



Courtside

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE KOORYONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC. DECEMBER 2019



A New Era
*The AgBioEn Kooyong
Classic 2020 Preview*



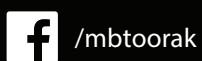
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BARTYMIT

World number one, Ash Barty made an appearance at Kooyong recently to launch limited-edition 'Bartymite' jars to celebrate her continued partnership with Vegemite.

The company have sponsored Barty since 2017 and she will continue to wear the iconic Vegemite patch on her clothing throughout the Australian summer season.

Barty has had an outstanding year on tour, winning her maiden grand slam singles title at the French Open in June, leading Australia to the final of the Fed Cup, and winning the WTA Finals in Shenzhen.

First claiming the world number one ranking in June, Barty became just the fifth Australian to ever reach the top spot, joining Evonne Goolagong Cawley, John Newcombe, Pat Rafter and Lleyton Hewitt in reaching the summit of the sport.

Barty, who has represented Kooyong in past seasons of the Asia-Pacific Tennis League (ATL) and Premier League, is a fantastic role model for all tennis players, and the Club wishes her all the best for the season ahead! ■



6

Kooyong Classic 2020 Preview

A new era begins for the 32-year-old Kooyong Classic.



“We have an exciting twelve months in front of us with the revamped Kooyong Classic...”

Peter Carew, President

ISSUE 53 : DECEMBER 2019

- Bartymite 1
- CEO's Report 3
- President's Report 4
- Kooyong Classic 2020 Preview 6
- Kooyong Foundation 10
- Club News 16
- 2020 Club Championships 18
- Premier League 19
- Pennant : Men 20
- Pennant : Women 21
- Junior Competition 22
- Midweek Ladies' Report 24
- KITA Coaching 25
- New At The Bar 26
- Billiards & Snooker 27
- Squash Report 28
- Bridge Club 30
- Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary 31
- Wine & Food Society 32
- Young Members 33
- Health Club 34
- Social Committee 35
- Diary Dates 36



10

Kooyong Foundation

All the latest achievements from our talented Foundation members.

33

Young Members

Wrapping up an exciting year.

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CEO'S REPORT**As our grass courts return to play for the season**

and we prepare for a return of international tennis in January, we look back upon a year of major change around the Club and prepare for bigger changes in 2020.

The stadium has returned to its past form and will be the ideal setting for the upcoming AgBioEn Kooyong Classic which will feature a star-studded field. Two former number ones Maria Sharapova and Caroline Wozniacki will headline the women's draw along with some great players on the men's side including Milos Raonic, Nick Kyrgios, Grigor Dimitrov, Richard Gasquet, Marin Cilic, Borna Coric and Soonwoo Kwon.

Once again we encourage Members to take up the great ticketing and hospitality opportunities for the three days from 14th January to 16th January 2020.

Our ever active club groups have closed out their year and preparations are in place for a number of activities during 2020 across all areas.

We very much appreciate the efforts of Members who volunteer their time to make sure that these wonderful events are available for Members to enjoy as a further way of enhancing a Kooyong Membership.

As we close 2019, we make preparations for the building work that will take place in 2020. We will keep Members informed of upcoming works and will aim to minimise inconvenience and complete the work in the shortest time.

I thank Members for their support throughout 2019 and wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

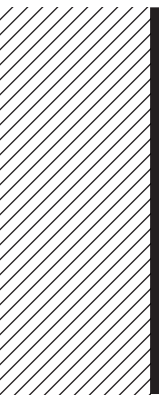


Chris Brown, CEO

Dear Members, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, prosperous New Year and safe travels if you are heading away from home. We have an exciting twelve months in front of us with the revamped Kooyong Classic and of course the implementation of the Master Plan.

We are finishing off the balustrading around the stadium and improving the fire services to prepare the stadium in readiness for the AgBioEn Kooyong Classic. In February we will commence the much-anticipated renovations and extensions that will provide us with enhanced car parking facilities and an extension to the Clubhouse up to the stadium and provide us with a significantly larger gym, two new squash courts, change facilities and increased room for club activities. It is going to create some frustration to members in terms of access and parking, but the Board chose the shorter term inconvenience with one builder over possibly eighteen months of frustration if the project had been done in two stages. I apologise to you in advance for the inconvenience but we will do everything we can to minimize the inconvenience and the core activities of the Club will continue unabated. I am sure when it is all done and finished the inconvenience will become a distant memory as you enjoy the improvements that the Master Plan will deliver.

We are delighted that we have a renewable energy company as naming sponsor for the Kooyong Classic because we believe it represents the values of so many of our members who want to reduce their carbon footprint. AgBioEn are planning sustainable regional projects that produce food and use bio-mass waste to convert into fuel and will be supporting indigenous communities in that process. The new look spectator focused AgBioEn Kooyong Classic commences on 14 January and runs for three days and in my view represents the best tennis experience in the world. We have a



We are delighted that we have a renewable energy company as naming sponsor for the Kooyong Classic because we believe it represents the values of so many of our members who want to reduce their carbon footprint.

smaller intimate stadium and we get to be really close to the action and for a solid five hours on our centre court we get to see some of the best players in the world. Sharapova and Wozniacki are both past world number ones and Australian Open Winners who will be joined by Coco Vandeweghe and Ajla Tomljanovic who will all bring glamour and athleticism to the event. The men's field already boasts Nick Kyrgios, Grigor Dimitrov, Milos Raonic, Marin Cilic, Richard Gasquet, Soonwoo Kwon and Borna Coric.

I would like to thank our tournament director Peter Johnson for his hard work in getting the field together and the staff at Kooyong for their efforts in making the event the "classic" that it is. There are lots of options but a box for eight people on centre court with food and wine for five hours from 1pm to 5pm and a cocktail party on the grass for an hour at the end seems to me to be an idyllic day to spend with family and friends so I encourage you all to get behind one of the unique events in the tennis world.

I want to thank the Board for their hard work over the last twelve months and in particular our Vice President Brian Capp who has taken such an avid interest in the upcoming renovations and extensions and to our Treasurer for his work assuring the Board that the Master Plan makes good economic sense. The current interest rate market is also working in favour of the club and I cannot imagine a better time to borrow and make the improvements we need.

Recent sporting achievements

- The Club won two Tennis Victoria Pennant flags- Grade 2 Men and Grade 1 Masters 35+
- The Club's Women's team are the Premier League Champions, and the Men's team finished runners-up
- Glenn Busby won his 8th ITF Seniors World Championship title
- Cooper White represented Australia at the Junior Davis Cup finals, and was named Tennis Victoria's Male Junior Athlete of the Year
- Amy Stevens was named Tennis Victoria's Female Junior Athlete of the Year
- Marc Polmans reached a career high ranking of 137 in the world

Around the Club

The grass courts are open and looking in excellent shape and the newly surfaced grass courts will be open for play soon. A special thanks to Nick Rennison and his crew for all the hard work because the club grounds and gardens are magnificent.

Merry Christmas.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Carew". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a horizontal line underneath the name.

Peter Carew, President

KOORYONG CLASSIC 2020 PREVIEW

A NEW ERA



With more spectator-friendly scheduling, a later January date, major sponsorship and broadcast partnerships and the intimacy of a smaller retro stadium among a crop of key initiatives have come the green shoots of a new era for the 32-year-old Kooyong Classic.

By Linda Pearce

Former grand slam champions and world No.1s Maria Sharapova and Caroline Wozniacki will be among the global superstars to descend on the spiritual home of Australian tennis for the annual exhibition that has hosted the likes of Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Marin Cilic and Nick Kyrgios in recent years.

With the overhaul of the Australian month of tennis due to take effect in 2020, the inauguration of the three-city \$22 million ATP Cup has come at the expense of enduring fixtures such as the Hopman Cup and Sydney International.

In contrast, the Kooyong Classic has not just survived, it is set to thrive again from January 14-16.

“What makes an event successful is strong foundations, and what you have now is a commitment to a stadium redevelopment, you have a commitment from a naming rights sponsor in AgBioEn and a media rights holder, in MediaPro Asia,” said tournament director Peter Johnston.

“You’ve got 15 hours of broadcast exposure with SBS, and you’ve got a new date later in January that is going to play even better into the future, so with all those elements lined up, you can say with confidence that the event has a solid future. You can really talk about growth and not just maintenance, so that’s why it’s a different phase.”

It was only last year that the January fixture faced an uncertain future, before Kooyong decided to “soldier on alone”, in the words of Kooyong president Peter Carew.

