



Courtside

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE KOORYONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC. // April 2023

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Care A2+ Kooyong Classic pg. 6



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2022 Corporate Pro-Am

Second annual Kooyong Foundation Corporate Pro-Am lived up to the first

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"Our Club has seen activity since my last report which is unrivalled in my time both as President and as a Member."

Adam Cossar, President

President's Report

Welcome to the first Courtside magazine for 2023.

Our Club has seen activity since my last report which is unrivalled in my time both as President and as a Member. Through the combination of Member dining, conferencing and events, racquet sports, including the return of the Care A2+ Kooyong Classic and via all the additional lifestyle experiences available to our Members and guests.

It's wonderful to see our Kooyong community and family come to life in our 'Spiritual Home'.

The activity both within our Clubhouse and the Kooyong Common provided unrivalled access to World's best hospitality and lifestyle activations, including Pickle Ball set up in open view in our new western car park hosted by our Gold Sponsor Go Markets.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Care A2+ our Title Sponsor for their long-term commitment to our tournament along with Go Markets our Gold Sponsor and our sponsors many of whom have been with us for the long haul. Media Pro have

through current and former professional WTA and ATP players and to our Corporate Sponsors showing form in an environment not as familiar as their respective boardrooms.

As with 2022, 14 Corporate Teams including some sporting icons in **James Tomkins** (rowing) and **Chris Judd** (AFL) competed on our perfectly groomed grass courts following a gathering in our Stadium Room to kick off proceedings and to set in place the schedule and playing format for the day.

We had a fantastic line up of Pros including but not limited to **Sam Stosur, Paul McNamee, Luke Saville, Sam Groth, Nicole Bradtke** and **Omar Jasika**.

A tightly contested final between Property Investor Portal and the Global Chinese Tennis Association (GCTA) saw the former win spearheaded by Luke Saville over the Paul McNamee led GCTA.

The launch pad for the Summer of Tennis is in safe hands and in assisting young boys and girls to become the best versions of themselves both on and off the court. A significant financial contribution was made from the Pro-Am through our corporate teams and 'in kind' support from the Club, thank you to our generous supporters and donors.

The Foundation cause has raised over \$3 million since its inception over 20 years ago providing an important platform in line with its charter 'to advance the game of tennis and squash at Kooyong and throughout Australia and to work for the conservation of historic memorabilia and the preservation of everything of significance to the history of tennis in Australia'.

Our Club Championships were held in February with record participation - over 530 Members competing in all Member categories across 48 events with

"The Care A2+ Kooyong Classic returned to the Spiritual Home of Tennis in our new stadium, hospitality and event spaces. With Care A2+ in place as our Title Sponsor, and strong relationships across corporate and player/manager networks, I'm excited for what awaits in 2024 and beyond".

Care A2+ Kooyong Classic

The return of the 33rd edition of our boutique Care A2+ Kooyong Classic after a 2-year pause was wonderful to see. The player field secured by our Tournament Director Peter Johnston was arguably one of the best fields assembled on Centre Court since 1988.

With the unfortunate late withdrawal of world number 1 Carlos Alcaraz there was no shortage of world class players to fall in behind, including Sir Andy Murray, our own Alex de Minaur, Taylor Fritz, Dominic Thiem, Grigor Dimitrov and emerging young talent in Linda Fruhvirtova in the women's draw amongst others.

I had the opportunity to spend some time with my childhood tennis idol Ivan Lendl who, in addition to Sir Andy, had fond recollections of our 'Kooyong Special' which was his drink of choice during the tournament.

been a constant in promoting our cause and in securing media distribution globally on a level not yet seen for the tournament, thank you. Our broadcast partner SBS with extended coverage up from 2020, Harvey Silver and his team from Silver Spoon Productions and the commentary team with special insights from the 'King of Kooyong' Pat Cash and our event Ambassador Paul McNamee, thank you for your support and commitment to our tournament and Club.

Kooyong Foundation Corporate Pro-Am and Club Championships

The 2nd edition of the Kooyong Foundation Corporate Pro-Am held on 5 December has certainly built on the foundations from the 2022 event.

A showcase of the best of tennis from our young aspiring Foundation Scholarship players,

weather hampering our week 1 'twilight Friday' and Saturday taking the Championships into the 3rd weekend.

Some notable performances across the tournament with firstly, **Cooper Errey** (17 years old) winning his second Men's Open Club Championship backing up his 2022 win. The Junior Girl's Singles U/21 was won by **Ava Beck** (14 years old) with the Junior Boy's Singles U/21 winner being **Sam Simmonds** (16 years old). The Men's Open Doubles was won by **David Bidmeade** and **Greg Jones** adding to their collective titles with the Ladies Open Doubles won by **Olivia Quigley** and **Jasmin Starr** and the Ladies 50 & Over Singles being won by **Isabelle Gemmel**.

Thank you to all participants in making this a successful and connected Member event.

Kooyong Foundation

The Kooyong Foundation Scholarship Player development program is in full swing with Monday and Friday training sessions being held weekly at the Club. I encourage Members to check-in with the Tennis Department for further details - our scholarship players would appreciate your support and connection.

Several of our Kooyong Foundation Scholarship players in **Cooper Errey**, **Roisin Gilheany** and **Zara Larke** competed and progressed deep into the draw in the Australian Open (AO) Juniors providing invaluable match experience and learnings on a global stage.

Former Foundation player **Jason Kubler** won the men's doubles title partnering up with fellow Australian Rinky Hijikata as wildcards. **Marc Polmans** making a welcome return to the AO following injury which plagued a good part of his 2002 year. Marc progressed to the semi-final of the

mixed doubles with Olivia Gadecki and made the second round of the men's doubles partnering up with fellow Aussie Alexi Popyrin. **Omar Jasika** unfortunately bowing out in the qualifying rounds of the singles. **John Peers** made the quarter finals of the men's doubles partnering up with Andrea Miles from Germany.

Congratulations to all our current and former Scholarship players for their on-going contributions to our Club and to our game.

On 8 January the John Fitzgerald Kooyong Foundation 2023 Scholarship induction (awarding 14 new Scholarships) and the presentation of the John Laidlaw 2022 Awards were held. Congratulations to **Cooper Errey** and **Gabrielle Villegas** in winning the award. The Award is named after one of the Kooyong Foundation's most generous donors and supporters, the award recognises a player or players who have excelled as a Kooyong Foundation scholarship player and made a significant contribution to club activities at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club.

Billiards, Snooker and Bridge

Dave Cosgriff, **Jeremy Sneddon** and **Rowan Blyth** are our 2022 Club Champions in billiards and snooker. It's good to see Jeremy winning the Handicap Billiards trophy for the first time, moving his Club Champion credentials from Squash and Dave returning in winning form in the Open Snooker Championship title. There was a total of 53 entries for the Club Championships which was an excellent result - congratulations to all participants.

Record entries for the Bridge Congress late 2022 and a very well attended end of year dinner sets the Bridge Club in great shape for activities and engagements in 2023.

Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary

\$10,000 was raised at one of the President's Lunches at the Care A2+ Kooyong Classic for the RCH. A wonderful start to the New Year and we thank the All-England Lawn Tennis Club for their generous donation of the signed Djokovic tennis ball used in the Gentleman's Singles Final win at The Championships. A further \$19,000 was raised at the Ladies Grass Tennis Tournament in February (a welcome return after some absence), we look forward to ongoing exciting and worthwhile events run by the Auxiliary. We thank you all for your genuine interest and commitment to this worthy cause. Lookout for their next card luncheon event on 26 April.

Around the Club

Our various member groups have been busy in delivering plenty of member re-connections and events through 2023 to-date. Appreciation to the various Presidents and supportive Committees in all the work they do voluntarily. Some new and exciting events are planned through the year so be sure to watch out through the various member communications and book early to avoid disappointment.

Thank you to all our Members for being engaged and in taking part in all the wonderful activities and experiences at the Club. Lastly but by no means least thank you to all the Kooyong staff both front and back of house for serving with distinction our Members and their guests.



Adam Cossar, President

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Club News

Member Survey

It is important to understand Members' views to ensure what is offered meets both aspirations and expectations and the recent survey had over 1,100 contributors. Responses were in line with the Club demographic of gender, age and length of time as Members. It provided insights into reasons for joining Kooyong, how Members use the Club and feedback including suggestions regarding improvements, or new services or facilities. To identify ways to improve information communication preferences were also identified.

Tennis, health & fitness, the gym and hospitality rated highly as key reasons for joining Kooyong while the opportunities for social interaction, sometimes referred to as "clubbiness", was noted as important by many respondents. Tennis was most highly scored by people aged 35-54 while hospitality and socialising rated highly for people aged 55+. The gym fitness drew the strongest responses from those aged 25-44.

