

COURTSIDE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE KOOYONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC.



ISSUE NUMBER 12 - DECEMBER 2005

Federer returns for AAMI Classic

The Trans-Tasman Challenge

Grass Courts open for play

Gym refurbishment & upgrade



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2006 PRESIDENT'S LUNCHES - lunch packages -

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PRESIDENT'S LUNCH

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on the cover

DECEMBER 2005

Federer returns for the 2006
AAMI Classic at Kooyong

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... a word from the CEO

The annual tournament in January has retained Kooyong's links with international tennis. Over the years, contemporary greats of the game including Becker, Edberg, Sampras, Agassi and Federer have graced centre court.

The 2006 AAMI Classic will continue this tradition with another great list of competitors assembling here between the 11th and 14th January. We welcome AAMI as our new naming rights sponsor and look forward to hosting another successful event.

Our final Courtside for 2005 provides a member update on the tournament and related activities.

We also provide a Pennant Competition profile and preview the Club Championships, scheduled for February 2006.

The Kooyong Foundation support for young players is detailed. We outline some of the important work the Foundation is involved in and the support it is providing young developing players.

With our grass courts back in play, we invite members to enjoy the summer season ahead. The opportunity to return to Kooyong's grass after the winter layoff is understandably highly sought by members.

In closing I extend best wishes to all members for Christmas and the New Year.

Chris Brown

CEO - Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club

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President's Report



AAMI CLASSIC

We look forward to the 2006 AAMI Classic, which will again feature the world's top players on centre court at Kooyong this January.

Roger Federer and Andy Roddick are returning and along with David Nalbandian, Guillermo Coria, Ivan Ljubicic and Tommy Haas form the basis of another world class field.

It is also expected that Andre Agassi will make his ninth consecutive appearance at the event if he decides to have another tilt at Australian Open glory.

We would also like to welcome our new naming rights sponsor, AAMI, who have signed on with the event for the next three years.

This is great news for the tournament and we look forward to a long and prosperous partnership with AAMI in the future.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Congratulations to Des Hinsley and Margot McCluskey who were re-elected to the KLTC Council.

Des was re-elected as treasurer unopposed and Margot defeated Barrie Cathcart for the only other available position on Council.

THE KOOYONG FOUNDATION

Glenn Busby again heads to the United States in December as the Kooyong Foundation

sends Andrew Whittington to compete in the under 12 Orange Bowl.

After Andrew's encouraging results last year, the Foundation is hoping this will help Andrew in his development for the future.

Tennis Australia has sent several top Australian juniors to this world renowned event and Glenn will manage this group as they attempt to win one of the world's most prestigious junior tournaments.

Andrew is one of several up and coming stars Kooyong has in this age group with Will Heffernan and Matthew Findlay also amongst some of Australia's elite under 12 players.

The Foundation has also been supportive of the development of Maja Milosevic who has been training hard under the guidance of Glenn Busby and is developing well in this environment.

TRANS TASMAN CHALLENGE

Kooyong recently hosted the best under 16 players from both Australia and New Zealand in the annual Trans Tasman Challenge.

The annual event, run by the International Tennis Club of Australia and New Zealand, pits the top under 16 players from both Australia and New Zealand against each other over two days of competition with two boys and two girls representing each country.

The event saw some excellent junior tennis played on our courts and it was good to see the Australians come away with a win.

GRASS COURTS

The ground staff have worked closely with our turf consultant through the winter and have prepared the grass courts for the new season.

Every effort has been made to ensure our courts provide the best playing conditions over our demanding summer season.

The newly laser-levelled courts 19-22 show good regrowth but will be managed back to play carefully to ensure the newly laid turf establishes.

LANDSCAPING

Work is continuing around the club to improve the grounds and a major project was recently completed to tier and plant the northern levee bank.

This area has long been an unsightly backdrop to the grass courts and when the plants establish in the coming days the vista will be improved from both the courts and clubhouse.

LEGENDS' LUNCH

The Legends' Lunch again proved to be a successful day with Ken Rosewall and Alicia Molik as our guest speakers.

The event sold out more than two months in advance and has proven to be a very successful day over the past few years.

Ken spoke fondly of his memories of Kooyong and playing here on the grass courts and Alicia of her struggles with injury this year after such a fantastic finish to last year.

We wish Alicia well in her recovery and hope to see her back on court again as soon as possible.

SEASONS GREETINGS

I would like to take this opportunity of extending the best wishes of the Council and staff of the Club to all members and their families for a safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

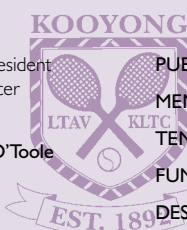
Peter Quinn
President - Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club

KOOYONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB COUNCIL

Peter Quinn - President • **Des Hinsley** - Treasurer • **Ian Hill** - Vice-President
• **David Wilson** - Vice-President • **Chris Brown** - Chief Executive Officer

Members of Council - **Brian Capp** - **Reg Hodgson** - **Linda Dohnt**
- **Duncan McCulloch** - **Bert Armstrong** - **Margot McCluskey** - **John O'Toole**
- **Richard Smith**

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Message from Peter Quinn

As President, I am often asked, "How is our club travelling?"

Whilst we outline club activities and operations and provide financial information each year in the Annual Report, there remain a few questions to answer about the strength of the club's position, the direction it will take in coming years and, importantly, the likely effect on members' subscriptions.

It is pleasing to report that the Club is enjoying a period of strong prosperity and the Council is confident of the continued ability to provide members with improved facilities and enjoyment of their club. Our strong waiting list ensures our membership numbers are maintained and provides a secure base for the future.

Major work programs during the nineties resulted in a club debt of \$6.4 million. With good financial management, that debt has been comfortably serviced and has now reduced to \$2.4 million. The Council is confident of the club's ability to manage the remaining debt in the next few years.

Recent years have seen the club commit to continued development with clubhouse renovations, stadium improvements, construction of car parks and roadways and landscaping projects. At the same time we have maintained a continued emphasis on facilities and, in particular, the tennis courts which remain our major focus.

Each year the club budgets to achieve income targets and manage expenditure. In so doing, plans are set for maintenance, development and capital works. During the current year, the club has committed to a relatively modest capital program designed to meet the needs of members, whilst avoiding any immediate pressures on subscriptions. Subscriptions have been capped at CPI for the current year.

Council is committed to not only maintaining facilities, but also improving them for the enjoyment of members. It is our intention to ensure that Kooyong maintains its place as one of the leading tennis clubs in the world. In setting our direction, serious consideration will always be given to the impact on members and on subscriptions. Our club is well positioned to move forward.

The future of Australian tennis – are they here?

Australian tennis is going through some big changes at the moment with Tennis Australia making some huge structural moves aimed at turning around the flagging fortunes of Australian tennis for the future.

Steve Wood was appointed CEO of Tennis Australia and has since appointed the new Director of Player development, Craig Tiley, who comes with a big reputation from his work in the USA.

“ With another year under their belt and a Summer of tournaments to come there is no doubt the boys will be keen to continue pushing themselves to bigger and better things with the support of the Club. ”

Several key appointments have been made since in the area of player development including the addition of former Davis Cup player and former coach of Lleyton Hewitt, Jason Stoltenberg, as the new National High Performance Academy Head Coach.

This restructure is aimed at streamlining the development path for our developing juniors and there are sure to be more changes to come but how many and how quickly will they impact on our player stocks?

This question is the huge unknown and may not filter through the system for many years but it is sure to give hope to all those out there who felt tennis has been flagging in Australia for some time.

A review of all manners of tennis development in Australia will bring with it some huge changes for players in this country but ultimately it's the 10, 11 and 12 year olds who are likely to benefit most and Kooyong has three of the most exciting youngsters in the country developing through the Club.

At the Under 12 National titles held at Beaumaris Lawn Tennis Club in September

Kooyong's three little stars were seeded 2, 4 and 6 and are some of the brightest prospects for their age group.

Although a lot of water has to pass under the bridge before any of these kids becomes the next star on Australia's tennis horizon, it is hoped these boys will push each other to greater heights as they continue to develop.

Will Heffernan, Andrew Whittington and Matthew Findlay are three youngsters with huge futures and they're all well on the path travelled by many players before them.

Coming together for the first time this season, the boys played pennant in Grade 7 for the Club and acquitted themselves well against much bigger and stronger opponents.

With another year under their belt and a Summer of tournaments to come there is no doubt the boys will be keen to continue pushing themselves to bigger and better things with the support of the Club.

Andrew will soon leave for a trip to the world's most prestigious junior tournament, the Orange Bowl, in America for the second year and after some promising results in last year's event he will be keen to show the world what he is capable of doing.

Andrew and Matthew also recently won the Under 12 Doubles title at the nationals in Melbourne and have been playing doubles together for quite some time.

Will Heffernan is being groomed at the hand of Pat Cash's former mentor, Ian Barclay, who has always been worried about the development of our junior players and this will help his development no end.

Barclay has already had a hand in developing an Orange Bowl champion, Kooyong scholarship holder Andrew Thomas, who won the under 12 event in 2002 and this augurs well for the future of young Will, whose older sisters are also talented players.

All three of these boys could be the answer to the questions being posed at the moment but only time will tell.

Maybe this is the start of a bright new era in Australian tennis and these boys could be the centre of that excitement in the future and hopefully Kooyong played a small part in helping them achieve their goals.



The future: (from left) Kooyong's Will Heffernan, Matthew Findlay and Andrew Whittington

Clubs Victoria awards Kooyong and a Favourite Son

Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club has again been recognised for its continued excellence in the Club industry when rewarded at the recent Clubs Victoria achievement awards night at Crown Casino.

The Club was a finalist in nine categories and won two awards on the night with the Club of the Year without Gaming award again recognising Kooyong's status in the industry.