“I can’t imagine terribly many clubs in the world that could do what we’ve done,” he said. “To have an event that really is on the world stage, that has been run so well with so many classic names gracing the courts over the years, I think it’s a remarkable achievement.

“It’s rendered positive income streams to the club over the years, and even though last year it cost the club money to run it, we took that as an investment in the future, and obviously our faith in the event and how it fits

into the psyche of the Australian spectator was accurate, because we’re now finding companies that are coming back to support us during what is a difficult time for anybody finding sponsorship.”

Later dates, determined by a delayed January 20 start to the Australian Open in order to accommodate the January 3-12 ATP Cup, will suit the many returning from Christmas holidays mid-month, or easing back into work. Combining that change with a daily 1pm start time should better accommodate those who like to lunch first and then settle in for an afternoon watching tennis in the sun.

Tickets have been frozen at 2019 prices, with admission remaining free for children 16-and-under with an adult.

The stadium itself will have not so much a new look as an old one revisited - part of stage one of the \$18 million Kooyong redevelopment. The sections added in the 1950s and 60s have been removed, reducing the capacity to a more suitable 5000 often favoured by small events around the tennis world.

“It will be a significantly better atmosphere because people will be closer to one another, and there’s an amazing charm that’s now attached to the stadium as it was in 1934,” Carew said.

“A lot of people around the club have said ‘gee, it looks great’, because what was added to the stadium in the 50s and 60s was quite brutal to the eye. It really took the beauty of the stadium away and I think what we’ve done is bring the beauty of the stadium back.

“And it will be even better in the years to come when our clubhouse facilities reach into the stadium. That will be the icing on the cake, so hopefully that’ll be done for the 2021 event.”

Given that women have been a well-received addition since 2017 to what had been an all-male event for almost three decades, the main wildcard this time is the impact on the mens’ field of the tournament revamp elsewhere around the nation. How much more match-play is needed will be difficult to gauge until the



◀ Soonwoo Kwon has broken into the world's top 100 and will be looking to use Kooyong as preparation for the Australian Open.

▼ Richard Gasquet will return to Kooyong in 2020.



“For me it’s certainly got a very different feel this year, and I’m hoping that’s going to be palpable for the people who attend”

group stage of the ATP Cup moves into the knockout phase a week before Kooyong’s first serve.

Johnston is confident, though, that it will ultimately work to the AgBioEn Kooyong Classic’s advantage, even if, at this stage of the planning, the prospect of filling the gap that’s been created means that certainty is reduced.

“As an exhibition you just have to stay nimble and try and adapt to the times and see where you can create new opportunity, and I think the ATP Cup works well for us,” Johnston said.

“Players are taking a while to assess, because they can get three matches in the round-robin stage, or they could get four, five or six matches overall depending on how their country progresses. So a player is a little nervous about committing to two matches at Kooyong without knowing how many matches he will have already had.

“Having said that, the round-robin stage is finished a week before the AgBioEn Kooyong Classic starts, so we’ll have that week where a lot of guys will be assessing ‘oh, I’m done in ATP Cup and I still need a match or two’. I expect

there’ll be a flow-on from that which will lead to us trying to accommodate as many players as we can into the field.

“So even more so this year we have to allow for players who may only want one match. That’s the only way you’re going to get the best players in the world. If you make it too proscriptive then you’re going to reduce your capacity to attract players. So we’re always going to design the format around getting the best players.”

For 2020, the early signings include the marquee pair Sharapova and Wozniacki, for whom injury and illness respectively have contributed to declining rankings fortunes, but who remain top-shelf drawcards and will be Kooyong débutantes.

Lesser-known, but emerging, and part of the quest to appeal to broader markets is exciting South Korean Soonwoo Kwon, with the 21-year-old set to be unveiled to a Kooyong audience just as Amanda Anisimova was at the start of a breakout 2019.

“I think each year we try and showcase at least one potential future player who’s name hasn’t really hit the

▼ Nick Kyrgios will be back again to light things up at the 2020 AgBioEn Kooyong Classic.



▲ Marin Cilic will be part of a high-quality men's field which also includes Milos Raonic and Grigor Dimitrov.

streets here, but they're already making an impression overseas, so this is the chance to uncover a couple," said Johnston. "The event is not just seen in Australia, so we'll tend to make sure that players are from markets that have some real interest in the event."

Nine kilometres away at Melbourne Park, the Australian Open remains the end game, but the Kooyong Classic a valuable and relaxed sidetrip along Glenferrie Road as players finalise their grand slam preparations in a relaxed environment.

"So they get the heat, they get Melbourne and the Australian Open surface, and that's all for a solid three days beforehand with a grateful crowd," Carew said. "The players love it, and I think the players are going to love it more and more as time goes by."

"For me it's certainly got a very different feel this year, and I'm hoping that's going to be palpable for the people who attend; much more of the garden party style celebration of tennis up close and personal. It's a bit old style, but I don't think old style's lost in this world."

"My message to the members is 'for goodness sake, it's your club, get out there and enjoy one of the greatest opportunities a club member could have'. It is unique, there aren't any other clubs in the world that can offer this to their members." ■

PARTNER IN SYNERGY

Following the demolition work that earlier this year helped to return the historic Kooyong stadium to its boutique 1930s self, many of the Club's members voiced their approval of what happened next.

"It wasn't just 'knock it down and be done with it'; the fact that the concrete and timber and a lot of the metal was being recycled really resonated with the members," said president Peter Carew.

"So, in this climate, the feedback that the Kooyong Classic's new major sponsor is a renewable energy company, one with plans to produce renewable energy and fuels in Victoria, has been nothing less than positive and delighted. It's a company that's doing all the right things."

The company is AgBioEn, a new sustainable farming and renewable energy focused venture that will utilise world-class technology to deliver clean, low emissions energy and liquid fuels sourced from sustainably farmed biomass (agricultural waste).

Its managing director, Charles Hunting, is a long-time Kooyong member, and program director Luby Lozevski is another keen tennis fan excited by the signing of a three-year naming rights deal. When sponsorship opportunities were sought near the end of the two-year development phase, tennis and golf both held appeal, as did the Kooyong exhibition's status as a classic Melbourne event.

While the centre court is now a blue acrylic hardcourt surface rather than the natural green lawn that graced the stadium for so long, the symbolism remains between a sport that contributes to healthy lifestyles and a company committed to protecting and enhancing the environment by turning agricultural biomass into renewable diesel and jet fuel, food-grade CO2 and fertiliser.

"What we'd love to do is to work with Kooyong to make it a green footprint, to make the AgBioEn Kooyong Classic a carbon neutral tournament," Lozevski said. "We've said 'that's our vision, to work with you, to reduce all the carbon emissions from waste and whatever else to achieve that.'"

If achieved, Carew said that would be a proud boast that few other sporting events could match. "For us to be supported by a green company, by a renewable energy company, I think is a great step forward for us," he said.

"It says 'this is what Kooyong stands for. We want our club to be sustainable, just like we want our country to be sustainable.' So I think there's a lot of synergy there for us and I couldn't be more delighted."

A Foundation Champion

The Kooyong Foundation lost one of its most generous and committed benefactors with the death in September of renowned businessman and philanthropist John Laidlaw.

A playing member of Kooyong for 62 years, John was appointed a Patron of the Foundation several years ago. This year the Foundation further honoured him by introducing the John Laidlaw Awards for the outstanding junior players in the Foundation Scholarship program.

At the time of John's death the newspaper columns were lined with tributes from the scores of charities, sporting organisations, hospitals and medical research centres which had benefited from the Laidlaw family's generosity over many years.



“There are many youngsters who have gone on to enjoy success on the national and international circuits thanks to John Laidlaw.”

His memorial service drew a packed crowd to the Collingwood Football Club where John was a Patron and life member as well as the inspiration behind a number of the club's charitable activities.

The Chairman of the Kooyong Foundation, Peter Quinn, the Kooyong CEO Chris Brown and Club President Peter Carew led a large group of Kooyong mourners at the memorial ceremony. Among them were many of his old partners and rivals from the Pal's Group who played hotly contested social tennis three days a week.

Despite his illness John joined his Pal's mates for a lunch at the Club just two weeks before his death.

Peter Quinn expressed the sadness felt by members of the Foundation Board at the loss of such an outstanding Patron.

“We all admired John as an individual and are grateful that he chose the Kooyong Foundation and junior tennis as causes to support,” Peter said.