The most active areas of the Club are the bar, bistro and terraces and almost half of the responses indicated they use those weekly or more often, while a third of Members recorded similar activity for the gym and tennis courts. Satisfaction

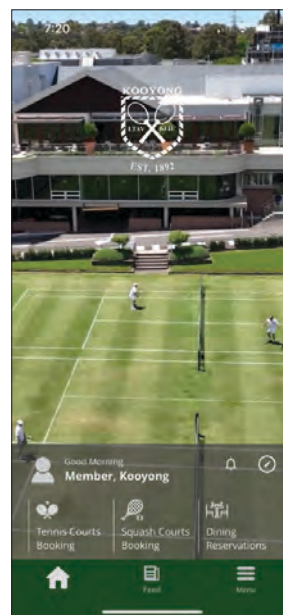
rated highly across each area of the Club with the diversity and breadth of services and facilities highly regarded. The suggestions for improvement provided useful insights noting dining, customer service and communication as areas that could be attended to. The feedback and free text comments provided will be useful references in seeking to bring improvements and greater Member enjoyment.

Members indicated that communications rated well with weekly EDM's and Courtside connecting across all ages, but a large number of respondents indicated they were unaware of the app. The new version of the app has been launched and there will be information provided so users are aware of the additional benefits including convenient booking options across a range of activities, feeds of information, direct notifications of key messages and access to Club information.

The survey results will provide a basis for future planning to ensure the Club builds on its strengths, connects with Members and targets further improvements. ●



Chris Brown, CEO



Club App Upgrade

A new version of the Club app has been released and it provides improvements for Members with greater convenience for bookings, improved communications, notifications and access to club information.

Members can populate the "Home" page with their three most used features which could include bookings or Club information. The app also advises when notifications are received which can inform of events or targeted messages related to nominated areas of interest.

The "Feed" page provides access to Club information and messages delivered to individuals including accounts around subscription time.

The "Menu" provides a quick connection for tennis, squash, dining, creche and events bookings and the Club Information section will see a number of items added as the app is updated. Features including Buddy lists and chat features will be introduced as the app functionality is further developed and account payments and profile updates may also be made through the app.

Information regarding the features and functionality will be made available to maximise benefits and the convenience the app will provide. ●

UPCOMING EVENTS

1st Thursday of each month	Young Members Tennis, Pot and Parma Night
26th April 2023	RCH Auxiliary Social Bridge Card Day
12th May 2023	Wine and Food Society's The Melbourne Club
13th May 2023	Young Members Long Lunch
14th May 2023	Mother's Day Lunch Buffet
26th May 2023	2023 Club Champions' Dinner
21st June 2023	Wine and Food Society's Guided Wine Tasting
28th July 2023	Wine and Food Society's Truffle Inspired
30th July 2023	RCH Winter Wonderland Lunch
31st July 2023	50-year Member Lunch
16th August 2023	Wine and Food Society's Meet the Winemaker Luncheon
25th August 2023	Social Committee Trivia Night



Crowds Return to Kooyong

Great weather greeted a stellar field which included Sir Andy Murray when the Care A2+ Kooyong Classic returned in January 2023.

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, it was magnificent to welcome our new naming sponsor Care A2+ and see the crowds back enjoying a raft of changes including the new look stadium, additional hospitality areas in the clubhouse, new facilities and upgraded activations around the Kooyong Common.

Major works carried out across Kooyong since the event was last staged in 2020 provided major improvements for event patrons, and with the clubhouse and stadium connected there were enhanced hospitality opportunities to enjoy. The additional cover over the northern stand and improved comfort resulted in strong pre-sales of tickets and the increased parking capacity also was well received to manage the demands across the three days.

The tournament has established itself since 1988 as the perfect preparation for players ahead of the Australian Open and the quality of the field each year reaffirms the high esteem it is held in by the elite players. Recently crowned world number 1

► **Left** Star 17-year-old player, Linda Fruhvirtova.
► **Middle** Australian number 1, Alex de Minaur.
► **Right** Top 100 Chinese player, Zhizhen Zhang.







Carlos Alcaraz was an unfortunate late withdrawal from coming to Australia due to injury, but that spot was quickly filled by another US Open Champion in **Dominic Thiem** who joined local hero **Alex de Minaur**, the American duo of **Taylor Fritz** and **Frances Tiafoe**, **Borna Coric** and **Grigor Dimitrov** on the men's side, while **Donna Vekic** and the emerging talent 17-year-old **Linda Fruhvirtova** headlined the women's draw.

A major addition to our commentary team was **Pat Cash** whose insight into the game and player tactics received great reviews, and his work with tournament Ambassador **Paul McNamee** and commentators **Dave Culbert**, **Tiffany Cherry** and **David Basheer** provided 18 hours of free to air television for our broadcast partner SBS over the three days. In addition, the tournament also streamed to over 20 countries globally in arrangements secured by MediaPro which included the USA on the Tennis Channel and into China, Europe, the Middle East and across Asia to an audience with a potential reach of more than 500 million.

Event organisers were thrilled when CareA2+ committed to a five-year sponsorship and plans are in place about building the relationship following a very successful partnership in year one. Care A2+ founder **Dom Galati** said, "We were absolutely thrilled with

...the quality of the field each year reaffirms the high esteem it is held in by the elite players.

our first year as Title Sponsor. The event had an excellent player field and the stadium and the Kooyong Common area guaranteed a great day at the tennis for the fans. The coverage through SBS and our international broadcasters provided the exposure we were hoping for as part of the event. We look forward to 2024 and beyond!"

Gold sponsor Go Markets was also in their first year and their presence was highlighted by a very popular pickleball activation

▲ Australian young gun, Alexei Popyrin in action.

▼ Sir Andy Murray getting up close and personal with the fans.

that the crowds flocked to, while wine sponsor Mitchelton and cocktail sponsor Versa both offered patrons a range of products to enjoy. The Kooyong Common was enlarged this year and it really came to life with food trucks and bars, a jumbo screen showing the action from centre court, sponsor activations, kids activities including Tennis Victoria speed serve and mini courts and lawn bowling run by Auburn Bowls Club.

Sunshine and a large crowd greeted the players on day one and the action kicked off with Alex De Minaur winning in two close sets over Dominic Thiem followed by Grigor Dimitrov proving successful in two tie break sets over Borna Coric. The afternoon saw the women take to the court and Donna Vekic looked strong in defeating Linda Fruhvirtova in her first hit out at Kooyong and the day closed out with emerging Australian player and Open wildcard **Rinky Hijikata** having a good result winning over **Zhang Zhizhen**.

Day two began early with the traditional Pro Am hosted by Paul McNamee. Participants gathered in the clubhouse for breakfast before taking to the courts for a round robin event featuring former tour players paired with sponsors and event box holders. Care A2+ kitted players out with uniforms and everyone enjoyed the opportunity for the early





Tournament Director **Peter Johnston** commented “We have built a strong foundation for the future with long term partnerships now in place with our Title Sponsor Care A2+...”



▲ **Left** Bulgarian top player, Grigor Dimitrov.

Right Major sponsors of the Kooyong Classic before the Corporate tennis challenge.

◀ Alex de Minaur and Dominic Thiem shake hands at the end of their match.

morning workout before heading back to the stadium for a great day of tennis at the Classic.

Sir Andy Murray returned to the Kooyong centre court on day 2 where in previous years he had regularly trained while in Melbourne. Andy's connection to the Club was highlighted when he made a special request in the players' lounge for the always popular Kooyong Special. Welcome back Sir Andy!

First up on court on day two were Dominic Thiem and the exciting American Frances Tiafoe and Thiem was able to avenge his day one loss with a victory in two sets. Murray then took to the court in the second match and he looked in trouble losing the first set to Zhang Zhizhen. But the champion fought back to take the second set and eventually winning the third convincingly in the tie break. Donna Vekic carried her good form into her match with **Kimberly Birrell** and won an entertaining match in a close third set tie break while the final match of day two saw Rinky Hijikata succumb to **Wu Yibing**.

Taylor Fritz had a strong year in 2022 which included a win at Indian Wells, and he carried great form onto the court where he was matched with another emerging young Australian **Alexei Popyrin**. Fritz took out a close first set tie break and then powered home to win the second and take the

match. But as good as the first match was, the crowds had come to see Sir Andy matched with Alex de Minaur and the former world number 1 and winner of three grand slam titles triumphed 6/3, 6/3. Linda Fruhvirtova showed her emerging talent coming back from a set down and winning over **Harriet Dart** while **Brandon Nakashima** triumphed in straight sets against **Jordan Thompson** in the final match of the tournament.

