

Courtside

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE KOORYONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC. **DECEMBER 2018**



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2019 Kooyong Classic Preview





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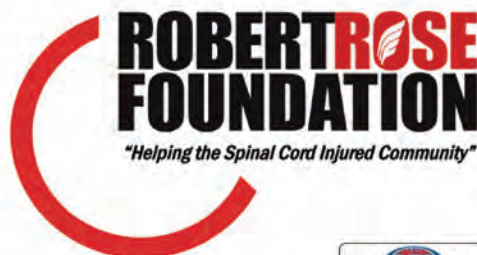
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Peers Family Awarded Victorian Spirit of Tennis

The Peers Family- Elizabeth, Bill, John, and Sally- have been honoured with the Victorian Spirit of Tennis Award.

Presented at the Tennis Victoria Champions Dinner on October 22nd, the award recognises a significant and valuable contribution to the advancement or popularity of the sport in any field such as journalism, media, tournament management, general management at National or State level, International management, supporting, coaching or playing. The recipient must be born in Victoria or lived majority of their life as a Victorian resident.

The Peers family received the award due to their significant contribution to tennis that spans decades. The family as a collective has played at the highest level, coached for years and given so much back to game.

The Board of Tennis Victoria felt fitting to acknowledge the family for all the incredible work they have done and continue to do on a local, national and international scale.

Previous winners of the Spirit of Tennis Award have included Frank Sedgman, Margaret Court, Wayne Arthurs, and Cedric Mason. This was the first time the Award has been presented to a family.

John, who continues to star on the doubles court, was unable to attend on the night, due to tournament commitments in Austria.

Other Kooyong members to take home awards on the night included Glenn Busby who won the Most Outstanding 35+ Senior, and Cooper White who was awarded the Male Junior Athlete of the Year.

The Club wishes to congratulate all those who received awards, as well as those who were named as finalists! ■



▲ Above Glenn Busby was recognised as Tennis Victoria's Most Outstanding Senior for the third time. Top The Peers family were deserving winners of the Spirit of Tennis Award for their outstanding contributions to the sport.



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Kooyong Classic Preview

Celebrate another classic summer in 2019.



“I’m looking forward to another year working with Vice President Brian Capp, Treasurer Joe Dicks and the rest of the Board.”

Peter Carew, President

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Grade 2 Men Win Pennant Flag.

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CEO'S REPORT

There are few better views than Kooyong's grass courts reopened after the winter break. Sitting on the terrace and looking out, it's wonderful to see Members once again enjoying the special opportunity to play.

As we move toward the end of year preparations are well advanced for what promises to be another fabulous Kooyong Classic. Early player announcements have confirmed Del Potro, Cilic and Anderson ranked 5, 6 and 7 in men's tennis while Coco Vandeweghe will be heading up the female side of the draw.

We encourage Members to support this wonderful event and bring family and friends to enjoy the special atmosphere. Great hospitality packages are available to enjoy, so please contact the club to arrange bookings or purchase tickets through Ticketek. A special Member price of \$26 is great value to watch the world's best while children 16 and under are free.

Reading Courtside we see the wonderful opportunities provided across so many areas for Kooyong Members to enjoy. Tennis across all sections has been extremely well supported again across the year both competitively and socially and from juniors through to veterans while squash continues to be popular across all levels.

Our social groups continue to provide a range of opportunities and our calendar closes out with a number of end of year events for Members to enjoy. Congratulations to the Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary which celebrates their 80th Anniversary this year. The hard working members of that auxiliary committee continue to provide great opportunities to enjoy the club while raising substantial funds for a very worthwhile cause and we thank and congratulate them on the excellent work.

2018 has been another wonderful year at Kooyong and I wish to thank the Board, the Members and the staff for a great twelve months. We look forward to 2019 with great anticipation commencing with the Kooyong Classic and followed shortly after by the Club Championships.



Chris Brown, CEO

Dear Members,

May I begin with wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has been a rather arduous 12 months advancing the Master Plan but I am able to report some good news in that we have made significant headway with Melbourne Water and are looking forward to sharing our plans with you in the New Year. When the Board approves the changes to the Master Plan by our architect Bruce Henderson it is our intention to spend a weekend putting the plans on display at the Club and giving you all the opportunity to inspect and provide your feedback.

The Board has been through a few changes with Cam Dickinson retiring and we also farewelled Mandy Morgan, and we thank them for their contributions. Sally Peers, who would be well known to most of you, has joined the Board filling a casual vacancy and we look forward to her contribution in the years to come. I'm looking forward to another year working with Vice President Brian Capp, Treasurer Joe Dicks and the rest of the Board.

One highlight for the Club was being presented with the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Global Organisation of Distinction Award at a ceremony in Florida earlier this year. We are the first club in the world to receive the award that recognises distinguished service and contributions towards the growth of tennis. I congratulate our current Board, Chris Brown and his team, Peter Quinn and the Kooyong Foundation, our food and beverage team and ground and gardens team, past Presidents, Treasurers and Board members and finally all the Members whose passion for Kooyong is so palpable to visitors, because it is the sum of all of us that is the culture and heritage of this Club that has been honoured.

The Classic

The Board is delighted to announce that the Classic has been able to attract 3 of the top ten male players for the event, namely Juan Martin Del Potro, Marin Cilic and Kevin Anderson. Coco Vandeweghe heads up the women players, with young US champion Amanda Anisimova also set to play. We will be announcing other great additions to the field over the next few weeks. SBS have replaced Chanel 7 as our broadcaster and we are yet to secure a naming sponsor, so if you have any interest there is 15 hours of television available where your business could be highlighted. This is a marvellous opportunity for the members of Kooyong, young and old, to enjoy tennis up close and personal at the spiritual home of Australian tennis. I hope to see you all there in numbers supporting an event that showcases our club to the world.

Around the Club

The grass courts are open and looking in excellent shape, but it was disappointing that a recent bout of rain sent the participants in the President's Day on to the en tout cas. I only hope that the President's offering of Pimms compensated for some of the disappointment.

Merry Christmas.



Peter Carew, President



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CELEBRATE ANOTHER CLASSIC SUMMER

Watch the world's top players
back where it all began.

By Linda Pearce



The 31st Kooyong Classic will build on the momentum generated by the stellar success of the star-studded 2018 edition, while introducing a new broadcast partner among the exciting initiatives for 2019.

Top eight duo and former Grand Slam champions Juan Martin Del Potro and Marin Cilic, Australian Bernard Tomic and Frenchman Richard Gasquet will all feature in another exceptional men's field for the January 8-10 round-robin, with the women's quartet set to include reigning US Open doubles titleholder - and Pat Cash protege - CoCo Vandeweghe, and rising American Amanda Anisimova.

"I think it's a really significant event for our Club because it maintains our presence on the world stage," president Peter Carew said. "One of the things that the Board has always wanted to do is make sure that Kooyong stays relevant in the world of tennis, and the Kooyong Classic really does give us the opportunity of presenting our Club."

"...it's a really significant event for our Club because it maintains our presence on the world stage"

"It also gives the Members the opportunity of seeing the best players in the world up close and personal in a really cost-effective way. We're unique, anyway, but I don't think there'd be any other private club in the world that has this kind of offering for a member. In lots of ways, having been the historic home of tennis, we've got an obligation to keep presenting. Certainly the Board feel that way."

SBS will provide 15 hours of free-to-air national coverage of the streamlined format from 11am to 4pm daily. Tournament director Peter Johnston predicted the extended schedule would create greater flexibility and more storytelling opportunities, while the mandated hourly limit of five minutes of commercials leaves more time to interact with the players and showcase the event and the Club itself.

"We're building on last year, which was extraordinary in terms of the buy-in from the players, and with the new broadcast deal that gives us increased free-to-air coverage," Johnston said.

"With the introduction of the World Team Cup in early 2020, it will mean that the week before the Australian Open becomes even more important for the players' final preparations. The Kooyong Classic is riding a momentum wave."

The presence of eight of the top 14-ranked men, including marquee pair Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal, led to a substantial attendance rise in 2018, while the fact that 13 of the players involved went on to win at least one round of the Australian Open has also boosted player interest.

"It really enhanced the reputation of the event itself to the players around the world," Johnston said. "Once they see that the formula works for Australian Open preparation, they start coming to you and asking for a game."

"Being the former home of the Australian Open and adapting to the changing court surface means that an event that's well-known on the tennis



◀ **Top** Former Australian Open semi-finalist Coco Vandeweghe will headline the women's event. **Bottom** Richard Gasquet will once again use Kooyong as preparation for the Australian Open.

▲ World No.7 Marin Cilic will return to Kooyong in 2019 after a successful year on tour.

calendar has also managed to stay relevant from the player point of view. We're going to have another top-class field."

Cilic, indeed, won six rounds at Melbourne Park in January, only to falter against Roger Federer in his third major final. More successful was the Croatian's first; at Flushing Meadows in 2014, while fellow US Open champion Del Potro is another among the small band of men in the current era who have been able to break the long-time dominance of such a celebrated few.

"Last year, players like Djokovic and Nadal who had finished their season early were looking to get that little bit more tennis at the beginning of the next year, and it's the same for Del Potro - coming back from his knee injury, the two matches before the Australian Open will be just the right preparation," Johnston said.

"Cilic played Pune and Kooyong last year and got to the final of the Australian Open straight after, so he's following that same schedule to hopefully have another great result at Melbourne Park."

