



## Chess is everywhere!

Did you notice how often chess featured in the local media during Term 2?

The Cairns Sun had an article about the growth of the Cairns Chess Club. My letter to the editor regarding chess and autism was published in the Cairns Post. The Post and ABC radio both covered the Cairns Chess Challenge on June 11, and we also managed to get a mention on that evening's news on both Channels 7 and 9 - both at the same time!

We've also managed to generate some good publicity for chess out of the Smithfield Centre Junior Chess Challenge this past school holiday. It's all been positive coverage, so I guess it's all bodes well for chess in Far North Queensland. It's exciting!

But there's plenty of action to come this term, not least of all the Finals Round of the Interschool Competition. Good luck to all schools entering a team! Make sure you don't miss the deadline for entries! See you on the chess board!

Yours in chess,

David Cowland-Cooper  
IQ Chess FNQ Director



## What's On

Jul 10	Term 3 START
Aug 11-12	Townsville Open (See article for details)
Aug 24	DEADLINE for Registration FNQ Inter-School FINALS
Aug 27	FNQ Inter-School FINALS @ TAS White Rock
Sep 21	Term 3 END
Oct 8	Term 4 START
Oct 13-14	State Inter-School Finals*
Oct 15	State Girls Inter-School Finals*
Oct 24-26	GM Ian Rogers visits Cairns Blindfold Simul TBC!!
Dec 1-2	Australian Inter-School Finals*

\* All hosted in Brisbane



## Cairns Chess Club

The Cairns Chess Club is growing! We are regularly getting about 10 players turning up, with good competition for players of all abilities. It's a great venue for adults and children alike to play against new opponents and improve their play, in a very casual atmosphere. Here are the details, hope to see you there!

Weekly on Thursday nights  
6pm to 8:30pm

@ The Coffee Bean  
Stockland Shopping Centre, Earlville

FREE first attendance  
then a small annual fee  
\$40 for adults, \$20 for juniors and concession

## Gold Coast Open

The Gold Coast Open has been running annually since the early 1990's and is now widely recognised as one of the most significant chess tournaments on Australia's Grand Prix calendar. I first participated in the Open many years ago when I was at high school on the Coast. Being back in Australia, back into chess, and with the opportunity to visit my family rolled into the weekend, I took the chance to join the tournament again on the weekend of June 23-24. And what a huge weekend of chess it was!

Turning up at Carrara Community Centre for the opening on Saturday morning, I was firstly impressed by the turnout – over 100 players in total! The competitors were divided into Open, Under 1600 and Under 1000 divisions, according to their official ratings. Thanks to generous sponsorship, this was the first time an Under 1000 division had been offered, and it drew a great response, attracting many juniors to the tournament who would otherwise have not been able to enter.

I was also impressed by the calibre of the top players – two Grandmasters, three International Masters, two FIDE Masters, and two Women's International Masters, not to mention plenty of other strong contenders. We were bound to see some great chess being played over the course of the weekend.

Most major tournaments run in the same way as the Gold Coast Open – 7 rounds of play under a Swiss pairing system, each game having a time control of 1 hour plus 10 seconds per move. That meant that most games took about an hour in total, with the longest games of each round taking maybe 2 and a half hours to complete. Every game that I played took about 2 hours, so I ended up spending nearly 14 hours on the chess board that weekend – as tiring as any other sport I've ever played, I can assure you! We played four games on Saturday and finished with three games on Sunday.

My official Australian chess rating is 1427, so I played in the Under 1600 division. I was

hopeful that I might play well enough for a prize, but I also knew that the competition was going to be very even and I'd be in for some tough games. I was right! I finished on 4 out of 7, which was my goal for the weekend, and I generally played some pretty good chess despite my tiredness. Not bad for my first major tournament in 8 years!

All in all, the tournament was well organised and I can happily recommend the trip to anyone. Maybe next June we'll get a few people together to tackle the Gold Coast Open, the subsequent Queensland Junior Championships, and a few Gold Coast theme parks, all in one big week of the school holidays! One day, we might even be able to host our own Grand Prix tournament here in Cairns – fingers crossed!

And as for the final standings... GM Dejan Antic on 6/7, with Australia's top junior Moulthun Ly and GM Ian Rogers equal second on 5.5.

I'll finish up by sharing my last game with you. It features my favourite opening as White, the English Opening, and is a classic example of the combating armies attacking down opposite sides of the board. I was looking pretty good, but my opponent hung in there and laid a couple of nice traps that swung the balance. Enjoy!

1.	c4	Nf6	21.	Be7	axb5
2.	Nc3	d6	22.	Bxd8	Rxd8
3.	g3	c6	23.	cxb5	e4
4.	Bg2	g6	24.	dxe	fxe
5.	Nf3	Bg7	25.	Nh4	Be5
6.	0-0	0-0	26.	Rc2	Kg7
7.	d3	e5	27.	Bxe4	g5
8.	Rb1	Be6	28.	Nf5+	Kf6
9.	b4	h6	29.	Ne3	Ng7
10.	b5	Qd7	30.	Nc4	Nxc4
11.	Re1	Bh3	31.	Rxc4	Rd2
12.	Bh1	Nh5	32.	a4	Ne6
13.	Qb3	Kh7	33.	Bd3	Nd4
14.	bxc6	Nxc6	34.	b6	Rxd3
15.	Qxb7	Qxb7	35.	exd3	Nf3+
16.	Rxb7	f5	36.	Kh1	Nxe1
17.	Ba3	Na5			
18.	Rc7	Kg8			... and White soon
19.	Nb5	Rfd8			resigned.
20.	Bxd6	a6			

## School Holiday Chess at Smithfield Centre

School holiday chess is a regular sort of thing at shopping centres in the big cities, but this past holiday's Smithfield Centre Junior Chess Challenge was a first for Cairns! Two rounds were held, on June 27 and July 4, and both were well attended by students from places near and far. A special mention must go to Robin Wei, in Year 7 at Parramatta State School, who went undefeated in both tournaments – well done, Robin!

