



COURTside

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE KOORYONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC.

DECEMBER 2024



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PEERS
WINS
GOLD**

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**Home is where
the heart is**

In this issue, we celebrate one of Kooyong's own,
John Peers, winning an Olympic gold medal in Paris.



Scan QR Code
to set up a
Competitive
Player Profile



Scan QR code
to enter club
championships

President's Report



It is the community of members that make Kooyong so special.

← Steve Wood,
President

Dear Members,
It is a great honour and privilege to be elected as the new President of the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. Having been involved with this esteemed club for more than 51 years, both as a visiting tennis player and a member for the past two decades, I am thrilled to lead our club into its next chapter.

My significant experience across business and tennis, including roles at major technology companies and as the former CEO of Tennis Australia and the Australian Open, positions me well for this role. My lifelong passion for tennis – coupled with over 40 years of global industry experience – will inform our journey to success.

The recent election has brought three new directors to our board. I look forward to working with the current board directors, Rowena Cole, Sally Peers, and Sarah Sheer, and I congratulate the newly elected directors, Brian Cooney, Jacki Tulloch, and Fiona Hansen. I encourage you to visit the KLTC members' website to learn more about our new board of directors.

With summer upon us, our members are enjoying fantastic tennis on Kooyong's renowned grass courts and making the most of our dining and hospitality. The fifth annual Kooyong Foundation Pro Am event was a standout, featuring

past professional players Sam Stosur, Sam Groth, and John Millman. Additionally, we are immensely proud of Kooyong Foundation scholarship player John Peers, who won a gold medal at the Paris Olympics with his doubles partner Matt Ebden.

Recently, I had the great pleasure of welcoming the next generation of new members to the club – emphasising that it is the community of members that make Kooyong so special.

Finally, I wish all club members and their friends and families a joyous and safe festive season and a happy and healthy new year. ●

Board members



Steve Wood
President



Rowena Cole
Vice President



Sally Peers



Sarah Sheer



Brian Cooney



Fiona Hansen



Jacqueline Tulloch

UPCOMING EVENTS

2024

December 13

Peter Quinn Cup

December 16

Bridge Club End of
Year Celebration

December 25

Christmas Day Buffet

2025

February 7 to 23

Annual Tennis Club Championships

March 3

Royal Children's Hospital
Annual Tennis Day

March 7 to 10

Tennis Seniors Oceanic
Championships

May 7

Royal Children's Hospital Card Day

May 10

Mother's Day Buffet

May 23

Champions Dinner

CEO's Report



← Bruce Wilson , CEO

As we say goodbye to 2024, it is timely to reflect on what has been a transformational year for our club. The ten months since I was appointed as Interim CEO have been characterised by progress, change, and improvement across many facets of Kooyong's operations, governance, and sporting programs. Our dedicated executive team has successfully implemented all the recommendations contained in the Grant Thornton Review, which has served to strengthen the club's financial position and internal operations and foster improved communication between members and staff.

Recent developments around the clubhouse have brought a fresh and revitalised atmosphere, highlighting our commitment to enhancing the Kooyong member experience and maintaining our club's world-class facilities. A focus on transparency and open discussion have also been key priorities this year, which has contributed to member needs and concerns being heard and addressed. Significant improvements have included

the refurbishment of the men's change rooms, saunas, and gym, alongside the Billiards Room, and the replantation of courts one to five with TifTuf grass. Initiated by our executive chef Nick Ward, the introduction of a seasonal menu and themed promotions in the Bistro and Racquet Club has elevated the dining experience for our members and offered thoughtfully curated options. Meanwhile, Renee Reid and our events team have delivered an array of exceptional events, including the President's Lunch and Royal Children's Hospital Winter Wonderland Gala, providing guests with memorable experiences within the welcoming environment of our club.

The 2024 Treasurer's and Financial Report reflected a very pleasing \$535,126 surplus. Our CFO Andrea McCarthy has overseen the club's return to financial stability after a challenging 12 month period. The projected financial position of the club is positive.

The year's achievements are indebted to the hard work and dedication of our staff. Whether in the office, the grounds and courts, or hospitality, every Kooyong employee has played a pivotal

role in shaping our success. Our leadership team – Andrea McCarthy, Nick Ward, Patrice Renaudin, Melinda Beaugeard, Justin Cox, Renee Reid, Nick Rennison, and my executive assistant Jodie Johnson – have been instrumental in facilitating change. I applaud their individual and collective efforts and offer my sincere thanks.

I extend my appreciation to departing board members Peter Tingate and James MacMillan, treasurer Jeremy Brown-Greaves and president Darren O'Loughlin for their exceptional service to Kooyong across many years. Please know your dedication has left a lasting legacy on our club. Your efforts have been deeply appreciated by myself, the staff, and our members.

As we welcome our newly appointed president, Steve Wood, and incoming board members Brian Cooney, Jacqueline Tulloch, and Fiona Hansen, my team and I are united by a deep commitment to work with the board and build on the foundation of 2024 to strengthen the future direction of the club.

The opening of the grass court season promises an exciting summer of tennis and 2025 is shaping to be an excellent year for the club and members. While the Kooyong Classic will take a break this year, we are working diligently to ensure its triumphant return in 2026 and deliver an exciting and rewarding event for everyone involved.

On behalf of everyone at the club, I wish every member of the Kooyong community a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you around the Clubhouse in 2025. ●

On behalf of everyone at the club, I wish every member of the Kooyong community a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you around the Clubhouse in 2025.

Peers wins gold for Australia!



Winning Olympic gold is a dream for all professional athletes, but very few ever get to experience this feat. It has been just over three months since one of Kooyong's own, John Peers, achieved a childhood dream and won an Olympic gold medal on the Paris Olympic dias at Court Philippe Chatrier.

Peers paired up with Perth's Matt Ebden and put on an impressive display to defeat American duo Rajeev Ram and Austin Krajicek, 6-7, 7-6, 10-8 in the final.

"To be able to do that and say we're gold medallists and doing it for the green and gold in Australia and the people back home, that's what we play the sport for," says Peers.

Peers joined Kooyong in 2001 through the Kooyong Foundation scholarship program

and represented the club in State Grade Pennant and Premier League.

He studied abroad in America at Middle Tennessee State University and Baylor University and has since carved out an impressive professional doubles career, featuring 30 ATP tour doubles titles, two Grand Slam titles, the Australian Open in 2017 and the 2022 US Open mixed doubles title with Storm Sanders. He also claimed a bronze medal in the mixed doubles with Ash Barty at the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games.