“John and his family have been great philanthropists, helping a wide range of charities and sporting organisations.

“When John embraced the Foundation, he did so with real enthusiasm, keeping a watchful eye on the progress of the junior players.

“There are many youngsters who have gone on to enjoy success on the national and international circuits thanks to

John Laidlaw.”

For his philanthropy John was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to the community. He was proud to play a role as a champion of the disadvantaged and the vulnerable.

The Laidlaw success story stemmed from John's father, David, who started the famous Yakka work clothing business from the family home in Brunswick in the 1930s. John oversaw its development into a giant enterprise employing around 2,000 people in Australia and New Zealand and turning over \$340 million a year.

He always found time to play tennis and squash at a high level. One of his favourite moments was when he was part of a North Suburban team which won a pennant final against the Alma Club, led by the legendary world champion Geoff Hunt, something that was regarded as next to impossible.

During trips to the country to play in local tennis tournaments John was approached by local business leaders who were keen to develop industries and encouraged him to spread the Yakka empire into the bush. The result was two new plants in Wangaratta providing jobs for 250 workers, another in Wodonga for 230 jobs and one in Shepparton with 180 employees.

John finally retired in 2009, two years after Yakka was taken



Preserving the Past
Promoting the Future

over by Pacific Brands. He farewelled his employees by giving each of them a bonus of \$100 for every year they worked at Yakka. Then he turned his attention to helping others.

One of the favourite causes for Laidlaw support has been the fight against Motor Neurone Disease. It is a battle close to home because John's wife Betty has lived with MND for more than three decades. Despite being confined to a wheelchair for many years the couple tried to spend as much time together as they could. John could often be seen wheeling Betty in and out of social events and he had a ramp organised at Kooyong each year to enable them to join Foundation guests at the Kooyong Classic.

With their joint passion for beating MND, John became close friends with Neale Daniher and donated more than \$2 million to the research work.

The John and Betty Laidlaw Legacy will long outlive its founder as the next generation takes on the challenge of maintaining the family's philanthropy.

Daughter Melissa Duggan says her father encouraged his four children to look out for those who were struggling in life. Melissa, her sister Jenny and two brothers, Mark and David, share duties on the advisory committee for the Laidlaw Legacy.

"Dad was always a hard worker," Melissa explains. "He built Yakka to be a very successful company but when he retired he had time to reflect on how fortunate he'd been and wanted to provide opportunities to others in the community."

The Kooyong Foundation had invited John to present the awards named after him at a Club function early in the New Year when new Scholarship winners are welcomed for the first time. Melissa will now take his place.

Some years before his death, John was asked how he would like to be remembered. His reply was simple and immediate: "As a loving and devoted husband, a good boss and a generous giver to charitable causes." ■



COOPER WHITE REPRESENTS AUSTRALIA AT JUNIOR DAVIS CUP

Kooyong Foundation player Cooper White has recently returned from representing Australia at the Junior Davis Cup finals held in Orlando, Florida. This is the second year that Cooper has been selected to wear the green and gold at this event.

The Australians won through the qualifying event in Thailand earlier in the year to earn their spot in the finals alongside 15 other nations. White was joined by Philip Sekulic (Qld) and Edward Vo (SA), with the team captained by Bernhard Goerlitz.

Seeded six, Australia defeated Egypt in the group stage but fell to Serbia and Paraguay. They went on to defeat both Syria and Canada in the play-off stage to finish the event in 11th place.

Cooper competed at the number one position for Australia and finished the event with four wins and two losses in singles play, and two wins and two losses in doubles.

To top off his great year on court, Cooper was recently named as Tennis Victoria's Male Junior Athlete of the Year for the second consecutive year.

Congratulations Cooper! ■

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Polmans Reaches Career High Ranking

Marc Polmans has rounded off his stellar season by reaching a career high singles ranking of 132 in the world- a fantastic achievement for the 22-year-old.

Polmans' season culminated in winning his second ATP Challenger title of the year in Traralgon in October.

"I'm happy to win the title this week and get back to my career high ranking. I'm looking forward to the Aussie summer and hopefully doing some damage there."

The win in Traralgon took Polmans to 137 in the rankings, equalling his career high.

Following on from Traralgon, Polmans reached the semi-final at the ATP Challenger event in Playford, South Australia, boosting him to a new career high ranking of 132.

Other notable achievements this season included winning the ATP Challenger event in Zhangjiagang, China, making the final of the Kaohsiung Open ATP Challenger in September and recording his first ATP Tour level victory at the ATP 500 Citi Open event in Washington DC in August. Polmans also added two ATP Challenger doubles titles this season in Gatineau, Canada and Ningbo, China.

Polmans will now look to the Australian summer of tennis and aim to play the Australian Open again after making his Grand Slam singles main draw debut there in 2019. Well done Marc! ■



STEVENS AND STORCH CLAIM ITF TITLES

Amy Stevens and Stefan Storch have recently claimed the singles titles at the JB2 ITF in Lautoka, Fiji.

Seeded 7, Stevens won her first round match comfortably before battling through three three-set matches in the next rounds. In the final, Stevens defeated third seed and fellow Aussie Talia Gibson 6/4 6/2 to win her first Junior ITF title.

Storch won through his first four matches with relative ease before facing off against Cihan Akay in the final. Second seeded Storch claimed the title with a 6/4 2/6 6/1 victory.

After claiming the title in Fiji, Stevens went on to Asia where she had pleasing results at a number of tournaments including a finals appearance at a J2 event in Beijing. Stevens was also named as Tennis Victoria's Female Junior Athlete of the Year- a fitting reward for her successful year on the junior tour.

Storch has now gone on to the next stage of his tennis journey, accepting a scholarship at Texas A&M University where he will begin his US college tennis career.

Congratulations Amy and Stefan! ■

Kooyong Youngsters Win State Titles

Foundation players Maita Munyimani and Koharu Nishikawa have enjoyed more success on the junior tour, taking home the 12/U singles titles at the Victorian Junior State Claycourt Championships held at Dendy Park Tennis Club in September.

Going into the event as top seed, Maita faced tough opposition in the first two rounds, narrowly edging his opponents in three sets. The next two rounds proved a little more straightforward with Maita winning both matches in straight sets. In the final Maita took on fourth seed Aedan Nelson, prevailing 6/4 4/6 6/4 in a gruelling battle.

Koharu, seeded three, reached the final without dropping a set. Koharu continued her top form in the final, upsetting second seed Amelia Zylberman 7/5 6/2 to claim the state title.

Maita and Koharu represented Victoria at the Bruce Cup in Perth. The national primary schools event was held on grass at Alexander Park Tennis Club, with the Victorians finishing in third place behind New South Wales and Queensland.

Maita and Koharu have both had a stellar year on the court with Maita currently ranked number two in Australia for his age, while Koharu is the top ranked player in the country for her age. Congratulations to Maita and Koharu on their recent achievements! ■



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Kooyong's Andrew Whittington gives back in the Philippines through Project 6 Foundation

Kooyong Foundation player and 2019 Club Champion, Andrew Whittington has played several ITF events in the Philippines during his career. When he visited at the end of September, however, it wasn't about rankings points, prize money or tournament play...

by Jon Aspin

On this trip, he was there as an ambassador for Project 6 Foundation, the not-for-profit coaching and physical education development charity that's reaching out to some of the most marginalized parts of South East Asia through tennis and sport.

Andrew travelled to the Philippines on September 28th with its founder and director, Daniel Buberis, as well as its International Director of Coach Development, Brett McLennan, for a week-long series of free coach education workshops, coaching camps and tennis clinics in orphanages, schools and local tennis clubs.

All up, the trio travelled close to 1,000 kilometres to regions including Manila, Agoo La Union in the north, Sta Rosa Laguna in the south, and Smokey Mountain, which is just outside the sprawling Manila capital of over 12.8 million people.

Together with Roland Kraut, P6F's Development and Education Coordinator in the Philippines, they managed to

reach over 300 enthusiastic children — some of whom had never picked up a racket before — and delivered coaching development workshops to over 50 young Filipino coaches.

While at first they linked up with one of Kooyong's global reciprocates, the Manila Polo Club in Manila, (where they delivered coaching to some local school children), Andrew said that the next five days were particularly 'eye-opening.' "We're a very lucky country in Australia," he said after digesting the whole experience. "I'd travelled to the Philippines before, but basically I was in hotels, training, playing and then on a flight home.

