced that a club had been formed in the School with Mr T H Irwin as President and Mr E. Middleton as Secretary/Treasurer.

Nambour Bridge Clubs

The Nambour Ladies Bridge Club

This is known to be operating in 1938 when 40 players attended its last event of the year.

The Nambour Red Cross Bridge Club

This was formed in September 1940 and ran fortnightly bridge evenings at the Nambour Diggers' Club. It was still operating in August 1945.

Palmwoods Ladies Bridge Club

This is known to have been operating in 1937. It met monthly.

Kilkivan CWA Bridge Club

This was formed in 1937 and met in the Kilkivan School of Arts Hall. 'Mesdames Owens and Kettle' were the convenors.

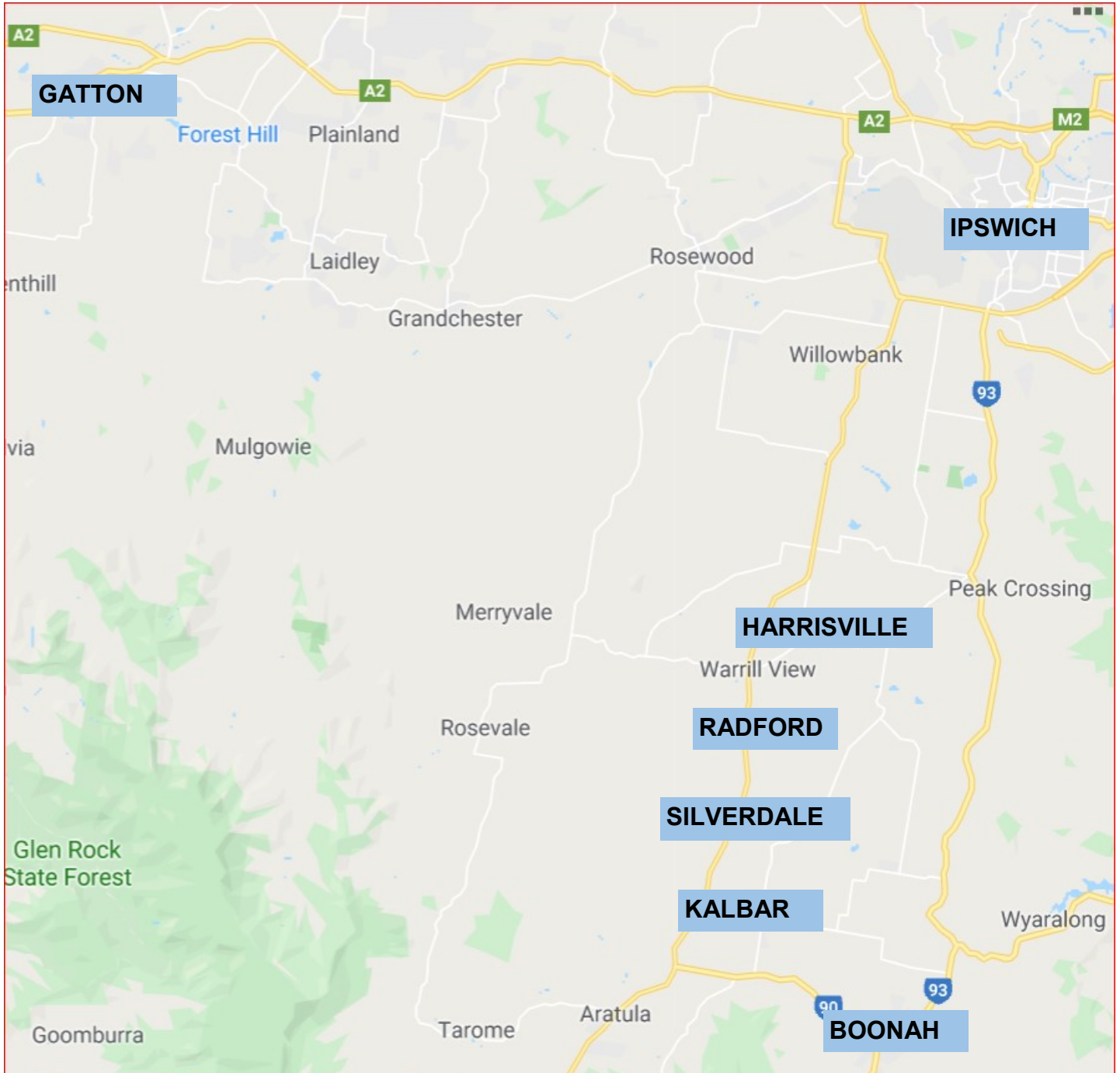
Woolooga Bridge Club

This is known only from a report of a Thursday night match with Kilkivan Bridge Club.

Kin Kin Bridge Club

This was formed in 1935. Mr W Hamilton was the organiser.

IPSWICH AND SURROUNDS



= Location of one or more pre-1955 bridge clubs

Ipswich Bridge Clubs

The Ipswich Bridge Club

The first so-named Ipswich Bridge Club was formed in June 1928. It met on Monday nights, was for men only, and was not open to beginners. It is mentioned next in 1933, when it was playing at the Memorial Hall. The club does not appear in the newspapers between 1936 and 1939.

The last mention is in 1947 when it was reported to be organising a tournament to be played in people's homes—along the lines of the later *Sydney Morning Herald* rubber competition run by Dick Cummings.

The 50-50 Bridge Club

The 50-50 Bridge Club is known to have operated between 1937 and 1945, attracting more than fifty players in at least one of its fortnightly evening sessions at the Soldiers' Club. The origin of the name is not clear but proceeds were to benefit returned servicemen.

The game played was progressive bridge. Mrs W.O'Sullivan appears to have been the main organiser.

The Marine Bridge Club

There is only one reference to this club—in June 1940. It met at the Memorial Hall.

The Ipswich Golf Club Bridge Club

This club was formed in December 1933. There are no reports of its existence after April 1934.