The gold medal will undeniably be an achievement to savour for the rest of his life. "To win a gold medal... I think it's like folklore," he says.

Congratulations to John Peers and Matt Ebden on this momentous achievement. ●

Kooyong Pennant

STATE GRADE CHAMPIONS

Both our Men's and Women's State Grade teams won the premiership. The women defended their title from 2023 and the men won from third place on the ladder.

These premierships are as a result of the hard work and commitment the players have put into their game. To walk away as premiers, in both the men's and women's competition, at the highest level of tennis in Victoria, is an amazing achievement for the players and Kooyong.

PENNANT MEN

We had twelve teams represent Kooyong in Men's Tennis Victoria Pennant.

Our State Grade team, captained by David Bidmeade, won the premiership. Coming from third on the ladder, they defeated the defending champions Fawkner TC in the Semi-Finals and in the final knocked off the top placed team, Geelong Lawn TC.

The Grade 2 – Section 1 team led by Viktor Sirucek finished their season on a high, winning the Grade 2 Premiership. The team defeated Mt Eliza in the final three rubbers to one.

Grade 2 – Section 2 team, captained by Liam Louzado, finished on top in their section but fell to our Grade 2 team in the Grade Semi-Finals.

Matthew Ry'dell's Grade 3 Section 1 team finished fourth on the ladder and lost in a close Semi-Final against Yarraville TC. In the same section as Ry'Dell's team,

→ Andrew Coelho, member of the State Grade team of the year.



↑ State Grade Women's team

← Cooper Errey, State Grade Male Rising Star



Danny Yan's team finished sixth on the ladder, tallying four wins for the season.

Our third Grade 3 team in Section 2, captained by Ayaan Chowdhary, finished

second on the ladder, but lost in their Semi-Final by two games to Wellington TC.

We had two teams in Grade 5 Section 4. Louis Rebiere's team finished third on the ladder and lost their section Semi-Final to a strong Grace Park Hawthorn Club team. Aaron Koh's team had a tough season, finishing sixth on the ladder with two wins for the season.

We also had two teams in Grade 9 Section 4. Greg Cassidy's team finished second on the ladder in their section, but lost in the section Semi-Final in a close battle to the other Kooyong team.

Tyson Kersley's team finished third on the ladder in their section. After defeating Cassidy's team in the Semi-Final, the team progressed through to the Grade 9 finals. They lost to East Camberwell in the Grand Final four rubbers to one.

The two Grade 11 Section 4 teams both missed out on finals. Daniel Cajkusic's team narrowly missed out on finals



→ State Grade Men's team
← Grade 2 women's finalists
☑ Grade 9 men's finalists



Masters Grade 2, we had two teams captained by Dennis Mihelyi and Chris Walton, respectively. Mihelyi's team finished second on the ladder and advanced to the Grand Final, however, Heathmont were the better side and came out on top. Walton's team had a tough season, finishing eighth on the ladder and winning only one match.

PENNANT WOMEN

This season we had seven teams represent the club in Women's Tennis Victoria Pennant.

Jasmin Starr's State Grade team defended their 2023 State Grade Title by defeating MCC Glen Iris Valley in the final three rubbers to two. The team lost only one match for the season.

We had two teams in Grade 1, captained by Ksenija Varesanovic and Philippa Bush. Varesanovic's team finished on top of the ladder just two points ahead of Bush's team. Both teams won their respective Semi-Finals to set up an all Kooyong Lawn Grand Final. Varesanovic came out victorious with four of the six rubbers going to third set super tie breaks. This was the second year in a row Kooyong won the Women's Grade 1 premiership.

In Grade 2 – Section 1, Sophia Brooks-Gay's team made it through to the Grade 2 finals, however they lost the Grand Final to a strong Oakleigh Tennis Club Team. Our other Grade 2 – Section 2 team captained by Melrain Hu narrowly missed out on finals by mere percentage.

Olivia Robertson's Grade 4 team finished eighth on the ladder in a competitive grade. The team won two matches for the season, but fell victim to Melbourne weather with four wash outs. Anthea Nolan's Grade 6 team finished fifth on the ladder with a very competitive six wins for the season ●

2024 TENNIS VICTORIA PENNANT PLAYER AWARDS

State Grade Male Rising Star
Cooper Errey

State Grade Team of the Year

Jasmin Starr
Cooper Errey
Andrew Coelho

Women's Grade 1 Pennant Player of the Year
Ksenija Varesanovic

Registrations for the 2025 Tennis Victoria Pennant Season will open in mid-to-late January 2025

by two points and finished fifth on the ladder after winning seven matches for the season.

Ross Lucas's team finished sixth on the ladder and won four matches for the season.

PENNANT MASTERS

We had three Masters teams represent the club this season.

In Masters Grade 1, Stephen Gay's team finished on top of the ladder, but lost in the Semi-Final to a strong Grace Park Hawthorn Club team. In

Midweek Association Report December 2024

Kooyong is well represented by 12 Women's teams and two Master's teams.



On Tuesday mornings, the club has six teams competing in the Midweek Eastern Metropolitan Region Ladies' Tennis Association (MEMRLTA). The summer 2024-25 season commenced in August and marked the welcoming of a new team in Section 4, captained by Alison Cavaye.

Thursday mornings see six women's teams compete in the Bayside association. In Metro Masters Tennis Association, David Murphy captains a new Section 4 team (50 years and over), in addition to our existing Section 1 team, who is captained by Dennis Mihelyi.

TUESDAY MEMRLTA SUMMER 2023-2024 SEASON

The Tuesday MEMRLTA Summer 2023-24 season concluded in March to the news of Lois Plowman's Section 1 Blue team defeating Glen Waverley in the Semi-Final. Staying true to their status as premiers of the previous summer season, the Section 1 Blue team fought valiantly against Donvale Blue, but were eventually defeated and ranked

↑ Section 1 Metro Masters team, who claimed the premiership for the 2024 Autumn season.

as runners up, with a score of 3-39 to 3-31.

For the winter season, captained by Linda Dohnt, the team made the semi-finals. This summer season the team are sitting comfortably in third place on the ladder.

IMPROVEMENTS AND TOUGH SEASON

Demonstrating significant improvement from last winter, Steph Fry's Section 1 Gold team finished sixth on the ladder and in fifth position at the end of the summer season. This summer season has proven tough – only one win so far means the team is sitting at ninth place on the ladder.