"Being amongst these people and these communities for that week was something else entirely. Spending that time has changed my perspective and really made me appreciate the way we grow up in Australia; especially the ability to play tennis at a place like Kooyong." The toughest, most emotional part of the trip was the visit to Smokey Mountain, a rubbish-



“We had a walk around and words can’t describe how bad it was. I was tearing up just seeing how these families lived in order to survive.”

dump slum that is home to approximately 400 families, along with a nearby population of around 10,000, all of whom survive by scavenging in the dumps’ raw open trash.

“This is something I’ll never forget,” Andrew said. “We had a walk around the slum and words can’t describe how bad it was. I was tearing up just seeing how these poor families lived in order to survive.” “It hit me like a ton of bricks, but at the same time, because we were carrying tennis rackets and balls with us, the kids were coming up to me smiling, asking about tennis. I was lost for words.” Putting the agonizing sadness of such extreme poverty to one side, Andrew said he was proud of what they did in the Philippines to help seed the work of Project 6 Foundation. Registered as a charity in Australia at the end of 2018, Daniel officially launched the foundation at his own former orphanage in Quezon City (part of the Greater Manila area) in March this year.

Having met Daniel (or ‘Bubes’ as he is known amongst the wider Australian tennis community) when he was at Tennis Australia as an elite strength and conditioning coach, Andrew had little hesitation in saying yes to becoming an ambassador.

Considering ‘Bubes’ a mentor, more than just a coach, Andrew says he’s ‘on board’ with his foundations broad goals of developing the wellbeing of children through sports and physical education, and providing opportunity in places where there might not have been any before. “I know what I was like growing up, and playing all kinds of sports, not just



tennis, really helped me in terms of my social and cognitive development,” said Andrew.

“Now that I’ve seen what I’ve seen over there, it’s important to me now, especially knowing how I’ve been brought up over here, and the advantages we have in Australia, that I’m able to pay it forward in some small way.” ■



MARTIN SIDORIAK | ITF

Busby Makes It An 8th World Singles Win In Portugal

Glenn Busby has recently returned from two weeks of tournament play in Portugal which culminated in another World title win.

During the first week of play, 27 countries contested the World Team's event where Australia lost to the USA in the semi-final. The Aussies were 1-1 after the singles but unfortunately lost the deciding doubles 6-4 in the third set. They then went on to beat France to claim the bronze medal.

In the second week, the ITF Seniors World Singles event consisted of a 64-player qualifying draw and a 128-player main draw. Glenn won through his first three rounds with comfortable straight set victories. He then played a previous winner of the world titles, Dan Waldman (USA), in the fourth round winning 7-6 6-2 before receiving a walkover in the quarterfinal. In the semi-final, Glenn played one of his best ever senior's matches to knock off last year's winner Mark Vines (USA) 6-1 6-0. In the final Glenn defeated former Spanish Davis Cup player Eduard Osta Valenti 7-5 6-2 to claim an incredible eighth world championship title.

The Club wishes to congratulate Glenn on this outstanding result! ■



Members' Package

Kooyong's versatile function rooms, unique atmosphere and personalised service will create the perfect setting for your next event.



2 Course Lunch or Dinner\$55.00 per person

* Beverage packages available upon request

AT KOOYONG... events to remember

Members' Package includes:

- A private space with a private terrace to enjoy a gathering of family and friends
- Basic audio visual use for speeches and slides shows
- One drink on arrival
- Three main course dishes for your guests to select on the day
- Two dessert dishes for your guests to select on the day





Making History

With the record entries in 2019, the Club Championships continues to grow and is an exciting opportunity for Members to add to the Kooyong history books.

The event is a great chance for members of all categories to enjoy a game on the grass, meet other members and enjoy the great social atmosphere around the Club over the two weekends.

The addition of Friday twilight play proved to be a popular feature in 2019 and will continue into 2020, setting the perfect scene for a drink on the balcony while overlooking play on the famous grass courts.

2020 will see the introduction of two new events; Men's 130+ Doubles and Ladies 60+ Doubles, and we look forward to crowning the inaugural Champions of these events.

Familiar faces will go in as the favourites for the men's singles title with 2019 Champion Andrew Whittington and finalist Greg Jones hot contenders once again.

With twenty Club titles to his name David Bidmeade can never be counted out while Mitch Burman is still looking for his first title after three finals appearances and will be doing all he can to get his name on the iconic honour board.

Josh Charlton, Stefan Storch and Cooper White

will unfortunately miss the event due to commitments overseas but are very likely future champions of the Club.

In the women's event, Belinda Woolcock will be looking to defend her singles title, and should Pro Tour commitments allow her to compete will prove very difficult to beat.

Premier League players Gabriella Da Silva-Fick and Amy Stevens could make their Club Championship debuts and are both capable of taking the title, while two-time Champion Sally Peers is always a threat.

Grace Fountain, Ruby Rothman and Roisin Gilheany have all improved tremendously over the past twelve months and could head deep into the draw if they can trouble the older brigade.

With an event for all ages and standards, the Club Championships is a not to be missed event! ■

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



Women Premier League Champions

Kooyong's teams had outstanding seasons in Tennis Victoria's Premier League competition with the women's team winning the title, and the men's team finishing runners-up.

The state's highest level of inter club competition consisted of five rounds followed by finals with many of the best Victorian, interstate and international players competing for their clubs. Following the compact home and away season, the top placed team headed straight in the grand final with the second and third placed teams playing off for the remaining spot.

Captained by Sally Peers, the women's team included Club Champion Belinda Woolcock at the top of the line-up, as well as Gabby Da Silva-Fick, Sophie Vickers, Jemma Carbis and Kate Antosik.

Amy Stevens, Zoe Llewelyn and Eloise Swarbrick also joined the squad and played their first Premier League matches for the Club after performing well in the Pennant season.

The 2019 title was anyone's for the taking with last year's champions Liston not entering a team this season. MCC Glen Iris Valley looked to be the team to beat prior to the season commencing with two of Australia's top 20 players, Zoe Hives and Jaimee Fourlis named on their roster however other commitments meant they didn't step on court.

At the completion of the five-round season, Kooyong was placed second on the ladder, earning themselves a spot in the semi-final. The women defeated Royal South Yarra, MCC Glen Iris Valley and Hume, with their lone loss at the hands of top placed Beaumaris.

The semi-final saw The Classics take on Royal South Yarra and thanks to two doubles wins to open the day and a solid singles win from Stevens, Kooyong came out on top.

With an undefeated Beaumaris team waiting in the grand final, the women knew it was going to be tough. The doubles matches were split one apiece to open the day, before Woolcock and Stevens raced through their matches in straight sets to put the team in good stead with a three rubbers to one lead. Knowing just one set was needed to

secure victory, Captain Peers got the job done, winning the first set of her match 6-2 to clinch the Championship title for the team!

Kooyong's men's team had much the same look as last season including the in-form Marc Polmans and Jacob Grills, Club Champion Andrew Whittington, the experienced David Bidmeade, Greg Jones, and Mitch Burman as well as Greg Polmans in his second year.

Following an unfortunate washout in round one, the men got the season off to a strong start with wins over Bundoora, Beaumaris and Heatherdale. Round five was a blockbuster home match with Kooyong taking on MCC Glen Iris Valley in a battle for top spot. Kooyong unfortunately went down in a tight contest but still booked themselves a spot in the semi-final against Royal South Yarra.

The Classics took the early lead in the semi-final by winning both doubles matches, and a straight sets singles win from Whittington was enough for the team to secure a grand final berth against back to back winners MCC Glen Iris Valley.

The grand final was an extremely close and high-quality contest, coming down to the final match on court. The day didn't get off to the ideal start for the men, with both doubles matches going to MCC in heartbreaking super tiebreakers. Marc Polmans then avenged a loss against Alex Bolt from earlier in the season, as did Whittington against Aaron Addison to level the overall score and get The Classics back on track. Grills gave it his all but unfortunately fell to Blake Mott, leaving it up to Jones to get the team over the line. Unfortunately tough competitor and former Davis Cup player Peter Luczak proved too strong for Jones, going up a set and a break to secure MCC's third title in a row and deny Kooyong of a Premier League sweep.

Congratulations to both teams on these great results for the Club! ■

Two Flags Claimed

The Club claimed two flags this Tennis Victoria Pennant season with Grade 2 and Masters 35+ Grade 1 teams ending the season as Premiers.

