



CLOSURE OF THE SYDNEY BRIDGE CENTRE THE TRADENAME OF NEW SOUTH WALES BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

The ABF released this message at 5pm on Sunday.

"To States and Territories

The ABF recommends that Bridge Clubs be temporarily closed for four weeks as from Wednesday 18th March 2020 (or a date next week set by the club) with the situation to be reviewed at the end of that period. A further extension may be imposed if necessary.

Whilst it may be a difficult decision, health experts around the world are all in agreement that the best way to slow the transmission of the virus is for people to practice social distancing. Many other organisations are cancelling events that involve gatherings of people and we feel it is a duty of care to our extremely high-risk clientele and to afford the highest level of health and safety to the members, their families and the wider community."

In addition, the medical advice to the Government for people aged sixty or more is to avoid non-essential meetings and to keep a social distance of at least one and a half metres. In his press conference on Sunday, the prime minister foreshadowed stricter regulations on static indoor meetings of two hours or more maybe forthcoming on Wednesday.

Bridge sessions meet this definition of a static meeting too well, so, given the ABF's recommendation, the Council of the NSWBA has voted to close the NSWBA (trading as Sydney Bridge Centre) at midnight on Tuesday 17th March. There will not be any bridge sessions offered at any of the three venues, City, Rozelle, or Henley, starting this coming Wednesday morning. This is an unfortunate situation that will upset most of you as your favourite social outlet is taken away from you.

We have not made this decision lightly. We are supporting the Government's thrust to slow down the spread of COVID-19 so that the health facilities are not overwhelmed. An uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 will mean that, if you are very unlucky and get infected, you might find it harder to receive medical treatment than if organisations such as the NSWBA (trading as Sydney Bridge Centre) take the responsible action and remove an unnecessary close social interaction.

To see how the infections might spread you might be interested in [this article](#) in the Washington Post.

Your Council is going to review this decision on Wednesday night, 15th April and I will write to you again after that meeting.

Regards

John Scudder

Chairman, NSW Bridge Association