For Djokovic, it would help to launch a season in which he would return from February elbow surgery to claim two

more grand slam titles and finish as the world No.1. Nadal, too, achieved - more - great things after an outing at postcode 3144, including a record-extending 11th triumph at Roland Garros.

This January, Tomic will again help to provide the Australian flavour in what will now be a six-man field contesting two-set encounters with match tiebreaks if required. The talented Queenslander has recently rebuilt his ranking sufficiently for direct main draw entry at his home Slam after an unhappy dalliance with qualifying in 2018.

Tomic's previous two appearances in the Classic have given the 26-year-old a taste for what to expect, while former world No.7 Gasquet is an almost-annual participant who believes he has found the ideal formula for his Australian Open build-up.

"It's the exact same conditions as 10 minutes down the road at Melbourne Park, there's an atmosphere in the stadium, there's the swirly wind which is something that Pat Cash always emphasises to the players that 'hey, don't forget the wind's the same down here as it is at Melbourne Park'" Johnston said.

"It's about having the flexibility to play one or two matches, and they're also getting away from the cauldron



“...for Del Potro... two matches before the Australian Open will be just the right preparation.”



▲ 2019 will see the inclusion of doubles play with Kooyong's own John Peers set to take part.
◀ Romania's Sorana Cirstea will take part in the Classic again, having previously competed in 2017.

at Melbourne Park; they can be around the club, enjoy the facilities and be a little bit private with their preparation. It's sort-of a sanctuary for the players in a way.”

Flexibility is indeed a key to the event's longevity, with the appetite for match play often waning by Friday as the Open approaches. Hence, four days of competition will now become three, Tuesday to Thursday, when demand is strongest.

“The players only wanted to play twice. They spoke, we listened, and I think we've addressed the need from the players,” Carew said.

“A lot of the enquiries we get from players come in the week of the event. They say ‘oh, I'd love to go down and have some practice on the surface, in front of a crowd, in the heat, and at a quality venue’. It's something exciting for players, and the history of a club like Kooyong is really important for them.

“They know that some of the legends of tennis have played on that court, in that arena, and I think that resonates with players enormously. A number of players have said they've just loved it; that it was just so wonderful to be there.

“Of course it's old-style, it's not gleaming padded seats, but the Davis Cup shows that if you've got a quality event and you're only playing for four or five hours, people will put up with some inconvenience just to be there and see the players. So it does have a place.”

One former great is Cash, a long-time Classic supporter. A dual Davis Cup hero at Kooyong and 1987 Wimbledon

champion, Cash has encouraged the participation of Vandeweghe, who shared the US Open doubles crown this year with Ash Barty and is a former top-tenner and Australian Open semi-finalist.

Less well-known, but not for long, is Animisova, the boom 17-year-old who finished the season as the youngest player in the WTA's top 100, and already boasts an upset of two-time major winner Petra Kvitova.

“From the USA point of view, Animisova is absolutely THE next big thing, so it's going to be a chance for people to get an early preview of just how good she's going to be,” Johnston said. “But, having beaten players of the stature of Kvitova, she's good enough now to maybe make a real mark at this Australian Open.”

SBSTV's first foray into domestic tennis coverage will double as a homecoming of sorts for commentator Paul McNamee, a Kooyong member since the early 1970s, who upstaged Frank Sedgman to win the 1975 Club Championship, and honed his playing skills with doubles partner Peter McNamara on the distant courts the young pair fondly dubbed “The Cage”.

“The event is obviously intended to round out the players' preparation, and it's particularly important at the beginning of the year, because you're not coming in with as many matches under your belt, and you might have thought you were going to play well in Brisbane or Doha or Perth, and you didn't,” said McNamee, a dual Davis Cup winner on the famous Kooyong lawns, and the owner of five majors in doubles and mixed.

“So there's always going to be a place for that, and with the history of Kooyong it's the logical venue; the Australian Open used to be there, they've changed the surface in marriage with the Australian Open. It's a great club that's getting better and better all the time.”

Carew reiterated the Board's commitment to the event, despite the challenges of the mid-holiday-season dates. “To be honest, it's not the most ideal time for Members, but this is our spot on the tennis calendar, it's a lead-up event to the Australian Open, and there's an enormous sense of pride for the Members who are there that it's their club that the Nadals and the Djokovics and the best of the best have been playing at for the last three decades since the Australian Open left,” he said.

“So it's continuous and it's generated a good income for the club over the journey and we have high hopes for it going forward, too. We've got great plans to work with Tennis Australia in 2020 and we're looking forward to an even bigger and better event in 2020.” ■

Kooyong Honoured by International Tennis Hall of Fame

The ITHF Global Organisation of Distinction Award is presented to an organisation that demonstrates a distinct track record of success and service to the sport of tennis, and to growing the game.

by Linda Pearce



When Kooyong's chief executive, Chris Brown, accepted the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Global Organisation of Distinction Award on the club's behalf at a presentation ceremony in August, he recalled fondly a conversation with one enthusiastic member.

"I was talking to Charlie, who was concerned that his game was perhaps not at the level it once was," Brown told the audience. "I asked him 'how old are you Charlie?', and he said '92'. I thought 'how good is that?'".

"We've got so many people who have a lifelong association with this club; it's a club that's offered so much to so many people for so long. There's always people around, there's always a terrific warmth and energy in this place.

"You can build the building, you can provide the infrastructure - the harder part is to build the club. And this is a genuine club."

Indeed, the spiritual home of Australian tennis is the first club to receive the annual award, which recognises distinguished service and contributions toward the growth of tennis. Tennis Cambodia was the inaugural winner, hailed

for rebuilding tennis in the nation following the tragic 1970s genocide by the Khmer Rouge regime.

Determined by a six-person selection committee, the 2018 gong was presented at the International Tennis Federation's AGM in Florida by Todd Martin, the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum's CEO, whose distinguished playing career carried him to a peak ranking of No.4 and into two Grand Slam finals.

"It was really interesting how many people came over and wanted to talk to me who had connections to Kooyong dating back, great memories of the past to the days of the Open, and even more recently," Brown said.

"We look back on our 125 years with fondness, and I know it gives our 8,500 members - including almost 300 in the 50-year category - great pride that their club is considered worthy of acknowledgment as a global organisation of distinction.

"Kooyong provides opportunities for juniors starting out in the game, social and competition tennis of all standards through to elite levels, and strong participation among our veterans. We are very proud that our members stay with us throughout their life and honoured to have received this award."



◀ CEO Chris Brown was presented the prestigious award from ITHF CEO Todd Martin at a ceremony held in Florida.

“You can build the building, you can provide the infrastructure - the harder part is to build the club. And this is a genuine club.”

Kooyong clearly met all the criteria the selection panel considered for the award.

A proven track record of service to the growth of the sport? Check. Significant recent recognitions or milestones? Many. An impact on the preservation of tennis history? Just look around a contemporary clubhouse that doubles as a living museum.

A glorious past includes staging 28 Australian Opens from 1972-88 and 11 Davis Cup finals, but, importantly, the link to international tennis is maintained by the Kooyong Classic each January, which continues to welcome the sport's elite. In 2018, that meant eight of the world's top 14 men, including Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal.

The club hosted Davis Cup ties as recently as 2016-17, the former on the centre court's historic grass, while five Kooyong members featured in the main draws of the 2018 Australian Open.

There remains a strong focus on player development and support through the Kooyong Foundation, whose dual purpose is to preserve and nurture this proud history. In fact, far from withering after the shift of the Australian

Open to the outstanding facility that is Melbourne Park, Brown said the opposite had occurred.

“When the Open moved it could have been the death of the club” he admitted. “But it returned the club to the members, and you’ve got to admire the direction the committees of the time took to make sure this club continued to be relevant, and to grow.

“Melbourne Park has some of the best Grand Slam facilities and our board, too, continues to look forward, as it always has, to make sure that we meet the members’ needs, not only now, but in the future. “We hit a mark, because people can connect in different ways”.

“But, as well as being many different things to different people, this club is also stronger in tennis than it’s ever been. People want to join the club and play tennis, so we’ve never lost our focus around it being a really good tennis club.”

With further improvements proposed, President Peter Carew hailed the significance of the ITHF award in terms of what has already been achieved. “It’s really a recognition of how our club has adapted to the changing needs of our members, and for a culture which in my view is quite palpable. When you walk into our club, it’s very very vibrant, across all ages and across a number of sports,” he said.

“The fact that we’ve been able to host international events of the calibre of the Classic and the Davis Cup, I don’t know that there are too many clubs in the world that could do what we do. So it’s unique, and I think the tennis world at large has recognised that this is an unbelievable asset to the members; what it does, what it represents, it’s history, and just the way it runs itself on a day-to-day basis. I think we as members are very very lucky.” ■



Kooyong was honoured to be invited to send a representation to the All England Club's 150th birthday celebrations.

Kooyong join AELTC for 150th Anniversary Celebrations

The All England Lawn Tennis Club recognised their 150th birthday with celebrations held at the conclusion of the Wimbledon Championships.

by Linda Pearce

When Kooyong's 10-member delegation to the All England Club's 150th anniversary celebrations entered their respective Wimbledon dressing-rooms earlier this year, they found their names personalised on the lockers more often used by the likes of Roger Federer and Serena Williams. There were attendants on hand, and instructions for the club's overnight laundry service of the obligatory all-whites.