John Amato's Grade 2 team dominated all season to finish in top spot of their section. They faced an undefeated Eaglemont outfit in the final, and in unusual circumstances were forced to complete the match over two weekends due to poor weather and light. Thanks to wins from David Qariaqus, Wihan Van Der Merwe and Viktor Sirucek, the team led three rubbers to one after singles play. With the first doubles matches then split one apiece, it all came down to the reverse doubles. Ben Grumley and Hugh Callaghan unfortunately went down in straight sets in their match, leaving it up to Captain Amato and James O'Sullivan to clinch the win. The pair did just that, winning the final doubles match in straight sets and claiming the premiership flag after an exciting couple of weeks.

Stephen Gay's Masters 35+ team returned to winning ways this season, claiming their seventh Premiership in ten years. Facing off against Alex Krohn's top placed team in an all-Kooyong final, the match came right down to the wire with rubbers split two apiece at the end of play. Straight set victories to Gay and Cameron Judd, and Chris Costas and Judd got the team over the line by just one set, as the team collected yet another Premiership flag.

In the top grade of the competition, an unfortunate washout in the final round cost Greg Polmans' team a potential finals berth while Mitch Burman's team also missed finals and finished in sixth position.

Max Potter's Grade 2 team had some pleasing results but unfortunately ended in sixth place.

In Grade 3, Jack Bruce-Smith's team had a solid season before falling to top placed Royal Park in a sectional semi-final while Alexander Taylor's team finished in sixth place of their section.

Dylan Vaughan's Grade 4 team saw finals action thanks to a third-place finish but were knocked off by Grace Park in a sectional semi-final.

In Grade 6 Peter May's team dropped a close sectional semi-final to a tough Caulfield Park team, while in Grade 8 Rob Szwarcberg's team ended the home and away season in seventh position.

Dennis Mihelyi's Masters 35+ Grade 1 team narrowly missed finals finishing in fifth place, and Kevin Green's Masters 35+ Grade 2 team finished in sixth spot despite upsetting Premiers Albert Park throughout the season.

Well done to all those who took part in Pennant this season- we look forward to seeing you back on court in 2020! ■



▲ Stephen Gay's team won the Masters 35+ Grade 1 flag.

▼ John Amato's team won back to back Grade 2 Premierships for the Club.





PENNANT : WOMEN

Grade 2 Women Fall Short

The Club's women's teams were unable to bring home a premiership flag this Tennis Victoria Pennant season with a runner-up finish to a young Grade 2 team being the standout performance.

In the top grade of the competition, Zoe Llewellyn's team had a great home and away season to finish on top of the ladder of their section. However, their season came to an end earlier than planned, going down in the sectional semi-final to a strong MCC Glen Iris Valley outfit which included former world number one doubles player, Cara Black.

Laura Langmead's Grade 1 team also saw finals action after finishing in fourth place but were stopped in the sectional semi-final by Royal South Yarra while the Club's other Grade 1 team, captained by Jessie Burbridge, finished in sixth position.

In Grade 2, both Elise Morrison and Natalie Baic's teams had successful seasons, finishing in second place on the ladder of their respective sections. Both teams won through their sectional semi-finals to setup an all-Kooyong grade semi-final. Elise's young team were too good for Natalie's more experienced side, booking themselves a spot in the grand final with a 4 rubbers to 2 victory. They then faced off against Royal South Yarra in the grand final and got off to a flying start, winning all four singles matches. However, it wasn't enough as the Royal South Yarra team claimed all four doubles matches to seal the premiership win by one set.

The Club's Grade 3 team, captained by Sienna Opray, were challenged by tough opponents each week and finished in seventh position.

Jenny Osborne's Grade 5 team finished the season in third place on the ladder but were unable to get past the sectional semi-final against Laverton Park.

Also in Grade 5, Angela Woodruff's team will be looking to return to finals action next year after missing out this season, finishing in seventh place.

Congratulations to all of our pennant teams, and we look forward to seeing everyone for the 2020 season! ■

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

▲ Elise Morrison's team fell to Royal South Yarra in the Grade 2 Pennant final.

▼ Kooyong's two Grade 2 teams faced off in the semi-final.



JUNIOR COMPETITION

► Honor Jennings.
▼ Charlie Williams.



Representing With Pride

A fantastic number of juniors have again represented the Club in the Bayside Regional Tennis Association's competitions over the Spring season.

The juniors continue to represent the Club with pride, and it's great to see their progression through the sections.

On Saturday mornings, the Club had three teams across the two sections with all three teams finishing in the top four and securing a finals spot. Thomas Keller's Section 1 team have ended the home and away season in third position while in Section 2, Charlie Williams' team have ended up in top spot and will face off against India McKinnon's team in an all-Kooyong semi-final.

Fourteen teams competed for the Club on Sunday mornings this season, with eight teams qualifying for finals action.

In the top section, Aaron Koh's team finished in fourth place and will face a strong Aspendale team in the semi-final.

Sam Ferguson's Section 3 team have impressed all season to finish in second position and will look to continue their top form into finals.

The Club's two Section 4 teams, captained by Lachlan Main and Jack Saville, have both finished in the top four and will be aiming for an all-Kooyong final while Emmerson Priest's Section 5 team are also into finals after finishing in second position.

In Section 7, Joel Saunders' team are looking like serious flag contenders and sit in second spot while Richard Jones' team will unfortunately miss finals action this season.

▼ Thomas Keller.
Bottom Joshua Icasiano.



◀ Henry Stevens.

▼ Charles Gray was awarded Kooyong's Player of the Day at the Cedric Mason Cup.



CEDRIC MASON CUP

The Cedric Mason Cup was held at Kooyong in October with record numbers participating in the annual teenage round-robin event.

The event is a challenge between Kooyong and Royal South Yarra and involves a great afternoon of tennis as well as the chance to socialise with friends from both Clubs.

Royal South Yarra was too strong this year, claiming the win 198-126 games.

The event will be hosted by Royal South Yarra in 2020, and we look forward to challenging them for the cup and hopefully bringing it home to Kooyong!

Thank you to all those who participated and helped to make the event a success! ■

Mia Lennon's Section 11 team have had a great season to finish in second spot as have Joe Zayontz's team who will also see finals action thanks to a fourth-place finish.

In Section 12, Harry Cohen's team ended in sixth place despite pleasing results throughout the season.

Lucy Keilar and Jemima Wraith-Bell's Section 15 teams both improved as the season went along but unfortunately finished in seventh and eights positions respectively.

Despite a big win in the final round, Sophie Moore's Section 18 team missed finals action this season, as did Zoe Kinsella's Section 19 team who finished in seventh place.

Thank you and well done to all of our junior players on a great season, and best of luck to those playing finals! ■

Midweek Ladies

Midweek ladies' competition consisted of 12 teams playing in three different associations across two days as of early November.

In the winter season of the Midweek Eastern Metropolitan Region Ladies' Tennis Association (MEMRLTA) Leanne Scott's Section 1 team finished in third place. The team came back from three sets down to narrowly defeat Glen Waverley 3-39 to 3-35 in an epic semi-final. They went on to defeat Donvale, who were dominant throughout the home and away season, in the grand final, 3-39 to 1-32, sealing a ridiculous fifth premiership in a row!!!! Congratulations to the whole team: Leanne Scott, Natalie Harwood, Caroline Venn, Rosemary Everett, Maya Ferguson, Julie Fidler, Jill Meggs and special thanks to all those who filled in during the season. The summer 2020 season commenced in September. They are second on the ladder after five rounds.

Kris Tulloch's Section 1 side ended the winter season in fourth place, sealing a finals berth. Unfortunately, they lost a hard-fought semi-final against Donvale, 2-34 to 4-41. This season, the team are on the bottom of the ladder.

Sally Addison's Section 2 team concluded the winter season in eighth place. They are currently in sixth position, one point behind fourth.

Lauren Sanford's Section 2 team remained in sixth position to conclude the winter season. This season, however, they have started all guns blazing, sitting undefeated on top of the ladder and looking to return to their premiership glory of the summer 2019 season.

Jo Rush's Section 3 team avoided finishing the winter season on the bottom of the ladder, ending up in eighth position. It was a tough season for them due to extenuating circumstances with injuries and personal reasons. They avoided relegation for the summer 2020 season. The team has proven their belief that the competition in Section 3 is a much better level for them, as they are in fifth position and are only behind third place on percentage.