The Club was also a finalist in the Club Restaurant of the Year and Sporting Club of the Year but it was an individual honour which gave Kooyong a lot to be proud about.

Kooyong's Cedric Mason was recognised with a highly commended award in the Club Employee of the Year award after the judges found it nearly impossible to split him and the ultimate winner.

Cedric, Kooyong's Tennis and Sports Manager, is well known to nearly every Kooyong member and his service to the Club over the past 16 years has been second to none.

His commitment to serving the members and ensuring they have an avenue to participate in a sport he loves at a Club he has been part of for over 50 years is an amazing story.

Having brought in such innovations as the now overwhelmingly successful Monday Night tennis competition and the Friday Morning Ladies competition, Cedric has been able to give many of the Club's members access to weekly tennis and social activities at Kooyong.

His love of the sport and its development in this country is also well known to most as he serves on the Davis Cup Foundation and the International Tennis Club of Australia boards.

This passion for tennis has also seen Cedric develop one of the strongest Tennis Victoria Pennant Clubs in the State as Kooyong looks to help the stars of the future recognise their potential through the scholarship program at the Club.

His vision also now sees up to 26 junior teams compete for the Club each season and this involves more than four different venues around the Hawthorn area so that all of these kids have access to participation in tennis via Kooyong.

Cedric has given many promising young players the opportunity to play and train here at Kooyong and to see them flourish in the sport he loves.

He has experienced great enjoyment and friendships he's built through his involvement in tennis over many years and wants others to experience the same.

It's this enjoyment of life and tennis that makes it such a pleasure to be involved with a man such as Cedric Mason and Kooyong is lucky to have someone of his calibre around the Club.

We congratulate the Club on the recognition it has again gained from Clubs Victoria and also congratulate Cedric Mason on a most deserved award for many years of committed service to Kooyong and its members.



(Top) Kooyong's Cedric Mason with his Highly Commended Employee of the Year trophy from Clubs Victoria. And below is the two trophies won by the Club in 2005.



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Kooyong hosts Trans-Tasman Challenge

This was an important occasion for some aspiring young tennis players to show their wares to tennis selectors and officials from both Australia and New Zealand.

And some of the most important people in Australian tennis came out to see them play including the newly appointed CEO of Tennis Australia, Steve Wood, new Director of Player Development, Craig Tiley, new National High Performance Academy Coach, Jason Stoltenberg, Junior Events Manager for Tennis Australia, Steve Walker and former Wimbledon, Australian and US Open winner, Frank Sedgman.

The event is conducted under the auspices of the International Tennis Club of Australia and is called the Tasman Cup and is played between Australia and New Zealand for boys and girls 16 years and under. New Zealand will host the return match in 2006.

The Australian team contained some of the country's best up and coming talent in this age group with Troy Smith, Jonathan Dixon, Alenka Hubacek and Isabella Holland named in the side.

The International Club of Australia is an interesting group of people. Most tennis playing nations around the world have an International Club.

Membership can only be achieved by having been accepted into the main draw of the any of the four Grand Slam events or having represented your country in Davis Cup or Federation Cup or service to tennis as an associate member.

In Australia, for example, all of our former and present Davis Cup players are members. There are presently over 200 members of the Australian Club under the Presidency of Frank Sedgman, who is also President of the world group of International Clubs with the headquarters in London.

Following the Australia vs New Zealand concept, Europe has recently completed a European 16 and under challenge for boys and girls organised by the Council of International Clubs in which eight nations competed in Paris.

Spain defeated Germany to earn the right to challenge Australia in February of next year and teams from the USA, South America and South Africa have declared their interest in competing in 2006 to establish this as a world wide event.

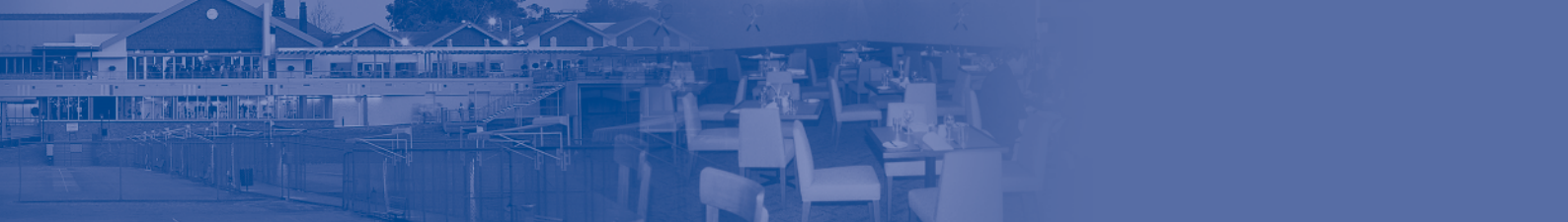
All of this has emanated from retired tennis players and officials from around Australia who have a passion for tennis and who are part of the International Clubs movement.

The International Club also caters for their older members as many have enjoyed some excellent trips overseas where everyone is made to feel welcome in any country they visit and it continues to prove there is a life after competitive tennis.

On this occasion Australia proved to be too strong for their Trans-Tasman rivals as they went on to win 6 rubbers to four and 125 games to 106.



From top: Australia's Troy Smith, Alenka Hubacek, Isabella Holland, Jonathan Dixon, Frank Sedgman with the Australian team and both the Australian and New Zealand teams at Kooyong.



Grass Courts Open for Play

The grass courts are once again open for play and members are sure to be making the most of their availability over the hot summer months.

With significant work carried out on the courts over winter, members will hopefully enjoy the lush grass courts Kooyong is accustomed to having available at this time of year.

Our turf consultant, John Neylan, has confirmed that the intensive winter program is showing excellent results as we commence our summer grass court season.

Replacement baselines have bedded down well and good growth is evident throughout, while the newly laid turf has “knitted” well with the existing turf.

Heavy scarification, aeration of the soil and fertilising during the winter established strong, healthy new growth through the body of the courts when warmer weather arrived.

Rigorous weeding has eliminated several Kikuyu and Poa Annua grasses and affected areas have been replaced with new turf to establish couch growth.

An unexpected problem arose when couch fly infested the courts during recent hot weather, but quick action by our grounds staff avoided a potentially major problem.

New laid turf on courts 19 – 22 is advancing well, but these courts will be carefully managed back to play to achieve the best results for playing out the new season.

While staff continue preparations by rolling, cutting and watering, we hope for hot weather to compliment their work and we look forward to another season of enjoyment on our grass courts.




BOB LANGRISH

For classic tennis, you're in luck.

We are the proud new sponsor of the AAMI Classic at Kooyong, so sit back, relax and enjoy.



Federer returns for the AAMI Classic

Roger Federer again heads an exciting line up of tennis stars that will play in the 2006 AAMI Classic at Kooyong from January 11th to 14th in preparation for the Australian Open.

Federer will headline a field featuring Andy Roddick, Guillermo Coria, Ivan Ljubicic, David Nalbandian and Tommy Haas, while Andre Agassi is now a confirmed starter for his ninth appearance at Kooyong as he pushes into another season on the tour.

And in another huge announcement for the event, leading Australian car, home and compulsory third party personal injury insurer, AAMI, has signed a three-year major sponsorship agreement with the Kooyong Classic.



At the launch of the 2006 AAMI Classic Tournament Director Colin Stubs said, 'We are absolutely delighted to welcome AAMI on board as our naming rights sponsor. Having noted AAMI's professionalism and the longevity associated with the company's other sponsorships, I can confidently say that the future of the AAMI Classic is assured'.

The 2005 Wimbledon and US Open winner and World No. 1, Federer, will head into the Australian Open after competing at Kooyong for the third time and is also the current Kooyong title holder.

Federer's record this year speaks for itself, and apart from winning two Grand Slams he has also gone on to win four Masters Series events and four ATP events while making the semi finals of the Australian and French Opens.

Kooyong was spoiled last year as the World No 1 and 2 played off in the final here and we may see a similar prospect this year as Andy Roddick returns to play the AAMI Classic.

Despite now being ranked No 3 in the world, Andy has had another stellar year in which he has won four ATP events while also making

the final of Wimbledon and the semi finals of the Australian Open.

Kooyong favourite, Andre Agassi, will play the AAMI Classic for a ninth time as he seeks to win his fourth Australian Open crown.

After being inducted as a life member at Kooyong last year, Andre, as always, will be a huge drawcard for the AAMI Classic and the crowds will flock to see the Las Vegan on centre court in Melbourne.

Despite injury problems earlier in the year, Andre recovered well to post some outstanding results leading into the US Open where he made the final and went down to Roger Federer in four sets.

This form should see the Las Vegan head to Australia with the confidence to push for a ninth Grand Slam title.

The 2006 AAMI Classic will also have a distinct Argentinean flavour with the return of World No. 6 David Nalbandian for his fourth visit to Kooyong and his countryman, Guillermo Coria, who is currently ranked No 8 in the world, will join him at Kooyong for the first time.

Guillermo has had a consistent season, as his current ranking suggests, with a win at the tournament in Umag as well as making the final of the Masters Series events in Monte Carlo and Rome and the ATP event in Beijing.

The ninth ranked Ivan Ljubicic has had a huge year on the tour including leading his country into the Davis Cup final against Slovakia to be played in early December.

The big Croatian is the first player from his country to qualify for the season ending Tennis Masters Cup, to be played in Shanghai, since Goran Ivanisevic and has won three ATP tournaments this year and is returning to the event after making his debut last year.

Tommy Haas also returns to the field after competing at Kooyong in 2002 and he will be keen to kick start his year as he attempts to return to the top echelon of players as he battles his way back from a shoulder operation.

A big crowd favourite in Melbourne, Tommy has had an encouraging year with four semi finals appearances in Memphis, Halle, Munich and San Jose.