The precious opportunity arose when Kooyong was included among the 12 international and four British clubs invited to join the hosts in an August round-robin tournament to mark the All England Club's 150th birthday. The events: a women's and men's doubles pairing an Open age player with a 45-and-over, and a mixed for the 55-and-overs. Each competition counted towards an aggregate score.

The other teams invited were Fitzwilliam LTC from Dublin, Grass Court Saga from Japan, Hellerup IK from Copenhagen, Kungl.TK from Stockholm, Longwood Cricket Club from Boston, the Meadow Club of Southampton in

New York, Monte Carlo Country Club, RCT Barcelona, TC Weissenhof from Stuttgart, TC Lido Lugano in Switzerland and Villa Primrose of Bordeaux France.

The Kooyong team consisted of our Open club champions Sally Peers and Greg Jones and in their age groups world No.1 Glenn Busby, world No.5 Isabelle Gemmel, world No. 1 Andrew Rae and 14-time Kooyong club champion Elizabeth Peers. "We had," says President Peter Carew proudly, "a pretty good bunch."

Indeed, and one that finished second to Spanish club RCT Barcelona. Both the S Peers/Gemmel and E Peers/Rae combinations were runners-up, and Jones/Busby were eliminated by the eventual winners. The Kooyong travelling party was completed by the President and fellow board members Rowena Cole, Adam Cossar and Darren O'Loughlin, who all built valuable off-court relationships.

Both members of the Peers family had played there before, of course, with 27-year-old Sally having won the 2009 girls' doubles with Noppowan Lertcheewakarn, and



▲ The Kooyong group enjoyed a “White Party” as part of the anniversary celebrations.
 ▲ Andrew Rae and Elizabeth Peers finished runners-up in the Mixed Doubles event.
 ▼ Peter Carew presented AELTC Chairman Philip Brook with a painting of Kooyong.



▼ Glenn Busby and Greg Jones paired up in the Men's Doubles event.



▲ Isabelle Gemmel and Sally Peers were runners-up in the Women's Doubles event.

then partnered Britain's Laura Robson in the Ladies' event in 2010.

“It was really special,” says the dual Commonwealth Games medallist, who played her last pro tournament in mid-2017. “Initially it was a bit weird being back there not during The Championships, and I don't want to say it was better, but we just got to experience the club as the amazing club it is - like we get to experience Kooyong every day,

“There was just a really great feel about the place and such a nice energy. The sun was out, and it was just beautiful. I guess I never thought I'd get to play on the courts again, so that was really exciting, as well.

“Everyone was just so appreciative of the experience that they got to have together and knew it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!”

As well as dinners, and other social activities including a last-night “white” party, there was also the opportunity to play Royal Tennis at Hampton Court, to dabble in croquet, and to visit other London clubs, with Jones setting a new service-speed record at the Cumberland LTC.

Yet there was something significant left behind, too. Mindful that Gillian Brook, the wife of AELTC chairman Philip Brook, had previously spoken admiringly of the view from Kooyong's outside courts up to the stadium and clubhouse, an Australian artist was commissioned, and the framed painting dedicated to the 150th celebration presented to the Brooks. The delighted response included a promise to hang it prominently on a Wimbledon wall.

The story does not end there, however, for a successful precedent has been set, and, besides, Kooyong never needs an excuse to reciprocate hospitality. There are plans for a similar international event in Melbourne to reunite some of the sport's leading clubs.

“We're going to do the same thing, like for like, and invite them all over to Kooyong,” says Carew. “I don't think they'll really enjoy the fact that they'll have to go home and wash their own clothes; we don't have that service! But we've got great courts and great camaraderie and I'm sure we can match them with Australian food and wine.

“So, we'll try and do that just in the lead-up to the Australian Open in a few years' time, which will be wonderful, and obviously it will give a lot more of our members an opportunity to play against these clubs of the world as well. Experiences like this create wonderful opportunities and lasting friendships for all of us in the tennis community”.

“There were a couple of clubs that we didn't have reciprocal relationships with for our members, which we're now working on developing. Wimbledon created an environment for 12 amazing clubs that really should have a relationship with each other. If it's good enough for All England to invite us as their best friends, we should be best friends amongst ourselves.” ■

A bright star

by Linda Pearce

Marc Polmans moved from South Africa to Australia

when he was 10, and into the welcoming arms of the Kooyong Foundation soon afterwards. The promising youngster from East Brighton was given Club membership, and provided with coaching lessons by the well-regarded John McCurdy, to help him on his way.

Almost a decade on, Polmans remains part of the Foundation, and never takes its assistance for granted. He also represents the Club in the Australian Tennis League, retaining a link that is strongly intact.

"Kooyong is an unbelievable facility; there's the gym, they've got grasscourts, hardcourts, whatever you want, and being a private club, you've got all the courts to yourself," says Polmans, now 21.

"I'm really lucky to be a member, and as a scholarship holder they help with a bit of funding, with coaches, things like that. The Foundation have been helping me since I was young, and also some of the other young players they've been helping may have not been the players they are these days without that, so we're pretty thankful."

Clearly, any support is welcome, as Polmans continues a season in which he has already reached a career-high ranking of 163rd (as of September 17) and push towards the top 100. Part of the significance of the latter number is in others, for with direct main draw entry at the four Grand Slams comes the accompanying financial guarantee of - at worst - a healthy first round prizemoney cheque.

Some, like Nick Kyrgios, make the transition to senior level via the Futures and Challenger circuits with almost outrageous speed; for others, there is a longer, harder road. Polmans is determined to follow it, however, and a keen soccer player in his youth has no regrets about the path chosen. A successful junior career was highlighted by the 2015 Australian Open boys' doubles title with Jake Delaney, and his breakthrough open season came in 2016, when he leapt from 841st to No.222.

Yet most significant, in some respects, was when Polmans partnered Andrew Whittington to reach the semi-finals of the 2017 Australian Open. The Victorian pair lost to fellow Kooyong alumni John Peers and his Finnish partner Henri Kontinen, but each earned around \$90,000 - a sizeable enough sum that it continues to fund Polmans' travel and tennis ambitions. At least for now.

"That took a look of pressure off my parents!" he smiles. "I could just use that to pay for all my flights and everything. If I didn't have that \$90,000, I don't know what I would have done."

"It's definitely easier to play when I'm not worrying about my parents having to keep paying for my expenses. If I lose all that prizemoney on playing tennis, then I'm happy with that, because at least I know it was my decision, and it's not



▲ A finals appearance at the ATP Challenger event in Stockton helped Marc to achieve a career high ranking.


▼ Marc continues to represent Kooyong, and enjoyed a special day recently when his brother Greg made his Premier League debut and the two were able to team up together in doubles.



coming out of my parents' bank account. It would have been better if my dad was a rocket scientist, but he's a financial advisor, so that's helpful, as well!"

Polmans' best results have come on hardcourts, and, after a short break at home in July, he played three North American Challenger tournaments before falling at the last hurdle of US Open qualifying.

"All the Aussies have got the same goal: we all want to try and get inside the top 100, so we're all helping each other



“All the Aussies have got the same goal: we all want to try and get inside the top 100, so we’re all helping each other get there...”

get there, and hopefully once we do we can try and push further and try and see how high we can get,” he says. “It’s still my goal, and I’m still striving towards it.”

Another is to play Davis Cup, and the first big step was taken when Polmans was invited by captain Lleyton Hewitt as a hitting partner to the recent play-off loss to Austria - Australia’s last tie under the traditional competition format that will be replaced in 2019.

“I knew it was always going to always be a great thing to be a part of; I didn’t realise how unreal the atmosphere was going to be,” Polmans said. “You never play a match in that atmosphere other than at Davis Cup, and the whole team thing and the way everyone gets behind each other was just awesome.

“Just being around the team was so cool - going to dinner each night with them and training with them each day. So hopefully soon I can play for the team and I’m sure that will be an even better feeling.

“The biggest thing was being around Lleyton, and Tony Roche, as well. Rochey was out there giving me a few pointers on what he thinks I can improve on, and obviously having Lleyton there he’s massively involved with the tennis in Australia, so it’s always great for him to see your game and see how you’re progressing.

“There were a few things that Rochey said to me that I need to constantly keep working on: like my serve, because that’s something that can separate you from 160 where I am, to inside top 100. But Lleyton said he thinks I’ve improved a lot from the start of the year until now, so you’ve just got to keep sticking at it, which is (the philosophy) he lives by, and it was really cool to hear that from him.”

And to share the experience with fellow Kooyong Foundation scholarship holder John Peers, who combined with Hewitt to win the doubles rubber against the hosts in Graz.

“Peersy’s been at Kooyong for a lot longer than me, but we’ve known each other for a while, he’s a great guy and he played some unbelievable doubles with Lleyton,” says Polmans. “I’ve always practised doubles stuff with him when he’s asked me to, and it’s awesome that he also plays with Kooyong, so we could both share the moment.” ■



Kooyong Foundation player, Cooper White has recently returned from Budapest, Hungary where he represented Australia in the Junior Davis Cup finals.

Cooper and teammates Chen Dong (QLD) and Tai Sach (QLD) earned a place in the finals after a strong performance at the qualifying event in Malaysia earlier in the year. Seeded 8, the Australians were placed in a tough group alongside Uruguay, Denmark and second seed, France.

Day one saw the Aussies take on Uruguay, and after Dong and Sach split the singles, Cooper and Dong went in for the deciding doubles. Unfortunately, it wasn’t to be, with the boys going down in straight sets.

