

## FROM OLD TO NEW CLUBROOMS

OPENING OF THE NEW RANGIORA BRIDGE CLUBROOMS BY THE MAYOR, DAVID AYRES AND JANICE POCOCK, CHAIRPERSON OF THE BRIDGE CLUB BUILDING COMMITTEE, 4.30PM ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2011

At the last session of play at the old Clubrooms last Wednesday, Andrew and Diane Findlay, along with other early members, namely Darcy Preston, Tini van de Loo, Jill Amer, Margaret Luisetti and Dirk van Dalsum, gave us a synopsis of the early days of our old Clubrooms and we toasted to "Ghost and Memories". The Rangiora Bridge Club was started 45 years ago by a small group who met at the nursery school attached to the High School. The Club soon outgrew the venue and when Augusta Scoggins saw the old Kaiapoi Golf Club building was for sale she convinced the bridge committee to put in an offer of \$300 and the Golf Clubhouse was purchased and through the hard work of the members the building became the home of the Rangiora Bridge Club on Good Street in 1975. It was fairly derelict, but members turned to and created a very comfortable venue for bridge.

The building has served us well, but being over part of an old dump site the building has sunk in places over the years. Play became interesting with sloping tables, cold draughts from unexpected places and the odd leak of two, until it became apparent that time was running out and we would need to replace our rooms for something more modern and also larger as our numbers have been growing steadily. When Janice Pocock became President of the Club it was about the time the Council was launching its 10-year plan. She grasped the opportunity and spearheaded the move to set the ball rolling. She has been at the forefront ever since.

Janice, and the Mayor of the Waimakariri District Council, David Ayres, cut the ribbon to officially open the new Clubroom. Richard Peter, President of the Rangiora Bridge Club, presented Janice with a bouquet of flowers.

Janice paid tribute to the hard work of club members. Over the last few years the Club has been fundraising with dinner & auction evenings, trivial pursuit evening, tournaments, garage sales, and coming up, a garden party. Our catering team, under the leadership of Bunty Marshall and Anne Westland, have made such a name for themselves that they have been called upon to cater for outside functions, and they have donated back all the funds raised, adding over \$10,000 to the coffers.

While the Club members have been busy raising funds, a special Building Sub-Committee of Janice Pocock, Chairperson, Richard Peter, President, Dawn Simpson, Sub-Committee Secretary, Steve Noad, Financial Controller, and Adrienne Lamb have been working tirelessly from site to foundations to finished building. The original sub-committee coopted Adrienne when she offered to be the designer and project coordinator for free, having had a great deal of experience in that field. She has been "worth her weight in gold" and club members have only a small inkling of the time and effort she has put in.

At the opening, Adrienne made special mention of all the local contractors involved with the building and thanked them for their cooperation – Real Steel Builders, Flaxmill (Smith & Sons), Solid Bearing (foundations), Boulton Piling, Steve Temple (plumbing), Hanson Drainage, Excel Engineering (portals), Kaiapoi Aluminium Windows, Waive Simpson (electrical), Painting Solutions, Lyall Park Joinery, Rabco (toilet partitions), Graham & Sons (flooring), N.C.Energy (heating), Blue Tulip (blinds). She told us that during the Engineer's inspection of the building he said it was where he would chose to be in an earthquake as it is the safest building around. Richard Peter then made a presentation to Adrienne as a small token of the Club's appreciation.

The Waimakariri District Council leased us the new site in front of our old building and paid for the new foundations over the old dump. They have also given us a five-year interest-free loan of \$46,000. Their help has been tremendous and the Club is extremely grateful. The Mayor, David Ayres, said the Council was always willing to help clubs and organisations as they are the strengths that make for a good community.

Dawn Simpson has worked on grants for the building, and she has gained grants from Canterbury Community Trust, Mainland Foundation, Pub Charity, First Sovereign Trust, Air Rescue & Community Services and Trusts Charitable Foundation Inc. Many of the Club members also gave sizeable donations. With fund raising, donations, grants and the loan, Steve Noad was able to announce that the Club has met the \$420,000 needed to complete the new building.

Jane Skipper, an International bridge player from the Christchurch Bridge Club and the “resident tutor” congratulated Rangiora on their new rooms. She said when she first came to take a beginners' class 5 years ago she was confronted by the biggest, most enthusiastic beginners' class she had ever taught. Her classes since have become even bigger, and have ranged from twelve-year-olds to seventy-year-olds. She encouraged the new members to continue working at their bridge, and caused some laughter when she told of her first visit to Rangiora when she was learning bridge many years ago, when she and her partner came a distant last in the placings. She took the opportunity to give a trophy to the Club for novice competitions.

Simon Hollander, one of the members of the Club, wrote a humorous poem which he read out to the assembled members and guests.

What of the old building you ask - the Kaiapoi Golf Clubhouse / Rangiora Bridge Clubrooms is being moved to Oxford. We thank it for its years of service and wish it well.

On a final sad note Janice Pocock the immediate past president of the Rangiora club as mentioned in the above article passed away last week after a battle with cancer. Her aim was to see the clubrooms opened, which she did. Her funeral was held at the clubrooms as a fitting tribute.



From left to right: Janice Pocock, Adrienne Lamb (building designer and overseer), Richard Peter, Marilyn and David Ayers (our Mayor and his wife), Dawn Simpson, Steve Noad