Angela Martin's Section 5 team concluded the winter season in third place. They hit form at the right time, defeating St Cecilia in the semi-final, 4-43 to 2-33. The team went on to defeat Legend Park, who were on top of the ladder, in the grand final, 4-44 to 2-31, sealing promotion straight back to Section 4! Congratulations to the whole team: Angela Martin, Nalda Mannix, Moira Bainbridge, Llyanne Guy, Annette Kirne, Mary King and special thanks to all those who filled in during the season. They will once again be hoping to avoid relegation, sitting sixth on the ladder.

On Thursday, Rosemary Everett's Bayside Regional Tennis Association (BRTA) Section A/1 team have put the blip of last season's sixth place behind them and look on track to at least replicate their semi-final appearances of both 2018 seasons. This season, they are third on the ladder after 13 rounds.



Kooyong's other Section A/1 team, captained by Kris Tulloch, are in fifth position. With the top four teams qualifying for the semi-finals, it all comes down to a blockbuster final round match against Eaglemont. They are half a point behind fourth and two points behind third.

Jenny Osborne's Section 2 team are on course for back to back premierships, sitting on top of the ladder.

Kooyong's other Section 2 team, captained by Christine Shearer, seem unlikely to replicate their grand final appearance of last season. They are in third position but would need to finish in the top two to automatically qualify for the grand final. The team is 16 points behind second with two rounds remaining.

Finally, to the Waverley & District Tennis Association (WDT), where Heather Anderson's Section 2 team have been competitive after sealing promotion last season. They are sixth on the ladder after 13 rounds.

Jacqui Morris' Section 3 team have certainly improved in their second attempt in the competition. After finishing the February to June 2019 season on the bottom of the ladder, this season they are in third place. The team will be hoping to seal a semi-final berth in the final round of the season, where just 11 points separates fifth from first.

We wish our midweek ladies' teams all the best! ■

If you are interested in playing Midweek Ladies' competition, please contact Tim Baddock at the Club on 9822 3333 or via email: tbaddock@kooyong.com.au

Moving Towards A Faster Future

by Claudia Forsyth, KITA Senior Performance Tennis Coach & Exercise and Sport Scientist

Movement is such a vital component to competing in tennis. As per the last Courtside issue, serve and return are the most important aspects of the game today. So why not give yourself the best chance at winning the point in the first 1-4 shots?

Traditionally there has always been a major focus on technique and the way in which the ball is hit. However, as speed and intensity of the game develops, how a player arrives to the ball and transitions from one shot to the next is vital in order to execute shorter points. Technique and how the shot looks isn't applicable if the player cannot get to the ball with efficient movement.

Top players have great technique but world class players such as Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal have movement efficiency and speed that gives them the opportunity to place shots where others players cannot. You also don't have to look far to see just how our own Ash Barty has improved this part of her game in the last 2 years and become elite in this area.

The way in which you move to a tennis ball during a point can determine the quality of each and every shot. More efficient movement patterns on court can result in better balance, a greater transfer of power from lower body to upper body, greater accuracy of shot placement and quicker recovery times between shots, resulting in players having a much greater chance of executing quality points and winning within those crucial first four shots.

During the remainder of the term KITA will be incorporating movement skill training into the beginning of each squad. This movement program will focus on improving leg power, foot speed, balance, proprioception (perception or awareness of the position and movement of the body) and reactivity. The aim of this initiative is to improve movement efficiency resulting in more well-rounded elite players from our academy. This invaluable type of training is available for all members no matter age or ability. ■

Claudia's availability can be found by contacting the Pro Shop on 98246860.



QUICK STATS

Many members have enjoyed seeing match

statistics in past Courtsides and I will provide you with one more. In the final of the Paris Masters, Djokovic beat Shapovalov in a 104 point length match.

- ▶ 84 of these points were won within 0-4 shots = 84% of points
- ▶ 16 points were won from 5-8 hit rally points = 14% of points
- ▶ 9 + shot rallies were won 4 times = 5% of points

The game is dominated by the serve, return and first hit and this is why movement and understanding how to move more efficiently on court is critical to your performance- no matter what age or ability.

Glenn Busby, Director Kooyong International Tennis Academy

ABOUT CLAUDIA FORSYTH

Claudia has completed a Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science majoring in Applied Sport Science and Exercise

Physiology at Deakin University. She has researched movement patterns and biomechanics working with athletes across multiple sporting disciplines and also completed an internship at Core Advantage High Performance. Claudia is currently a Senior Performance Coach at KITA and also works with professional players such as ITF junior Nishant Dabas (Top 5 ITF junior in India) and WTA player Belinda Woolcock (WTA Top 300 & Number 1 ranked USA Collegiate Athlete/Honda Award winner).



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AROUND THE CLUB



New to the bar

As beer consumption in Australia, has been decreasing in recent years; sales of craft beers and innovative 'brews' are on the rise.

In addition to the members' favourite beers, we are now stocking alternative beverages to suit the discerning palates.

Our selection of beers now includes two mid-strength beers with one available on tap. Members wanting to enjoy a beer without the effects of alcohol, can also enjoy our alcohol-free beer and for the ones with dietary needs, a gluten-free premium lager is now available.

We have also boosted our selection of locally made spirits, featuring a premium Victorian gin, Tasmanian vodka, Melbourne-made whisky, delicious Australian botanical spirit and of course, our trusty Queensland dark rum. ■



Billiards & Snooker

by Alistair Macindoe

Kooyong Wins City Clubs Billiards and Snooker Competition

Kooyong has maintained its stellar record in this competition, winning this year by defeating RACV 5-3 in the final. The team consisted of Nick Kotros, Simon Fortune (c), Don Richter, Steve Murphy, Greg Baker and Tony Michaels. This is also a handicap competition.

World Open and World Billiards Championships

These two championships were held at the Yarraville and RACV Clubs in Melbourne in October, and a full report will appear in the next edition of Courtside. Six of Kooyong's players participated, and they had a fair measure of success.

A-Graders Complete the Hat-Trick

Played in the first half of the year, Kooyong has won the A Victorian Billiards premiership for the third time in a row. In the final Kooyong had a 2-2 victory on points, defeating Cheltenham by a mere 30 points. The team of champions included Steve Mifsud, Dave Cosgriff, Don Richter and captain David Pitt. The highlight of the final was the match between Steve (breaks of 139, 58 and 54) and the formidable Rod Nelson (breaks of 123 and 65). Steve won an amazingly low scoring match, given all the breaks, 322 to 265. ■



▲ Nicholas Kotros, Simon Fortune, Don Richter, Steve Murphy, Greg Baker and Tony Michaels won the City Club Billiards and Snooker Competition.

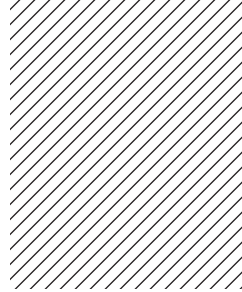
▼ Ian Koochew, Greg Baker, Nicholas Kotros and Martin James won the Church Billiards Competition.

◀ Steve Mifsud, Dave Cosgriff, Don Richter and captain David Pitt won the A Victorian Billiards premiership for the third time in a row.



GENTLEMEN OF KOOYONG WIN THE CHURCH BILLIARDS

The Thursday night team playing in the Church Billiards Competition pulled off a nail-biting victory against Cheltenham in July. Looking very much as if they had time travelled from the glory days of the 1890's, the team of Martin James (c), Nicholas Kotros, Ian Koochew and Greg Baker won by a minuscule four points, after the matches had finished 2-all. This is a handicap competition; the handicapper is to be congratulated too.



David Temple Plays 1,000 Matches for Kooyong

This season of pennant squash marked a rare and impressive feat. David Temple played his 1,000th game for the club and did so in style in a Kooyong v Kooyong match-up followed by dinner in the bar attended by family, friends and some special opponents from over the years.

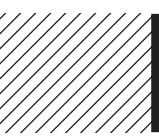
David joined Kooyong as a 15 year old in 1961. His father was a keen and good tennis player and was a Council member of LTAV in the 1950s. Dave played a lot of tennis as a teenager before concentrating on cricket and was introduced to squash by a family friend. He eventually broke into Kooyong pennant in 1973 in B2 grade in the old Metropolitan Region, the forerunner to Club Circuit.

David has completed 92 seasons of Pennant squash for Kooyong based on a continuing love for the game, relatively few games missed through injury or illness and the enjoyment/companionship of a raft of team members many of whom he counts as close friends.

take it and on the assumption that his interest doesn't wane for whatever reason— we can't really see that happening.

Tichy said if David comes close to his club games record (still 40 or so to go) he would come around and do what Tonya Harding did to Nancy Kerrigan. If you hear a commotion down near the courts in the coming seasons, don't be alarmed, we think David may still have the legs to out run him.