Tournament Director **Peter Johnston** commented “We have built a strong foundation for the future with long term partnerships now in place with our Title Sponsor Care A2+, our International Rights holder Media Pro Asia and many of our sponsors and support partners. The players loved the event with 12 going on to win their first rounds at the Australian Open. The Classic will continue to play an important role in the Summer of Tennis for many years to come”. ●

Thank you to our event sponsors and support partners.



2023 Club Championships

The 2023 Kooyong Club Championships saw a record 532 entries compete in a total of 49 events.



Cooper Errey proudly hold his second Open Singles Club Championship cup.



After a rain affected first two days, the weather gods then smiled upon the beautiful lawn tennis courts of Kooyong. We then saw some fantastic tennis played over February.

In the Men's Open Singles Final, **Cooper Errey** come up against an in-form **Amor Jasika**. Errey took out this match 6-2, 7-6 to win his second title in as many years. Impressively, both Errey and Jasika had tough lead-up Semi Final matches, with both of them being taken to three sets. Errey winning his Semi Finals match against **David Hough** 7-6, 2-6, 7-5, and Jasika winning his Semi Finals match against **Hugh Callaghan** 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

In the Ladies' Open Singles event, 16-year-old **Isabella Crossman** took out her first Club Championships title. Crossman played strong tennis throughout the event and only dropped 5 games in 2 matches to advance to the Semi Finals where she came up against last year's winner, **Eliza Dunbar**. Again, Isabella came out firing to take this match out 6-3, 6-3 moving her through to the final. But her opponent **Koharu Nishikawa** unfortunately withdrew after receiving a late call-up to play overseas.



◀ Ladies Open Singles winner, Isabella Crossman, with the trophy.

▲ Isabella Crossman hits a cross court winner.

Impressively, this was Bidmeade's and Jones' 4th Open Men's Doubles Club Championship title together.

In the Open Men's Doubles event, **David Bidmeade** and **Greg Jones** partnered up and came up against **Hugh Callaghan** and **Andrew Whittington** in the final. After a tight first set, Bidmeade and Jones took control and closed out the match, 7-6, 6-2. Impressively, this was Bidmeade's and Jones' 4th Open Men's Doubles Club Championship title together. What is even more impressive, this win bought up Bidmeade's 13th Open Doubles Club Championship title. An achievement he should be very proud of.

In the Open Ladies' Doubles event, **Isabella Crossman** and **Amelia Zylberman** came into the final with having only lost 3 games in total over both the Quarter and Semi Finals matches combined. However, it was **Olivia Quigley** and **Jasmine Starr's** experience that came through against their top Junior opponents. In what was a close finals match, Quigley and Starr beat Crossman and Zylberman 7-5, 6-4.

▲ Greg Jones and David Bidmeade partnered up to take out their 4th Doubles title together.

▼ Eliza Dunbar and David Hough partnered to take out this year's Mixed Open Doubles title.

Top seed and Traralgon duo, **David Hough** and **Eliza Dunbar**, came in to the final of the Open Mixed Doubles event after surviving a marathon Semi Final match against **Hugh Callaghan** and **Sienna Yokota-Ho**, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6. The final of this event saw Hough and Dunbar come up against second seed, **Emmanuel Seopardi** and **Klaire Elkin**. Hough and Dunbar proving too strong this time, taking out the title 6-3, 6-3.

In the Junior Boy's Singles Under 21 finals event, **Sam Simmonds** came up against the recently selected New Zealand's

Junior Davis Cup team member, **Archie Stewart**. In this match, it was Simmonds' big serve and attacking game that was better suited to the Kooyong grass. Simmonds took out the match and title, 7-5, 6-2.

In the Junior Girl's Singles Under 21 event, 14-year-old, **Ava Beck**, showed maturity beyond her age, accounting for the top seed, **Eliza Dunbar**, in the Semi Finals, 7-6, 6-1. She then went on to play the finals against **Sienna May Opray**. Beck was too consistent taking out the match and title 6-3, 6-1.

In other events, it was great to see many family and partner combinations team up together, with some even winning their respective events. Some of the following event winners included: **Jenson Yokota-Ho** and **Sienna Yokota-Ho** in the B Grade Mixed Doubles, **Jeremy Brown-Greaves** and **Matthew Brown-Greaves** in the Men's C Grade Doubles, and **Marc** and **Danielle O'Donoghue** who were Runners-up in the D Grade Mixed Doubles. The Tulloch family had an amazing seven family members compete across the various Club Championships events on offer.

Congratulations again to all the entrants and to the winners of this year's Club Championship. It was a fantastic event that saw some amazing tennis being played. We look forward to seeing you all again next year! ●



2023 Club Championship winners

		Winner	Runner Up
Event 1	Men's Open Singles	Cooper Errey	Amor Jasika
Event 2	Men's Open Doubles	David Bidmeade/Greg Jones	Hugh Callaghan/Andrew Whittington
Event 3	Ladies Open Singles	Isabella Crossman	Koharu Nishikawa
Event 4	Ladies Open Doubles	Olivia Quigley/Jasmin Starr	Isabella Crossman/Amelia Zylberman
Event 5	Men's 50 & Over Singles	Chris Preston	Brian Williams
Event 6	Men's 50 & Over Doubles	Brian Williams/Peter Wilson	Peter Gard/Jamie White
Event 7	Ladies 50 & Over Singles	Isabelle Gemmel	Wanda Howes
Event 9	Men's 60 & Over Doubles	Dennis Mihelyi/Mark Swindon (round robin)	Peter Gard/Mark Hardy
Event 10	Ladies 60 & Over Doubles	Rosemary Everett/Sue Ferguson (round robin)	Sheryl Kerwick/Lauren Sanford
Event 11	Men's 100 & Over Doubles	Marcus Thomas/Martin Warwick	Jeremy Brown-Greaves/Stephen Gay
Event 12	Ladies 100 & Over Doubles	Leanne Scott/Caroline Venn (round robin)	Sue Ferguson/Barb Weston
Event 13	Men's 130 & Over Doubles	Ian Davey/Andrew Rae	John Clarke/David Harris
Event 15	Men's A Grade Singles	Chris Alevizos	Ollie Elmslie
Event 16	Men's A Grade Doubles	Hayden Heng/Matthew Ry'dell	Zac Dyson/Baxter Errey
Event 19	Men's B Grade Singles	Salvatore Soepardi	Damian Mescher
Event 20	Men's B Grade Doubles	James Gaff/Toby Wooldridge	Damian Mescher/Robert Mescher
Event 21	Ladies B Grade Singles	Wanda Howes	Kristi Gunson
Event 22	Ladies B Grade Doubles	Sophia Brooks-Gay/Philippa Bush	Lois Plowman/Annette Sheppard
Event 23	Men's C Grade Singles	Manoj Jampala	William Nolan
Event 24	Men's C Grade Doubles	Jeremy Brown-Greaves/Matthew Brown-Greaves	Tim Holt/Stephen Hume
Event 25	Ladies C Grade Singles	Alice Merigoux	Jane Dickinson
Event 26	Ladies C Grade Doubles	Linda Dohnt/Jennifer Osborne	Gail Llewellyn/Deborah Price
Event 27	Men's D Grade Singles	Christopher Warwick	Jason Kloszynski
Event 28	Men's D Grade Doubles	Ross Begley/Simon Gough	Daniel Cajkusic/Andrew Scanlon
Event 29	Ladies D Grade Singles	Danielle O'Donoghue	Lily Egan
Event 30	Ladies D Grade Doubles	Deanne Ritchie/Jyoti Singh	Sue Fortey/Fiona Richardson
Event 31	Open Mixed Doubles	David Hough/Eliza Dunbar	Emmanuel Soepardi/Klaire Elkin
Event 32	100 & Over Mixed Doubles	Andrew Rae/Isabelle Gemmel	Stephen Sharp/Rachael Dickinson
Event 33	B Grade Mixed Doubles	Jenson Yokota-Ho/Sienna Yokota-Ho	Sebastian Sutterby/Felicity Wei
Event 34	C Grade Mixed Doubles	Will Brooks-Gay/Sarah Brooks-Gay	Ian Davey/Jennifer Osborne
Event 35	D Grade Mixed Doubles	Geoffrey Clements/Deanne Ritchie	Marc O'Donoghue/Danielle O'Donoghue
Event 36	Junior Boy's Singles U/21	Sam Simmonds	Archie Stewart
Event 37	Junior Girl's Singles U/21	Ava Beck	Sienna Opray
Event 38	U/12 Boy's Singles	Oscar Nicholson	Nate O'Donoghue
Event 39	U/12 Boy's Doubles	Nate O'Donoghue/Felix Ross	Oliver Dennis/Freddie Tulloch
Event 40	U/12 Girl's Singles	Cienna Ulas	Kayla Coster
Event 42	U/14 Boy's Singles	Liam Polizzi	Jenson Yokota-Ho
Event 43	U/14 Boy's Doubles	Oliver Hancin/Jenson Yokota-Ho (round robin)	Jack Skerman/Zac Ulas
Event 44	U/14 Girl's Singles	Harriet Venn	Melrain Hu
Event 45	U/14 Girl's Doubles	Kayla Coster/Harriet Venn	Sienna Conway/Camilla Tulloch
Event 46	U/16 Boy's Singles	Salvatore Soepardi	Ashton Coster
Event 47	U/16 Boy's Doubles	Ashton Coster/Carl Gerstman	Joshua Icasiano/Lysander Mitchell
Event 48	U/16 Girl's Singles	Pauline Ma (round robin)	Sienna Yokota-Ho

John Laidlaw Award

The John Laidlaw Award recognises one of the Kooyong Foundation's major and most generous donors and is awarded annually to two young people who have excelled as scholarship players and made a significant contribution to club activities at Kooyong.