SECTION 2 PROGRESS

The Section 2 Gold team made the summer Semi-Finals but was defeated by South Hawthorn. The team had a strong winter season and lost to Warrandyte in the Semi-Final. This summer they are sitting at fifth place on the ladder. Kooyong's other Section 2 Blue team, captained by Lauren Sanford, finished fifth last summer, and after having a break over winter,

have come in at seventh on the ladder, with ten teams in each of the six sections.

The Section 3 team are currently sitting in fourth place on the ladder after nine rounds – the same position they finished in after the winter season. They are to be commended for improving their ladder position after last summer.

With a couple of wins under their belt, Allison Cavaye's new Section 4 team are settling into the 18 round summer season. They are thankful towards some of the Friday morning internal competition players who have filled in when needed.

The Autumn season of Bayside Regional Tennis, played on Thursdays, saw four of the six Kooyong teams nestle their way into the top four. The last round of the Spring season fell on 31 October and three of Kooyong's teams played in the Semi-Finals. We look forward to reporting the Spring team results from the finals in the next edition of Courtside.

SECTION A1 GLORY

The Section A1 Purple team defeated Hampton in the Autumn Semi-Final to play in the Grand Final. While Canterbury were the better team on the day, congratulations are in order for Scott's team, who claimed runner-up glory. The team has been extremely competitive this season – finishing fourth on the ladder and securing the opportunity to play in the Semi-Final on 7 November against Hampton.

Last season, Annie Saville's A1 Pink team enjoyed a handful of wins and finished in seventh place on the ladder. The team should be commended for their improvement this Spring season, claiming a few more wins and moving up the ladder to finish in fifth place.

Kris Tulloch's Yellow team in Section A1 suffered from injuries in the first few weeks of last season and in the last four rounds, won two matches and displayed fierce determination. The team finished eighth on the ladder to allow them to remain in A1 for this year's Spring season. They welcomed new players in Charlotte Gibson and Susan Le Get and ultimately finished seventh on the ladder.

SECTION 2 PERSISTENCE REWARDED

The Section 2 Yellow team had some tight matches in the Autumn Semi-Final against MCC Glen Iris, but MCC Glen Iris (3-6-49) were too strong in the end, defeating Kooyong (1-3-39). This season they were just shy of a top four spot on the ladder, finishing in fifth place.

Jenny Osborne's Section 2 Green team played their Autumn Semi-Final against Black Rock, but were defeated in another close match – Kooyong Green (1-2-33) and

Black Rock (3-6-40). This Spring delivered similar success for the team, who finished in third spot on the ladder and played Beaumaris Lawn at their courts in the Semi-Final.

SECTION 3 EARNS SPOT IN SEMI-FINALS

In Section 3, Heather Anderson and Libbie Geason's Purple team comfortably finished fourth on the ladder and made the Spring Semi-Finals, which was played against the top team Basterfield Park at their courts on 7 November. The team comfortably finished fourth on the ladder and made the Spring Semi-Finals, to be played against the top team Basterfield Park at their courts on 7 November.

SECTION 1 METRO MASTERS MAINTAIN STREAK

Kooyong's Section 1 Metro Masters 'Leftovers' players celebrated success yet again. Stealing the premiership crown for the 11th time, the 'Leftovers' delivered a

convincing six sets to love win against Glen Waverley 'Forze' and remained undefeated all season. Congratulations to captain Dennis Mihelyi and his team – Bryce Mitchelson, Song Lim, Chris Ulrik, Dennis Maddern, Grant Porter, Chris Walton, Steve Myers and John Wotherspoon.

This Spring season, our Section 1 Metro Masters team are continuing to exhibit skill and discipline, currently ranked second on the ladder and nearing the Semi-Finals on 14 November.

Our new Section 4 team has had a brilliant start to the Spring season and maintained a coveted top spot on the ladder. The team will play in their first home Semi-Final on 7 November against North Balwyn.

We look forward to reporting the results from these finals matches in the next edition.

Congratulations, well done and thank you to all our teams competing and representing our club across the three mid-week associations. ●



Junior Competition

KOORYONG JUNIOR COMPETITION

Kooyong's Junior Association Competition is a great way for our children to represent Kooyong and enjoy the experience of playing in a team environment.

We had three teams compete in the Saturday morning Moorabbin and District Junior Tennis Associations (MDJTA) competition and an impressive ten teams playing in the Sunday morning Bayside Regional Tennis Association (BRTA) competition.

MDJTA SATURDAY MORNING COMPETITION TEAMS

Oliver Colbert's Boy's Section 7 team tallied numerous competitive and nail-biting matches during the season, with many matches coming down to a difference of games.

The Boy's Section 8 team, captained by James Collett, played with utmost enthusiasm and grit throughout the season, but met strong opposition along the way. Meanwhile, the Girl's Section 4 team, led by Annabelle Hallam, had four wins for the season and are currently sitting seventh on the ladder.

BRTA SUNDAY MORNING COMPETITION TEAMS

Tom Batchelor's Section 3 team have been competitive this season amongst an evenly matched section, with the teams ranked fourth to eighth on the ladder separated by only thirteen points.

The Section 6 team, led by Angus Collett, are six points clear at the top of the ladder



and will look to continue their winnings throughout the final rounds of the season and into the finals.

Oliver Barnao's Section 8 team is currently sixth on the ladder after playing in

↑ Kooyong's Junior Association Competition is a great way for our children to represent Kooyong and enjoy playing in a team environment.

a number of close matches. Additionally, George Stevens' Section 9 team are sitting in fifth position on the ladder – only a few points away from landing a sacred top four and finals position.

Currently fourth on the ladder, Harper Barons' Section 11 team are primed to round out the season and hopefully guarantee a spot in the finals. Although this season proved tough for Hugh Cotterell's Section 13 team with only one win, the team has demonstrated considerable development.

Tara McAuley's Section 16 team is sixth on the ladder and only a few points shy of the fourth position team. They are hungry to finish the season strong and jump into a top four position. Angus Clements' Section 18 team are nine points clear at the top of the ladder and eager to play their best in the finals.

William Downing's Section 20 team is ranked fifth on the ladder – only outside the top four on account of percentage, therefore they will be looking to cement their finals position in the last few rounds. Lastly, the Section 21 team led by Olivia Ross are a part of a competitive and tenacious section – they have only won one match but have improved immensely throughout the season.