The Ipswich Railway Institute Bridge Club

This is known to have been operating in November 1938 when it was reported to have organised a match against the Brisbane Railway Institute.

The Ipswich CWA Bridge Club

This club was running sessions on Tuesday nights in August 1946. Nothing else is known.

The Ipswich Servicewomen's Hostel Bridge Club

This is known to have operated between 1944 and 1945—probably as a means of both raising funds for the hostel and providing recreation for the residents. It was run by Mrs W O'Sullivan, organiser of the 50-50 Bridge Club.

Kalbar Bridge Club

The existence of this club is first reported in December 1937. It met at the Theodora Café. In 1938, Mr J Evers was President and Miss P Elliott Secretary/Treasurer.

The club played several matches against clubs in neighbouring towns during 1937. It was still operating in May 1939.

Silverdale, Radford, Boonah and Harrisville Bridge Clubs

These clubs are known to have played against the Kalbar club in 1937 but there is no other information about their operations or membership.


Gatton Bridge Club

This was formed in May 1933 at a meeting at the Royal Hotel. The President was Dr L Geraghty. A Mr J Dale from the Ipswich Bridge Club explained to the meeting how that club operated.

The Gatton club met on Friday nights at the Royal Hotel.

TOOWOOMBA AND SOUTH-WEST



 = Location of one or more pre-1955 bridge clubs

Toowoomba Bridge Clubs

Early Bridge Clubs

The first known bridge club in Toowoomba was associated with the School of Arts and known to be operating in 1914. There is a further report of an 'amateur bridge club' in 1916, organised by a Mr M Boulton. Nothing more is known of either club.

The Portland Bridge Club

This club was established in 1931 by Ethel and Olive Campbell, apparently using their home, 'Portland', as the premises. Ethel Campbell also advertised her services as a teacher in 1931. In addition to their regular sessions, the sisters ran benefit bridge evenings at Perrin's Café in that year in aid of the local Ambulance Brigade. Nothing more is known.