Congratulations to the very worthy winners for 2022, **Cooper Errey** and **Gabrielle Villegas**. ●



KOORYONG
FOUNDATION



New Scholarship Players for 2023

- Ayaan Chowdhary
- Isabella Crossman
- Juliette Debrincat
- Melrain Hu
- Aryan Karnani
- Pauline Ma
- Olivia Moir
- Thomas Ranson
- Sam Simmonds
- Archie Stewart
- Danny Yan
- Ryan Ye
- Jenson Yokota-Ho
- Sienna Yokota-Ho

Congratulations and best of luck this year! ●

▲ John Laidlaw Award presented to Cooper Errey and Gabrielle Villegas by Melissa Duggan, daughter of John Laidlaw.

▲ Our new scholarship players for 2023.

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If you are interested in donating to the Foundation please contact the Club on 9822 3333 or head to our website: kooyong.com.au/web/pages/make-a-donation

US College Tennis Scholarships

Congratulations to **Thomas Pavlekovich-Smith, Zara Larke** and **Zali Morris** who have accepted tennis scholarships to American Colleges.

Pavlekovich-Smith who was studying in Melbourne and playing ITF Futures events and Pennant for KLTC decided he wanted to try the US College system after initially not taking up offers in previous years.

"I realised it was the best possible path for me right now to develop my game in a professional environment but continue my studies. I couldn't let the opportunity pass me by."

Zara Larke who recently contested the Australian Open juniors and is ranked in the top 100 junior players in the world has just signed with the University of Virginia, and will commence her scholarship in August.

Zali Morris, who has just returned to tennis after over six months off with a wrist injury has signed with Stetson University in Florida. She will also commence her scholarship in August.

We wish Thomas, Zara and Zali all the best as they continue their tennis and academic journeys. ●

▲ *Thomas Pavlekovich-Smith in action for the University of South Florida.*

▼ *Roisin Gilheany lines up a smash at this year's Australian Open.*

Australian Open Juniors Success

Several young Kooyong Foundation players have had highly successful Australian Open junior campaigns. **Cooper Errey** had an outstanding run making it to the semi-finals of the boys' doubles event. Pairing up with Queenslander Marcus Schoeman again after their 18/U National title run in December, the pair beat the 4th seeds in the opening round, backing that up with some strong performances to eventually lose to the top seeds in the semi-finals.

Roisin Gilheany also had a fantastic run in the girls' doubles event, making it to the quarter finals with fellow Victorian Steffi Webb before falling to the 4th seeded pair from Japan.

Zara Larke had a gutsy first round win in the girls' singles event defeating America's Ashton Bowers 7-5 2-6 7-5. In another close battle in the second round, Larke went down 6-7 4-6 to French player Yaroslava Bartashevich. Larke also made the second round of the girls' doubles event with fellow Aussie Anja Nayar. ●

"I realised it was the best possible path for me right now to develop my game in a professional environment but continue my studies. I couldn't let the opportunity pass me by."

He joined the University of South Florida in January and is making the most of his first season contributing to his team being ranked #57 in the country in Division One tennis.



Coopers Double Up

Cooper Pearson has broken through at National level with an impressive win at the Australian Grasscourt Championships taking out the 14/U boys doubles event with Evan Vasiliadis. Cooper, son of former long-time KLTC State Grade players Lee and Lucy, showed his grass court prowess on the courts in Wodonga as him and good mate Vasiliadis were dominant in the final defeating Rafael Fulmanski and Ari Lewis-Kelly 6-3 6-2.

Cooper Errey has also had recent success on the doubles court, claiming the 18/U Australian Hardcourt Championships with partner Marcus Schoeman. The 4th seeded pair defeated Jiayang Dong and Taj Hibbert in the final 6-2 6-2 in a convincing highly energised display. ●

Cooper Pearson (right) and Cooper Errey (below) with their respective partners.



Pizzey Cup Selection

The Kooyong Foundation will have significant representation in the Schools Sport Victoria Pizzey Cup team with 7 players selected in the 18/U competition. **Amelia Zylberman, Jessica Board, Madeleine Wilson, Sienna Opray, Cooper Errey, Nicolas Tremblay** and **Sam Simmonds** will represent Victoria in Canberra in May. Congratulations to all! ●

Beck & Villegas Australian Hardcourt Finalists

Ava Beck and Gabrielle Villegas had outstanding performances at the recent Australian Hardcourt Championships.

Ava, seeded 5th coming into the 14/U singles event, stormed her way through to the final, losing a 3-set battle with Sara Nikolic 3-6 6-3 1-6.

Gabrielle Villegas had an outstanding run in the 16/U singles making it to the final before going down to Gabby Gregg 2-6 1-6. She also made the doubles final, losing in a tight three set battle.

Well done to Gabby and Ava on their fantastic campaigns! ●

Doubles Prowess at the AO

The Kooyong Foundation had a major presence at this year's Australian Open particularly on the doubles court. Highlighted by former Foundation player **Jason Kubler** winning the men's doubles title with fellow Australian Rinky Hijikata in a memorable run by the wildcards. Teaming up for the first time, playing some scintillating tennis the pair defeated Hugo Nys & Jan Zielinski 6-4 7-6 in the final for an historic win.

Marc Polmans lost in the second round of singles qualifying to Argentina's Marco Trungelitti in a tight three setter 6-3 2-6 3-6. He made the second round of men's doubles playing with fellow Aussie Alexei Popyrin, going down to 2nd seeds Rajeev Ram & Joe Salisbury 6-7 6-4 3-6. An exciting semi-final run in the mixed doubles with young gun Aussie Olivia Gadecki capped off a solid Australian Open performance for Polmans which he will build on for the 2023

season after missing six months in 2022 due to injury.

Veteran doubles specialist **John Peers** had another successful run at this year's Australian Open, making the quarter finals with his German partner Andreas Mies.

An exciting semi-final run in the mixed doubles with young gun Aussie Olivia Gadecki capped off a solid Australian Open performance for Polmans

Omar Jasika also featured in singles at the Open, losing in qualifying to Denis Kudla in the first round. Despite the loss it was a sweet return to Grand Slam action for Jasika who has got his ranking to a career high of 223.

Well done to all the Foundation players! ●

Our heartfelt thanks to all those who donated to the **Kooyong Foundation** in 2023.

Sally Addison	Robert Jordan	Elizabeth Thomas
Graeme Addison	Fotoula Katsanos	Alexander Tseng
Robyn Baker	David Kew	Dianne Vale
Gregory Banks	Thomas Lam	Mark Walterfang
Robbie Barker	Leeanne Lambart	Martin Warwick
Helen Barnes	George Lehrian	Jane Webb
Brian Bateman	Peter Lemon	Frieda Werner
Ewan Bennett	Estelle Levy	Norman Williams
Neville Bertalli	Alison Leydin	Elizabeth Xipell
Shirley Bowman	Lions Club of Melbourne Markets	
Jeremy Brown-Greaves	Zelko Lovric	
Patrick Burroughs	Barry Markoff	
Mark Carey	Stuart McFarland	
Barbara Carter	Alan Millis	
Ashley Chan	James Moffatt	
Rowena Cole	John Morshead	
Adam Cossar	Philip Munz	
Peter Daly	Geoffrey Musgrove	
John Dean	Richard Naughtin	
Albert Dennis OAM	George Nicholls	
Rosemary Dowling	Frank Opray	
Colin Duck	George Papageorge	
Nancy Entink	Susan Parker	
Michael Fogarty	Sally Peers	
Andrew Forgas	John Piccolo	
Ian Fuelscher	Andrew Preston	
John Garofalo	Chris Purbrick	
Peter Gorman	Susan Renouf	
Daryl Greaves	Noel Rule	
Douglas Harnick	Ian Salek	
Barry Headland	Ian Salek	
Mary Hoban	Graeme Sanford	
Ben Holland	Lauren Sanford	
Cornelius Horgan	Jeremy Sneddon	
Garry Johnson	Bruce Stewart	
Wendy Johnson	Margaret Taylor	



Mother's Day Buffet Lunch

Sunday 14th May 2023
12noon – 3pm



Live acoustic
entertainment

Floral centrepieces from
your table to take home

Complimentary glass of
French sparkling wine on arrival
for all adults



The Kooyong Room
Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club
489 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong

\$110 per adult
\$40 per child (3-12 years old)

Drinks available at bar prices

Booking forms available at reception
or online at www.kooyong.com.au

Prices include GST. All bookings must be accompanied
by appropriate payment. Club dress code applicable.