Denmark also proved to be a tough task and after splitting the singles once again, Cooper paired up with Sach in the doubles. The Australians got off to a great start, winning the first set 6-0. However, Denmark came back strongly to win the deciding match tiebreak 10-1.

In the final match of the group stage, Australia met France. Cooper was again named in the doubles pairing but the boys were unable to upset the second seeds, falling in two tight sets.

By the time the playoff matches came around, the young Australians had found some top form and were able to knock off both Hong Kong and Morocco to finish 13th overall. Cooper was instrumental in the playoff success, winning both of his singles matches in straight sets to finish his stint in the green and gold on a high.

Since his time representing Australia, Cooper has been named as Tennis Victoria’s Male Junior Athlete of the Year - a fitting reward for his successful year on the junior tour.

The Club wishes to congratulate Cooper on his recent achievements! ■



Mudiwa Munyimani Wins School Sport Australia 12/U National Title

Kooyong Foundation player, Mudiwa Munyimani has recently claimed the School Sport Australia 12/U National title.

Competing in Adelaide at the School Sport Australia National Championships as a member of the Victorian Bruce Cup team, the championships comprised both a team event and an individual event.

Mudiwa's younger brother, Maita, was also a member of the 12/U team- a fantastic effort for a ten year old. The Victorian team finished the week in equal second position with Queensland winning the Championships.

Mudiwa entered the individual event as the top seed and cruised through to the final without dropping a set. In the final, he faced second seed Charlie Camus (ACT). Mudiwa was able to forget a loss to Charlie earlier in the week in the team event to come away with a straight set win, 6-4 6-3.

Congratulations to Mudiwa on another national title! ■

AMOR REPRESENTS AUSTRALIA AT WORLD JUNIOR FINALS

Amor Jasika returned from Prostějov, Czech Republic in August where he represented Australia in the ITF World Junior Finals. The Australian team earned a place in the finals after finishing fourth at the Asia/Oceania qualifying event played in March.

Amor was joined by Alec Braund (QLD) and Edward Winter (SA), as well as team captain Tom George (WA).

In the round robin stage, the 14 and under Aussie team defeated both Switzerland and Canada. Amor showed great fight on day one of the event, winning both his singles and doubles in three tight sets against fifth-seeded Canada.

"I'm a team player. I don't give up and I will always encourage my teammates," said Amor.

Against defending champions Switzerland, Amor continued his winning ways with another three-set singles battle before teaming up with Braund for a solid doubles win. With their strong performances against Canada and

Switzerland, the Aussies earned a spot in the quarterfinal stage of the 16 team competition.

The quarterfinal match proved to be a tough encounter, with the boys falling to eventual champions, USA. Amor was grateful for the opportunity to represent Australia on the world stage.

"It was such a great experience. I was very pleased and excited to make my debut for the team."

Amor is now hoping to get more games under his belt in the coming months.

"I'm just looking to continue working hard with my coach and father Mitch in training, play to the best of my ability in all games and hope that I can get as much international experience as possible by working hard and performing well."

We wish to congratulate Amor and his teammates on their 8th place finish- well done! ■



Preserving the Past
Promoting the Future

◀ Brothers Mudiwa and Maita Munyimani were selected in the Victorian Bruce Cup team.

▼ Mudiwa was a proud winner of the School Sport Australia 12/U Championships.



AUSTRALIAN FED CUP TENNIS FOUNDATION

The Australian Fed Cup Tennis Foundation is delighted to announce that the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club will play host to the best 13 & under players from rural and regional Australia at the 2019 Australian Made Red Energy Foundation Cup from January 13 - 17.

"It's wonderful for tennis players from country areas to have the opportunity to play in a national championship competition representing their state or territory at the spiritual home of the Australian Open. After a big day on court, players will then have the opportunity to be inspired by their heroes with a visit to the Australian Open," said Australian Fed Cup Foundation Executive Director Brigette McGuire.

The Australian Made Red Energy Foundation Cup has been running for almost 20 years with former competitors including WTA players Zoe Hives from Ballarat and Jess Moore from Williams in the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia. ATP player Luke Saville from Cobdogla in South Australia has also played.

"Giving these young players such an inspirational experience would not be possible without the support of Chris Brown and his team at the Club and the Kooyong Foundation. I encourage my fellow Members to come down to Kooyong to watch our great young country tennis players in action in January." ■

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Champions Look to Defend Titles

With the grass courts open for play, excitement is building around the ever-popular Club Championships.

The event makes for an enjoyable few weekends, with plenty of tennis and a great social atmosphere.

The 2019 event will see the inclusion of twilight play on a Friday. Juniors will be scheduled to play from 4.30pm on Fridays while other events will be played from 6pm. This will add to the buzz around the Club during the Championships and will provide a great opportunity to enjoy a drink on the balcony whilst watching some quality tennis.

In the Men's Open Singles, Greg Jones will be looking to defend his maiden title and after gaining some grass court practice at the All England Lawn Tennis Club during the year, will go in as favourite. However, after three consecutive finals appearances, Mitch Burman will be desperate to go one step further this year and could be the one to knock off Jones.

Four-time winner David Bidmeade will again prove hard to beat, while a group of young stars including Greg

Polmans and Stefan Storch will be looking to trouble the older brigade.

Sally Peers will also be aiming to go back to back in the Women's Open Singles but will face tough competition from Premier League teammate Belinda Woolcock should Pro Tour commitments allow her to compete.

Jemma Carbis is a youngster capable of causing an upset, and three-time Champion Kate Antosik can never be discounted. Up and comers Roisin Gilheany, Ruby Rothman and Emily Harvey will also be keen to show that they can compete with the best.

With 46 events, there's something for everyone, so be sure to enter the 2019 Club Championships and be part of a fantastic Club event. ■

If you have any questions about the Club Championships, please contact Sophie Vickers on 9822 3333 or via email: svickers@kooyong.com.au



KLTC Teams Challenging The Best

Tennis Victoria's Premier League competition has been played throughout the months of November with many of the country's top ranked players taking part.

With this year's season being scheduled around the Pro Tour calendar, many of Australia's best players have embraced the opportunity to secure more match play ahead of the summer of tennis. The competition consists of five rounds followed by finals, with the top team heading straight into the grand final and second and third playing off for the remaining spot.

The Club once again fielded both a women's and a men's team with Sally Peers and David Bidmeade captaining the respective sides.

The women welcomed Sara Tomic and Gabriella Da Silva-Fick to the squad, as well as youngster Jemma Carbis. Premier League veterans Peers and Kate Antosik added experience to the team, and Jasmin Starr enjoyed her last season for some time as she heads off to play US College tennis in 2019.

The quality of players this year was extremely high with the MCC Glen Iris Valley team boasting recent Pro Tour winner Zoe Hives as well as Jaimee Fourlis, a player ranked in the world's top 200.

Liston entered the competition as favourites with former Kooyong players Arina Rodionova, Destanee Aiava and Ellen Perez named on their roster.

At the completion of the five rounds Kooyong was placed fourth on the ladder, narrowly missing finals. The team enjoyed wins over Beaumaris and Hume, whilst losing a tight battle with Royal South Yarra which cost them a finals berth.

Kooyong's men's team was seen as the team to beat before the season got underway with stars such as Marc Polmans and Andrew Whittington named in the team. Add to that Club Champion Greg Jones, captain Bidmeade, and experienced



campaigners Daniel Byrnes, Andrew Coelho and Mitch Burman and it looked to be a promising season for "The Classics".

The season didn't start so strongly however, as the men fell to MCC Glen Iris Valley and Bundoora in rounds one and two respectively.

Needing to win the final three matches to qualify for finals, the team were pleased that Jacob Grills was able to join the squad having returned from overseas tournament commitments. Young gun Greg Polmans also provided stability for the team at the bottom of the line-up and came up with some big wins in his first season of the competition.

Kooyong was able to come home strongly to record wins against Royal South Yarra, Glenburn and Beaumaris to finish third on the ladder, and earn a matchup against MCC Glen Iris Valley in the semi-final.

All the best to David Bidmeade and his team as they head into the finals series and look to bring home a title for the Club! ■

Grade 2 Men Win Pennant Flag

Kooyong won its only Pennant flag for 2018 after Thomas Pavlekovich-Smith's Grade 2 team claimed victory against Hurlingham Park.

Finishing the home and away season in third place on the ladder, the young team saved some of their best form for the finals campaign, overcoming two experienced teams from Mountain Gate Tennis Club, as well as a strong Tennis World outfit on their way to the grand final.

Kooyong lost the first rubber of the day with James O'Sullivan going down to a tough opponent, James Hartson, in straight sets.

Pavlekovich-Smith then levelled the overall score with a comprehensive victory at the number one position, beating opposing captain Regan Morehu 6/1 6/3.

Amor Jasika played an entertaining match and did well to get past Nelson Walker in straight sets, coming away with the win 6/4 6/4.

The last singles on court saw Aidan Vaughan in a tight battle with Michael Lancefield. Aidan hung on to get the first set in a tie-breaker and after missing a few chances early in the second, took the match 7/6 7/6 to give Kooyong a 3 rubbers to 1 lead heading into the doubles.

Kooyong started strong in the doubles as Pavlekovich-Smith and Vaughan overcame Morehu and Lancefield in the first set of their encounter.