The final spots in the field are yet to be confirmed but discussions are proceeding with Marat Safin, Richard Gasquet and Taylor Dent in relation to the final spots.

'Arguably the best ever player field will assemble at Kooyong next January. We are thrilled Roger, Andy, David and Tommy have chosen to return. We look forward to welcoming Guillermo and are confident Andre will again grace our centre court,' said Colin Stubs.

The promotion/relegation format will see each player assured of three matches over the four days of the event and the draw for the first day will take place the day before the tournament begins.

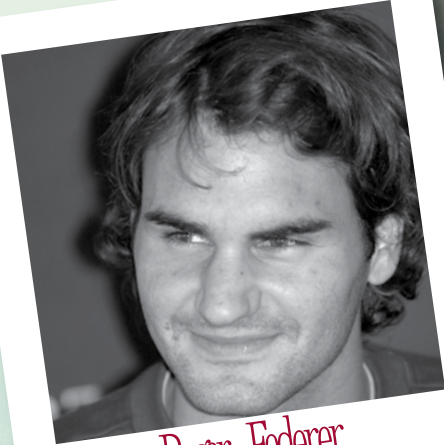
Tickets are available through Ticketmaster on 1300 136 122 or via the website www.ticketmaster.com or members can purchase them directly via the booking form accompanying your edition of Courtside magazine.

Matches will begin at 11.00am on Wednesday (four matches), Thursday (three matches) and Friday (three matches) and the finals (two matches) will begin at 12.30pm on the Saturday.

The final will also be televised live for the first time at 3pm on Channel Seven.

Don't miss all the world class action from the 2006 AAMI Classic at Kooyong.

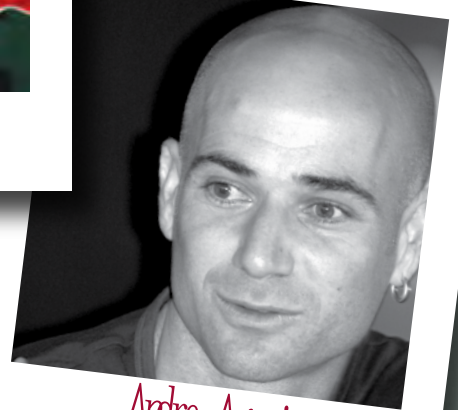




Roger Federer



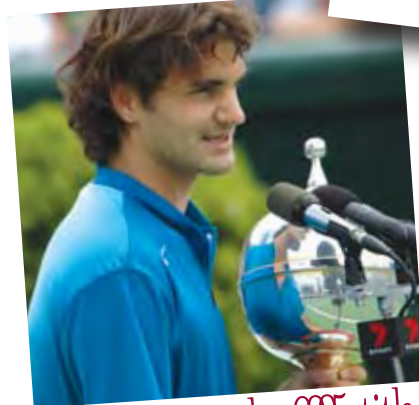
Nalbandian returns



Andre Agassi



Andy Roddick



Federer won the 2005 title



Agassi in action



David Nalbandian



Roddick runner up in 2005

Kooyong Foundation

The Legends' Lunch

Kooyong was again buzzing at the annual Legends' Lunch recently with special guests Ken Rosewall and Alicia Molik.

In support of the Kooyong Foundation, the Legends Lunch proved to be hugely popular as it sold out more than two months before the event and more than 260 people packed the Kooyong Room for a wonderful day of entertainment.

New Tennis Australia CEO, Steve Wood, outlined some of the new initiatives now in place for the future success of the organisation in terms of the business itself and the future development of players in Australia.

This was followed by Jon Anderson's interview of the great Ken Rosewall, who featured in many great matches here at Kooyong and is one of the legends of the sport in Australia.

Ken's fond memories of Kooyong from the Davis Cup to the Australian Championships were a great insight into his wonderful achievements in the sport not just in this country but around the world.

Ken's eight Grand Slam victories, and not to mention eight times runner up at Grand Slams including four times at Wimbledon, secure his place as one of the best players ever produced by Australia.

He also won the Grand Slam of doubles in 1956 with his close friend Lew Hoad and 'The Gold-dust Twins', as they were known, etched themselves into tennis folklore.

Kooyong also honoured Ken with a long overdue Special Honorary membership for life for his contribution to many wonderful tennis moments at Kooyong over the years.

Jon Anderson also interviewed a new Kooyong favourite in Alicia Molik and most were interested in when we would see the Australian star back on court after her battle with a middle ear infection.

She is often seen around the Club and it is great to have someone of her ilk involved at Kooyong with so many interested tennis fans here following her career so closely.

Alicia spoke of her continued battle to get back on court and the decision she made to take next year off to ensure she gives herself every opportunity to return to the heights she reached just before the illness took hold.



Always speaking candidly, Alicia let those present in on some of the quirky habits and the different characters she comes across regularly on the tour.

Everyone present enjoyed a wonderful day with two of Australia's great tennis players and it again cemented itself as a wonderful social event on the Kooyong calendar.

We look forward to another fantastic Legends' Lunch in 2006!

From top: Ken Rosewall receiving his Special Honorary membership of the Club for life from Kooyong President Peter Quinn, Alicia Molik entertains the large crowd in the Kooyong Room and left with MC Jon Anderson, (bottom) Ken Rosewall shared many of his stories from his playing days at Kooyong and around the world.



Kooyong Foundation continues support of Australian juniors

The Kooyong Foundation is continuing its campaign to help Australia's brightest tennis prospects reach their full potential as it again sends Andrew Whittington to the Orange Bowl this December.

Still eligible for the under 12's event, Andrew will this time be joined by 5 other Tennis Australia supported players under the guidance of Kooyong coach, Glenn Busby, to play in three tournaments over four weeks.

The Kooyong Foundation's support of Andrew to travel to these events has obviously struck a chord with the new Director of Player Development, Craig Tiley, at Tennis Australia who has decided to send possibly the largest contingent of Australian players ever to these events.

This is a huge tick of approval for the Kooyong Foundation and its efforts in supporting junior development in Australia and may lead to further support of these programs in the future as the Foundation aims to help produce this country's next tennis star.

The team members for the 12's age group are Ben Wagland (NSW), Jason Kubler (QLD), Joey Swaysland (NSW), Andrew Whittington (VIC), Georgie Carswell (TAS) and Alexandra Nancarrow (QLD).

Andrew returned some encouraging results at his first attempt in these tournaments in America last year and will be keen to improve on those results in a few weeks time.

Seen as one of the world's most prestigious junior events, Australia has produced two under 12 Orange Bowl champions over the last three years so expectations are high for another good result which reflects well on the development of this country's current junior players.

Bernard Tomic won the under 12 Orange Bowl last year and in 2002 Kooyong scholarship holder, Andrew Thomas, won the under 12 event before going on to win the unofficial under 14 world title in France a year or so later.

Tennis Australia is also sending a team of under 14 players to these events in America with Jake Eames (ACT), Isabella Holland (QLD) and Kooyong's Sally Peers heading over to contest the three tournaments.

The Australian players are set to depart on the 21st of November and will take part in the Eddie Herr International Junior Tennis Championships followed by the 2005 Prince Cup and then onto the Junior Orange Bowl 44th International Tennis Championships which run til the 23rd of December.

We would like to wish Andrew, Sally and the other Australian players all the best for the upcoming tournaments in America and maybe we'll see a Kooyong player bring home an Orange Bowl title in a few weeks time.

The work by the Kooyong Foundation continues to benefit some of Australia's most promising talents and if the recent junior successes are any indication we may produce a talent to rival any on the world stage in the not too distant future.

Every opportunity is being made available to these players but teaching desire, hunger and the will to win isn't easy so we hope someone with these qualities filters through the system to produce the results most expect from a country rich in tennis tradition.



From left: Kooyong Foundation Chairman Terry Fraser, staunch Foundation supporter John Laidlaw and two of the Foundation's supported players Andrew Whittington and Maya Milosevic.

Property Advice



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Wimbledon Kyushu Tennis Club Anniversary



Top: Kooyong's CEO, Chris Brown, presents a commemorative plate to Mrs Ogata for the 30th anniversary of the Wimbledon Kyushu Lawn Tennis Club in Japan. Bottom: The lush grass courts of the Wimbledon Kyushu Lawn Tennis Club.

Around the world there has been a regrettable trend away from grass tennis courts. The uncertainty of the seasons and difficulties of maintaining turf has seen many tennis clubs drawn to other surfaces in preference to grass.

It was against this trend that Dr. Ogata acted when some thirty years ago he realised his dream and established a grass tennis club in the south of Japan.

Having researched around the world, Dr. Ogata ploughed rice paddies into the ground, laid a series of sub-surfaces and drainage and planted out the area with imported grasses. What he produced is today the Wimbledon Kyushu Tennis Club, home to sixteen grass courts.

In 2005 the Club celebrated its 30th anniversary and the celebrations culminated in an anniversary event on the 18th of September.

The day commenced with social tennis. A match featuring former Japanese Davis Cup players, a demonstration by a highly awarded local school gymnastics group and a dinner in the evening followed.

At the celebration dinner, Doctor Ogata's son, Shuu, spoke of his father's dream. He quoted the words from the film 'Field Of Dreams', where the lead character heard the words, "Build it and they will come". The parallels with the experiences of Dr. Ogata were not lost on the audience.

Kooyong CEO, Chris Brown and his wife Cathy, were invited guests on the day and enjoyed the hospitality of the club and it's members. "Cathy and I are extremely appreciative of the warm welcome and special arrangements afforded us by the Wimbledon Kyushu Club. Our visit has provided us with new friendships and many fond memories" he said.

During the dinner Chris made a speech, which was translated into Japanese. He spoke of the strong links that have developed between the Clubs over recent years and presented Mrs. Ogata with a commemorative plate celebrating their 30th anniversary.