Pro-Am Builds Upon A Foundation

Living up to the original can be hard, but the second annual Kooyong Foundation Corporate Pro-Am proved every bit as successful.

▲ Winners are gridders. Property Investor Portal take out 2022 Foundation Pro Am.

◀ Sophie Brooks-Gay laces up a forehand return.

Not even a gusty summer day with intermittent rain could dull the obvious enjoyment experienced on Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club's pristine grass courts.

Another strong collection of past and present tennis stars, including **Sam Stosur, Paul McNamee, Sam Groth, Nicole Bradtke, Omar Jasika, Luke Saville, Sally Peers** and **Marc Polmans**, supported the Foundation's biggest fundraiser.

The format remained the same: fourteen corporate teams, with each one randomly drawing a professional player, plus a Kooyong Foundation scholarship-holder.

There were six rounds of 25-minute doubles matches played, with a half-time break to recharge the batteries and squeeze in some food, to decide which teams would advance to the final.

Saville, a former world junior No.1 who represented Australia



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in the Davis Cup, spearheaded Property Investor Portal to victory over McNamee's Global Chinese Tennis Association in a 'tiebreak shoot-out' after finishing top two from the round-robin matches.

McNamee, a former Australian Open tournament director and multiple grand slam doubles champion, did well, given he quipped during play that "my glasses are my most important equipment these days".

Fellow former professional **Glenn Busby**, a renowned coach who is still a star on the veterans' circuit, was on the wrong end of some McNamee reminiscing, too, after the doubles great delivered an unreturnable serve.

"I hit that serve on match point at Wimbledon," McNamee told Busby from the other side of the court, with his memory still sharp as a tack at age 68.

Dual Brownlow Medal-winning AFL footballer **Chris Judd** and triple Olympic gold medallist rower **James Tomkins** were

other big-name athletes who took the opportunity to play on Kooyong's courts.

But the biggest winners were the kids, who had the chance to play alongside their heroes and will continue to benefit from the almost \$3 million raised across more than two decades.

The Foundation tips in \$100,000-plus annually to support junior tennis players, but importantly encourages recipients to have a back-up plan away from the court, such as the American college system.

...But the biggest winners were the kids, who had the chance to play alongside their heroes and will continue to benefit from the almost \$3 million raised across more than two decades.

▲ Sam Groth in action showing his prowess on the Kooyong grass.

Property Investor Portal's winning captain, **Cal Board**, chose to enter a team this year to "give back" to the Foundation for its backing of his daughter, Jessica.

"I watched it last year, my daughter is part of the Foundation, and I saw how much everyone was enjoying it," Board said.

"We got a few mates together and decided we'd give it a crack. They've been very supportive of Jess when she's travelled overseas, so I thought, 'It's a win-win'.

"You get to have a bit of a hit with mates, a few beers, and give back to an organisation that supports not only my daughter, but a lot of my friends' daughters and Jessica's friends.

"She's made some really great connections through the Foundation and forged friendships, so I think it's amazing that a club like Kooyong can do this."

Joining Saville and Board in the triumphant squad were **Aidan Fitzgerald**, **Dave Hughes**,



© CASAMENTO PHOTOGRAPHY

Anthony Zafiris and Foundation scholarship-holder **Hayden Heng**.

Groth played despite nursing a sore right shoulder and originally indicated he would not be able to serve, but still managed to send down some trademark thunderbolts.

"At least I won't hurt anyone, like last year," he said, looking for positives with his shoulder.

But as for digging out half-volleys? "You know I was never known for my touch and feel, right?" Groth joked.

The 35-year-old has been a busy man off the court, having just won his Nepean seat before his Kooyong Pro-Am appearance as he pursues a political career.

There were the usual light-hearted exchanges, including Polmans opting for an underarm serve to fellow Kooyong product **Andrew Whittington**.

Stosur also got into the spirit for the odd trademark fist pump – and even admonished herself when the amateurs occasionally got one up on her.

"It's a great cause and obviously they help so many of these young players, whether they turn pro, go to college, or whatever it is," Stosur said.

▲ Marc Polmans and Arina Rodionova all smiles at the Pro Am.

► Tennis legends, Sam Stosur and Paul McNamee.



Joining Saville and Board in the triumphant squad were Aidan Fitzgerald, Dave Hughes, Anthony Zafiris and scholarship-holder Hayden Heng.



◀ NWR Communications team, featuring Chris Judd and Marc Polmans.



"Not everyone can be a pro player, but if you've got support from a Foundation like this; it's going to help you in whatever avenue you go to in life, so hopefully they all had a good time and raised some money."

Jasika, like Stosur, was part of the event for the second straight year and was more than happy to come down after all the assistance the Foundation gave him.

"Kooyong Foundation's helped me a lot. I've been with them for so many years now, and I can't thank them enough for what they've done," Jasika said.

"It's a great event, and it's good to see all the big players coming out – and it's actually super fun.

"It's good to see everyone getting amongst it. There are all

ages, and it's just good to get out and be active and see everyone and have a chat. I'll do it again next year, for sure."

Those words would be music to the ears of Kooyong Foundation board member **Brian Cooney**, who was again thrilled with how the event went and hoped it would continue to grow.

"The Foundation kids love it, and the teams really enjoy it, too, but most importantly, you can't have a Pro-Am without pros," Cooney said.

▲ **Right** Foundation players, Jessica Board, Grace Thomas, and Klaire Elkin.

▼ **Right** Legend of Australian Tennis, Frank Sedgman and his wife Jean.

"Nearly every pro who played last year came back this year, so that tells you they had a good day – and the ones who didn't had a reason.

"The Foundation has the ability to help kids who probably can do with help, socially and economically.

"So, even if they don't become, say, a top-50 tennis player; they can use tennis a little bit to improve their lives – that's where we can have an impact." ●

by Marc McGowan

"So, even if they don't become, say, a top-50 tennis player; they can use tennis a little bit to improve their lives – that's where we can have an impact."





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Junior Competition

The Club claimed one flag in the July-December 2022 season of the Bayside Regional Tennis Association's junior competition.

▼ Premiership players, from left to right: Stephanie Forsyth, Angus Clements, Harper Barons, Sam Perry and Henry Moore.

The **Section 21 team**, captained by **Harper Barons**, finished in third place at the completion of the home and away season. The team then had a convincing win over Grace Park Hawthorn Club in the semi-final before upsetting top placed Mentone in the grand final. Congratulations to all involved!

Kooyong is represented by seven teams in the current season of the Bayside Regional Tennis Association competitions.

On Saturdays, **Oliver Dennis' Section 2 team** is sitting in third place after five rounds.

There are six Kooyong teams in the Sunday morning competition. **Lysander Mitchell's Section 2 team** are in fifth place, although only one point behind the third placed team.

In **Section 4**, **James Temple's team** are off to a good start and sit in third spot.

Oscar Nicholson's Section 8 team are in fifth spot and will be hoping to work their way up to the top four as the season progresses.

Kayla Coster's Section 12 team are also playing well and are in third position on the ladder.

In **Section 20**, **Harper Barons' team** have had some strong wins and are undefeated and in first spot on the ladder.

Angus Clements' Section 21 team are in fifth spot in a tightly contested section.

All the best to our junior players for the remainder of the season! ●



The team then had a convincing win over Grace Park Hawthorn Club in the semi-final before upsetting top placed Mentone in the grand final.

Any juniors interested in playing competition tennis, please contact Justin Cox at jcox@kooyong.com.au or by calling the Club on 9822 3333.

Midweek Ladies

Kooyong was strongly represented by 11 midweek ladies' competition teams in April, playing across three days and two associations.

Firstly, to Tuesday and the Midweek Eastern Metropolitan Region Ladies' Tennis Association (MEMRLTA) summer 2023 season commenced in September 2022.

Heading into the finals, **Lois Plowman's Section 1 Blue team** impressively remained on top of the ladder after 17 rounds.