The Mayfair Bridge Club

This for-profit bridge club opened in 1933 at the Hotel Gladstone in Ruthven Street. The operator was Lydia Gray, who was advertised as being previously with the Mayfair Bridge Club of Sydney. It was open on Wednesday and Saturday nights but does not seem to have survived for long.

Toowoomba—Brisbane Connections

Although there are no reports of a bridge club in Toowoomba after 1934, there was clearly a thriving bridge community and Toowoomba players participated in the Brisbane bridge scene, attending occasionally both the QBA and the leading charity bridge clubs.

In 1937, Emily Broadfoot, a well-known Toowoomba teacher, was the winner of Quart-Major's annual bridge puzzle solving competition. In Easter of that year, there was a match in Toowoomba between a QBA team, captained by Henry Douglas, and Toowoomba players, captained by a Miss Cullen. The match was played at Mr Cullen's house.

Warwick Bridge Clubs

The Warwick Soldiers' club Bridge Club

The Warwick Soldiers' club is known to have organised bridge competitions in 1921 and 1922, including a contest with the Warwick Bowling Club in 1921 and one of the earliest auction bridge competitions in 1922.

The Warwick Women's Club Bridge Club

In 1937, the Warwick Women's Club was one of the first organisations in Queensland to offer weekly sessions purely for contract bridge. In 1942 it was running monthly evening sessions.

The Warwick CWA Bridge Club

In 1944, the CWA was running bridge sessions on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

Stanthorpe Bridge Clubs

The Country Bridge Club

The Country Bridge Club opened in 1933 at the Stanthorpe Country Club Hotel.

The Stanthorpe CWA Bridge Club

The Stanthorpe CWA Bridge Club was running afternoon sessions in 1952 for members and non-members. The organiser was Mrs Langan.

The Stanthorpe Red Cross Men's Bridge Club

This met on Wednesday evenings. The starting date is not known. It disbanded in 1953.