The members of Kooyong extend warm wishes to the Wimbledon Kyushu Tennis Club on its anniversary and wish the members continued enjoyment of their wonderful facility.

Will the young guns deliver again

After a long and drawn out Club Championships in 2005 it is hoped the weather may allow for a smoother run this February when it all kicks off again.

After a flood like several seen here at the Club over the past 100 years, the courts took several weeks to recover but when they did it was all first class tennis in the Open events of the Club Championships.

It wasn't the familiar names dominating though as some of the Club's young guns worked their way past some of the bigger names in the draw and set themselves up for a run at the title.

Seeing Alasdair Graetz and Bianca Acquistapace win the Open singles titles was a different chapter in the Club's history as two youngsters held the title for the first time in recent memory and it may be a sign of things to come.

There may be several State Grade players who have other ideas in 2006 and there's no doubt the Club's State Grade number one, Lee Pearson, would love to get his name on the

honour board here and it may have only been circumstances which prevented that last year.

We may also see a match toughened Matthew Coghlan back in the picture this year after missing last year's event with work commitments and we'll have to keep our eyes on new recruit Paul Arber as well.

The question mark is over four-time winner Jay Salter and his availability over the two weekends of play considering his game is well suited to the grass courts here at Kooyong.

You can't discount the defending champion, Alasdair Graetz, and some of his young compatriots like Yan Levinski and Jason Lee who continue to improve at a rapid rate and will be match fit at that time of year.

This could be the most competitive event for many years and the standard is sure to be high.

On the women's side of things it will be interesting to see who can challenge the possible three-peat of Bianca Acquistapace as

she attempts to equal Sarah Stone's, Catton, Ruddell's three wins but is still a long way behind Elizabeth Peers' 14 Open singles titles here at Kooyong.

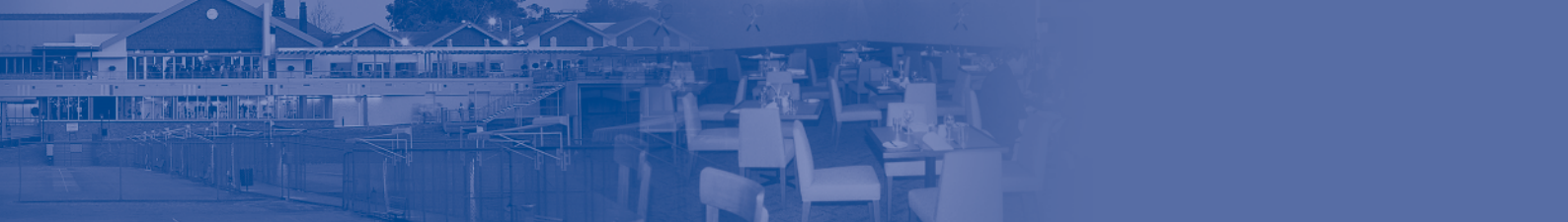
Bianca dominated last year's event and despite dropping a set in the semi final to Jurate Hardy she never really looked like losing the tournament and is currently playing some strong tennis on the Kia Pro Tour in Australia.

Bianca's State Grade team-mates will be her biggest threat with last year's runner up Karen Kleverlaan always tough to beat on grass and Meryl Johnston is playing some great tennis at the moment and her game is well suited to the grass here at Kooyong.

All members are reminded to get their entry forms in to the Club by 5pm on Friday the 13th of January, 2006.

The event is open to all categories of membership and there are events catering for all standards of play.

We look forward to seeing you in February for the 2006 Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club Championships proudly sponsored by Optus.



Website under construction

Members will soon see a new look Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club website. The site, which will have some exciting new features, should be launched in the next few months.

E-commerce, court bookings and 3 dimensional walk throughs of the function facilities are all high on the agenda of the new look site and should provide members with easier access to information about their areas of interest at the Club.

Other potential benefits to members on the new site include web streaming of the facilities so members will be able to see the condition of the Club at various intervals during the day, and daily updates of events and functions on at the Club.

Hopefully these new features will help to streamline your enjoyment of all the events and facilities at the Club and members will be able to access any information they require about the Club.

We look forward to bringing this new website to you in the near future.



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Archives & research centre

Our collection has been enhanced by Evonne Cawley's generous donation of the tennis dress she wore while winning her second Wimbledon title in 1980. From Mrs Nancy Entink, we have received fascinating memorabilia from her husband Jim Entink, one of Kooyong's great referees.

We are indebted to Rolf Jaeger for donating some remarkable video material including "Kings of the Court" featuring Tilden, Vines, Perry, Budge, Riggs, Kramer, Gonzalez, Sedgman, Hoad, and Laver and "Better Tennis" by Helen Wills.

We are also grateful for donations, from Ian Robertson, of twelve LTAV Annual Reports 1958 – 1973, from Mrs K W Millership of an autograph album of competitors in the 1935 Australian Tennis Championships at Kooyong, from John Dean of a delightful framed page in colour from the "The Graphic Summer Number 1881" entitled "Our Lawn Tennis Match", and from Paul Penman of the towel John Alexander gave him as a memento while playing at Wimbledon in 1978.

Our library continues to expand with the purchase of Dinny Pails, Set Points, Alan Trengove's donation of his latest book, Todd Woodbridge, The World's Greatest Doubles Player, and John Dean's donation of Tennis, A Cultural History, by Heiner Gillmeister.

The cataloguing continues apace with Ai Kobayashi having already catalogued 2300 items including many of the trophies adorning the clubhouse.

Norman Marshall, Club Archivist

THE BARON AT KOOYONG



Budge (left) receiving service from Von Cramm (right)

The 1950s – often regarded as the golden age of Australian tennis – owe much to the publicity generated before World War 2 by the visits of leading international players such as triple Wimbledon Champion Fred Perry who lost his Australian title to Jack Crawford at Kooyong in 1935 and Donald Budge who began his historic 1938 grand slam by winning the Australian title in Adelaide.

Budge's visit excited intense interest because it coincided with the arrival of the German Davis Cup team, led by the stylish and debonair Baron Gottfried Von Cramm, the world's number two player. To capitalize on the presence of these star competitors a Triangular Match between Germany, America, and Australia was organised at Kooyong in the second week of January 1938.

With an eye to gate receipts Budge and Von Cramm were drawn to play each other on Saturday, January 10. Despite advertisements that morning in the major papers announcing that all the seats had been sold Kooyong was inundated by phone calls from people desperately trying to buy tickets.

To accommodate the unprecedented demand the organizers cheerfully disregarded Health Commission regulations and arranged for temporary wooden seating to be erected over space used as exit walkways. Hundreds of tennis enthusiasts with tickets for standing room only on the Glenferrie Road embankment arrived hours early armed with cushions and thermos flasks.

The record crowd of 11,000 were not disappointed. In an enthralling match lasting nearly two hours and regarded for many years afterwards as the greatest match ever played at Kooyong the Baron defeated Donald

Budge 6-4, 8-10, 12-10. That night the flags of Germany, the U.S.A, Britain and Australia hung from the balcony in the Clubhouse while the international visitors danced the night away at the ball held in their honour.

Two weeks later in the semi-finals of the Australian Championships Von Cramm was defeated by John Bromwich, who went on to lose in straight sets to Donald Budge in the final. When war broke out Von Cramm refused Goering's request to join the Nazi Party and was punished by being demoted to the rank of Private. Sent to fight at Stalingrad he held off Soviet troops long enough with a machine gun to make his escape back to German lines and ultimately to Sweden.

In an interview many years later, Budge, who never forgot how Von Cramm rebuked him for embarrassing the umpire at Wimbledon by giving away a point, described Von Cramm as "the finest sportsman of all time in any sport".

Norman Marshall, Club Archivist



Budge (left) and Von Cramm before their historic match at Kooyong

Gymnasium Refurbishment and Equipment Upgrade

Council approved a number of changes for the gymnasium, which have been brought into effect in the past few weeks.

To allow members to better organise their bags and personal items, a storage unit has been fitted within the gymnasium.

A new stretching and warm up/warm down area has been created to allow these activities to be undertaken with greater comfort and enjoyment.

A number of new items of equipment are on order and these will be progressively introduced.

New equipment on order includes a calf raise and a pulley system and members have requested both of these items frequently.

Other equipment within the gym will be upgraded with new machinery. This includes, three new treadmills, two new upright bikes and a new cross-trainer.

During the period of construction and equipment changeover there may have been some disruption.

We know that members would have managed this short-term inconvenience to be able to enjoy the significant improvement, which should have resulted from the changes.

We hope members make use of these upgraded and improved facilities in our gymnasium.



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State Grade Men bow out in close semi

Kooyong's State Grade Men's team were unfortunately bundled in the semi finals of the Victorian Tennis Series for the first time in the last four years.

Having made the final on the previous three occasions, the boys were set for another run at the pennant but ran into a red hot North Ringwood combination and couldn't overcome the Jay Salter led team in a close tussle.

With several things going against them during the season, including the loss of number two Leigh Holland for the season and the injury to Daniel Byrnes as the finals approached, the team was still hopeful of beating whoever they came across in the finals.

Kooyong's former number one, Jay Salter, had other ideas as he set about ruining the party for his old side and it was his efforts alone which changed the course of the match.

The pivotal matches were always going to be those in which Jay played and unfortunately he was able to win both his singles and doubles and get his side home by just a handful of games.

In the singles Kooyong's number one Lee Pearson faced the arduous task of defeating the form player of the competition, Jay Salter, and fell behind early in the match as Salter got on top but at a set and 4/2 down Pearson was able to work himself into the match.

Having won the second set, Pearson began the third set positively but Salter also switched on and both players had opportunities to break during the set but the match came down to a third set tie breaker which Salter eventually won to take the match 6/2 4/6 7/6.