Finally, along with David, we look forward to welcoming our next in line, Peter Mayberry, to the 1,000 Club before long. He started at a similar time to David and is still going strong. ■



David has completed 92 seasons of Pennant squash for Kooyong...

In the early years, Barry Peters, Brian McDonald, Neville Bertalli and Bill Beischer taught him the craft and strategy of squash – he says that at that time he had speed and stamina which is now a distant memory—and they all enjoyed great success at top pennant levels.

David played for 25 years with Phil Simon and Martin Walter as teammates and practice partners with the highlights including back to back A1 premierships/pennants in the mid-1980s and a win in the Club Squash Championship in 1981. (Tichy McDonald has never forgiven him!).

When asked, David notes that Kooyong has been a very important and enjoyable part of his life. During the grass season, he plays tennis as a fill-in when required in Brian Capp's Tuesday group and it has been quoted that they rarely start Happy Hour without Max Strachan and David in attendance. Dave still graces the snooker tables on occasion, tried the gym unsuccessfully for a few months – he's keen to point out that that's a comment on his fortitude rather than the gym facilities—and would only venture to the pool less were it heated to bath temperature and with a strong lifeguard on duty!

David continues to make the most of his membership at our great Club and clearly has no current plans to slow down, so we expect that to continue for many years to come. He's committed to keep playing squash as long as the body can





Kooyong players light up the 2019 Australian Junior Championships

Kooyong was well represented at the recent 2019 Australian Junior Championships held in Tasmania with six Kooyong scholarship players on the team for the individual events.

Andre Lynn (U15 boys) managed to take home the ultimate prize, his first-ever national title. In what was a display of tactics and skills, Andre battled his way through the draw without dropping a single game. Despite being behind at certain points in matches, Andre displayed his mental toughness and knuckled down when the going got tough.

The final match was played against a very skilled opponent from NSW. Andre played a perfect match and dismantled his opponent 3-0 to claim the title.

Kooyong sisters Janaani & Eishaani Sukunesan put up strong performances, only dropping one match each for the event. Janaani placed 5th in the under 15 girl's category.

Christopher Pon (U17 boys) played his first-ever AJC representing Kooyong. After losing in the first round in a hard-fought match against the eventual winner, Chris battled through the rest of the event producing some fantastic results and demonstrating his potential to be a top national player.

Last year's U17 boys champion, Dylan Molinaro moved into a tough U19 draw this year. Dylan powered his way into the semi-finals where he, unfortunately, lost in a 4 game battle. Dylan, however, bounced back to win the following morning 12-10 in the 5th set to take home the bronze medal.

Immediately following the individual's event, the Australian Team Championships were run. The final Victorian team also featured a strong core of Kooyong players with 5 of our scholarship juniors making the team including Victorian Junior team captain Alex Baines as well as team coaches being Sam Ejtemai and Darcy St John, both former scholarship holders. The Victorian team produced our state's best result in over 20



▲ Top Kooyong had 5 players in the Victorian Junior team. Above Dylan Molinaro claimed the bronze medal at the Australian Junior Championships.

▲ Top Andre Lynn with coaches Sam Ejtemai and Darcy St John. Above Andre Lynn won his first national title.

years by placing second overall, losing to Queensland by the narrowest of margins. It all came down to the final match-up of the final day, when Victoria faced off against the powerhouse Queensland. Over 16 matches, Queensland claimed victory by a mere 2 point countback.

Two of our scholarship players, Andre and Dylan now head off to one of the premier world junior events in the British Open and we look forward to updating you on their performances. ■



Bridge Club

The Bridge Club congratulates Jill Shirley and Constance Bruce for their outstanding achievement in the Australia Wide Pairs Open competition in August. Jill and Shirley came 9th in Australia, this amazing result testament to a long and happy partnership.

The Australia Wide Pairs Restricted competition (under 300 masterpoints) was held on October 28 and the four winning Kooyong pairs on the day were Doug Harrah and Diana Saul, Eva Taylor and Jill Shirley, Jane Hargreaves and Sue Moffatt and Pip Liebelt and Jane Griffiths.

Alison Wright and Tina Theodore won the Teams of Three event at the VBAAugust in the under 25 masterpoints section.

Members of KLTC Bridge Club should note that in January 2020 our duplicate program is expanding.

The Club is introducing a 'gentle duplicate' session on Monday mornings for our less experienced members. This game will commence at 9am and will run until 12 noon. Members will play 24 boards. Next year the regular Monday duplicate game will commence at 12.45 and finish at 3.45.

We now look forward to another successful Kooyong Congress on Sunday November 17. Planning is also underway for the end of 2019 functions including the Christmas dinner and entertainment on Tuesday December 17 from 5pm. ■

For further information regarding the Bridge Club activities please visit the KLTC Bridge Club website at www.bridgewebs.com/kltcbridge



▲ The four winning Kooyong pairs from the Australia Wide Pairs Restricted competition.

◀ Alison Wright and Tina Theodore won the Teams of Three event at the VBA August.

▼ Jill Shirley and Constance Bruce came 9th in the Australia Wide Pairs Open competition.





Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary

by Jean Burgess, President Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary

This, our 81st year has surpassed all expectations for funds raised by the Kooyong LTC Auxiliary of the Royal Children's Hospital. Since my last report in August, we have continued with enthusiasm to make this year of fundraising the best ever and I am delighted to report that we did succeed.

Our fourth event of the year, a Card Luncheon in September was supported by the regulars who have been joining us for several decades, together with a group of our Kooyong Bridge Club members. Social bridge and solo continue to be held in the Kooyong Room, whilst the Bridge Club under the direction of Terry Crawford play for Master Points in the Sir Norman Brookes Room. Both groups joined for lunch, socialising and the drawing of the raffle. The \$5,600 raised supported the purchase of life saving equipment used in the Intensive Care Unit of the Royal Children's Hospital. Many thanks to Genevieve Barnett (Ticket Secretary), Kerry-Anne Hoad from our Bridge Club, together with Committee members for their support.

Our fifth and final event for the year was a Trivia Night conducted by Quiz Master Scott Kennedy - once again proving to be a very popular fun-filled evening in the Kooyong Room. The total profit from this event was \$5,000. Thank you Denise Cosgriff, Scott and members of our Committee for making this event a great success. Congratulations to the winners on the evening - the same group of 13 contestants for the past three years!

These two functions together with three held earlier this year produced a grand profit of \$52,600 towards



essential equipment which is being continually upgraded at the Children's Hospital. Our sincere thanks to all who have provided items for our raffles throughout the year, especially to Mecca Cosmetics for their generous support. Our Auxiliary is not just about fundraising. Many strong friendships have developed as a result of our endeavours to help with the wellbeing of our precious children.

As this report goes to print, we are extremely saddened to learn of the passing of Joan Layet, our long serving Committee member and "Living Treasure", who for health reasons had resigned earlier this year. Joan will be sadly missed by her family and friends at the Kooyong Tennis Club. Rest In Peace dear Joan!

Sincere thanks to our CEO, Chris Brown, and President Peter Carew for your enthusiastic support and to your supportive staff who have willingly assisted us with all of our functions throughout the year.

Our Committee will endeavour to move into the year 2020 with a growing passion to support the sick children who are continually in the care of the Royal Children's Hospital, one of the finest medical facilities for children in the world.

Season's Greetings to members and staff of the Club from the RCH Auxiliary Committee. ■



Wine & Food Society

by Leanne Parer, President Wine & Food Society

The Tuscan-inspired dinner held at Kooyong, in August was a great success. The scene was set with a background slide show displaying images and vineyards from the area with many guests reminiscing of their own travels through the countryside of Tuscany. Patrice Renaudin and our wine team painstakingly matched Tuscan wines with a tantalising dinner from Chris Goulding and his team.

Tasty individual antipasto plates (2018 Mantellassi Vernatino) preceded a delicate ravioli with truffle (2017 Santa Cristina Verdelho). The Cacciucco alla Livornese (classic Tuscan soup) (2018 Giorgio Shiraz/Merlot) was rich with seafood and well balanced in flavour. Our next course was a Bistecca alla Fiorentina (2015 Villa Tresqua Sangiovese/ 2016 Ornellaia Cab Sav/Merlot/Cab Franc) – a tender steak from the old Tuscan breed, Chianina, was chargrilled and married with Italian imported porcini mushrooms and sauce. The finale was a spectacular Zuccotto Fiorentino (2013 Vin Santo Chianti Classica) – a chocolate covered dome over layers of ice cream and glacéed fruit.