However, their match was left incomplete as Jasika and O'Sullivan took care of Hartson and Antony Hearnden in straight sets to clinch the overall win for Kooyong and secure the Pennant flag.

In Grade 1, Josh Charlton's team were unable to win back to back flags, falling to eventual winners Centre Court Indoor in a sectional semi-final. Meanwhile, Mitch Burman's team finished in sixth place.

Harrison Young captained the Club's other Grade 2 side with the team just missing finals by finishing in fifth place.

The Club fielded two teams in Grade 3 and although not finishing in the top four, both Jack Bruce-Smith and Tom Patton's teams had some good results throughout the season.

Bryce Mitchelson's Grade 5 team had a strong season only to fall to St. Andrew's Gardiner in a sectional semi-final while Ryan Smyth's team finished seventh in their section.

In Grade 6, Peter May's team performed well all season to finish in fourth place before going down in a sectional semi-final. James Goller's team were able to upset a couple of higher placed teams but ended the season in seventh position.



Premiership captain Thomas Pavlekovich-Smith performed well in the grand final win. Below James O'Sullivan, Thomas Pavlekovich-Smith, Amor Jasika and Aidan Vaughan claimed the Grade 2 Pennant flag.



Grade 8 saw Rob Szwarcberg's team also finish in seventh place despite some pleasing performances.

In the new-look Masters 35+ competition, the Club's two Grade 1 teams had strong seasons. Unfortunately, Steve Gay's team were not at full strength come finals time and fell in the semi-final. Dennis Mihelyi's team were also unable to get past the semi-final.

Peter Hays' Grade 2 team finished in fourth place on the ladder before going down in the semi-final to eventual winner, Mitcham.

Finally, Grade 3 of the Masters 35+ competition saw Gordon Hammet's team record a couple of wins for the season but unfortunately end up in sixth position.

Thank you and well done to all those involved in Pennant teams for the 2018 season, and a special congratulations to the Grade 2 team on their premiership win! ■

Difficult Season For Women's Teams

The Club finished the 2018 Tennis Victoria pennant season in an unfamiliar position, with none of the women's teams celebrating a premiership.

Although there were no flags claimed by the Club's women's teams, there were plenty of highlights throughout the season including many of the younger players showing great results against more experienced opponents.

The allocation of three Grade 1 teams proved to be a challenge for the Club, with all teams missing out on finals.

Kate Antosik's team struggled with illness and injury and were unable to emulate their successful run of past seasons, finishing 6th.

Isabelle Gemmel's team had some great results including a win over top placed Bundoora but narrowly missed finals with a 5th place finish.

Jasmin Starr's team found it to be a difficult season and finished on the bottom of the ladder.

In Grade 2, Kate Walker's team were looking to defend their 2017 flag although with a slightly different looking team, given some members made the jump up to Grade 1. The team had another successful season to finish 3rd on the ladder. They then upset Geelong Lawn in the sectional semi-final before going down to eventual champions Essendon in the grade semi-final.

Emily Harvey captained a young Grade 3 team which showed promise. Although the team finished 6th and missed out on finals, there were many positive signs and we look forward to following this group of young talent as they progress up the grades.

In Grade 4, Eliza Anderson's team also put in some good performances but unfortunately finished 7th.

Our two experienced Grade 5 teams both had impressive seasons to finish in the top 4. Jenny Osborne's team defeated

Isabelle Gemmel's team had some great results including a win over top placed Bundoora...

East Malvern in the sectional semi-final before taking on Box Hill in the grade semi-final. After splitting the doubles, Box Hill proved to be too strong in the singles and ran out winners.

Angela Woodruff's team just snuck into finals but were unable to upset top of the table Royal South Yarra.

Congratulations to all of our pennant teams, and we look forward to seeing everyone for the 2019 season! ■



▲ Jenny Osborne captained her side to a grade semi-final showing.

If you have any questions about Tennis Victoria Pennant, please contact Sophie Vickers on 9822 3333 or via email: svickers@kooyong.com.au

Ready for Finals Action

Kooyong juniors have enjoyed another season of representing the Club, with 18 teams playing in the Bayside competition across Saturday and Sunday mornings.

It has been great to see so many of our Junior Members involved in competition tennis. The children continue to be great representatives of our Club, showing fantastic sportsmanship as well as producing top results on the court. On Saturday mornings we had three teams in the top section, and one team in Section 2.

Richard Jones' Section 1 team performed well all season and will look to continue their good form into finals. Also in Section 1, Anders Randazzo's team will narrowly miss finals, while Phoebe Keilar's team is close behind in sixth place.

In Section 2, Pia Zayontz's team are on the verge of finals, and if a couple of results go their way in the final round they could sneak in for a grand final berth.

On Sunday mornings, the Club had two teams in the top section with Jack Ganly's team currently in third place and ready to tackle finals. Linus Wraith Bell's team will unfortunately miss finals but did enjoy some pleasing results against higher placed teams including a draw with Ganly's team.

Lachlan Main's Section 3 team faced challenging opposition but competed well and will finish in seventh position.

The Club fielded two teams in Section 4. While both sides recorded some good wins throughout the season Lachlan Tingate and Aidan Gall's teams look like finishing sixth and seventh respectively.

Section 5 saw Thomas Langford captain a team of eager players, and with one round remaining they are still mathematically a chance to sneak into finals.

Kooyong's two Section 10 teams enjoyed successful seasons with both Felix Kan and Jack Saville's teams qualifying for finals.

In Section 12, Ava Vollenbroich's team have had a great season and having upset the top side throughout the season could be serious flag contenders, while Ava Synnott's team will finish in eighth position.

Madeleine Lennon's Section 16 team have been competitive all season but haven't quite been able to get the wins, and they look set to finish in eighth place.

Section 20 included two Kooyong teams. Hamish Wright's team are in a three-way battle for fourth spot and will need a strong performance in the final round to secure a finals berth, while Alison Koh's team have performed well but will miss out on finals action.

Harriet Venn's Section 21 team included some youngsters in their first season of competition tennis. The team had some pleasing results throughout the season and will need a big win in the last round to be able to play finals.

Thank you and congratulations to all of our junior players on a fantastic season, and all the best to those playing finals! ■



▼ Joel Saunders was awarded Kooyong's Player of the Day by Cedric Mason.



Royal South Yarra hosted Kooyong for the annual

Cedric Mason Cup in October, a day of round-robin tennis for the teenagers of both clubs.

The day was played in great spirits and all participants are to be commended on their exceptional sportsmanship and level of play.

After an afternoon of great tennis, suspense was building around the overall result for the day. Unfortunately for Kooyong, Royal South Yarra was able to defend the cup and claim the day for 2018 in a very close encounter.

The 2019 event will be hosted by Kooyong, and we hope the home court advantage will see us take the cup!

Thank you to all those who participated in the event and made it an enjoyable day! ■

Midweek Ladies

Midweek ladies competition remained at 12 teams playing in three different associations across three days as of early November.

Firstly, to Tuesday and the winter 2018 season of the Midweek Eastern Metropolitan Region Ladies' Tennis Association (MEMRLTA) concluded in early September. Leanne Scott's Section 1 team ended on top of the ladder, ahead of Glen Waverley on percentage. They comprehensively defeated Eley Park in the semi-final, 4-32 to 0-14. The team went on to beat Glen Waverley in the grand final, 3-37 to 1-23! Congratulations to the whole team on an unprecedented third straight premiership: Leanne Scott, Natalie Harwood, Caroline Venn, Rosemary Everett, Maya Ferguson and special thanks to all those who filled in during the season. The summer 2019 season commenced the week after the grand final (no rest for the wicked) and the team is in second place after six rounds.

Kris Tulloch's Section 1 side finished the winter 2018 season sixth on the ladder. They are currently in eighth place.

Sally Addison's Section 2 team continued to make a good fist of the higher standard for the conclusion of the winter 2018 season. They remained in sixth position. This season, they are eighth on the ladder.

Sandra Daly's Section 3 team remained on top of the ladder. They comprehensively defeated North Balwyn in the semi-final, 4-32 to 0-15. The team went on to beat Koonung Park in the grand final, 4-38 to 2-24! Congratulations to the whole team: Sandra Daly, Trudy Rigoni, Chris Lennie, Lauren Sanford, Jenny Osborne, Jackie Nikolovski, Danielle Lorkin and special thanks to all those who filled in during the season. They were promoted to Section 2 for the summer 2019 season. With the return of Genevieve Daly, the team has made a strong start to the higher section to sit in third place.

Kate Wraith-Bell's Section 4 team made amends for missing out on the summer 2018 season finals by two points. They finished fourth on the ladder but unfortunately were narrowly defeated 3-33 to 3-39 by Vermont South in the semi-final. Jo Rush has taken over the captaincy for this season. The team is flying, on top of the ladder, two wins clear of Doncaster in second.

Mary King's Section 4 team ended last season in eighth position. Angela Martin has taken over the captaincy for this season. Unfortunately, the team is on the bottom of the ladder and will be looking to avoid relegation over the next few months.

Secondly to Wednesday, and a reminder that unlike MEMRLTA, Bayside Regional Tennis Association (BRTA) and Waverley & District Tennis Association (WDTA) have February to June and July to December seasons. Detje Marcel took over the captaincy from Ange Godwin for the July to December 2018 season. Unfortunately, her Section



▲ **Top** Leanne Scott's Section 1 MEMRLTA team claimed a third straight premiership.

