

TUESDAY morning table tennis players are a bunch of diehards.

The fixtures at the Bridge Rd centre currently has 42 players, a rollup comparable to the heydays of the 1980s.

It includes a number of players in their 70s, and many who have overcome serious illnesses and procedures including knee and hip replacements.

“It’s a bunch of people having a good morning out,” fixtures organiser Iris Grasso said. “It’s a good indication how beneficial the sport is to you that we can have people still playing who have overcome all these problems.

“I started playing in the 80s and the only reason I wouldn’t go is if I was in bed sick.”

Coral Morgan, who started the competition as the housewives fixtures in the early 70s, is still playing at the age of 76.

It now includes male and female players of all ages.

Other long-time competitors Blanche Bradshaw and George Camilleri have stopped playing, but continue to attend the fixtures to support other players.

“George comes to Tuesday mornings because he wants to be there, he comes to umpire or give some help where he can,” Grasso said.

The fixtures currently has 14 teams, but new players are welcome or people can just go down to have a try, with all equipment available free.

Meanwhile, a group of Mackay juniors and some senior players will compete in the Bundaberg Open titles this weekend.

The club’s fixtures are on Tuesday mornings and nights and juniors play Thursday afternoons.