Captain, Matthew Coghlan got Kooyong off to a great start by defeating up and coming star Stephen Donald 1/6 6/3 6/4.

After losing the first set comfortably to his younger opponent, Coghlan stepped up and began to out-think Donald as he made the youngster work for every point.

It was this mentality which saw Coghlan again prove his huge value to this Kooyong team and got the boys off to a flying start.

Kooyong's David Bidmeade then faced the tough task of playing, the near unstoppable, Rob McKenzie who had produced another super year of results.

Bidmeade played his heart out against his close mate and hitting partner but was unable to take the chances on offer and eventually lost a close contest 6/4 6/4.

Nathan Byrnes knew as he walked out onto the court that he needed to win to ensure Kooyong was still a chance of making the final and his will to win for the side was unquestioned as fought out a tough match with North Ringwood's favourite son Rob Phillips.

Phillips pushed young Byrnes but when it had to be won there was no doubting the talented Kooyong youngster wanted to win and was going to do everything in his power to make sure his team had a chance to make their fourth consecutive final with only the doubles to come.

Byrnes 7/5 6/4 win was so important for his side but no-one was to know it wouldn't quite get his team over the line in one of the closest semi finals in recent memory.

Kooyong went into the doubles with a narrow deficit on games and was confident it had the combinations right to defeat North Ringwood in both matches but there was just one person standing in the way.

As David Bidmeade and Matthew Coghlan headed towards victory in their doubles match against Rob McKenzie and Rob Phillips, it was the match on the next court, which didn't quite go to plan for the Kooyong side.

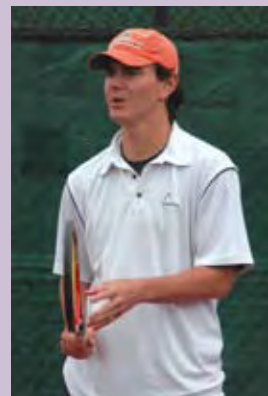
Jay Salter had teamed with youngster Stephen Donald for North Ringwood and they had played a blistering first set against Kooyong's Lee Pearson and Nathan Byrnes.

Needing just a set to put themselves in a good position to the win the day, the Kooyong pair knuckled down in the second set to try and keep Kooyong in the match but it was the big serving Salter who again proved a thorn in the side as he stepped up to give his team a straight sets win 6/1 6/4 and a berth in the grand final.

Unfortunately the Kooyong boys didn't quite get there on the day but had played their hearts out trying to make it a fourth consecutive appearance in the final and they should be proud of another first class season.

Congratulations to North Ringwood, who went on to win the 2005 State Grade title with a clean sweep of Veneto in the final.

From left: The boys before the vital semi final, Lee Pearson, David Bidmeade, Nathan Byrnes and Matthew Coghlan, the boys work out their strategy, Lee Pearson in action and Matthew Coghlan ready to serve.



It couldn't have been any closer in the Women's State Grade semi final as Kooyong looked to make their second consecutive final against a Dingley team who were on top of the ladder for most of the season.

The Kooyong girls were clear underdogs in this match and the Dingley side would have expected to win fairly comfortably against a side which had played well against the lower teams in the competition but had struggled when facing the top three sides.

It turned out to be the complete opposite as the Kooyong girls surprised their more fancied opponents to put themselves in a winning position going into the doubles.

Danielle Kypreos got the Kooyong side on the board early with a hard fought 7/6 7/6 win over Candice Graetz but the Dingley side came back hard winning the next two singles rubbers.

Dingley's State Grade Player of the Year, Karolina Wlodarczak, played well to defeat Kooyong's Meryl Johnston in straight sets 6/3 6/1.

Johnston, who has been one of the big improvers in State Grade this year and was one of the major reasons behind Kooyong making last year's final, wasn't able to match it with the best player in the competition but again proved she deserved to play in this company and would be better for it next season.

In the third singles it was Dingley's Joanna Konivszewski who outlasted Kooyong's ever-consistent Karen Kleverlaan in a tight three set match 6/3 2/6 6/3.

Kleverlaan, in her first season back after having a baby, was one of Kooyong's most consistent players throughout the season and her experience proved invaluable in helping some of the younger players in the side especially in the doubles.

This left the number one players from both sides to battle it out and it was imperative that Annabel Ellwood get a win on the board for Kooyong to keep them in with a chance of victory on the day.

Playing against the tour hardened Lisa D'Amelio, Ellwood was able to keep within striking distance in the first set but D'Amelio took the set 6/4.

The match remained tight throughout but Ellwood dug deep to keep herself and the team in the match as she reversed the scoreline in the second set to level the match at one set apiece.

State Grade Women ...so close

The final set was more of the same as both girls battled for the important win to get their side one step closer to a berth in the final but it was the big match experience of Ellwood which came to the fore in the end and she was able to keep the Kooyong girls in the match with a 4/6 6/4 6/4 win.

With the two doubles matches to come Kooyong was confident of making a good run at their opponents and got away to a great start with Danielle Kypreos and Karen Kleverlaan teaming together to get an easy win and put the side in a commanding position before the final doubles match.

Kypreos and Kleverlaan completely dominated their less experienced opponents, Candice Graetz and Joanna Konivszewski, to win 6/1 6/0 and complete their part of the equation.

Annabel Ellwood and Meryl Johnston knew exactly what was required when they went onto the court for the final match of the day.

Knowing a win, a set or just eight games was enough to pull off a huge upset the girls faced up to possibly one of the toughest doubles combinations in women's State Grade, Lisa D'Amelio and Karolina Wlodarczak.

The Kooyong girls got off to a solid start but weren't able to win the first set, eventually going down 6/4, which was half the games required to win the day.

At two all in the second set, and requiring just one game to force a draw, Annabel and Meryl looked to be in control of their own destiny as they needed just to hold their own serves to win the day but unfortunately things didn't pan out this way.

D'Amelio and Wlodarczak were able to dig themselves out of trouble by reeling off the next four games to win the match and the semi final 6/4 6/2 and eventually the State Grade pennant was also theirs as they went to defeat Grace Park in the final.

Kooyong's girls again had a fantastic season but congratulations to Dingley who took home the State Grade title in their first season back in the top grade.



From top: Kooyong's Danielle Kypreos, Karen Kleverlaan and Annabel Ellwood.

Kooyong wins an equal best five pennants



From left: The Vets Grade 6 team with the Kevin Howard trophy for best Vets team after also winning their pennant (photo: David Jansz), the winning Grade 1 Men's team, the winning Grade 1 Women's team and the winning Grade 7 Men's team.



Kooyong has topped off the Victorian tennis Series season with five pennants, an equal best season for the Club.

Luke Dixon's Grade 1 team won an historic pennant when they easily disposed of a weakened Beaumaris side, who lost two players to US College tennis before the final began.

The Kooyong team of Glenn Busby, Luke Dixon, Yan Levinski, Alasdair Graetz and Jason Lee had proved to be a strong combination throughout the year and again proved their depth was hard to combat with their number 1 player, Glenn Busby, sitting out the singles.

Yan, Alasdair and Jason all won their singles to put the side in a commanding position before the doubles and Luke and Jason put it beyond doubt with a straight sets win in the first doubles match.

Kooyong has never won a Men's Grade 1 pennant, having won two Grade 1 women's pennants in the last three years, and this team of youngsters had been building through the grades here at the Club for several years.

It was fantastic to see these youngsters come together and achieve a first for the Club together and it was also good to see the Grade 1 Player of the Year award go to Alasdair Graetz.

In Grade 7, David Lowenstern's team went all the way through the season without losing a match and this unblemished record continued

through the finals with Chris Leftley, Nick Kotros, Tim Straford, Mark Dohnt and David Lowenstern dominating their Tier 2 final against Parkwood.

Kooyong also won the Grade 6 Vets pennant won by Ray Fitz-Gerald's team of Fitz-Gerald, John Oliver, Bob Mann, Jim Smith and John Vesely after a near perfect season and they also picked up the Kevin Howard award for the best Veteran's team for 2005.

On top of that Ray Fitz-Gerald also picked up the Vets Grade 6 Player of the Year award.

Another two pennants were added to the collection by two of our top women's teams.

After narrowly missing a chance to play off for the Women's State Grade pennant, losing to eventual winner Dingley by 1 game, Kooyong has added the Grade 1 and 2 pennants to a growing collection from recent years.

Kooyong's current depth in women's tennis was confirmed as Lucy Mercuri's Grade 1 team went on to defeat Essendon who boasted several State Grade winning players from 2004.

Despite missing No 1 Emily Arnott for the match, Lucy's team of Despina Konstantinidis, Lucy Mercuri, Anna Judd and Jessica Collins were still able to outplay their more fancied opponents in a tightly fought contest and all four girls celebrated their first pennant win of any kind for their careers.

Lucinda McKillop's Grade 2 team also came through with the goods defeating East Coburg in a lopsided final as all four girls won their singles in straight sets and won a set of the doubles to claim a much deserved victory after dominating the entire season.

Lucinda McKillop, Stephanie Kanaris, Karina Prajoga and Natalie Baic proved to be too strong for their opponents on the day and together with Sally Peers they proved to clearly be the best team in Grade 2 in 2005.

After another great season Chris Straford and Lincoln Dundas have lead several of Kooyong's good young juniors into a Tier 2 semi final in Grade 2.

The team was unfortunately beaten by an MCC team boasting Paul McNamee and Victor Eke in the third set of the final doubles of the day but the side had a great season and James Wong, Leeton Spriggs and Zane Haupt will all have benefited from the year with Chris and Lincoln.

Congratulations to all these teams and to all who represented Kooyong during the year.