▲ **Above** Sandra Daly's team won the Section 3 MEMRLTA flag after a fantastic season.

1 BRTA team is fifth on the ladder after 14 rounds and will miss out on the grand final. At the BRTA AGM in May, the by-laws relating to finals matches for six-team sections removed the preliminary final, meaning the first team shall play the second team in the grand final.

Jenny Osborne's Section 2 team are on track for a repeat of their July to December 2017 success, when they won the Section 2 grand final. They are 21 points clear on top of the ladder.

Tricia Gorman's Section 2 team are unfortunately on the bottom of the ladder.

Thirdly to Thursday, where Rosemary Everett's BRTA Section A/1 team will be hoping to improve on their semi-final defeat at the hands of Beaumaris in the February to June 2018 season. They finished second on the ladder and will play Black Rock in a semi-final at Kooyong.

Kooyong's final Section A/1 team, captained by Kris Tulloch, unfortunately couldn't replicate their semi-final berth last season. They finished in sixth position.

Finally, Libbie Geason's WDTA Section 2 team may be tempting fate. After finishing on the bottom of the ladder last season but avoiding relegation, they are in last position with one round remaining.

We wish our midweek ladies' teams all the best! ■
Due to unforeseen circumstances, midweek ladies' teams can at times be in need of fill-in players. If you are available on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and are of a competitive standard, please contact Tim Baddock at the Club on 9822 3333 or via email: tbaddock@kooyong.com.au



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AROUND THE CLUB

Crèche

by Libby Green, President Crèche Committee

Another great year in 2018

We thank all Crèche families and Kooyong staff for another fantastic year in 2018. We rounded out the year with the Kooyong Crèche Christmas Party in late November, entertaining friends and families of Kooyong Members with Luigi Zucchini - International Man of Magic Comedy, yummy food and a special visit from you know who!

We take this opportunity to seek new Crèche Committee members for 2019. The Crèche requires a volunteer committee of Crèche parents to assist in the running of the Crèche, so we would greatly appreciate your interest. Please talk to Stephen Lucas at the Club or discuss with Marzia Hasan in the Crèche if you are interested.

Crèche registrations for 2019 are now available at the Pro Shop and online. We have limited places for babies so it is definitely worth getting in early if you have a little one 18 months old or younger. Once your paperwork and annual registration of \$75 has been paid, Members are free to bring their children for the minimal attendance fee of \$12 per child, which can cover the whole morning of 3 hours. You will find all booking protocol attached to your registration.

The Crèche will close for the holiday period on Friday December 14th 2018. We hope you have a wonderful festive season and look forward to seeing you at the Crèche in the New Year! ■



KITA Coaching

by Glenn Busby, Director

Without a doubt the most improved aspect of tennis in recent times has been movement efficiency. Players are not necessarily faster, fitter, more agile or more flexible than in the past, but are so much more aware of how efficiency of movement to the ball results in quicker reactive and recovery times. This results in rushing their opponents by giving them less space and time to produce their best tennis, forcing them to play low percentage shots or shots when off balance.

Agassi, Hingis then Hewitt and Williams were at the fore of this era and now all the best players have established these foundations with Federer, Nadal and Djokovic taking it to a completely new level. None of these players beat their opponents by blasting them off the court or by having a huge serve, they literally give their opponent less time to move to play their shots and recover- Djokovic is now the master of it.

So how has movement efficiency been improved? A players' ready position now has a much wider base of support and a much lower centre of gravity; like a Formula One car, this is fundamental. There are minimal small steps with larger rhythm steps being critical to both movement toward the ball and recovery. Placement of the feet while split stepping has become far more efficient with flow steps and movement patterns forward, laterally and defensively enabling greater balance and control of the body before, during and after the contact of the ball. All of these things are pivotal in a player being able to maintain their centre of gravity within their



base of support when making contact with the ball.

At all abilities and ages it can be seen that the player who moves the best is able to take the ball earlier and is able to continually move his/her opponent out of position, until this player is forced to hit shots off balance due to their centre of gravity being out of their base of support, resulting in low percentage shots or errors.

At KITA we have developed a program that will work at your pace; it's not about tennis technique, it's totally based on specificity of movement training for tennis. It's about understanding the movement patterns that the worlds' top tennis players are using, that can be used with YOUR technique to make you faster, quicker and stronger on the court. You can be 5 years old or 85 years old, be a beginner or elite player, this knowledge will help you with your tennis improvement.

If interested, call the coaching office to find out more on 9824 6860 or come to the Pro Shop. ■



KITA ON COURT

We have had players from Mexico, Bangladesh, Monaco and India training at the Academy this year along with many US college players returning to Kooyong to train within our programs. There is a really high level of enthusiasm and motivation around the courts with our squad programs continually going from strength to strength. These squads are all game and strategy based proving a great environment for learning and applying a players' technical and competitive skills whether it be for those just starting to play competition, or an elite player looking to travel the world or play college tennis.

Two of our young players have performed exceptionally well this year reaching the Nationals for their age group, taking place at Melbourne Park during the December Showdown. There are also others who have qualified to play-off for the last 2 places and we wish them well.

We are sincerely looking forward to a fantastic start to 2019 with some exciting new programs that we will be telling you about in the New Year. We hope everyone has a healthy and enjoyable festive season.

Scholarship players do us proud

The Australian Junior Championships were held in Darwin this year. A near new 12 court venue played host to the best young talent the country had to offer over 10 gruelling days.

Kooyong was well represented at the games with 5 players and 2 coaches including Victorian Co-captain Tate Norris and both Victorian State coaches Sam Ejtemai & Darcy St John. An initial round of singles championships was immediately followed by equally gruelling team events so fitness as much as talent would be tested.

Andre Lynn played in his first under 15 nationals after previously having achieved much success in the under 13 category. At the bottom of the age group and being physically outmatched, Andre did not let this stop him from showing off his superior skills with a huge first round win. Andre then came up against the number 1 player in the country who proved a little too strong for the young Kooyong star. Andre demonstrated his skill and poise, playing up an age group and continues to show great potential for future events.

Eishaanii Sukunesan, a top 4 seed in the under 17 girls, was playing in a very competitive age group. Having been fighting with injury all season Eishaanii saved her best for when it counted. With great poise and clinical execution Eishaanii was able to cruise into the quarterfinals. With a top 4 finish in her sights Eishaanii took to the court with her knee heavily taped and delivered a flawless 3-0 win to reach the semi-finals. Eishaanii finished 4th overall in the individual events. Paired up with her sister and Kooyong player Jananii in the team event, the girls helped team Victoria finish second in the under 17 age group. Most importantly, Eishaanii won the deciding match against NSW versus a higher ranked opponent to seal 3rd place overall for team Victoria.

Dylan Molinaro, seeded second in the U17 boys, won the hearts of onlookers with his charming smile and lethal drop shot. Taking his support group through an emotional roller coaster throughout the event, Dylan won back to back 5 game



◀ The Victorian team at the Australian Championships.
▼ Dylan Molinaro claimed his first national title.



With great poise and clinical execution Eishaanii was able to cruise into the quarterfinals.



◀ Kooyong teammates helped Dylan to recover after a long match with a makeshift ice bath.

▲ Kooyong Squash President Mike Wilkinson, pictured with Selena Shaikh.

In April, three KLTC scholarship holders travelled to the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast...

marathons in both the quarterfinals and semi-finals. With facilities preventing a proper recovery the Kooyong squad took the meaning of team support to a whole new level holding a garbage bag filled with ice for Dylan to plunge himself into. It must have worked its magic as Dylan looked calm, cool and collected in the finals taking out the number 1 seed 3-0 to claim his first national championship. Dylan also received the MC Hazell Award for player of the tournament, becoming one of the only players in history to have received the award twice.

Tate Norris, team captain for the Victorian squad, demonstrated leadership and flashes of potential in his tournament. In what was arguably the deepest under 19 draw in recent times, Tate finished 5th overall after losing to a strong Jack Hudson from Tasmania. Now looking onto the next part of his career Tate has his eyes set on making his mark on the professional circuit.

All up we are proud of the efforts of our fantastic group of scholarship players and wish them much success as they now pause and regroup before taking on 2019.

2018 SQUASH SECTION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The last year has been a highly productive and successful period for the Squash Section with the additional resource available from the newly formed committee allowing us to roll out a number of new initiatives.

Our scholarship program was refocused by Sam Ejtemai and the players we support enjoyed great success and grew as a group.

In April, three KLTC scholarship holders travelled to the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, with Sarah Cardwell and Christine Nunn representing Australia and Lynette Vai playing for Papua New Guinea.

Sam, in his role as Victorian Coach, led the Victorian Team to the Australian Junior Squash Championships in Darwin. With KLTC team members Tate Norris (Captain), Dylan Molinaro, Eishaanii Sukunesan, Andre Lynn and Janaanii Sukunesan, the Vic's took a creditable 3rd place in the team's event. A highlight was the individual U17 Boy's Championships being won by Dylan who capped off a year of many achievements in style.

Sam Blake was tireless in his role of Match & Pennant coordinator. Our pennant teams enjoyed much success, with the Autumn season culminating in 12 KLTC teams playing in the grand finals across SSL and Club Circuit. With several of these teams matched against each other, it was a top effort to pick up 6 grand final wins and take home the blue pennants. In the current Spring season, well over half of our teams remain in the race for finals.