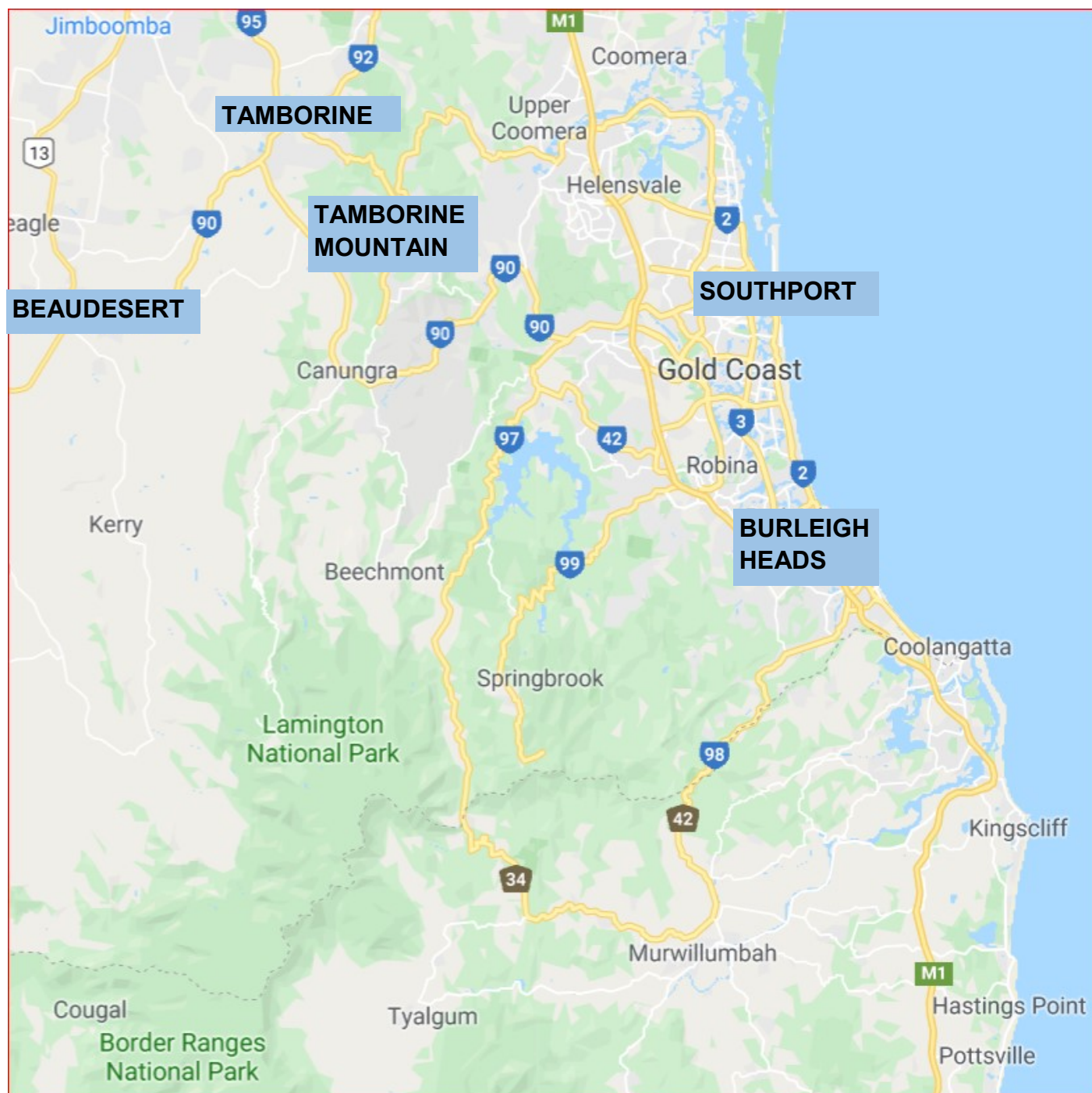
Dalby Church of England Bridge Club

This club was known to be operating in 1940 with six tables. The President was Mrs W J Vowles.

CWA Bridge Clubs

The Warwick/ Toowoomba region was a major centre for local CWA bridge clubs. Local CWAs were known to be running bridge sessions at **Allora** (1928), **Clifton** (1939-53), **Goondiwindi** (1938), and **Texas** (1938)