Steph Fry took over the captaincy of our **Section 1 Gold team** from Kris Tulloch for the summer 2023 season. Sitting in sixth position, unfortunately they could not make the top four and qualify for the Semi Finals.

Lauren Sanford's Section 2 Blue team have had a competitive season, winning the same number of sets as they had lost. They finished the season sitting seventh on the ladder, but like Steph Fry's team, unfortunately could not make the finals.

Skye Berman provided the following update for **Angela Godwin and Jill Kaminsky's Section 2 team**: "Angela Godwin and Jill Kaminsky's rise to Section 2 in the Kooyong Gold team saw a slow start, but they have gathered terrific momentum winning six of their last seven matches of the season. They will be going for gold next season with new captains Skye Berman and Kimberley Mustow."

Sally Addison's Section 3 team has risen to seventh position in the new year. A number of her team, Sally included, will be away in the winter period for significant periods of time, so they have

► Thursday morning's Section 3 Purple Ladies team ready for their upcoming match.



decided to have a rest over winter and put a team in again for the summer season later in the year.

A reminder that unlike MEMRLTA, Bayside Regional Tennis Association (BRTA) has February to June (autumn) and July to December (spring) seasons. **Rachael Dickinson's Section A1 Purple team** did ensure a Semi Finals berth in the spring 2022 season, finishing third on the ladder. They defeated Glen Waverley 2-6-42 to 0-1-33 to qualify for the Grand Final! Unfortunately, Basterfield Park prevailed in the decider, winning 4-8-52 to 0-0-31. This season, the team has made a good start and are in third position after four rounds.

Kris Tulloch's Section A1 Yellow team remained in sixth position to conclude the spring 2022 season. This season, they are currently fifth on the ladder and just one point behind Glen Waverley in fourth.

Gill Hunt's Section 2 Yellow team concluded the spring 2022 season in fourth position, missing out on an automatic Grand Final berth. This season, **Noelene Duckett** has taken over the captaincy and they are currently sixth on the ladder.

Heather Anderson's Section 2 Purple team unfortunately

finished last season on the bottom of the ladder and were relegated back to Section 3 by BRTA for the autumn 2023 season. This season, they are on track for a return to Section 2, sitting in second position and on the same points as top team Elwood Yellow.

Trish Gorman's Section 3 Green team concluded the spring 2022 season in fourth position, missing out on an automatic Grand Final berth. This season, they switched to Section 2 on a Wednesday and are currently fifth on the ladder after five rounds.

Skye Berman's new Section 3 Purple team concluded the spring 2022 season third on the ladder, one spot higher than Trish Gorman's Section 3 Green team in fourth position, also missing out on an automatic Grand Final berth. However, they decided to not submit a team for the autumn 2023 season.

Finally, **Jenny Osborne's Section 2 Green team** has returned for the autumn 2023 season. They have enjoyed a successful start to the season and are currently second on the ladder.

We wish our midweek ladies' teams all the best for the remainder of the year! ●

If you are interested in playing midweek ladies competition, please contact Tim Baddock on 9822 3333 or via email at tbaddock@kooyong.com.au



PRO SHOP

We have had an excellent start to 2023 and have loved seeing KITA students enjoying their tennis lessons and continuing to enhance their game.

Autumn edition // 2023



Comfortable and Stylish on Court

The Pro Shop strives to help customers of all standards to improve their tennis game. Tennis fashion is also very important to the Pro Shop as we want to ensure our customers feel comfortable and look stylish on the court. We feel it is essential to protect your skin from the strong Melbourne sun which is why we have brought in **new white long sleeve** Kooyong polos for both Women and Men. These polos have breathable material which are perfect for a hit of tennis. Furthermore, we also have a wide variety of Kooyong **caps, visors** and **bucket hats** available.

NEW KOORYONG COLLECTIONS

Exciting news...The tennis clothing range at the Pro Shop has expanded with a new **J.Lindeberg**, **Castore**, **Röhnisch** and a larger variety of Kooyong clothing having arrived. This bright & colourful new array of Kooyong Men's and Women's Polos will make you stand out and be the best dressed on court!

J.LINDBERG
STOCKHOLM

RÖHNISCH

CASTORE

Kooyong Kids!

Due to popular demand, the Pro shop now has kids Kooyong **Polo tops, skirts** and **shorts** readily available which are perfect at making your children look very fashionable on court.



Looking for a new racquet check out Wilson racquet range with the **NEW** Wilson Shift and Wilson Pro Staff racquets!

EASTER HOLIDAY CLINICS

We are excited to announce our Easter Holiday Clinics are coming up soon. After a fantastic start to Term 1 we are excited to get the kids back out on the court to improve their game, learn all things tennis and most importantly have fun! Check out the website for further details.

Easter holiday clinics:

11th-14th April (9:00am-12:30pm)

17th-21st April (9:00am-12:30pm)

Performance holiday clinics:

12th-14th April (9:00am-3:00pm)



“Success in anything is not an accident, it’s a choice”.

Good habits done daily are what separate the best from the rest.

Throughout the year the coaching staff will be doing videos which will be selected for EDM’s on various themes on how to improve your game. These will include not only technical and strategical elements but also psychological and fitness components. If you ever have areas you would like us to discuss please forward them to kita@kooyong.com.au

An area that I will be focusing on initially will be warmups. I hear far too often that player’s have had to pull out of teams from injuries, whether it be midweek ladies, pennant or even the amount of time lost from not being able to practice.

It doesn’t take that long to do a tennis specific warm up or fitness program that will give you the best possible outcome of performing well and keeping those niggles away. Look out for info in the coming issues of Courtside and EDM’s. ●

▲ From left David Morgan, Rod Laver, Anthony Albanese and Glenn Busby.

▼ Tom Patton prepares himself to hit a forehand winner



KITA

What a great start for 2023!!

Almost all our classes are just about totally full. Our hotshot, orange and green ball (5-10 year olds) and squad programs are going amazingly well with all programs having a weekly or fortnightly changing program. We now have tiers within our green ball and squads that see all players receive the appropriate training at their level and with the same ability players, which is working well. Having specialised coaches taking the programs with a good blend of female and male coaches has been a good progression.

Our ladies classes and cardio have expanded and interestingly since Covid our daytime private and semi-private lessons and hitting sessions have exceeded our expectations. Many people are now working from home and have the flexibility to get a lesson throughout the day or early morning.

The High Performance day squads with **David Bidmeade** and **Braden Daly** are the biggest they have been in recent times and provide a great basis for full time players, University students who are still wanting to pursue their tennis and we have a sprinkling of Senior Players performing well

on the Masters tour involved. We have just received some fantastic news that one of our players and a scholarship player **Tom Patton** has just earned his first ATP point. Hopefully this will spur many others on to keep working hard, well done Tom.

Foundation squads are totally full on a Monday with some fantastic young talent and if you get a chance to come down to watch these 13-16 years, it’s well worth it.

We have worked hard to access a blend of coaches and additions which has produced a great atmosphere. **Bruce Ferguson**, who had his own business in Shepparton for many years has been one such great addition as well as some International coaches - **Juan Llatse** from Spain, **Romaine Maquaire** from France, **Heather Naughton** from Ireland and **Laura Peart** ... from Melbourne. Laura and Romaine are also working in the Proshop.

We have also had some visitors to our club during the Australian Open who got to play on our famous grass courts and provided members with some good entertainment (check out Anthony Albanese and Rod Laver in these photos!).

Connor Hayes Gets Taste For International Competition

Starting on December 25, my family and I travelled over to Europe to compete in 6 tournaments and train in 9 different cities in 9 weeks.

We first travelled to Edinburgh to compete in the Scottish junior open where I placed 4th after not being seeded and beating the number 2 seed 3-0. After Scotland we moved south to Birmingham to play the British junior open where I won my first round match on the glass court but unfortunately lost 3-0 in my next match. After Birmingham we went to London for a week to train at Coolhurst squash club and complete some touristy activities. Next we went to Prague in the Czech Republic to play the Czech junior open where I placed 18th. When in Prague we stayed right in the centre of old town and got to go to some very beautiful landmarks like Charles bridge, the astronomical clock and an old guard tower.

After this we went to Amsterdam for a week of training and a PSA tournament. During this my brother Darcy and my mother went back to Australia. While in the Netherlands we had the experience to train with World Junior Champion Rowan Damming and his coach, which was a real eye opening into how much harder they train at the top level of squash. During the PSA tournament I lost the first round 3-0 but went on to finish 11th by the end of the weekend, 2 of my next 3 matches. After The Netherlands we headed back to the UK and specifically Sheffield to train with former world number 1 and world champion Nick Matthew. The one on one sessions with Nick were definitely the highlight of the trip. In Sheffield we also got to train in his academy squad which featured many PSA players from all around the world.