Social activities were as strong as ever with Chris Harris taking the reins for planning these and doing so with great enthusiasm. We hosted two international sister clubs, the Hong Kong Football Club and the Singapore Cricket Club, in fun days filled with squash and social activities. New friends were made and the relationships with these great clubs were strengthened. We also held a fundraiser Gala Dinner, for members and guests, which was attended by over 90 people. It was a fantastic evening which raised valuable funds that will go towards ongoing support for our junior scholarship players.

Josephine van Dort brought innovation to her role of developing the Squash Section member base and created regular monthly sessions, open to all Kooyong Members where our scholarship players get on court to provide free coaching and hits. Having tennis players and other KLTC Members use the squash facilities for the first-time points to a great opportunity for the Squash Section to continue to grow its numbers and extend our relationships through the whole club.

Our finances reflect the great year we've had with support from KLTC who contributed towards our planned social activities. As presented by our treasurer, Chris Purbrick, we end the year having increased our cash position and look forward to 2019 where we aim to continue to put this funding to good use.

Mike Wilkinson, KLTC Squash Section President

Squash Gala Evening a huge success

The Squash Section held their Gala Evening event in late October to celebrate the end of a long, competitive year, and to raise valuable funds to support the scholarship player group.

With immense support as always from Mike Daglish, who acted as MC for the evening, the night featured a comedic ventriloquist and a trivia competition and was a huge success with over 90 people partying till late in the night.

Co table captains, John Mathieson and Jenny Silvers led a well-balanced team who knew what they needed to know across tennis, squash, Kooyong, Melbourne, movies and music in order to take out top place in the trivia competition. They won a \$550 voucher to Kooyong hospitality, thanks to the generosity of KLTC. ■

...the night featured a comedic ventriloquist and a trivia competition and was a huge success...



▲ The ventriloquist comedian brought the house down.
◀ A great night was had by all at the Gala Evening.



Billiards & Snooker

by Alistair Macindoe

Kooyong successfully defends A Grade Billiards Title

In July, Kooyong's A Grade team of champions (Steve Mifsud, Dave Cosgriff, David Pitt [captain], and Don Richter) successfully defended the title they won last year. Undefeated in the home and away matches, they then won their semi-final comfortably, before winning the grand final 3 matches to 1. The grand final was a tight match, and at the end the Geelong team almost snatched victory. Don Richter won the Most Match Victories Award, while Steve Mifsud had the Top Break of the Season, a wonderful run of 247. Also noteworthy were breaks of 101 by David Pitt during the season, and a magnificent 204 by Dave Cosgriff in the semi-final. Thanks also to Neil MacLachlan, Simon Fortune and Alistair Macindoe, who played a handful of matches. ■

▲ Steve Mifsud in play at the Victorian Billiards Championships.

► Left-hander Steve Murphy in full control at the top of the table.



OTHER TEAMS

In the Church Billiards competition, our team was unable to reprise last season's success, and failed to make the finals. In the City Circuit competition, Kooyong was runner up to Royal South Yarra Tennis Club. At the end of a very long night of billiards and snooker, RSY won the match in a play-off frame of snooker on the final black. South Yarra's Shane Burke played an extraordinarily brave double to pocket the black in the middle pocket and thus win the Premiership.

Likewise, Kooyong won the annual social match against Sandringham in a play-off frame. With all eight players from both sides taking turns to play, Kooyong's Michael Kirwan sank the final pink ball to claim victory and cap a great night.

Thanks to all the players who played in all these teams during the year- billiards and snooker is going from strength to strength at Kooyong.

Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary

by Jean Burgess, President Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary

Sincere appreciation to Marie Devereux, Jenny Booth, Lyn Wheat, Denise Cosgriff, Joan Layet and Caroline Hill for their help collating and producing these memories. Logo prepared by Simone Cosgriff.

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of the formation of the Kooyong Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary and we are planning a special celebration for the executive of RCH Auxiliaries, KLTC executives and the Kooyong RCH Auxiliary Committee. Our present Committee is very proud of their involvement with the wonderful Royal Children's Hospital and hope that this will continue for decades to come.

The Kooyong Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary had its origin with a group of female members who, at the request of Dr Eric Gregg, agreed to raise funds for the Hospital's Dental Department in 1934. In 1938 another doctor representing a different department asked this hard working band of women for their support and thus the Lawn Tennis Club Auxiliary was formed. In those days and for many years to follow, membership of the Committee was by invitation only and highly sought after. The Committee met regularly in members' homes planning fundraising events. These were often lavish affairs, including Marquee Dinner Dances on the lawn, Fashion Parades and Ladies' Lunches with various guest speakers. During these times, film nights followed by supper at the Balwyn Theatre were very popular as was the Wimbledon Ball. It is important to note that for many years the Committee was responsible for self-catering the Annual Tennis Day that commenced in 1962. The legacy of past committees is an enduring one, their hard work ever present and guiding us in our endeavours today.

Today's KLTC Committee has five fundraising events a year. The year begins with our Annual Tennis Day, originally organised for our country members, which consistently attracts over 300 players. We host two Card Luncheons throughout the year, Christmas in July which is always well patronised, as is our Trivia Night held in October.

Importantly, we acknowledge the passionate and unwavering support of the membership of the KLTC, both past and present. Without this support we would not be able to maintain and continue our financial assistance for the Royal Children's Hospital each year. We have contributed approximately \$300,000 over the past 10 years. Thank you! These monies have funded and subsidised various research programs and requests for equipment from different hospital departments. In the last five years we have purchased three Chemotherapy Treatment Chairs, two Neonatal Radiant Heaters and this year we have been able to commit to the

KOORYONG ROYAL CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL AUXILIARY



funding of a number of Video Endoscopes at a cost of \$20,000 per endoscope. Thus, your attendance at our functions, the purchasing of "The Entertainment Book" and individual donations are absolutely vital and truly appreciated.

Perhaps the best way of emphasising KLTC's contribution to the Hospital over the years is to salute our six Royal Children's Hospital "Living Treasures". This honour is bestowed, by the Executive of the RCH Auxiliaries, on those Auxiliary members who have made an exceptional contribution through their hard work, dedication and passion for the improvement of outcomes for sick children at the Royal Children's Hospital.

Our Living Treasures are: (in alphabetical order) Marie Devereux, Phyllis George, Caroline Hill, Edna Lavelle (dec), Joan Layet, and Carmel Quinn. When reflecting on their years of involvement with the Kooyong RCH Committee, they seem to agree that hard work, a sense of fun and a passionate belief in such a worthwhile cause, combined with the generosity of spirit of our Kooyong membership, has formed the framework for our success over the past 80 years. ■

2018 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we approach the end of the year, it is my pleasure to present a report on the activities of the Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary since my last report in the August edition of Courtside. Following three very successful fund raising events in the first half of the year we have hosted a second Card Luncheon and our final event for the year – our Trivia Night, organized by Denise Cosgriff, assisted by members of the Committee. It was a fun-filled evening held in the Kooyong Room. We were entertained by our trivia host, Scott Kennedy who has continued to keep our annual function moving energetically over the past nine years. With Scott's help we were able to raise \$3,370. Many guests were delighted to take home prizes they had qualified for throughout the evening, including our major raffle prize of a box of Mecca Cosmetics products, a quality hamper and wines. Many thanks to those who donated these items, to all Kooyong members for supporting us with your attendance, and to Chris Goulding and his staff for the very ample platters of delicious food we were served.

2018 has proved to be an excellent year for the Auxiliary, both socially and financially. We have raised \$33,000 to pass on to the wonderful Royal Children's Hospital. These funds are used for the purchase of essential equipment, much of which is used in the Intensive Care Unit to support very sick children. We feel proud to give our time and support and I sincerely thank our enthusiastic Committee and our Patron Lisa Carew.

As I mentioned in our last edition of Courtside, 2018 has been a very special year, being the 80th Anniversary of the formation of our Auxiliary, and by the time this goes to press we will have hosted a celebratory gathering for the RCH Auxiliaries executive and other special guests from our wonderful Club, including President Peter Carew, our CEO Chris Brown, past Presidents of Kooyong, and the RCH Auxiliary Committee without whose assistance we would not have been able to achieve these results. Our sincere thanks to all who have supported us and best wishes to you and your families for Christmas and the New Year. With the passion of our dedicated Committee we look forward to joining with you to support the Royal Children's Hospital in the coming years.

Jean Burgess - President

AROUND THE CLUB

Young Members

by Lucy James

Young Members from Royal South Yarra and Kooyong

were treated to a spook-tacular evening at the Yarrayong Ball, with a touch of Halloween being the order of the night. Members and their guests enjoyed a night of fang-tastic drinks and canapés, with lots of fun had by all.

The annual Day on the Clay took place in late November, with a great afternoon of tennis followed by drinks and canapés on the Sir Norman Brookes Terrace. This was our final event of the year, with plans for exciting new events already in the works for next year.

Our AGM was held in late October, and we are currently advertising for the role of secretary. The Young Members Committee is a great way of getting to know other Members around the Club, and participating in a variety of events that we hold. Please contact our President Tom Ryan through the Young Members Page on the KLTC website if you would like more information.

Remember to follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/KLTCYM) and Instagram (@kooyong_ym) to keep up to date with the latest news and events! ■



AROUND THE CLUB

▼ Rob and Rosemary Nurse came ninth in a field of over 5,000 pairs in the Australia Wide Open Pairs event.