Anthony Nania engaged the members and guests with some history of Tuscan wine and food. Patrice and Greg Baker then shared with us the process for selecting the wines and the pairings they were seeking. An entertaining and memorable night.



▲ The Tuscan slide show reminded many guests of their own travels through the region.

Our October function was the annual visit to a restaurant. This year we were fortunate to enjoy the local classic, Choi's. Owner and executive chef David Yap, designed a menu specifically for the Society members and our wine team worked hard to select wines to pair with the different flavours of each course.

The welcome sparkling NV Champagne Fluteau Blanc de Noirs was the perfect aperitif for the truffle seafood parcel. The four scallops (2018 Yabby Lake Chardonnay) was a favourite among members, while the crispy blue cheese prawn roll surprised everyone with the interesting combination of earthy blue cheese and buttery, succulent prawns encased in a light pastry that was lightly fried (2015 Famille Hugel Gewurztraminer). Next the classic Peking duck did not disappoint (2017 Hurley Estate Pinot Noir "Hommage"). The banquet was then completed with two very different dishes - a perfectly portioned and melt-in-the-mouth tender Wagyu beef (2015 Craiglee Shiraz) and a hit in the taste buds from the hot and spicy Chiu Chow Chicken (2011 Conde Valdemer Reserva Rioja). The fried ice cream (2018 Alasia Moscato dAsti) was a perfect palate cooler after the chicken. Being so creamy and tasty with the added sprinkling of nuts, it brought memories of years gone by and the days of the Golden Gaytime. ■



Young Members

by Tom Ryan, President Young Members

2019 was an exciting year for the KLTC Young Members with multiple functions held throughout the year leading up to the penultimate event being the Yarrayong Ball.

There was a changing of the guard so to speak through multiple long serving committee members stepping down (which we are so very thankful for their support), opening the committee up to fresh faces. With this change came a renewed energy and one that as President of the committee I was certainly excited to be a part of.

Throughout the year the Young Members host a number of events, providing the perfect platform for our club's younger members to network and let their hair down in a more social setting.

As mentioned, the highlight of the year was our Yarrayong Ball, which is the annual function held in conjunction with the Royal South Yarra Young Members. This year some 200+ guests attended the Masquerade themed night held at Kooyong. With drinks flowing and guest DJ Tom Evans pumping the tunes, everyone certainly seemed to be enjoying themselves. We can't thank the Kooyong event staff enough for their help on the night - a truly seamless event.

The Young Members have several events that are coming up both in December and in the new year. These include our annual Day on the Clay tournament and drinks which was held in December and was a great success, golf day at Portsea Golf Club and much more!

For further information on all things Young Members, join the Facebook Group by searching "KLTC Young Members" and follow us on Instagram by searching @kooyong_ym - we look forward to seeing you at our next event!



We are always open to new ideas, so feel free to connect with us and let us know what you would like to see at our next event. ■

EVENTS IN 2020

Next year keep an eye out for various events, with dates soon to be finalised.

These include:

- ▶ The Kooyong Classic; and a golf event - January
- ▶ Sailing at Sandringham - February
- ▶ The Yarrayong Ball - May
- ▶ A squash event - June/July
- ▶ And a table tennis event later in the year



Clockwise, from top left: Kimberley Szeredi & Dimi Forytarz; Krysten King & Pamela Carder; Tom Cameron & Jane Cohen.

Health Club

Working out can be challenging, particularly if you want great results. In this edition of Health Club News, we have some testimonials from Members about their experience at Kooyong Health Club.

Kimberley Szeredi & Dimi Forytarz

I have been doing personal training sessions with Kim at Kooyong. Kim's knowledge and experience has given me the opportunity to really improve my fitness levels and overall well-being. Her lovely nature and professional approach makes the sessions extremely enjoyable and at the same time challenges me at each session.

Krysten King & Pamela Carder

I have been coming to the gym since 2003; I love the environment of Kooyong and the gymnasium. I have had many personal trainers in that time and I think Krysten is the best; she is very knowledgeable, she compliments the classes I do in pilates and is always very skilled at taking care of any injuries that I have. She provides excellent weights training and has a delightful personality. I look forward to classes with her each week.

Tom Cameron & Jane Cohen

I've been training with Tom once a week for almost two years. He has been exactly what I needed to stick to a fitness routine both in and out of the gym. Tom has a great knack of pushing me harder but keeping it enjoyable and managing my injuries. I have learnt so much with Tom and I now have much more varied exercise habits. ■

Members interested in weight loss, strength and conditioning, injury rehabilitation, general fitness, or personal training please contact Health Club Manager Michael Kull on 0419 003 762 / 9822 3333.



JOANNE MATTHEWS & BELINDA POINTON

Jo's positive attitude, caring nature and her appropriate program made me feel at ease and capable from our first session. Jo and I have developed a great partnership, working together to achieve my fitness, strength and flexibility goals. I am very impressed by Jo's professionalism, commitment, extensive knowledge, work ethic, attention to detail and her ability to design varied programs to suit my individual needs. Jo listens to my concerns, deals confidently with problems, gives good feedback and adjusts exercises and programs accordingly, long term and on the spot, if necessary. This gives me great reassurance and I know that I am in very good hands with Jo.



Social Committee

by Jenny Silvers, Social Committee President

Black and White Ball

On Saturday 17th August members and their guests donned their finery and enjoyed the Black and White Ball. The food, wine and music created a great atmosphere which was enjoyed by everyone who attended. The Crawdaddys were the band on the night and they had everyone on the dance floor boogieing the night away. The 3-course meal provided by Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club's functions department was exceptional, complemented by the Mitchelton wines. The waiters and waitresses did a fantastic job on the night, especially keeping our wine glasses topped up. The Ark clothing company very kindly donated table and door prizes of personal and group styling workshops. Congratulations to Eleanor Robinson who won the group styling workshop for 10 friends.

JJ Tennis Event.

This annual event commemorates John Jeffries who was a big supporter of social tennis at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. We had 12 courts for the day with 10 people in each group playing highly competitive round robin tennis. The groups were pretty evenly matched with Geoff Clements and Sallyanne Sawers coming out the respective male and female winners of the JJ Cup. After tennis we all adjourned to the clubhouse for some much needed refreshments. »



HAPPY HOUR

Friday 13th September saw the Social Committee hold a Happy Hour. Alex Kyle provided the music, and even though it was a wet cold Melbourne night and we were competing against the footy finals, it was a fun night. The Social Committee holds a couple of Happy Hours a year in the Sir Norman Brookes Room with music- they are always a great way to unwind after a busy week at work. The Club provides some canapés on the night and many members then book a meal in the Bistro or Racquet Club.



Oaks Day Drinks

Thursday evening, 7th November the Social Committee held a cocktail party with the ladies donning their hats and fascinators to enjoy a post Oaks Day drinks and canapés. The Melbourne University Jazz Trio provided a great vibe on the night. Guests mingled and socialised enjoying a very relaxed and pleasant evening. The spring flowers decorating the tables provided by Sophie Kempton were beautiful.

Farewell

The Social Committee farewelled 2 long serving committee members. Rowan Harris has been our Treasurer for 10 years. He has given the committee and the club excellent service with his quiet dedication in the role. Frankie Katz has been past Secretary and committee member bringing many friends to our events. Her bright, bubbly personality and ability to bring people together will be missed but I am sure we will see both of them at our functions.

The year ahead

The Social Committee will be having more social events for 2020. We have had a fabulous year and we wish to thank our supporters for your continued support. Special thanks to Mike Daghish for providing the music and entertainment at our Happy Hours- he helps make them good fun.

On behalf of the Social Committee I wish members a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. ■

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 7th February Grass Court Tennis and BBQ
Friday 28th February Happy Hour

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

December 2019

1st	Junior Competition Presentation Night
1st	Social Committee Christmas Function
2nd	New Member Night
7th	Wine and Food Society End of Year Lunch
25th	Christmas Day Buffet Lunch

January 2020

14th-16th	AgBioEn Kooyong Classic
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February 2020

7th	Social Committee Tennis BBQ
14th, 15th, 16th & 21st, 22nd, 23rd	KLTC Club Championships
28th	Social Committee Happy Hour

March 2020

2nd	RCH Ladies Tennis Day
22nd	Social Committee Long Lunch

*all dates subject to confirmation

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