Well done to all of our Kooyong Juniors on a great season. We look forward to seeing you back on court for the 2025 Autumn Junior season. ●

If you would like to register your child for an emergency position next season, please contact Shelly Hart at shart@kooyong.com.au.

Weekend Activities



SENIOR SUMMER ASSOCIATION COMPETITION

Kooyong has seen an increase in entry rates from last summer, with seven teams in the Bayside Regional Tennis Association (BRTA) and four teams in the Waverley and District Tennis Association (WDTA) Saturday afternoon competition.

BRTA TEAMS

Men's Doubles Rubbers Section 1 team, captained by Grant Porter, has had a great start to the season, winning two of their four opening matches with one wash out. They will look to maintain their winning streak. Adam Klein's Men's Singles and Doubles Section 4 team are yet to lose a match – the team's victories

include defeating last year's premiership team.

Men's Singles and Doubles Section 7 team, captained by Selim Ahmed, has established a great foundation for the remainder of the season, with two wins, one draw and a wash out. Nicky Li's Men's Singles and Doubles Section 8 team has had a mixed start to the season with two wins, one loss and a wash out, therefore they are keen to regain momentum. Women's Singles and Doubles Section 3 team, captained by Melanie Eades, has also had a great

↑ Captain of the Open Singles and Doubles Section A14 team Kayla Coster.

Kayla Coster's Open Singles and Doubles Section A14 team have started the season undefeated.

start to the season, with two wins and a washout in the first four matches.

Women's Singles and Doubles Section 4 team, led by Anthea Nolan, has a stellar start to the season boasting an undefeated streak. They will seek to sustain their winning ways.

Mixed Doubles Rubbers Section 3 team, captained by Greg Collis-Brown, has had a tough start, but will look to turn their fortunes around for the remainder of the season.

WDTA TEAMS

Open Singles and Doubles Section A4 team, captained by Bryce Mitchelson, has had a slow start to the season but will look to redeem themselves during the remainder of the season. Kayla Coster's Open Singles and Doubles Section A14 team of young players have started the season undefeated, reflecting a team-wide determination to challenge themselves in the open division.

In the same section as Coster's team is the Open Singles & Doubles Section A14 White team, captained by Leanne Scott, who have launched into the season with one win and one loss. Lastly, Peter May's Open Singles and Doubles Section A Reserve 2 team has tallied one win and two losses so far.

Good luck to all teams for the rest of the season! ●

If you would like to register as an emergency for the second half of the season, please contact Shelly Hart at shart@kooyong.com.au

Social Tennis

Social tennis provides a great opportunity for members to meet each other and enjoy a social hit.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SOCIAL TENNIS

Held once a month from 2pm to 4pm, Sunday afternoon social tennis continues to be a huge success with sessions booked out every month. The spontaneous meet and greets prove a terrific chance for members to play with other members and forge relationships.

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN'S TENNIS

In October, we introduced Wednesday morning men's tennis sessions, held on the first and third week of each month from 9.30am to 11.30am. The inaugural session on 2 October welcomed 12 players who all readily embraced the opportunity to connect, play a few hours of tennis,

exchange numbers and catch up for a coffee afterwards.

Feedback from the first session was very encouraging – numerous players at the first session were retirees craving a socially engaging activity and one player had even recently moved to the area from interstate. Bookings are not essential, therefore the sessions are kept relaxed and easy-going. Players can simply swing by courts 27 to 31 on the selected Wednesday morning. The next Wednesday social hit is on 18 December – the last for the year – and sessions will recommence on 15 January next year.

Kooyong has also introduced a program for members seeking hitting partners. Interested parties



can go to a listing on the club member's website, under Sports/Tennis/Social Tennis & Hitting Partners. This new feature presents yet another opportunity for members to connect and has already successfully partnered a few players. ●

↑ Participants at the first Wednesday morning men's social hits on 2 October.

Internal competition tennis at Kooyong



The popular internal competition continues – Monday, Tuesday and Friday nights host mixed doubles and Friday mornings set the stage for women's doubles.

As the second season of the year draws to a close, our

internal competitions are now approaching finals.

Monday nights are our most popular slot in the internal competition, with over 250 members competing in A, B and C grades across 25 courts, whereas Tuesday

← Friday night mixed doubles winners and runners up for season one 2024. Team 1, captained by Steve Myers, defeated Team 2, captained by Sonia Dunne.

nights follow a mixed doubles format across 14 courts and two grades. On Friday mornings, we have over 90 women competing in 15 teams across two sections – competition and social.

Friday night abides by the same format as Monday and Tuesday nights with only one grade, however this season we have five teams competing.

Next year, the new season will start on the week of 3 February – with the exception of Friday night sessions, which will commence in March. ●

Finals are on Monday and Tuesday nights

Billiards and Snooker

WORDS BY ALISTAIR MACINDOE



October was an exciting month for Billiards and Snooker at Kooyong with a major refurbishment of the Billiards Room. A new and opulent carpet was laid and the viewing couches were reupholstered and restored, alongside numerous other improvements.

Members revel in one of the best Billiard Rooms in Australia, with three excellent full-sized tables and an atmosphere of resounding calmness, where one can embrace the pleasure and challenge of playing English Billiards and Snooker. There are also cues for the members to use.

Kooyong has had many teams play competitively throughout the year. Many of these players are now competing for this year's Club Championship events. A major highlight this year was the success of our Church Billiards team, who claimed the title of runners-up.

This year also featured the resumption of the annual Kooyong versus Sandringham snooker match. Kooyong won a very close match on the final black ball. Kooyong will host next year's match – patrons are promised a fun evening with good company. All skill levels are welcome, as a high standard of play is not essential. ●

If you are interested in playing, please contact our Chairman David Pitt at snooker@kooyong.com.au.

Victorian Billiards and Snooker Association (VBSA) president Paul Cosgriff and Kooyong Billiards captain Martin James.

← Billiard room



Gym Updates at Kooyong

It is a great time to be part of Kooyong Health Club! The energy in our health club is palpable and we can't wait to share all the amazing updates and improvements made over the last 10 months.

Firstly, let's take a moment to check out the new mirrors added along the back wall where the old weights used to be – not only do the mirrors brighten the space, but they give gym-goers the chance to perfect their form as they crush fitness goals.

We have also invested in new gym equipment and accessories, from state-of-the-art machines to functional training tools. This investment reflects our ongoing commitment to provide more variety and options to keep workouts fresh and exciting.

