

# **CONGRESS REPORT - 2025**

It was great to be able to hold the 49th Annual Super Congress in our newly renovated Club House. Although we may have a few issues to address, there is nothing that can't be resolved. The future for Congresses and other events in our Club house is looking very healthy.

The survey results were very pleasing. Most people were complimentary, with 80% saying it was positive or extremely positive experience. The feedback was constructive, as it highlighted a few things we would do differently in future.

## **FOOD**

People really enjoyed the food, but would have liked an assortment of bread on the sandwiches and more savoury dishes. Noted.

The desserts made by Yvonne Zammit were absolutely delicious, and Thea McCallum's cake was quite simply a magnificent work of art. The intricate detail of icing art work on the cake should be exhibited. It seemed a shame to cut the cake, but it had to be done, and we asked John Redfearn to do the honours. Next time I'll have to be quicker if I want a piece !

## **VENUE**

It was noisy, bearing in mind there were around 150 of us in the Venue. It was hard to control the noise also. Some people were either too hot, or too cold, depending on where they were seated. It was a no-win situation for us to be able to control everyone's body temperatures. We will be attending to the Air Conditioning in the training room, and hopefully over time we will manage to arrive at a more even & comfortable temperature in the venue.

## **NEGATIVE COMMENTS**

There are always going to be negative comments. You can't please everybody all of the time. Some were just personal opinions and some very constructive. The three main complaints focused on the acoustics (noise), the temperature and the microphone, which can all be addressed moving forward.

## **OVERALL**

Overall the Congress was a great success thanks to all our exceptional volunteers on the day and our unseen volunteers behind the scene. Our garden volunteers did a wonderful job transforming the outdoor seating space, making it come alive.

Mike Hilton, our technical volunteer, assisted me greatly, and was always available on tap.

Our stellar catering/kitchen team of volunteers, ably led by Sue and Keith, included Paula and Margaret, Lyn, Julia, Rowan, Jill W, & Carolyn who did an absolutely outstanding job.

A big thank you to Graham Williamson tirelessly putting together all the boards, and John Redfearn compiling all the hand records .

Many thanks to our front desk team - Deb Tatham, Gail Beverley and Colleen Milne, and to the Club's standby teams - Mark Matthews, Mike Hilton, Deb Tatham and Carol Patton, and our Pairs standby team - Jenny O'Donoghue and Lewis Carey. Both these teams were very much needed on the day.

Our welcoming committee at the doors, Colin Kleinig and Brian Kelly, were much appreciated by the visitors.

Peter Cloughessy did well to fill in the gaps, where needed. My Caddies - Brian Kelly and John Redfearn, who were run off their feet.

Kerry and Lawrie Ransom for the emotional support I needed at various times.

Joan Pavitt for her lovely plant at the back door, and all those who supplied vases and nick knacks to brighten up the venue.

To run a successful congress really does rely on a combined effort from all the wonderful volunteers. **A BIG BIG THANK YOU.**

And of course thank you to the committee for all your support.

Also a big thank you to all our other volunteers who give their time for the club.

### **FUNNY INCIDENT**

A table called me over to tell me one of their team members was feeling unwell. She said he suffered anxiety and stress. My response was "Well this game will give you that" (I guess I wasn't really much help). One thing you can be sure about is there are always plenty of Dr's at a Congress. He came right. Maybe the stress and anxiety was caused by the rubbish hands he was getting. We can all identify with that !!

WE MADE A NET SURPLUS OF **\$5,756** ( David and Rod, you can sleep well tonight)  
THE RAFFLE WAS SUCCESSFUL RAISING AROUND \$1700 **THANK YOU**

Maree Kelly  
Convenor  
49th Annual Super Congress