Bridge Club

In October we celebrated major milestone birthdays of two much admired members of our Bridge Club. Shirley Bowman and Joan Layet have been active participants since Bridge began at Kooyong over twenty years ago. Their enthusiasm and dedication to the game and to their fellow club members is an inspiring example to us all.

This year the Bridge Club participated in the three levels of the Australia Wide Pairs events. These competitive events have proved very popular and at the conclusion of each session we all enjoyed a glass of wine and canapes.

At the time of writing, plans are underway for the Kooyong Congress in November and the end of year Christmas functions. ■

▲ Catherine Ng and Eileen Ragg came 11th in the restricted Australia Wide Pairs event.

▼ Shirley Bowman celebrated her birthday with fellow Bridge Club members.



Wine & Food Society

by Ken Wheat, President Wine & Food Society

In October the Wine and Food Society 'went international' having dinner at Ocha Japanese Restaurant in Hawthorn. Forty-one of us were entertained and gourmandised in a very intimate space savouring seven courses of Asian fusion share plates. The wines which accompanied each course were carefully selected to be as near a perfect match as possible. The mood throughout the evening was upbeat.

After canvassing each table to determine which course and/or wine stood out as the night's best, it was impossible to identify only one of either. One guest, David Dunstan, author of several wine history texts, nominated the combination of grilled black cod and miso marinade, matched with the 2015 Domaine Pélaquié Rosé (Rhône Valley), as his favourite from among the outstanding combinations that we all enjoyed. We were delighted to be addressed by the chef, Yasu, who regaled us with an insight into the selection, preparation and presentation of his offerings.

Plans are well underway, at the time of writing, for the Wine and Food Society End of Year Celebration Dinner in December. The Australian culinary icon, Stephanie Alexander AO, will be our special guest. We are helping to launch Stephanie's current title *The Cook's Apprentice*.

Anticipating 2019 Wine and Food Society events, please note that we will hold our Annual General Meeting, including a wine and cheese tasting (with charcuterie), for Wine and Food Society Members only, in early February. In mid March we will conduct our first event of the year in the Racquet Club. ■



◀ Far left Richard & Kate McIntyre pictured with Wine and Food Society President Ken Wheat. Left Wine and Food Society members have enjoyed a number of events throughout 2018.

Health Club

by Michael Kull, Health Club Manager

Whether you're a beginner at the gym or looking to improve your fitness, group fitness classes may be your solution. Joining a class can help build a foundation and structure so that you can get into a healthy lifestyle for years to come. There are many benefits to group fitness, from cardiovascular endurance to improving muscle tone and building friendships with the sports-minded member. Here is an insight into the group fitness classes at Kooyong.



FLEXIBILITY TRAINING

Lauren Skopal ~ Thursday 6 PM

The goal of this class would be to improve range of motion and mobility with a combination of passive, dynamic and P'N'F partner stretching. Areas of focus would be lengthening the hamstring and hip flexor muscle groups and increasing overall mobility of the hip joint combined with glute strengthening exercises for injury prevention. Mobility of the spine through flexion, extension, and rotation is particularly helpful in tennis. Improved articulation of the spine through movement and core work to support the strength of the spine is also a focus. Exercises for shoulder flexibility and shoulder placement are great not only for tennis but also those sitting at the computer all day. The class would be suitable for all levels and would combine simple gymnastics based training for improving flexibility as well as pilates-based flexibility exercises.

Benefits of adding a dedicated Flexibility Session to the weekly training regime include:

- ▶ Improved freedom of movement both on and off the court
- ▶ Improved recovery after sport or gym sessions
- ▶ Releasing unwanted muscle tension
- ▶ Improved muscle balance
- ▶ Injury prevention through both increased range of motion and activation of deep stabilizing muscles
- ▶ Improved posture
- ▶ Improved power through increased pliability of the muscles.



Kooyong Aqua Aerobics

Mary Langkilde ~ Wednesdays & Fridays 9:30 AM

Water aerobics is a variation of group fitness practiced in shoulder-deep water. In a typical class, participants will run through traditional aerobics exercises, calisthenics, and motions that are only feasible while partially submerged. The classes are 45 minutes and are accompanied by music.

Water aerobics provides a cardiovascular burn and a light resistance workout. Cardiovascular exercise is especially important for all age groups because it directly reduces the participants' risk for circulatory problems such as heart disease. Resistance workouts help to maintain strength and stability in the muscles, which can go a long way toward preserving the balance, range of motion and mobility.

"Hope to see you in the pool!"



HIIT

Tom Cameron ~ Monday 9:30 AM

High-Intensity Interval Training focuses on compound exercises at a higher intensity than regular training to increase cardiovascular endurance and general well-being. Each class is aimed around targeting every muscle group in order to have a complete full body workout. It is designed to challenge and push each individual to their limits and as a result, improves their cardiovascular fitness. The proven benefits include building endurance, metabolism, and burning calories. This HIIT class at Kooyong Health Club places a huge focus on the technique of all exercises while learning and having fun in a supported environment. It is open to all age groups and all abilities. "Exercise is definitely more fun when you work out together" ■

Members interested in weight loss, strength and conditioning, injury rehabilitation, general fitness, massage or personal training please contact Health Club Manager Michael Kull on 0419 003 762 / 9038 7145.

Social Committee

by Jenny Silvers, Social Committee President

As President of Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club's Social Committee, I would like to thank all Members who have supported our functions this year. The Social Committee organises both tennis and non-tennis functions to cater for the interests of a wide range of Kooyong Members and their guests. The Social Committee members have worked very hard this year to ensure all Kooyong Members and guests enjoy our events. I would like to thank them for their commitment, dedication, and hard work.

In 2019, we have a number of events planned for your enjoyment. Our non-tennis functions will be a Long Lunch, a Dinner Dance and a Christmas Party. The tennis events will be a Tennis BBQ, the annual Royal South Yarra versus Kooyong "Koots Cup" to be held at Kooyong LTC, a Mixed Doubles Round Robin and the JJ Tennis Day. Our Friday night Happy Hours continue to enjoy increasing popularity with the different social groups of Kooyong LTC participating so we plan to hold more in 2019.

2019 SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS

AND FUNCTIONS

- ▶ **Friday 1st February:** Happy Hour
- ▶ **Friday 8th February:** Social Tennis and BBQ
- ▶ **Sunday 24th March:** Longest Lunch
- ▶ **Friday 26th April:** Happy Hour Sunday
- ▶ **Sunday 5th May:** KLTC v RSYLTC Social Tournament at Kooyong LTC
- ▶ **Sunday 26th May:** Mixed Doubles Round Robin
- ▶ **Friday 26th July:** Happy Hour
- ▶ **Saturday 17th August:** Dinner Dance
- ▶ **Friday 13th September:** Happy Hour
- ▶ **Sunday 20th October:** JJ Tennis Day
- ▶ **Sunday 1st December:** Christmas Function

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing as many Members as possible at our events in 2019.



◀ Members enjoyed a drink after playing in the JJ Tennis Day.
▼ Left Gill and Giles Hunt were winners of the JJ Trophy.
Right Mike Daglish entertained the crowd at the recent Happy Hour.



Since the last issue of Courtside, a Happy Hour was held on Friday August 10th in the Sir Norman Brookes room. It was a good way to unwind and relax over drinks and food after a busy week at work. Mike Daglish played and entertained the crowd, with a couple of people joining him at the microphone singing.

On Sunday October 14th, the JJ Tennis Event was held. This is an annual event which is held in honour of the late John Jeffries who was a great champion of social tennis at Kooyong LTC. The tennis was social but highly competitive with everyone adjourning to the Sir Norman Brookes Room for drinks and canapés. Giles and Gill Hunt, as the winning doubles team, were presented with the JJ Cup and vouchers for the Pro Shop. Congratulations Giles and Gill!

On behalf of the Social Committee I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing as many Members as possible at our events in 2019. ■

Inter Club Gala Dinner

By Patrice Renaudin, Food and Beverage Manager

On October 23, our Executive Chef, Chris Goulding and myself were invited to participate, and represent Kooyong, at the inaugural Inter Club Gala Dinner.

This dinner, hosted at the RACV Club, was the opportunity for the chefs from the city clubs (Royal South Yarra, RACV, University House & Kooyong) to design a special menu and work together on its execution on the night.

Each dish was matched with wines, specially selected, to enhance the ingredients used in its preparation.

Guests from the participating clubs, were treated to an evening of delicious food and enticing wines. These wines took the Members on a journey through France, New Zealand, Austria, Italy, Turkey, Portugal, and other various wine regions of Australia.

The evening was the perfect occasion for the club members, to meet and share their love for good food and great wines. The success of this event was a great reflection of Kooyong's continued association with these other great city clubs. ■

There is lots happening at the Club in the next few months, get involved and come along!

December 2018

25th	Christmas Day Buffet Lunch- Sold Out
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January 2019

8th-10th	Kooyong Classic
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February 2019

1st	Social Committee Happy Hour
4th	Wine and Food Society AGM (WFS Members Only)
8th	Social Committee Social Tennis & BBQ
15, 16, 17 & 22, 23, 24th	KLTC Club Championships

March 2019

2nd & 3rd	KLTC Club Championships (if required)
4th	RCH Ladies Tennis Day
15th	Wine and Food Society Regional Tastes Dinner
24th	Social Committee Longest Lunch

*all dates subject to confirmation





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