Looking ahead, we are planning even more for

our members – more equipment and hopefully a new sound system to pump up the atmosphere and keep members energised throughout their sessions. We are committed to making your experience at the club the best it can be, and we are so excited to be on this journey with you.

We also have new trainers onboard – Jacob, Angelo and Anya. ●



➤ Jacob Edwards

➔ Angelo Gasparini

← Anya Phillips



Importance and benefits of training for women

In recent years, more women are embracing weight training and for good reason! Strength training is not just for bodybuilders – it is for everyone looking to improve their fitness, health, and wellbeing.

Weight training builds muscle, which boosts metabolism and helps burn more calories at rest. It also increases bone density which reduces the risk of osteoporosis as women age. Additionally, lifting weights improves posture, balance, and overall strength, making

everyday activities easier and more enjoyable.

Strength training can also increase confidence and reduce stress. Many women report feeling empowered after lifting weights, as it challenges them physically and mentally. Scientific research has shown strength training will help combat anxiety and depression by releasing endorphins – the body's natural mood enhancers.

Whether you are aiming for toned muscles or simply enhancing your overall

fitness, weight training offers a multitude of benefits. Come visit us at the Kooyong Health Club and we look forward to assisting you with your fitness goals. ●

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

It's grass season at Kooyong

↓ BOTTOM LEFT
New Kooyong coach
Valentin Pele

↗ CENTRE
Kid's tennis clinic



As the sun begins to shine and the grass courts come to life, it's time to gear up for an exciting season at Kooyong. We're thrilled to announce that our beloved grass season is here, and we can't wait to welcome you back to the courts.

FRESH STYLES IN THE PRO SHOP

This year, our pro shop is bursting with outfits perfect for the grass courts. Whether you're looking for stylish gear to enhance your game or just want to feel good around the clubhouse, we have something for everyone. From vibrant patterns to classic cuts, our collection is designed to keep you comfortable and confident all season. Come in and check out the latest arrivals.

ELEVATING COACHING EXCELLENCE

We're also excited to introduce another international coach to the team all the way from France, Valentin Pele. Our team is ready to take coaching to the next level in 2025. With diverse backgrounds and expertise, these coaches bring a wealth of knowledge guaranteed to enhance your skills and elevate your game. Whether you're a beginner wanting to learn the basics or an advanced player seeking to refine your technique, our coaches are here to help you reach your full potential.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

At Kooyong, we value member input. As we gear up for the season, we want to hear from you. What do you want to see more of in the pro shop? Are there specific brands, styles, or equipment you'd like us to carry? Your feedback is essential in helping us create the best experience possible for our community.

JOIN US THIS SEASON

Get ready to enjoy the thrill of grass season at Kooyong. With new outfits, top-notch coaching, and your valuable insights, we're gearing up for what promises to be the best year yet. Let's make 2025 a memorable season together!

We look forward to seeing you on the courts. ●

Holiday clinic dates:

December 16 to December 20
January 13 to January 17
January 20 to January 24

Public Holiday
Monday 27 January 2025

Term 1 Dates
January 28 to March 30 2025

The positive impact Kooyong tennis coaching has on diverse client needs

WORDS BY GLENN BUSBY

We are proud to say the rewards of our coaching programs extend far beyond the court. Our coaching can have a positive impact on individuals struggling with the pressures of contemporary life. With a commitment to inclusivity and personal growth, our programs help clients who are facing various challenges including intellectual and physical disabilities, health issues, aging, bullying, ADHD and raising children as a single parent.

Additionally, as many members are now working from home, our coaching sessions provide a social outlet and many participants cite their days as more productive due to tennis coaching.

PROMOTING PHYSICAL HEALTH

For many people, health issues can be a barrier to active living. Our coaches work closely with health professionals to design specialised programs that cater to individuals with varying fitness levels and medical conditions. These programs can emphasise low-impact exercises that help improve strength, flexibility, and coordination, enabling clients to engage safely with sport. This approach fosters a sense of achievement and self-efficacy as clients witness their progress over time.

ENHANCING MENTAL WELLBEING

For those dealing with



issues such as bullying or social anxiety, the supportive environment at Kooyong serves as a “safe haven”. Tennis requires communication and teamwork, thereby facilitating social

↑ LEFT Henry Young is 101 years old and played in the world championships in Turkey this year, alongside playing four times a week and participating in lessons

interaction and helping clients build friendships.

Moreover, engaging in physical activity has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety. Our programs and coaches equip clients with coping strategies for

use beyond the court. This holistic approach encourages emotional resilience and boosts self-esteem, empowering clients to face challenges in their daily lives.

SUPPORTING AGING CLIENTS

As individuals age, staying active becomes important, however many older adults may feel intimidated by traditional sports environments. Kooyong tennis coaching responds to this challenge by building skills that enhance balance and mobility and maintain independence in aging clients.

Our older clients can improve their physical health and forge social connections, reducing feelings of isolation often associated with aging. We have clients in their 90's enjoying weekly lessons – it is such an important part of their week and life.

INCLUSIVITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Kooyong tennis coaching prides itself on being an inclusive environment for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Coaches are trained in adaptive teaching methods, ensuring lessons are accessible and engaging for participants.

By breaking down skills into manageable components, clients can achieve small victories that build confidence. The structure of group lessons allows participants to learn from each other and

form valuable friendships, which not only helps skill development, but also cultivates social skills crucial for personal growth.

ALLEVIATING LIFE STRESSES

Tennis lessons for many children and adults are an area where they can feel safe, express themselves and release life stresses.

About 12 years ago, one of my coaches working on the court next to me would sit down with his client – a young girl – for most of the session and sometimes not even hit a ball. After a couple of weeks, I went to him and asked what he was doing and he said the mother of the girl was so happy that the girl had found someone she could talk to. She did not have a male in her life as her father had recently passed away. She would not discuss how she was feeling with anyone, except her coach.

I would like to think our coaching program is more than just a place to learn tennis – it is a community dedicated to maintaining the wellbeing of clients. By addressing a wide range of challenges our coaching programs create an environment where everyone can flourish. We endeavour to foster resilience, confidence, and a sense of belonging that enriches the lives of all participants. I would like to think we are making a difference one client at a time.

Keep on the lookout for our new adult day clinics – starting next year, these

clinics are for senior players wanting to play tournaments within the state, country and overseas. These programs will test boundaries and target fitness levels by using different methods and emphasising match strategies. If interested, look out for this program in the New Year.