"While in the Netherlands we had the experience to train with World Junior Champion Rowan Damming and his coach..."



After Sheffield we then headed back to Edinburgh to train with Greg and Donna Lobban. This involved me being a part of the Scottish squash sessions as well as the Heriot-Watt University

▲ **Top** ORIAM sports centre in Edinburgh. **Above** On court with Rich King, a popular coach and player in Amsterdam.

sessions which involved some very hard training sessions, specifically the ones with Greg lobban who is 25 in the world. Next we moved to France for the French junior open and Germany for the German junior open where I placed 12th in both. After these 2 tournaments we headed back to Melbourne after 9 amazing and incredible short weeks in Europe.

Overall the whole experience was magnificent and a real eye opener into what squash is like overseas and specifically in Europe. ●

By Connor Hayes

Bridge Club

Bridge Club activities at the end of 2022 concluded with a very successful Bridge Congress in November and an end of year dinner in December.

There were record entries of 28 tables at the Congress with about one quarter being Kooyong members. Players enjoyed bridge in the Stadium Room with a delicious lunch provided by Kooyong. Best performed Kooyong pair were **Penny Blankfield** and **Sue Read** who finished 4th, just ahead of **Diana Saul** and **Doug Harrah**.

At the Christmas Bridge Club Dinner, attended by over 100 members, the prize winners for 2022 were announced and presented with trophies. **Deb Fogarty** won the Open Trophy and **Peter Hodsman** the Penny Purbrick award for players of less experience.

Bridge sessions resumed in late January with record attendances. Kooyong Bridge Club is now the third biggest bridge club in Victoria

► Open Trophy Winner, Deb Fogarty.

▼ Peter Hodsman was presented the Penny Purbrick Trophy by Penny's husband Chris.



At the Christmas Bridge Club Dinner, attended by over 100 members, the prize winners for 2022 were announced and presented with trophies.



with members joining Kooyong Tennis Club so they can play bridge along with other club activities.

Supervised bridge for new players has also resumed on Monday nights under the leadership of Doug Harrah with assistance from other club and committee members to train more members in the intricacies of our great game. Attendances at supervised bridge have increased, introducing more and more members into the joys of bridge.

Upcoming events include an intermediate lesson from guru Bill Jacobs in March and a Sandbelt event against various golf clubs at Kooyong also in March. The Jim Borin Trophy competition for 2023 will be held in early May. ●

By James Tulloch



◀ **From left** Don Richter, David Cosgriff, Neil Maclachlan, Steve Mifsud and David Pitt.

Billiards and Snooker

Players wrap up a great year in 2022.

Club Championship Results

David Cosgriff, Jeremy Sneddon, and Rowan Blyth are Kooyong's 2022 Club Champions in billiards and snooker. David successfully defended his Club Open Snooker Championship title by defeating **Neil Maclachlan** 4-0 with a tournament high break of 51. David also successfully defended his Club Open Billiards Championship title by defeating **David Pitt** 638-270 with a tournament high break of 88.

First-year player **Rowan Blyth** won the Club Handicap Snooker Championship with a convincing 112-68 win against **Steve Murphy**, while another first-year player **Jeremy Sneddon** won the Club Handicap Billiards Championship 321-289 against **Nick Kotros**. Jeremy has now won Kooyong championships in Squash, Tennis, and Billiards, likely the first player to win Kooyong championships in three different sports.

A total of 53 entries was received across the four championships. Well done to all players, and many thanks to **Greg Baker** for an excellent job as Tournament Director.

Dave Cosgriff runs hot in late '22.

Kooyong's **Dave Cosgriff** finished 2022 with an impressive run of success, finishing as runner-up in both the Victorian Billiards Championship and the Victorian 150-up Billiards Championship, as well as being a member of the Premiership team in the Melbourne A Grade billiards competition and winning the Open KLTC Championships in both billiards and snooker (as detailed above)!

Dave's game features excellent potting, a deft touch around the top of the table, impressive cue-power (making screw cannons look easy), and an ability to play courageously slow thin cannons the length of the table. He is pictured in play at the top of the table. ●

By Alistair Macindoe

Kooyong wins another A-Grade Billiards Premiership

Kooyong's A-grade billiards team were victorious in the grand final, held in December, defeating the Yarraville Club in convincing fashion 3-1. The team includes Don Richter, David Cosgriff, Neil Maclachlan, Steve Mifsud and David Pitt.

Interclub competition in both snooker and billiards has started this year, and our four teams are travelling well. Coming up soon will be the handicapped City Clubs competition. This suits players of all abilities, and new players are always welcome. If interested please contact our Chairman David Pitt at david.pitt@bigpond.com ●





Health Club

Group fitness is a great way to improve your cardiovascular health, muscle mass and overall health in a fun and social way.

In the Kooyong Health Club, we offer a wide range of classes to cater for any and all Members and whatever goals they might have!

Pilates

Pilates has been rapidly growing in popularity as a form of exercise to help build lean, strong muscles in a mindful and relaxing environment. Pilates namely targets the abdominal, hip, gluteal, back and upper leg muscles to build a strong core for your body's everyday movements and functioning. Pilates has also been found to aid in injury prevention and relieve muscular tension from many areas of the body. Our hour-long classes with Margaret currently run in the group fitness studio on Mondays at 8:30am, Tuesdays at 9:30am and Thursdays at 9:30am.

Flexibility

Our flexibility classes are a great way to increase your range of motion, prevent injuries and

improve your balance. In a peaceful environment, work with our group fitness instructor Jassmine to relieve tension and improve your flexibility at your own pace. Our classes are one hour in duration and are held in the group fitness studio on Mondays at 9:30am.

Aqua Aerobics

Join Mary in the Health Club pool on Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:00am in our Aqua Aerobics classes. Using light resistance exercises mixed in with some music and fun, improve your muscular tone and endurance as well as improving your cardiovascular health. Aqua Aerobics is suitable for members of any age or goal however may benefit those who prefer light resistance exercises particularly.

Body Conditioning

Body Conditioning classes incorporate a fusion of dancing and lightly weighted exercises to improve your cardiovascular

endurance, muscular tone and overall wellbeing. Rosanna's classes are filled with positivity and are a great way to make friends and exercise in one go! Classes are currently being run on Wednesdays at 10:30am in the group fitness studio.

FITMAX

Kick off your weekend well and join David for FITMAX class at 9am on Saturday mornings in our group fitness studio. FITMAX classes combine the best of strength training, cardiovascular fitness and circuit training for an overall full body workout. This class is a great way to work toward your strength and fitness goals at your own pace.

The class focuses on body weight and weight bearing exercises to provide a full body workout as well as targeting your abdominal muscles.

Abs & Fit

Abs & Fit is the Kooyong Health Club's newest class addition to our schedule. Our classes with Kaywan focus on building a strong core for everyday use as well as improving the cardiovascular health of our members. The class focuses on body weight and weight bearing exercises to provide a full body workout as well as targeting your abdominal muscles. Classes are run in the group fitness studio at 6pm on Monday evening. ●

Any members interested in strength and conditioning, injury rehabilitation, sports performance, personal training, weight loss, general wellbeing or group fitness may contact Health Club Manager Michael Kull directly on 0419 003 726 or email the Health Club at gymnasium@kooyong.com.au.



Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary

What a great start to 2023!

\$ 10,000 was paid for a rare Novak Djokovic autographed tennis ball from his Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles Final win in 2022. This genuine match ball was auctioned at the President's Lunch on the final day of the Care A2+ Kooyong Classic on behalf of the RCH Auxiliary.

The ball was generously donated by the All England Lawn Tennis Club, and after some spirited bidding, the hammer finally came down with the Kooyong Classic's new naming sponsor, Care A2+, being the successful bidder. We thank Care A2+ for their generosity and support of important medical research and in assisting children in need of medical care.

In early March Kooyong again hosted the annual Ladies Doubles Grass Tennis Tournament. After a two year pause, it was wonderful to host this marquee tennis event, an excellent day out for players from all over Victoria and interstate. The RCH Auxiliary raised \$20,000 on the day, which will assist the hospital in its efforts on behalf of unwell children. Over 300 players participated on our magnificent grass courts enjoying hospitality throughout the morning and afternoon.

The day, a resounding success, was organised by the convenor, Lyn Wheat, ably assisted by Cedric Mason of Kooyong, Jenny Booth (Vice President) and other Auxiliary members.

