

ABF Women's Bridge Liaison to the WBF

On the last weekend in March 2026, the WBF held its 3rd annual Women's online transnational teams' tournament. The event has been well-supported by countries around the world despite the complexities of scheduling an event with players in different time-zones.

Unfortunately for this year's event, the dates clashed with the interstate teams' playoffs in several states, so Australian teams were not as prolific as in previous years. As a consequence, Australian women players have missed an opportunity to gain experience playing against some of the best female players from around the world.

As the newly appointed women's liaison to the WBF for Australia, this is one of the issues I hope to address for future years. While there are some who question the need for women's only events, I believe they can be a stepping stone for many women to progress to Open and Mixed competition, while for others this provides an opportunity to represent their countries which might not otherwise be available.

The key responsibilities of the role are:

- to act as a key contact point between the WBF & Australian bridge;
- to inform women players of up-coming Zonal & WBF competitions for women
- to circulate newsletters & other promotional materials relating to women's bridge
- to encourage participation in WBF & Zonal events
- to work with other NBO's to promote women's bridge

Longer term it is envisaged the responsibilities will expand to include working with women on development and training activities.

When I started playing bridge in 2005, women's events featured in every national event. At one time the Summer Festival in Canberra boasted a team's event for women with well over 70 entries – a far cry from this year's entry of 12 teams. As a first step, I would like to revitalise entries to this major national event for women.

I will also aim to work with a nominated person from each state or territory, and through the ABF Newsletter, to ensure that as many women as possible are made aware of opportunities to play in National, World and Zonal events. If you would like to be added to an email circulation list, or if you have any ideas or suggestions to assist with the development of women's bridge, please contact me at frazerkimmie@gmail.com.

Kim Frazer