Thanks to all the parents for making it possible for the juniors to get amongst it. Thanks also to Smithfield Centre for having the vision to support this event – I'm sure we'll be doing it again! And finally, congratulations to all the students who participated, you all played some great chess and learned a lot, I'm sure! The summary of results is here, for all the details, go to [fnq.iqchess.com.au](http://fnq.iqchess.com.au).

### Smithfield Centre Junior Chess Challenge Results

#### June 27

Open Champion	Robin Wei Parramatta SS
Open 2nd	Maya Kusumoto Gordonvale SHS
Open 3rd	Zachary Tomassetti St Andrew's
Primary Champion	Tom Connolly TAS White Rock
Primary 2nd	Ben Coxon TAS Marlin Coast
Primary 3rd	Clare Long TAS White Rock
Best Rookie	Daniel Agius St Thomas', Atherton
Best & Fairest	Scott Thorpe Holy Cross School
Schools Prize	Holy Cross School

#### July 4

Open Champion	Robin Wei Parramatta SS
Open 2nd	Luther Tago Trinity Bay SHS
Open 3rd	Henry Harding TAS White Rock
Primary Champion	Tarcisio Rossi St Gerard Majella
Primary 2nd	Lucas Johnson Hambledon SS
Primary 3rd	Reid Harding TAS White Rock
Best Rookie	Glen Thorpe Holy Cross School
Best & Fairest	Maya Kusumoto Gordonvale SHS
Schools Prize	Freshwater State School Parramatta State School



### Chess Quiz!

1. How many possible positions are there on the chess board after White and Black have each played just one move?
2. Who is currently Australia's highest ranked chess player? (This person has been Australia's number one for the past 25 years!)
3. The chess terms *en passant* and *j'adoube* come from what language? How about the word *zugzwang*?
4. When and where will the next Chess Olympiad be hosted?
5. What is White's most common first move?

Answers next time!

## Townsville Open - Let's Go!

Townsville Chess Club is hosting its annual Grand Prix tournament on the weekend of August 11-12. Like most such tournaments in Australia, there will be 4 rounds on Saturday and 3 rounds on Sunday, each game played under time controls of one hour each way. Entry costs \$30 for adults and \$20 for juniors and concession.

This is the closest such tournament to Cairns and a GREAT opportunity for us to show people that chess is back in Cairns! I'm sure our friends in Townsville would appreciate the support, too, though I wonder what could happen if we take home all the prizes?!?

I'll be investigating cheap accommodation options. We'll be looking to car pool and go down as an organised group. Anyone interested in making a weekend of it should get in touch with me ASAP!

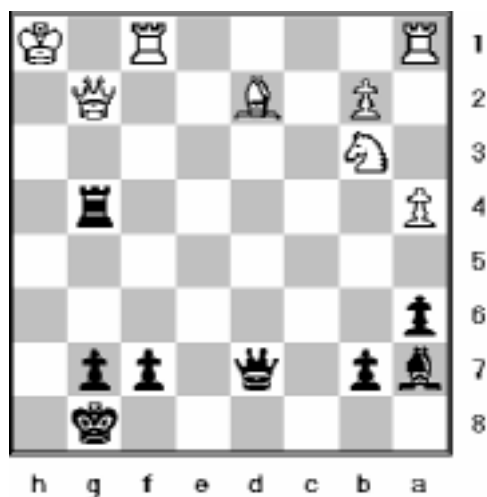
## Check it out, mate!

Our last chess puzzle was a neat example of distraction...

1. Rb8!!

If Black captures with the Queen, Nxf7#. If Rxb8, then Qg7#. And if you just try to ignore it?! Again Qg7#, exploiting the pinned Rook on g8. Nice!

Here's a position from a real game - one of my own, in fact! Black to mate in 3.



## Cairns Chess Challenge

For the first time in nearly a decade, an open chess tournament was hosted in Cairns. The Cairns Chess Challenge welcomed chess players of all ages and abilities to St Margaret's Anglican Church in Aumuller Street, where they exchanged, sacrificed and checkmated their way through seven rounds of chess on the Queen's Birthday holiday.

A first prize of \$100 was originally the only prize on offer, but a great turnout of over 20 players meant that we could put some more prizes in the kitty - \$50 for second, \$25 for third, and \$25 for the best junior.

The day was warm and sunny, and St Margaret's provided a beautiful setting for a great day's play. In the end, David Cowland-Cooper (that's me!) was on top of the standings, but you can't claim the prizes from a tournament that you've organised! The deserving winners of the prizes were:

Open 1st	Mr Boipuso Samuel
Open 2nd	Henry Harding (junior)
Open 3rd	Mr Paul Baker
Best Junior	Robin Wei (junior)

In fact, Henry, Robin and Paul were all equal on points, only separated by tiny margins in the computer generated splits! Henry and Robin had to wait until the Smithfield Centre Junior Chess Challenge to settle the matter - read that article to find out how things turned out! Thanks to everyone who joined in the fun, stay tuned for the next tourney!

"Even the laziest King flees wildly in the face of a double check!"  
- Aaron Nimzowitsch

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