Players travelled from far and wide, Albury, Bacchus Marsh, Bendigo, Berwick, Keilor, Lancefield, Moonee Ponds, Torquay, Traralgon, Yea – and Brisbane! Many players from metropolitan Melbourne also enjoyed the competition making up a sizeable proportion of the draw. Comments overheard

▲ 2023 AGM attendees (left to right), standing: Lyn Wheat, Jenny Booth, Patty Wallace-Smith and Helen Birdseye; Seated: Denise Cosgriff, Lisa Carew, Anita Hughes, Sally Barton and Jean Burgess; Absent: Marie Devereux and Natalie Cossar.

included: 'Amazing day! Honoured to play here. Played in this tournament for 15 years. We'll be back next year. Delicious lunch! Highlight of my year! Train from Bendigo to Southern Cross to Flinders Street to Kooyong was well worth it ...'

Members of the Auxiliary are very grateful to Kooyong's administration, staff and members who so willingly and generously support our events. Thanks to this wonderful support, we were able to add approximately \$22,000 to our grants fund for



We thank Care A2+ for their generosity and support of important medical research and in assisting children in need of medical care.



▲ RCH Auxiliary President Lyn Wheat with Cedric Mason.



We encourage you to participate and support us in achieving our goal to make a significant difference to RCH children.

UPCOMING 2023 EVENTS

Wednesday, 26th April

Duplicate and Social Bridge Card Day
Book now – visit trybooking.com/CGORG

Sunday, 30th July

Winter Wonderland Lunch

Wednesday, 13th September

Duplicate and Social Bridge Card Day

Friday, 27th October

Trivia Night

the RCH last year, an excellent result considering we were unable to hold our Tennis Day due to COVID-19. This money, combined with funds from the previous year, enabled us to support the following grant requests last year:

- A **Music Therapy Programme** in the Adolescent Ward – \$38,660
- The **purchase of a Glidescope** for use in anaesthetics to enable the speedy intubation of critically ill children – \$55,215

We also thank our very generous and talented 93 year old friend, Pat Mitchell, who has made many exquisite dolls for sale in the hospital. The detail on the faces and the beautiful clothing are wonders to behold. Any child would be overjoyed to receive such a gift and the funds raised from their sale will further benefit the hospital. ●

**By Lyn Wheat,
President KLTC RCH Auxiliary**

Hester Canterbury

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Wine & Food Society

The year has kicked off in fine fashion for the Kooyong Wine and Food Society.

Nearly 100 members participated in the Annual General Meeting and Wine Tasting in the Kooyong Room in early February.

A highlight of the meeting was the announcement of Honorary Life Membership to the WFS for Ken Wheat. Ken is a former Committee member and President of the WFS and he also made a significant contribution in researching the activities of the WFS over the last 50 years. Ken richly deserves this honour for his tireless work for the WFS over a period of some 10 years.

Wood Park Winery

John Stokes from Wood Park Winery in the King Valley presented five wines for members to taste, accompanied by charcuterie and cheese platters. John has a background in environmental science, and he founded his winery in the late 1980's. The vineyards are managed with minimal chemical use and his vines are thriving. It was interesting to taste a number of his wines made from

grapes that we usually associate with Italian wines. In fact, his wine known as "The Tuscan" was similar in character to those known as "Super Tuscan" in Italy. These are based on the Cabernet Sauvignon grape and are extremely popular.

Our members were most impressed by the quality of John's wines, particularly at the very reasonable prices he offered.

I look forward to tasting his wines again in the future.

Dinner with Helen's Hill Winery

Members at the sold out dinner in the Stadium Room enjoyed a range of fine wines from Helen's Hill Winery accompanied by an outstanding bespoke menu from Mat Macartney, Kooyong's Executive Chef.

Allan Nalder and his wife, Christine Rienholt, from Helen's Hill joined us for the dinner. Allan took us through his journey from Swan Hill to Melbourne and then to finance in New York before his return to Australia and winemaking in the Yarra Valley.



▲ 'The Tuscan' by Wood Park Winery.
▼ From left Newly inducted WFS Honorary Life Member, Ken Wheat, with fellow Life Members Christine Johnson and Milton Dickens.

Their winery is deservedly rated with five stars in the Halliday Wine Companion and has done so for several years.

Allan shared his passion for wine and we were impressed by the high quality of his wines from his magnificent site in Yarra Glen. His passion for what the French call "terroir" - the combination of site, soil, aspect and climate - was evident in his wines.

The meal was described by one of the members as "... the best wine and food dinner I have been to."

A highlight was Mat's take on "Prawn Cocktail" - "king prawns with iceberg lettuce, coconut and lime marinated Kingfish". A new version of an old classic, accompanied by an excellent Pinot Gris and a Chardonnay, was an absolute treat.

A roasted Ballotine of chicken followed with a Pinot Noir and a class Cabernet blend. Again, a great food and wine match.

A big thank you to Allan and Christine for joining us from Helen's Hill and giving us the opportunity to enjoy their wine, their company and to hear their story.

My thanks to Mat Macartney and his staff for preparing an outstanding meal, to Patrice Renaudin for his help and advice with the wine and to Rachael Whitelaw for her organization skills. Thank you also to all the Kooyong staff who did an outstanding job of serving our members.

A great start to the year with more to come! ●

By Greg Baker,
President Wine and Food Society



Young Members

2023 is off to a fantastic start for the Kooyong Young Members.

Our first event for the year, the annual Aus Open men's final viewing, was again well attended with drinks and dinner enjoyed by members and their guests. Fortunately (or unfortunately) the match was over much earlier than the 1am finish from last year's 5 set final. We'll have to wait to see what 2024 brings!

Committee for 2023

Chris McMullin President

Tom Cameron Vice President
and Social Media Manager

Harry Stobie Treasurer

Tom Ryan, Peta Stern, Alex Parr
and Alex Leung

The rest of the year is set with key events including Day on the Clay, Young Members Long Lunch and the YarraYong ball locked into the calendar. Young Members and their guests are welcome at all events and are encouraged to keep up to date on all events via club emails and the Instagram page (@kooyong_ym). Space is limited for Day on the Clay, Young Members Long Lunch and YarraYong ball so early booking is suggested to avoid disappointment.

Finally, our monthly tennis, Pot and Parma nights (held on the first Thursday of each month. Tennis from 6-7pm on courts 28-31, and \$20 dinner and a drink in the bistro Winter Garden from 7pm) have again been a hit with new and old members alike. No booking is required so feel free to drop by for next month's event! ●

By Chris McMullin,
President Kooyong Young Members



► **Top** 2022 Day on the Clay, post event drinks on the terrace.

Right Young Members Pot and Parma tennis hit, March 2023.

▼ Young Members committee at 2022 Day on the Clay.



Space is limited for Day on the Clay, Young Members Long Lunch and YarraYong ball so early booking is suggested to avoid disappointment.



SCHEDULE OF 2023 EVENTS

1st Thursday of each month

1st April 2023

13th May 2023

TBC

28th October 2023

Tennis, Pot and Parma night

Day on the Clay #1

Young Members Long Lunch

Day on the Clay #2

YarraYong Ball at Kooyong



For more information on any upcoming events or to contact the committee, follow and message us using the Instagram QR code above @kooyong_ym. Alternatively reach Chris on **christopher.mcmullin@keypathedu.com.au** or 0438 357 760 if you would like to become involved in our group.



◀ **From left** Geoff Cowen, Sallyanne Sawers, Geoffrey Clements and Doug Harnic.

Social Committee

The KLTC Social Committee have been busy hosting a number of key events in the early part of 2023.

Most recently we held a Twilight Tennis Round Robin which was well attended. Members had a beautiful evening playing some fun tennis on the grass followed by drinks and sumptuous canapés in the clubhouse. It was a delight to welcome some of our new members to this event and we hope to see you around again throughout the year at our other social tennis events.

Ole! We also kicked up our heels in February at the Kooyong Spanish Long Lunch. Executive chef, Mat and his crew, created a wonderful Spanish inspired occasion with paella and taco stations and of course delightful churros. Other tasty delicacies were paired with delicate Spanish wine and the wonderful music by Spanish Band - La Rumbla - topped off the afternoon.

The popular Shelley Lipe Tennis Mixed Doubles and barbeque overlooking the courts will be held on Sunday 26th March. This will culminate with a sumptuous barbeque in the clubhouse and

is a great opportunity to meet new members.

We hope to see you at our other exciting events coming up in the second half of the year which will be available to view on the KLTC website and newsletters.

Many of our social activities can be enjoyed by friends too so your guests are very welcome to enjoy the festivities in our beautiful clubhouse. ●

By Amanda Thomas,
President KLTC Social Committee

We hope to see you at our other exciting events coming up in the second half of the year which will be available to view on the KLTC website and newsletters.

► Some of our Event chefs and staff were busy cooking up a Spanish storm for our Social Club members



▼ **From left** Jenny Silvers, Kat Benyon and Cindy Damien enjoy the Spanish lunch.



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