

Jim and Lyn Martin



While the fabric of 1960's American society was being ripped asunder, by flower-power beatniks *turning on, tuning in and dropping out* in the face of race riots, assassinations & the Vietnam war, Jim was in the Chicano heart of east Los Angeles, safely nestled at the Bridge table.

Born and raised in LA, he had seen an ad for *Free Bridge Lessons* at high school and was instantly smitten. Jim started playing at 16 with such die-hard dedication that it took him twice as long to get his master's degree in philosophy!

But what is time, really?

In the 70's, there were no graded events, so Jim was pitted against the best to gain his Master-points, such as Wolff, Garozzo and Barry Crane who, at the time, had won more titles than anyone else in the history of the game. Crane was tragically murdered in 1985, probably for playing the wrong card.

Jim was a Bridge *Life Master* before he was 21, a truly phenomenal achievement. He became a Lecturer in, mostly, Ethics, Knowledge & Reality and Critical Thinking near San Diego, California. Philosophy has always been his mainstay, but on the side Jim taught Bridge as well, relishing in his protégé's triumphs.

Meanwhile, far far away, Lyn was running amok in the mallee of rural South Australia. At 20, she moved to Adelaide and married there in 1970. The young couple subsequently set sail for Davis, California, where Lyn was asked to sub in a University Staff wives' Bridge game. She had never played before, but was told that an Ace equalled 4 and a King 3. No worries!

For 3 years Lyn continued social Bridge, until they moved again to Dunedin, New Zealand. Here they joined the local Bridge Club, enabling them to meet people from all walks of life, something they really cherished.

Suddenly, Lyn found herself with 3 children under 18 months (twins + 1). Two of her daughters had dislocated hips and were in and out of frog plasters for their first 5 years. Somehow, with the help of a Karitane Nurse, she managed to play Bridge some evenings, which partially maintained her sanity. When the girls started school, Lyn resumed tournament Bridge and became a member of the Otago Province Women's team.

She spent 25 years in NZ, but following her marriage breakdown, relocated to Brisbane. In her wake her daughters also made the move. She was a member of QCBC from 2000 to 2006 and even made the Queensland Women's Bridge team one year, another stellar achievement.

Jim and Lyn met online at *OKBridge*, a whiz-bang invention in those times of yore, on which you could play Bridge at any time against people from all over the world! Jim's first wife, also a bridge player, had tragically died in 2004, so he became a regular, often saddling up with a canny lady from the colonies named Lyn.

After the slow burn of an 18-month long-distance relationship, Jim and Lyn decided to meet in Honolulu, Hawaii, both lit with rosy excitement. They married in a very small ceremony on the big island of Hawaii, under the frangipani trees.

Lyn then made the huge decision to move back to California. They stayed for 13 years, taking on many Bridge luminaries, often without Lyn's knowledge (Jim would tell her later). Once Lyn, a bit flustered because Zia Mahmood Mir, a professional Bridge player and Grand Life Master was sitting in her East chair, knocked over the bidding box, scattering the cards at his feet. Unruffled, he kindly picked them all up and returned them to the box.

In 2017, after Jim's retirement, they headed for Australia to be closer to Lyn's family, which now included a granddaughter, eventually settling in Mooloolaba. They loved the relaxed, beachy lifestyle and were further delighted to find a local, friendly Bridge club of good standard.

Every day they consider themselves very lucky to live on the Sunshine Coast and we, at the SCBC, consider ourselves similarly lucky to have such incredibly gracious and generous, world class members.