



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2022.

As you are all aware Our State of Western Australia will open its borders on 5th February 2022, in line with COVID-19 Federal Government requirements BAWA has issued a direction for all clubs to follow:

All members must have had at least 2 vaccinations by now, they must present their certificate and have it witnessed by the director of the day, a register is held at the desk.

Face masks are not mandatory at this stage and will not be unless the State Government declares that they must be worn. Hand sanitiser is provided for your use at a few of the tables and at the doors to the kitchen and main entrance into the bridge room. Please follow good hygiene in any case to ensure the well being of your fellow members.

The Christmas party was a great success and we all had a lot of fun. Thanks go to the few hard working club members who organised it. The raffles for the hampers again were well received and supported bringing a good profit to the club. One member Dolly Richardson, missed out on her winning hamper, there were some rumours that someone collected it on her behalf????

Presentations were again handed out to winning pairs

Some of the photos from the night.





From time to time, we like to feature one of our club members so everyone can see what extraordinary lives they have lead outside of the Fremantle Bridge Club. This month we are pleased to feature

MR JOHN SHIPP A FULL LIFE as DESCRIBED BY HIS WIFE LYN.



Fiji spear fishing



Sailing in Tassie



Super Pit and the truck fleet.

John has never been really sure why he wanted to become a mining engineer, but in 1965 he duly joined the Camborne School of Mines in Cornwall. The school is situated in a Duchy with an ancient history of mining,

After graduating in 1968, with a new wife, he took a job in South Africa, this at the height of the Apartheid era. After four very interesting years the decision was made to move on.

Mining jobs then in Britain were not easy to find, so he ended up as a surveyor in an open cut coal mine in County Durham. After two years in a really lovely but terribly cold area of the country a very different opportunity arose.

Fiji, a tropical paradise, with a gold mine, so for four years life was work, with weekends and holidays spent on some lovely tourist islands. Spear fishing became a hobby, plus a great way to feed a group of people!

Four years on and a growing family meant that schooling was now more important, so off to Tasmania. First to Savage River on the west coast, another open cut mine, then to Luina, an underground tin mine.

In the ten years in Tasmania. hobbies at weekends turned to sailing a type of sailing dinghy called a 470, with our son as crew they enjoyed Saturday sailing. Our daughter fell in love with horses, re-awakening Lyn's interest, so we ended up with some horses, and John took up riding as well.

By now he'd become General Manager of the mine, and after ten years was looking for something different, which is where a friend offered him a job in Kalgoorlie.

Two years on and the small speculative mine became uneconomic due to falling gold prices, so off to another open cut gold mine in Boddington, just outside of Perth.

In seven years there he became General Manager of the mine, enjoying a country lifestyle, with lots of space for riding our two horses! Another avenue opened up as he joined the local Hash House Harriers, a drinking club with a running problem.

The mine was run by a three joint venture partnership. One of these offered him a job in Kalgoorlie to run the Super Pit as it became known and was Australia's largest gold mine at the time.

John was still running but only on a limited scale. However, a challenge from a friend to run a marathon proved too much, so he did, but just the one!

From Kalgoorlie we moved to Perth working for one of the joint venture partners. After a year there he was given the grand sounding job of Vice-President of Australia/Africa operations. American companies like titles!!, however it meant for a lot of international travelling. Six mines in Australia, two in Tanzania, and one in New Guinea resulted in more than he wanted and after three years a company take over made him think about an early retirement.

Which is when we ended up moving to a house we'd bought back in Boddington and rented out. After a couple of years, we decided to move to Fremantle. So, we bought a block and built a house. Once this was done, we undertook a little more travel, mostly back to the U.K. with a few trips to other places in Europe and Hong Kong and New Zealand.

Bridge was one of the various card games we'd played in many mining towns, and now as his health began to decline, he took it more seriously, it's something he enjoys.

So, there you have a short-potted history of a career spent digging dirt as someone described it once.

HANDBOOK

By now most members will have collected their Handbooks, if you haven't they are available from the Director of the day. If you have got your and there is something incorrect with your address, phone number or email address please let the director know so we can ensure they are correct for next year.

If anyone of you have something you would like to have included in the newsletter please let Judy Toey know either by Phone 0497 482 527 or email judithtoey@gmail.com.au and we will endeavour to put it in print for you.