Arrival of the Arber



Paul Arber receives his Pennant Player of the Year award for 2005. (photo: David Jansz)

Reigning State Grade Player of the Year, Paul Arber, has arrived at Kooyong with unfinished business after a successful season at Grace Park but finishing without the coveted pennant win.

Playing at number three for Grace Park, Paul went through the season only losing one singles match to Kooyong's Nathan Byrnes and was a huge reason behind his team's top of the table finish.

Like his new Kooyong team-mates, Paul wanted to finish the year on a more successful note after all the hard work put in during the season and has his eyes set on a State Grade title with his close mate Lee Pearson in 2006.

The two have been mates for many years and together with our captain, Matthew Coghlan, they will form a strong core group for Kooyong next season.

Kooyong will also be looking to some of our younger stars to step up to the plate and perform in various roles throughout 2006 as Scott Doerner and Daniel and Nathan Byrnes will be away at College in the United States next year.

With several younger players staking a claim on a spot in the side it will be interesting to see who will actually be around and available due to travel for tournaments in Australia and overseas and commits to helping the boys win that elusive State Grade pennant.

Craig Berwick honoured with life membership



Kooyong's long serving Grounds Manager, Craig Berwick, has been recognised by his peers in the turf industry.

Craig, who has worked at Kooyong for over 22 years, was recently honoured with Life Membership of the TGAA VIC at its Annual General Meeting.

Craig became just the third person to be bestowed with Life Membership behind Bill Lawry and Ross Moloney.

Kooyong would like to congratulate Craig on this great recognition of his dedicated work in the industry over many years.

It's easy to see why so many of Craig's staff in the Grounds area have been at the Club for many years and all take pride in providing members with the best facilities possible.

Well done Craig!



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Junior Tennis round-up

Kooyong's junior teams head into another finals series with several sides favoured to win pennants for the Club after successful seasons.

Almost half of Kooyong's teams are likely to make the finals on both Saturday and Sunday and several Kooyong teams are battling with each other to secure spots in the top four.

On Saturday Lincoln Cottee's Section 1 team has performed well considering most of the boys in this team are around 11 years of age and looks likely to make the grand final.

Richie Meadows' Section 2 team are in a battle for fourth spot on the ladder and could possibly sneak into the finals.

In Section 4, Amelia Hamer's team are well clear of third spot on the ladder and should go directly into the grand final after a fantastic season especially from a few of the kids in their first season with the Club.

On Sunday Kooyong fielded 17 teams and only three of those teams have struggled in their sections with most teams being close to sneaking into the top four come finals time.

In Section 1 and 2 Kooyong has the job ahead to make the finals with other results needing to go their way to make it into the top four.

In Section 4 Kooyong's two teams are separated by half a point with one round left and both Will Barton's and Stephen Panayi's teams will be looking for a big win in the last round to get them into the finals.

In Section 6 both Lucas Stanboulgtis' and Patrick White's teams are going to miss out on the finals but are likely to finish in fifth and sixth respectively.

In Section 8 Charlie Fowler's team are currently on top of the ladder and would be favoured to win the pennant at this stage after dominating for most of the season.

These kids have done extremely well considering they won the Section 13 pennant last season.

In Section 10 Julian Daniell's team is currently just four points outside the top four and need to win well in the last round to force their way into the finals.

In Section 12 Oscar Skala's team are unfortunately going to miss the finals but can finish as high as fifth with a good win in the last round.

In Section 13 Michael Docker's team are sitting in third spot on the ladder but are capable of beating any team in their section and should go close to winning the pennant.

Section 14 is in a similar position with Annabelle Orr's team currently sitting on top of the ladder and will go into the finals with a near unbeaten record for the season.

These kids have dominated the section and should win the pennant come finals time.

In Section 17 Kooyong's two teams, Kim Stockdale and Camilla Collins, are sitting in fourth and fifth respectively and will battle it out for the final spot in the finals in the last round.

We look forward to our teams competing in this year's finals series and would like to thank all our players and parents for another wonderful year of junior tennis at the Club.

It continues to grow in stature and we are seeing the benefits of the team structure at the Club as our players begin to filter through into our senior teams.

Good luck for the finals!



Kooyong's Andrew Whittington and Matthew Findlay recently won the Under 12 National Doubles title and were presented with their trophies by legendary coach Tony Roche and legendary player Todd Woodbridge.

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Kooyong International Tennis Academy

This year seems to have disappeared just so quickly with the now AAMI Kooyong Classic and Australian Open only weeks away.

I am off to Florida in the USA from the 21st of November to 25th of December with an Australian under 12 boys/girls team, which will consist of 3 tournaments and a training camp.

The first tournament is the Eddy Herr at Nick Bollitteri's in Tampa, then off to Miami to the Prince Cup followed by the Orange Bowl, the largest and most prestigious junior tournament in the world.

Andrew Whittington, one of our Kooyong boys, is part of the team and we wish him all the best.

Also during this time our new office manager, Kurstie Jenkins, will be able to look after all your needs.

We have had a fantastic year with the coaching with our programs being 99% full, with a waiting list for specific days, and this can only happen with a great staff and a lot of flexibility.

We are now getting set for our big holiday and clinic program which have been a great success. I know I have said it before but it is appreciated and fantastic to hear some of our long standing members, who have been playing tennis for a long time say, "isn't it great to see so many young children playing tennis rather than them being home on the computers or on play stations".

Our clinics always seem to be full with great feedback from parents, and it is a credit to Steve Kralj, who is the Clinic co-ordinator, the coaches and their enthusiasm. All enrolment forms are available from the coaching office or at reception.

Our ladies programs on a Monday and Wednesday morning are going really well with over 30 ladies participating in our 2 hour program on Mondays. It is great to see them working as hard as they do and show the improvement that has taken place.

The Wednesday ladies program is now beginning to fill, which is a 1 1/2 hour program. All information can be found either at reception or by ringing the office. We are

also doing quite a few ladies groups for an hour, so bring your friends along to improve your tennis or enjoy a social workout.

Any of the coaches can be booked, not just for lessons, but also in our program 'Come play with a coach' which may be 3 people wanting to improve their doubles skills, people who have been playing together for years and would like to have a new face or someone to make them work a little harder on their game.

Maybe you just want to play with someone who is going to hit a lot of balls back to you and make you work a little harder? Maybe you haven't played for a while and just want a refresher?

Our aim is to meet the needs of ALL members so please call Glenn Busby or Kurstie Jenkins in the office. No matter what age or ability we can assist your game.

Term 1, 2006 will again see our supervised competition on a Friday from 4:00 – 6:00pm. This will be for juniors who have either not yet started competition, just started, or don't get the chance to play on the weekend.

This will be for all members whether being coached or not, the requirement is that you are up to serving the ball into the court and beginning to rally. If you are interested we will be taking expressions of interest from November onwards and will keep you informed.

At this stage we have some really good 10-12 year olds coming through and will be definitely putting in a lot of time into these talented juniors during 2006. We will keep you all informed of their progress.

From all of us at the Kooyong International Tennis Academy we wish everyone a very happy holiday break and hope that 2006 becomes a safer world to live in.

If there is anything else we can assist you with please contact the office via our reception on 9824 6860. Copies of all our programs will be found on the Kooyong web site during this coming term.

Glenn Busby, Head Coach

MIDWEEK LADIES REPORT

Another year of midweek ladies tennis has seen many successes for the Club and the ladies have enjoyed both of their MEMRLTA and Bayside seasons.

On Tuesdays, around half way through their season, Rosie Kovacs team currently sits in first place in A2 and Anne Sierakowski and Moira Righetti's teams sit in third and tenth respectively in A4.

In A5 Kirsty Gregory's team is in fifth place and Fleur Cameron's team is in the same position in A7 while Cathy Klemens' team currently sits in third place in B4.

On Wednesdays in the Bayside competition Lauren Dennis' team finished in first spot on the ladder but unfortunately lost in the preliminary final.

In Section 5 it was Judy O'Connor's team who again scooped the pool by winning the pennant for the second straight season and winning the silver plate as the most successful team for the season.

This team has taken all before them in their first two competition seasons this year and hopes to be promoted to Section 2 next season.

On Thursdays Jan Hays Section 1 team finished in sixth spot on the ladder and Angela Straford's Section 2 team were unfortunately beaten in the semi final after finishing fourth.

In Section 5 Sue Ferguson's team finished in second spot and won their semi final and will play in the grand final as this edition goes to print.

Alita Davis' Section 5 team finished in sixth spot on the ladder while Gena Ferguson's Section 6 team ended the season in second spot but lost their semi final.

In Section 7 Anne Fitzpatrick's team finished fourth but lost their semi final and were unfortunately knocked out.

Congratulations to all the ladies on another great year of mid week competition tennis and we look forward to a great year in 2006.

Club Round-Up

Creche News



Kooyong Crèche has been a hive of activity this year with maximum attendance nearly every day.

We'd like to thank our wonderful staff – Steffie, Giovanna, Wendy and Chelsea - for all their caring and for making Kooyong's crèche such a happy place for Kooyong kids.

Thanks also to the Committee members for their valued support and fundraising efforts during the year and to Gary Currell for maintaining the crèche so well.

We look forward to providing care for members' children in 2006 enabling parents to enjoy the Club's facilities knowing that their children are safe and happy.

DIARY DATES:

CRECHE CLOSES:
FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2005

CRECHE RESUMES:
MONDAY 30TH JANUARY 2006

CRECHE EVENTS IN 2006:

MOVIE NIGHT – Featuring a recently released movie preceeded with drinks and gourmet nibbles – a chance to bring friends and socialise with other members

TOY SHOPPING SPREE – Our recent spree raised \$210.00 for the creche

EASTER EGG DRIVE – A great money raiser for updating equipment and toys

**CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY
DECEMBER 2006**

Members are reminded that prior to making crèche bookings in 2006 that crèche application/renewal forms containing each child's details must be completed and the annual joining fee paid at the Pro Shop. Forms will be posted to members on request.

