



VBA Council Meeting – Major Items & Decisions

11 October 2017

I recently announced that we have appointed our new Manager - Andrew Maccready-Bryan. He will start on Monday October 16, initially working at the VBA on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

I'd also like to thank the irrepressible Bianca Gold, who has been our interim manager for 3 months

Congresses

- Congress participation is down about 8% this year, and around 18% for teams events. Richard Giles (VBA Special Councillor from Country West and Ballarat Bridge Club President) will be leading a task force to understand why and what we can all do about it.
- Congresses will be a focus of Affiliated Clubs Day (formerly Club Presidents' Day) next year

Club support

- Joan Butts' teacher training seminar on September 23-24 at the VBA was very successful and will be repeated on November 11. More information on that will be supplied separately
- We will also be running a Directing Training Day early in the new year (date tba)
- Thanks to TBIB and Ocean Grove for their substantial contributions to help Melton get up & running again after their fire (and the VBA contributed substantial funds & equipment too)

State

- We have developed an Affiliation Policy and Form to make the decision and application process clearer and simpler. You can find them at <http://vba.asn.au/documents/governance>
- Christopher Leach is chairing the reformulated State Marketing Committee, including Matthew Tiplady from Berwick, Helen Snashall and Andrew Maccready-Bryan. Promoting bridge around Victoria is an integral part of our mission
- The ABF has announced that the Interstate Pairs event will be reintroduced at the Australian National Championships next year, open to all pairs whose home clubs are in the same state. This will be an excellent opportunity for Victorian pairs to taste Interstate competition
- There is an opportunity for an all-Victorian team to play in the Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship in February. See our website for details
- Jenny Thompson has been appointed chair of MTC; Dale Sheather stepped down due to work commitments

Calendar

- Only about **half** of affiliated clubs have responded to our request for up to date information about each club, and proposed congress dates. Several clubs have requested next year's calendar from the VBA – including some that haven't supplied their information to us yet! **Please** respond to our information request - we can't finish the calendar and keep our information about you on our website current without it!

Ben Thompson, VBA President