We hope you all have an amazing Christmas period and feel energised for the coming year with your families. ●

↓ Ian Pittman, a 96 year old Kooyong member undertaking weekly lessons



Squash at Kooyong



GIVE SQUASH A GO AT SQUASH MONTHLY

For information on Squash Monthly sessions at Kooyong, stay on the lookout for club emails. Squash Monthly is usually held on the first or second Friday of each month from 4pm to 6pm.

Each session is free to Kooyong members. Racquets and balls are provided, with free coaching and tips included. It's the perfect time to try squash during months marked by unpredictable weather – guaranteed play even when it's raining!

FREE SQUASH

Free squash and racquetball racquets and balls are available for social play at all times for members and guests. Such amenities are located behind squash court one in a signed cupboard.

IN-HOUSE SQUASH FOR ALL MEMBERS

We have an in-house squash competition for all levels starting in February. The competition will be held on Monday nights and last eight to ten weeks. ●

If interested, contact us at squash@kooyong.com.au.

GET READY FOR THE 'BEST ONE-HOUR WORKOUT' AT BOOTCAMP

New and experienced players are invited to attend free monthly bootcamps on the squash courts and lap up a fantastic workout. Keep on the lookout for weekly emails containing dates and times. Kooyong Squash Scholarship players will assist in delivering the boot camp.

A FAIRYTALE SQUASH SEASON

It was the season of dreams for our squash teams – crowned with a blue flag victory for D2 and E grade, alongside runner-up glory in C1.

The E Grade journey was marked by key milestones and a fairytale finish, of sorts.

It started with captain Richard Bowman's idea to form another team. At the eleventh hour, Richard convinced Brendan Perry and the Club Circuit committee to accept the E grade team nomination, filling a dreaded bye and giving players from all clubs the opportunity to play more matches.

A team normally has four active players and two spare players. The E Grade team



↑ FROM LEFT Harry Heyworth, awarded the Neil Fraser Most Valuable Autumn Player and Zuke Althaus, awarded the JP Young Most Improved Autumn Player.

↪ Squash players enjoy the camaraderie and opportunity to stay fit during monthly bootcamps.

had 19 players over the season. Hedy, Julie, George, and Mike Daglish formed the team's core, despite knowing their availability might be limited.

The team's flexibility was remarkable. Harry, Kane, Ben, Sam, Mark, Mike van Dort, Colin, Asger, Peter, and Caz all adapted to different roles and made crucial contributions to the trajectory of the game. Zuke's arrival in round six was a turning point, boosting his rating from 560 to 785 and giving his team the strength it required. Harry and Zuke claimed trophies for the most improved players throughout the season.

Celebrations were in order for Peter Dixon, who played his 700th game for Kooyong, with a farewell win reflecting his dedication and love for the game.

The team's consistency shone through, as Kooyong topped the ladder with an 11-3 record. Julie, the team's



“emergency only” player, delivered an impressive performance in her fifth match – a narrow semi-final loss to Veneto. The team bookended the following week by “beating” the other Kooyong team.

The grand final was a nail-biter and featured one of the highlights of the season. Richard played the first match of the night and his 800th game. Two weeks previous, in the semi-final, Richard lost 3-0 to the same opponent. In the grand final, Richard fought valiantly, taking the match to a fifth set, but narrowly losing 17-15. It was a significant testament to his perseverance and skill, and providing hope for the team to reverse the semi-final loss.

Following Richard, Quentin secured a crucial 3-0 win, setting up Zuke to play an opponent he lost to 3-0 only two weeks prior. He claimed victory 3-1. The final match was a dead rubber – the blue flag was Kooyong and represented all the participants' hard work and team spirit. Every player's effort contributed to our success. We couldn't have done it without each other. ●

↑ **E1 GRAND FINAL TEAM FROM LEFT**
George, Zuke, Peter, Colin, Richard, Julie and Quentin Boan

➤ Malcolm McClarty (pictured right) with Hong Kong master winner.

➔ Kooyong Club's 2024 Hong Kong Masters Group.



Kooyong Squash makes a global splash

Kooyong squash players put the club decisively on the map at the Hong Kong Masters Squash Open. The tournament played host to tense matches and thrilling moments

Coach Malcolm McLarty's leadership and strategic guidance was instrumental to the success of the Kooyong club. His players displayed exceptional performance and fierce determination throughout the competition and executed their game plan with precision and confidence.

The tournament not only showcased the dedication of the players, but highlighted the importance of strong coaching, teamwork and

camaraderie to reaching success in squash.

The Hong Kong Football-Jockey Club hosted the Kooyong team at the world-class Happy Valley Racecourse. The team received similarly warm and appreciated hospitality from the Hong Kong Cricket Club.

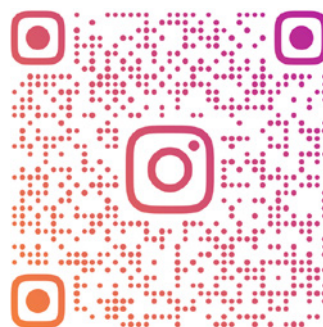
This year's Hong Kong Masters tournament proved to be a fantastic event, with the Kooyong Club's success owed to the skill and determination of the players and coach Malcolm's expertise and guidance. It was an event filled with high-quality squash and unforgettable moments that will be cherished for years to come. ●

Young members at Kooyong

WORDS BY CHRIS MCMULLIN, PRESIDENT OF YOUNG MEMBERS COMMITTEE



↓ Scan this QR code to see the video of 2024 YarraYong..



YARRAYONG: A NIGHT WORTHY OF NYC

This year, YarraYong made a glamorous detour to the Royal South Yarra, following on the heels of last year's blockbuster event at Kooyong. The vibe? Straight out of NYC, with a mix of mob wife-chic, roaring 1920s glam, and a dash of underground gangster swagger. Picture casino tables, dazzling dancers, cocktails on arrival, and roaming oysters – because why not? Over 100 members (and their lucky guests) from both clubs lapped up the night, which was a rousing success, thanks to the pros at Royal South Yarra who pulled it all together. With such a strong serve, we're already plotting how to top it when the party swings back to Kooyong in 2025. Get ready – next year's YarraYong will be even more legendary.

↑ This year's YarraYong featured casino tables, dazzling dancers, cocktails on arrival and roaming oysters.