The Crèche Committee, crèche management and staff wish all members a happy and safe Christmas.

Travel Opportunities for Members



From 2006 Kooyong members will have a range of speciality travel opportunities available to them as a result of recent discussions with Tennis Australia Travel and Club Tours.

Tennis Australia recently acquired its own travel service and as a benefit of our affiliation, they will produce tennis based travel packages specifically for Kooyong members.

The first travel package developed by Tennis Australia Travel is the first round 2006 Davis Cup tie taking place in February, in Switzerland. The package will provide premium reserved seats to all matches and members will be able to continue their travel with a choice of travel to Russia, Ireland or Morocco.

Details of this package are on the club website and noticeboards. For further information, call Ian at Tennis Australia Travel on 03 9650 9666.

Kooyong members will also have the opportunity in 2006 to participate in travel packages provided by Club Tours. This organisation has established a good reputation with other clubs, including the RACV, Alexandra and Naval and Military clubs.

Among the more popular packages currently offered by Club Tours are the Canada & Alaska Tour, the European Rivers Cruise and the Norfolk Island package.

Club Tours will run an information night in the New Year when members will have the opportunity to consider their travel needs.

Enjoy a BBQ on Kooyong's famous balcony overlooking the Club's pristine grass courts



Bring your family and friends down to experience the relaxing surrounds on a beautiful summer's night.



Call the Club on 9822 3333 for bookings

Club Round-Up

Interleague Junior Squash Test Matches

Junior Squash has shown its popularity with the instigation of a series of "Test Matches" being played between a number of clubs: Kooyong, Westerfolds, Ivanhoe and Brighton.

The competition has been of a high standard and is giving Juniors terrific exposure to competition.

Here are some of the results to date:

WESTERFOLDS/IVANHOE V KOOYONG

Sunday, 30 October at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club

Westerfolds "Martin" 1-5-83 lost to Kooyong "MacKay" 2-7-96

Mat lost to Kirstie Pickard 5/9 3/9 2/9
Puisan lost to Max Turnbull 3/9 7/9 9/7 7/9
Declan drew with Adam Flett 10/9 9/10
Puiche def Andy Sneddon 6/9 2/9 8/10

Ivanhoe "Dittmar" 4-12-127 def Kooyong "Hunt" 0-4-66

Ryan def Thomas Sewell 9/1 9/0 9/1
Ze Aun def Harrison Sinatara 6/9 4/9 5/9 7/9
Jonathon def Robert Renzella 9/0 9/1 5/9 9/4
Nick def Edward Dougherty 5/9 9/5 9/1 3/9 9/3

Westerfolds "Fitzgerald" 5-15-136 def Kooyong "Cardwell" 0-0-42

Vanessa Pickard def Sarah Cardwell 9/2 10/8 9/2
Tim def Mike Sewell 1/9 5/9 5/9
Samantha F def Liam White 9/5 9/4 9/0
Tom def Martyn Jelbart 9/4 9/4 9/1
Tom def Simon Bayes 9/0 9/1 9/0

There was a fantastic response to these test matches, with 25 junior players participating, lots of parents and 4 coaches.

It seems there is enough interest to have a Eastern Metro Interleague Junior Squash Competition. A committee of representatives from each club looking at joining the competition needs to be formed.

BRIGHTON V KOOYONG

Saturday, 5 November at the Brighton Squash & Racquetball Centre

Brighton 4-12-112 def Kooyong 0-1-44

Will Jephcott def Harrison Sinatara 3/0
Torby def Jack Langley 3/0
Rebecca def Nick Langley 3/0
Chris def Andy Sneddon 3/1

All 4 matches were played with vigorous intent and determination. It was also great to see good sportsmanship from the players and their willingness to score or referee a match. Well done!

On the day the players were asked what they enjoyed about the test match and many of the responses were: playing against different and tougher opponents, playing at a different venue and meeting new people.

The next test match is the second round between Kooyong, Westerfolds and Ivanhoe which will take place on Sunday, 13 November, 11.00am-1.00pm at Westerfolds Squash Centre.

Also, possibly on Sunday, 27 November 11.00am-1.00pm there will be test matches between Westerfolds, Ivanhoe, Brighton at the Westerfolds Squash Centre.

For more information on Interleague Junior Squash please contact Mark Ikin Tel: 0418 542 965 or email: dev.officer@victoriansquash.com.au.



From top: Kooyong's Paul Davis and Mark Ikin, the kids enjoy the squash Test matches, from left, some of the Kooyong members who competed in the recent World Masters Games in Edmonton Paul Marmarus, Semi Finalist O/60 International Div. Sarah Fitz-Gerald Winner O/35 Int.Div. Bert Armstrong QF O/65 Int.Div., Irene Taylor played in teams event, Ben Milgrom Silver Medal O/70 Club Div. We had the largest representation of members from a single club WORLDWIDE!

Squash Report

LADIES

The Ladies State 3 team is poised to enter the final series! With only 3 rounds to go the Ladies must surely secure a final series berth, the team comprises: Treia Peppler, Kirsty Pickard, Sarah Cardwell, Meryl Johnston & Annabel Ellwood.

The girls have had consistent wins to achieve this position in a hotly contested 10-team draw. This has been played over 18 weeks, not including the finals series. Good luck girls and we hope to see you promoted to State 2.

MENS

The top 3 teams only play off for the finals series and with the last round due to be played these are the results so far:

A1 are currently in 1st place with Kooyong (2) just out of the race in 4th position, B1 are sitting with even points in 4th position (41pts) and play Hawthorn (also 41pts) to try and squeeze in to the top 3.

B2 have a similar dilemma and whilst in 4th position could sneak into 3rd depending on their last round performance.

D2 may also be battling it out for a finals berth but they have a Bye in the last round so they may need to sit and await their fate!

JEREMY SNEDDON HANGS UP THE RACQUET

After 505 games with Kooyong, Jeremy Sneddon has "retired" from competitive squash. Jeremy commenced pennant squash in 1984 straight from Scotch, during these 20+ years he became our leading player winning three Open Championships, Most Valuable Player, best Finals Performance, A grade champion, and runner up in the Handicap Tournament.

In addition Jeremy was an active member of our squash committee for many years. We hope this "retirement" is a temporary phenomenon as he still is a "babe" compared to many of our current pennant players.

Kooyong member Sara Fitz-Gerald added another title to her mammoth list by winning the British Open O/35 title in Manchester; she took 22 minutes to dispatch her opponent, conceding only 4 points!!!

Squash Cannon Ball Machine

The Squash Cannon Ball Machine is now available!

The machine has been designed to meet all your practice needs. The Squash Cannon will deliver the ball to exactly where you want, at a pace you choose and a repetition that you select - everything from drives to volleys and towering serves.

Use of the machine

The feeder is already filled with balls and would be wheeled onto Court 2 for easy access to the power supply. The Cannon will be available for member use.

Why not give it a try, or rather, get the machine to try and give you a workout!

Before using the machine users must be accredited or supervised by accredited personnel. Mark Ikin can be contacted via reception for any enquiries regarding the use of this machine.

Mark Ikin (club squash coach) controlling the Squash Cannon whilst training Bill Glover (note the use of eyewear is mandatory when on the court with the Cannon)



Wine and Food Society

Our annual Winemaker's Dinner was an acclaimed sell out success with, KLTC Executive Chef, Kevin Ley again producing cutting edge food to delight the eye and challenge the palate.

We were delighted that the Kooyong President, Peter Quinn, and his wife Elizabeth were able to join us on this occasion as did KLTC CEO, Chris Brown with his wife Cathy.

Others present included Terry and Beverley Fraser with Marj Galvin, Ewen and Fleur Cameron, Geraldine and Trevor Nichols, Cameron and Julie Bertalli, Dan and Shirley Bowman, Lindy and Karst Kreun, Craig and Sue Buchanan and Peter and Nary Ebbels, John and Carmel Quinn, Peter and Dierdre Nolan, Brian and Ann Dooley, Alicia Simonson, Lorraine and Graham Schmidt, Celia and Ian Steedman, Susan Young, Rob Nave, Christine Johnson, Amira and Ray Goldsmith, Gordon Way, Joan Layet, Evie and Neil McEwan, Brian and Mary Hoban.

We look forward to seeing many members at our Christmas function to be held on Tuesday the 20th of December.

For those of you who can't attend we wish you a very Happy Christmas with lots of celebratory food and wine.

We look forward to seeing you at society functions in 2006.

Pamela Middleton, Bacchus

Winemaker's Dinner Menu

On Arrival

Wine: Padthaway Estate Cuvee 'Eliza' Pinot Noir Chardonnay

Entrée

Rillette of pigs trotter with ginger on pink grapefruit & tatsoi salad leaves with a citrus dressing

Wine: Mornington Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2004

Fish

Warm Atlantic salmon & asparagus boudan on a cerviche of chilled scallops with chilli, lime and coriander

Wine: Arneis 2004 - King Valley

Main

Rack of Spring lamb with toasted sumac & a gratin of corella pear served with a truffle & potato sooffle, dressed with a splash of fresh herb yoghurt

Wine: Mornington Estate Shiraz Viognier 2003 Dromana Estate Pinot Noir 2003

Cheese

Matured Yarra Valley ash coated goats cheese served with prune & walnut pastilla & simple toasted Turkish bread

Wine: Nebbiolo 2000 - King Valley

Fresh fruit & berries

Tea & Coffee

Executive Chef: Kevin Ley
Winemaker: Duncan Buchanan
Bacchus: Pamela Middleton



Billiards and Snooker News

KLTC has again fielded teams in the A Grade Billiards and Snooker. The Billiards team is playing well and is destined to make the finals.