GOLD COAST AND HINTERLAND



= Location of one or more pre-1955 bridge clubs

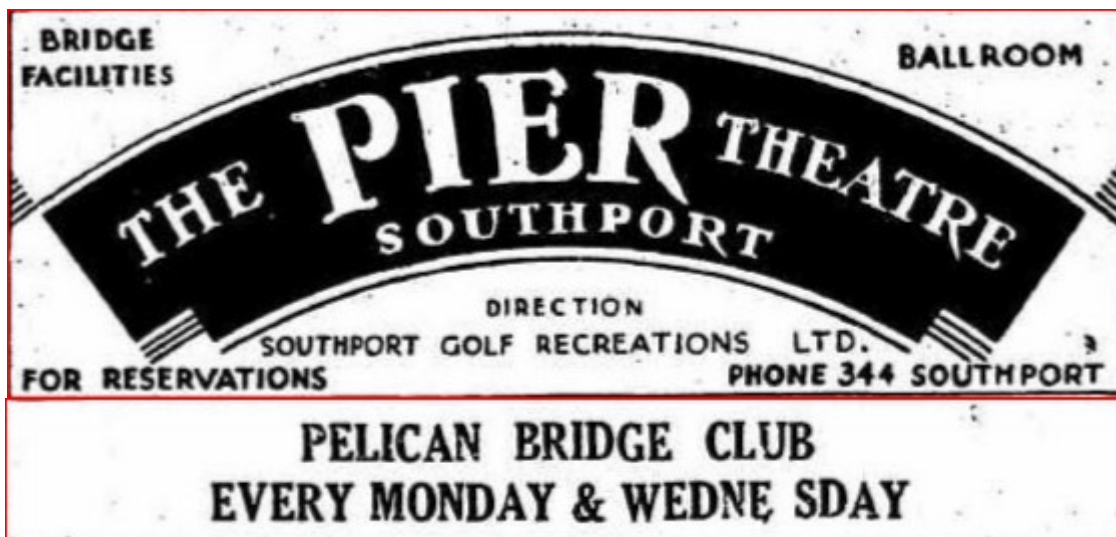
Gold Coast Bridge Clubs

The Pelican Bridge Club, Southport

This was one of the few for-profit bridge clubs in country areas and one of two known to be located in a cinema—the Pier. (The other was at South Johnstone).

It was established in October 1936 and run by a Miss Millicent Kidd of Los Angeles. The limited information available suggests that it was operated as a place for groups of friends to come and play rather than organised competition.

The theatre stopped advertising the club at the end of November 1936, suggesting that it was not a commercial success and came to an early end.



October 1936 advertisement for the Pier Theatre's Pelican Bridge Club

Southport Bowling Club Bridge Club

This was the first known club in Southport, opening in July 1930 as part of the Southport Bowling Club. The club was to operate in the evening but there is no other information on its sessions or duration.

Burleigh Heads Croquet Club Bridge Club

This was a small ladies bridge club located in the croquet club from 1951 to at least 1953. As well as auction, solo whist was played. It met on Fridays to compete for weekly and monthly prizes. In 1953 it was reported to have 14 members.

Southport RSL Bridge Club

In August 1953, some members of the Southport RSL were reported to be trying to organise a bridge club. At an initial meeting, a tutor was made available for people who wished to learn the game. There is no further information on the club.

Beaudesert

Beaudesert was Mick Sullivan's birthplace. From a bridge perspective, it is interesting because there seems to have been no shortage of bridge players, but there is no evidence of the existence of a bridge club in the period to 1954.

Beaudesert was the location of one of the earliest known attempts to form a bridge club (in the School of Arts) but there is no record of whether it eventuated.

There were occasional bridge afternoons and evenings but the only report of bridge competition comes from September and October 1937, when a Beaudesert team played two challenge matches against the 4BH Bridge Club from Brisbane.

Eighteen members of the 4BH team visited Beaudesert for the first match, which was played at the Logan and Albert Hotel. Fifteen from Beaudesert travelled to Brisbane for the return match at the Montoya Café. The 4BH team won both matches.



Logan and Albert Hotel, Beaudesert, in 1929. Site of the first of the 1937 matches between Beaudesert and the 4BH Bridge Club.

Tamborine Mountain area Bridge Clubs

Tamborine Mountain Bridge Club

The first record of a Tamborine Mountain Bridge Club comes from July 1933. It met in the afternoons in members' houses. The one afternoon reported was at the home of Mrs A T Geissmann.

Aces and Kings Bridge Club

This was formed in March 1934 with Mr Fred W Taylor as President. It met every second Tuesday night at the Belvedere Café in North Tamborine. The club had (and was limited to) 16 members.

Tamborine Bridge Club

This was formed at a meeting at the home of Mrs M I Logan in October 1934. It met on Wednesday evenings in a rented room adjoining Mr J Trudgeon's garage. Gentlemen paid 1 shilling, while ladies provided refreshments.

At its early sessions, the club was able to fill five tables and played a match against Aces and Kings in November 1934. There is no further record of its activities.

Eagle Heights Bridge Club

At a meeting at Richer's Garage in June 1934 it was decided to form a bridge and social club, with bridge each Monday night. The Secretary was Miss A Moore, the proprietor of the Eagle Heights Hotel. The club played two matches against Aces and Kings in 1935 but there is no further record of its activities.