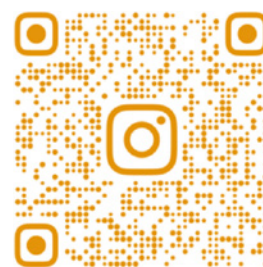
DAY ON THE CLAY 2: MAKING RAINY DAYS SHINE

Our second Day on the Clay was set to be an ace way to spend a day – a social tennis tournament followed by drinks on the deck, all wrapped up in Kooyong charm. But in a classic twist, the weather gods sent a downpour just as we were gearing up for the first serve. However, our quick-thinking crowd pivoted from tennis courts to the table tennis tables without missing a beat. What followed was a flurry of ping-pong prowess, proving that when life gives Kooyong rain, we serve up fun indoors. The night ended with cold drinks, good laughs, and catch-ups that made the unexpected detour worthwhile. Here's hoping the skies play nice for our next Day on the Clay early in the new year!

STAYING IN THE KNOW

Want to keep your finger on the pulse? Check out the Kooyong website for committee updates, watch for event details in club emails, and follow us on Instagram for all the latest.

With dates for some key events still under wraps, young members and their guests can look forward to a stellar lineup for the first half of 2025. Think Aussie Open finals viewing parties, another round of Day on the Clay, indulgent Long Lunches, and the ever-popular monthly casual tennis hit followed by pot and parma nights. ●



← Scan this QR code for kooyong_ym

Bridge Club

WORDS BY COMMITTEE MEMBER JENNY SAMUEL.

YEARLY REFLECTION

2024 has proved to be a very busy year for the Bridge Club, namely via a surge in memberships, with the club now sitting at 360 members, and representation in Woodlands Sandbelt and other competitions.

Two club teams claimed victory at the Woodlands Sandbelt competition in October. Maria Campbell, Peter Hodsman, Brendan Murray and Marcus Brodmeyer fronted the overall winning team. Kerry-Anne Hoad, Jane Mackenzie, Cindi Damian and Louise Leatham also performed well as an additional team.

At the Australia-wide Novice Pairs competition in May Peter Hodsman and Alison Wright placed 41st out of over 1200 competitors. Greg Baker and Marcella Hayes also competed in the Australia-wide Novice Pairs competition and placed 85th overall and 38th in the category for those with less than 50 master points. Honourable mentions include Jenny Williams and Lisa Everingham, who placed 54th, and Vic Sansom and Bob Fenwick, who placed 66th in the under 50 master points category.

Kooyong winners in the Australia-wide Open Pairs competition in August were Pauline Grodski and Dot Sofer. Marcus Brodmeyer and Fiona Trescowthick claimed victory in the Australia-wide Restricted Pairs in October. In September, four teams competed in the McManamny Teams event at Waverley.

In November, top players tested their knowledge and skills against some of the



← Alison Wright and Peter Hodsman

✦ James Tulloch President KLTC Bridge Club and David Happell, 2023 club champion.

✦ Team members at the McManamny Teams in Waverley.

↓ **BOTTOM RIGHT** from left: Sheryn Hughan, winner of Penny Purbrick Trophy, James Tulloch, president of KLTC Bridge Club and Cecile Senior and Sue Douglas, winners of the Jim Borin Trophy.



best bridge players in the country at the Kooyong Congress and the Sandbelt competition at Yarra Yarra Golf Club.

At the beginning of this year, the Bridge Club's prize winners for 2023 were announced at the Champions dinner. Sheryn Hughan won the Penny Purbrick Trophy for less experienced players and Sue Douglas and Cecile Senior won the Jim Borin Trophy. David Happell nabbed the coveted 2023 club champion title.

DUPLICATE SESSIONS UP FOR GRABS

Our weekly duplicate sessions continue to be popular. If you would like to participate in these sessions – held on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, Tuesday

evenings and Thursday mornings – you are required to join the Bridge Club. Application forms can be found on our website bridgewebs.com.

Those hesitant to join duplicate bridge are encouraged to join the supervised bridge sessions on a Tuesday evening. The two-hour session in June with the experienced and well-regarded Joan Butts on the topic of defence was very popular with our members, in addition to the lesson with Laura Ginnin in September on declarer play.

SIGNING OFF FOR THE YEAR

Finally, our Christmas dinner will be held on Monday 16 December. We hope to see all club members on the night. ●



Kooyong Wine and Food Society

WORDS BY GREG BAKER, KOOYONG WINE AND FOOD SOCIETY PRESIDENT

The Kooyong Wine and Food Society has continued to flourish this year with more than 170 members enjoying a range of events dedicated to celebrating fine food and wines, including the Riedel Wine Glass event, a Taste of Paris Dinner and a Wines of the World Tasting.

BORDEAUX WINES MASTER CLASS

Bordeaux is one of the most important wine growing areas in the world. In 1855, the red wines of Bordeaux were classified the most expensive and labelled 'Premier Cru' or 'First Growth'. These classifications continued today with only a few changes.

Renowned teacher and importer Daniel Airoidi guided members through a range of wines from surrounding Bordeaux areas. We started with a dry white that was a blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon – an excellent wine rarely seen in Australia. The dry white was followed by two brackets of red wines. Firstly, we had three wines from the St Emilion region, where the dominant grape variety is Merlot, then three wines from near Medoc where the dominant grape variety is Cabernet Sauvignon. The final wine was a 2018 Château Doisy Daëne from the renowned Barsac appellation famous for luscious and sweet wines.

Kooyong's executive chef Nick Ward arranged a bespoke menu featuring small plates that perfectly matched the wines. A serve of blue cheese with the Barsac was a particular favourite!

A big thanks goes to Patrice Renaudin for presenting the wines in a sophisticated fashion – a job well done once again.

CURLY FLAT DINNER

Curly Flat Winery co-founder and sole owner Jenifer Kokka and winemaker Ben Kimmorley joined Kooyong's Wine and Food Society members for a memorable dinner featuring current and back vintages of Curly Flat Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

Now in its fourth decade of operation, Curly Flat is well established as one of



→ Tahbilk cellars



→ Curly Flat dining

↓ Doisy Dane



Australia's finest vineyards. Located at Lancefield in the Macedon Ranges, the winery specialises in Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. The Halliday Wine Companion classifies Curly Flat as an 'outstanding winery regularly producing wines of exemplary quality and typicity.'

Wine and Food Society members were also fortunate to sample the winery's Pinot Gris that is made in very



↑ Curly Flat entree

small quantities. The dinner finished with an aged Cheddar cheese to accompany the 2005 Pinot Noir.

