



# THE SYDNEY SPRING NATIONALS BULLETIN



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Ed: Anne Bates

## Event 1: The Spring Nationals Womens Teams Qualifying

### Nick Fahrer, Heather Renton and The Bridge Shop

#### Nick Fahrer

Home: Willoughby, Sydney

Profession: Marketing, Market Research.

Now owner of Australia's one & only bridge shop.

Family: 2 children & 1 puppy

Interests: Shared parenting, bridge, travel - often combining business trips with family holidays.

Favourite Bridge Achievement: Met his wife through bridge.



#### Heather Renton

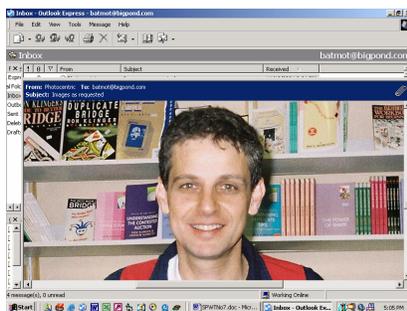
Home: Crows Nest, Sydney, but has lived in NZ, UK, Egypt & Thailand.

Profession: Speech Pathologist, but now works in The Bridge Shop, 2-3 days/week and stands in for Nick when he is O/S.

Interests: The family & the dog; tennis, golf, reading, playing bridge on the internet, & when in other countries.

Bridge Mentors: Gillian Hay who taught her ACOL; Ish Del'Monte,

Favourite Bridge Achievement: NSW Women's Team against Tasmania



### THE BRIDGE SHOP

Nick Fahrer sees owning The Bridge Shop as the perfect way to balance work and family life. It's not far from his home and his flexible hours mean that he can drop his children at school and collect them.

The Bridge Shop, Australia's one and only, stocks more than 400 books about bridge, gifts, tables, cards, score pads and knick knacks. The greater part of the stock is produced overseas. Nick buys on-line, through catalogues, at trade shows in Sydney and Melbourne and on trips overseas.,

Many of his customers are international and order through the internet but the bulk of his orders are by mail. On the other hand there is always a steady stream of customers in the shop, being tempted by the bridge knick knacks.

And one of the products most in demand: bridge software! Nick says he sells 'buckets of it'



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### Playing Around - Tournaments Across Australia

#### John Mottram: The Autumn Nationals in Adelaide

This annual event is held in Adelaide over the Adelaide Cup weekend in the middle of May. It now starts with a Seniors' Swiss Pairs, and is followed by Swiss teams. Both events provide PQPs. For the hardy, there is a congress style teams to complete the event on the Monday of the Adelaide Cup itself.

The venue for the event in 2005 has been changed to the Holiday Inn on Hindley Street. The dates are May 12 to 16.

The 'normal' procedure for interstate players is to fly in at the last minute, play bridge and fly out as soon as the bridge is over, meanwhile ensuring that good restaurants are visited and good local wine consumed.

Or you can do what Anne and I did a couple of years ago: convert the process into a 12-day driving holiday.

We set out from Sydney and stayed the first night in Orange, with a view to visiting the Parkes Radiotelescope the next day. This was well worth a visit, even if they do dine out now on their involvement in "The Dish".

Where to stay next? We chose Cobar, since we were aiming for Broken Hill. Good local RSL Chinese restaurant, but otherwise not overabundant with touristy things. This left a comfortable drive to Broken Hill along the Barrier Highway. Very few bends, and even less traffic.

After stopping only for petrol in Wilcannia, we sidetracked to White Cliffs. It rained - one of three or four days in a year when it does. Fascinating place: no mobile phone reception, but a large internet cafe cum store cum pub cum.....And just about everyone lives underground because of the summer heat.

In Broken Hill there is surprisingly lots to do: School of the Air, Royal Flying Doctor, Pro Hart Gallery, Silverton..... The landscape for miles on end is scrubby and FLAT! You can understand why there are still a few flat-earththers around.

Next stop was in South Australia, reasonably close to Adelaide: the old mining town of Burra. 1840' s miners' cottages, disused mines, historic pubs with fine cuisine. Finally, Adelaide via the wineries of the Clare Valley. Very relaxing.

The bridge started and finished.

We stayed overnight in Robe on the return trip and visited the Coonawarra region. Then overnight in Mt. Gambier, site of an old volcano, where the most recent Australian volcanic eruption occurred.

And so, home, via Portland and Geelong, after a thoroughly memorable bridge/touring experience.