

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

As patron of the Gold Coast Bridge Congress 2010, I'm delighted to welcome visitors from overseas and interstate, as well as locals, to what is Australia's premier bridge event.

Bridge has to be one of the all-time great social games. Not only that, it exercises both sides of the brain – it is gym for the mind!

With over six trillion possible bridge hands, countless techniques and strategies, it is little wonder the likes of Bill Gates and Warren Buffet are funding programs to teach bridge in schools.

They aim to boost not only kid's maths skills but their tolerance and understanding for others. I'm not exactly sure why, but I'm told tolerance and understanding are arguably the most essential skills required to play bridge.

From humble beginnings, the prestige of the Gold Coast Bridge Congress, together with the number of attendees, has gone from strength to strength.

It is pleasing to see an increasing number of overseas visitors, from countries that include Japan, the US, UK, Indonesia and Poland.

Next year you celebrate your 50th anniversary, and I understand preparations are well underway to make the 2011 Congress an especially memorable event.

As well as enjoying the Congress, I encourage overseas visitors to take time out to meet the locals, and to explore all that our beautiful Gold Coast and surrounds has to offer.

Have a wonderful Congress everyone!

**ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**