In the annual Billiards Championship, Neil Croft defeated David Cosgriff in the final 352-284. Neil made runs of 69 and 62, while David made a 61 break. Harry Andrews and Ian Dale were the losing semi-finalists.

QUOTATION OF THE MONTH:

Mastery of the game of billiards is largely a state of mind. The mental attitude can be summed up simply in these three things:

1. *Knowing what you can do;*
2. *Knowing what you want to do;*
3. *Concentrating on the immediate shot.*

- The great Willie Hoppe, World Pocketless Billiards Champion seventeen out of eighteen times from 1907 to 1924.

Club Round-Up

BRIDGE BITS



Victoria Golf Club invited us to lunch and a friendly teams competition in October and we did enjoy their warm hospitality. It was a truly special day made even more enjoyable by our win.

By far the biggest event of any year for us is the Annual Dinner and Duplicate and once again it was hugely popular and successful and the 98 participants were extremely complimentary of the delicious dinner menu and the relaxed bridge atmosphere and our congratulations go to the best Kooyong Pair on the night - Marilyn Ohlson and Virginia Rugless. Our members "did us proud" as several of them were prize-winners.

I would like to say a big thankyou to my marvellous Committee this year and congratulate them on a very successful year, and to thank all of our bridge-playing members for a very happy year around the Bridge Table - we truly have strengthened our Club this year.

Diary Dates to note:

13th December - Last duplicate for the year for Bridge Club Members only when we will celebrate with a special celebratory Supper and much "good cheer".

31st January - will be the date on which we recommence our exciting Bridge Programme for 2006 - starting time 7.30 p.m.

2nd February 2006 - we will be running social daytime bridge sessions once a month on Thursdays.

Please note that social bridge will be on the first Thursday of each month. Starting time yet to be established. Keep an eye on the Notice Board. Please come along and support this new venture for your Club.

Wishing you all safe and well over the Festive Season.

Leeron Branicki, Convenor - Bridge Club

P.S. The Bridge Members thank the Staff at KLTC for their support and wish them all the best over the Holiday Break.



The Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary



As we approach the Festive Season and our final function for 2005, 'The Jazz Night', I feel very fortunate to have had the privilege to lead a great committee.

Although we are small in numbers, our achievements in fundraising for the Royal Children's Hospital have been very successful due to the great generosity of all our members and their friends in attending our functions.

The Spring Luncheon and Hat Parade in September was a very happy and successful day, due largely to our very competent MC Jo Pearson, and to Michelle Barnes, a well known and creative milliner, who provided a wonderful choice of hats for the Melbourne Racing season for all the ladies in attendance.

As mentioned previously, our 'Jazz Night' on Saturday 26th of November will feature the fabulous New Orleans Jazz Band, The Louisiana Shakers, who have just returned from their 9th European tour and are eager to entertain all the Kooyong members and their friends.

Together with great food, excellent raffle prizes and complimentary wine on the tables I feel sure we will conclude our year on a very high note.

In conclusion I wish to thank, on behalf of all the committee, all the Kooyong staff especially our President, Peter Quinn, CEO, Chris Brown, Renee, Kristina, and our Chefs ably led by Kevin for their hard work and co-operation resulting in very enjoyable and successful functions.

Last but not forgotten, congratulations to all my committee on a job well done and I look forward, with your support, to another fundraising challenge in 2006.

Marie Devereux, President

Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club - Health Club News

On behalf of the Health Club Management I wish to congratulate all team and Club members on a great year of hard work.

In 2005 we have welcomed many new members to Kooyong and have seen the addition of extra Aqua and Pilates classes being offered to the members. We look forward to the continual pursuit of improvements to the Kooyong Health Club in 2006.

AEROBICS

Recently I was speaking to Cheryl about her Friday morning classes at 9.30am and she said, 'Michael, Friday mornings aerobics class is about having fun and also working up a sweat aerobically before doing some muscle conditioning work'.

The great element to Cheryl's class is that it doesn't only adhere to the classic moves of 'the grapevine' to the same old music every week. Rather, she incorporates some innovative moves such as dance style class with a Spanish theme or the up-tempo Latin flavour.

With these great classes it is no wonder that Cheryl has been our Club's longest serving instructor. Well-done Cheryl!

AQUA AEROBICS

Welcome to Pauline Kingsford who was vigorously sought after by the majority of the Aqua class to secure her as their ongoing instructor.

Pauline's attitude to aqua aerobics is loud and clear, it's definitely not for the faint hearted, that's for sure! The workouts are intense and can be vamped up to suit individual levels of fitness.

In fact, Pauline has trained football clubs, ballet students and given the corporate world a run for their money! She lives and loves aqua aerobics!

YOGA

Thank you to Brian Fisher for his challenging Monday class at 7pm. It is much enjoyed by the participants.

Thank you to Steven Georgiou who has described the last twelve months as being a time of continued growth for our yoga students at KLTC. As is the true nature of yoga, the discipline is a journey not a destination.

As such, the classes are conducted in a spirit of support and without judgement or competition.

The 7pm Wednesday class focuses on the beginners/average level whilst the 8pm class steps it up a notch to be a stronger, more demanding class.

In 2006 the classes resume in the first week of February and Steven extends a warm invitation to those students who will be returning and to those who would like to begin yoga.

Come and share in Steven's 20 years of practice and teaching of the Gita style of yoga. Please do not hesitate to contact Heather in the Pro Shop to book or for more information.

PILATES

This year has been the most successful year for Pilates. It has seen the most significant increase in participation during 2005 and due to popular demand a Thursday night class was introduced in Term 3 and it is encouraging to see male participants enjoying the benefits of Pilates.

The rewards lie in the application of the principles of Pilates to movement by improving reflexes, strength and stability. A huge part of the classes being successful is through the supportive, caring relationship that instructor Marg Scotty forms with her many students.

Marg takes the time to personally consider every one of her students and this dedication is evident in the time she takes to offer ongoing

phone support and personal progress reports. This is no mean feat considering there are 5 classes per week! It is a credit to you, Marg!

MASSAGE

Eva continues to offer a most professional service in the areas of sports, relaxation and remedial massage. Bookings are advisable but there is new signage visible on the massage door that will indicate the availability of when there is a vacancy for the occasion when you haven't booked.

Massage is both therapeutic and physically rewarding by relieving tense muscular pain and promoting injury prevention. Health rebates are now available, so please make an appointment at the Pro Shop.

PERSONAL TRAINING

Julian Roberts has been contacting members regarding health reappraisal times. This is helping many members as it has prompted them to return to an exercise program after a lengthy period of inactivity. Well done, keep up the good work!

GYMNASIUM

Shane Adams continues his service-oriented role as Gym Supervisor. Well done! Further congratulations to Shane on his engagement to his partner in life, Angela Barrow.

Many new improvements are happening around the gym at the moment in an attempt to improve the facilities for all members. These changes have been profiled in Courtside and will ensure members continue to have the best facilities for use here at the Club.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy festive season!

For enquiries regarding the Health Club please contact Michael Kull (Health Facility Manager) on 0419 003 762.

Diary Dates

December 2005

Social Committee Christmas Dinner	3rd
KLTC Kids Christmas Party	4th
Duplicate Bridge ends for 2005	13th
Wine and Food Society Christmas Dinner	20th
KLTC Christmas Lunch <i>See ad below</i>	25th

December 2005 / January 2006

Kooyong International Tennis Academy Coaching Clinics
See reception for dates and times

January 2006

AAMI Classic	11th-14th
<i>See eight of the world's best players in action on Kooyong's centre court See also the President's Lunches ad on the inside front cover of Courtside</i>	
Bridge recommences for 2006	31st

February / March 2006

18th, 19th, 25th, 26th February, 4th and 5th March
– Combined Senior and Junior Club Championships

March 2006

RCH Auxiliary Ladies Doubles Grass Tournament	6th
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Christmas Day Lunch

Delicious Buffet Luncheon in The Kooyong Room

Price: \$90 for Adults and \$45 for Children

Drinks at Bar Prices

When: Sunday, December 25th at 12.00pm

Bookings close Wednesday 14th December (Or when sold out)

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 25th December 2005

Reception - Closed
Pro Shop - Closed
Gym - Closed
Christmas Lunch in Kooyong Room

BOXING DAY

Monday 26th December 2005

Reception - Closed
Pro Shop - Closed
Gym - 6.00am to 7.00pm

Tuesday 27th December 2005

Reception - Closed
Pro Shop - Closed
Gym - 6.00am to 7.00pm

Wednesday 28th - Friday 30th December 2005

Reception - 9.00am - 5.00pm
Pro Shop - Closed
Gym - 6.00am to 10.00pm

Saturday 31st December 2005

Reception - 9.00am - 5.00pm
Pro Shop - Closed
Gym - 6.00am to 10.00pm

NEW YEARS DAY

Sunday 1st January 2006

Reception - Closed
Pro Shop - Closed
Gym - 6.00am to 7.00pm

Monday 2nd January 2006

Reception - Closed
Pro Shop - Closed
Gym - 6.00am to 7.00pm

MEMBERS BAR & BISTRO

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 25th December 2005
CLOSED

BOXING DAY

Monday 26th December 2005
12 Midday - 8PM

Tuesday 27th December 2005
12 Midday - 8PM

Wednesday 28th - Saturday 31st December 2005
9AM - 11PM

NEW YEARS DAY

Sunday 1st January 2006
12 Midday - 8PM

Monday 2nd January 2006
12 Midday - 8PM

RACQUET CLUB

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 25th - Tuesday 27th December 2005
CLOSED

Wednesday 28th - Saturday 31st December 2005
12 Midday - Lunch
6PM - Dinner

Saturday 1st & Monday 2nd January 2006
CLOSED

'Ace' the New Year



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