It was a privilege to meet Jenifer and Ben and hear their journey through the wine world. Our thanks go to the Kooyong LTC staff who ensured members had another outstanding dining experience.

The Kooyong Wine and Food Society has continued to flourish this year with more than 170 members enjoying a range of events.

THE WINE AND FOOD SOCIETY AT MITCHELTON WINERY

In October, 45 Wine and Food Society members and guests enjoyed an outstanding two-day immersion into the wine and food of the Nagambie region. Accommodation was at the acclaimed Mitchelton Hotel on the banks of the Goulburn River.

The event included a tour and tasting at the historic Tahbilk cellar. The Purbrick family has tended to the vines with great care for five generations and has now re-established a natural wetlands area – hoping to forge a sustainable future. A visit to the wonderful Mitchelton cellar is always a highlight and members were most grateful for the outstanding visit.

Our thanks go to Amanda Webster and her subcommittee who organised this memorable event.

FUTURE EVENTS

Our final event for the year will be a dinner at the club on Saturday 6 December.

Next year will kick off with our AGM, followed by a wine tasting from a small family-owned vineyard making distinctive and interesting wines. ●

Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary at Kooyong

The Kooyong Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Auxiliary has held three hugely successful events to date this year, as all events smashed records for sums raised. These are wonderful achievements to celebrate!

Helen Birdseye expertly convened our highly regarded duplicate and social bridge May Card Luncheon which raised \$5116. We welcomed 100 guests – all of whom very generously supported our efforts by purchasing raffle tickets to support the RCH. We sincerely thank Terry Crawford – for the donation of his time to direct the Duplicate Bridge players – and also Kooyong's Bridge Club for supporting this event.

Our Winter Wonderland Dinner, outstandingly convened by Julie Walker, was a phenomenal success. The Kooyong community gathered in a warm and festive atmosphere to raise over \$21,200 – an outstanding record! The event attracted 137 attendees to the Kooyong Room, which had been beautifully transformed into a pine and birch woodland-themed winter wonderland. The evening was expertly hosted by Ian Cohen, an award-winning sports journalist who has presented for over 25 years in radio and television and is currently working with ABC sport in the AFL and NRL. A highlight of the evening was the fireside chat featuring Carlton Football Club CEO Luke Sayers and



↑ Silent Auction

↻ Fireside chat with Paul Salmon, Luke Sayers and Ian Cohen, MC

← Winter Wonderland Dinner

AFL legend Paul Salmon. They shared captivating stories about football and life, including heartfelt reflections on how the Royal Children's Hospital has positively impacted their families. The silent auction featured dozens of amazing items, and we acknowledge the extraordinary generosity of all of our donors who are listed below.

- Mecca Cosmetics
- The House of Golf
- Kooyong International Tennis Academy
- Anglesea Golf Club Golf Pro Shop
- Anaconda Hawthorn East
- Aligned Therapies
- Chemist Warehouse Hawthorn East
- Dan Murphy's Hawthorn East
- Geri Coughlan
- Giorgios Restaurant
- Kew Golf Club Pro Shop
- Lavazza Australia
- Lonsdale Links Pro Shop
- Minimax
- Puma Australia

- Red Hill Lavender Farm
- Shiva Designs
- Spring Physio Group
- Stonnington Council
- Studio Craft
- Tennis Only
- 13th Beach Golf Links

Our events would not be possible without the outstanding executive sponsorship and support of Kooyong's interim CEO, Bruce Wilson. We thank him, as well as Renée Reid and her dedicated Kooyong Events Team who work to make our events run smoothly, with every detail meticulously managed to ensure flawless experiences.

Four members of our auxiliary thoroughly enjoyed a tour of the Support Centre of Mecca Cosmetics, at the invitation of Conor Horgan, Kooyong member and father of Mecca's co-founder, Jo Horgan. An eye-opening, interesting and entertaining afternoon was had by all, complete with a champagne afternoon tea.



↑ Jean Burgess, RCH Auxiliary Past President, and Conor Horgan, club member and magnanimous RCH supporter



↑ Lyn Wheat, President, Kooyong RCH Auxiliary, and Julie Walker, Convenor, Winter Wonderland Dinner



↑ Lisa Carew, past Patron of Kooyong RCH Auxiliary

We are so grateful to Conor for the Mecca products he provides as raffle prizes for all our events.

Lisa Carew, who has been a member of our Auxiliary for almost 10 years and our Patron for seven of those years, is sadly stepping down. Lisa has been a great supporter of all our events, particularly as the lead organiser of our successful raffles. We thank her sincerely for all she has done for the RCH Auxiliary. Her humour and dry wit will be missed.

Our sincere thanks go to all the Kooyong Staff, the Kooyong community and the wider Victorian community for supporting our events and helping us achieve our goal to make a significant difference to Royal Children's Hospital patients and their families. ●

Lyn Wheat
President, KLTC RCH Auxiliary
Julie Walker
Convenor, Winter Wonderland Dinner

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Events at Kooyong

WORDS BY EVENTS MANAGER RENEE REID



Since the last Courtside update, Kooyong's events team have enjoyed hosting many memorable events for our valued members and guests. The Kooyong Wine and Food Society have continued their incredible involvement at the club with some wonderful and original themed ideas to farewell the last half of 2024.

We hosted a Tastes of Paris Dinner, complete with French wines and dishes, tables decorated in the colours of the French flag and a serenade by a French accordion player on arrival.

We recently enjoyed an International Wine Tasting experience, and we look forward to closing the year with a 'Are you game?' themed Fowles Wines Dinner. We enjoy working closely with Greg Baker and the committee and thank them for their assistance in creating these wonderful events.

Our first President's Lunch for the year was a roaring success and we thank everyone involved. The Spring Racing themed event was enjoyed by 210 people – members, suppliers and guests alike. Our stage hosted another coffee table chat featuring Michelle Payne, Ben Hayes and Barry Pang, who were interviewed by our Master of Ceremonies Cam Luke. Each speaker shared a unique and incredible story. Tables were adorned with bright florals and guests enjoyed another bespoke menu prepared by Nick, Babu and the kitchen team.

We have wonderful relations with many school groups that we welcome annually via various events. We thank them for their support. We were also incredibly fortunate to be involved in the annual Australian Olympic Alumni Dinner, the Save the Children fundraiser, the

↑ The Kooyong Wine and Food Society have continued their incredible involvement at the club, with some wonderful and original themed ideas to farewell the last half of 2024.

St Vincent's Hospital Foundation fundraiser and a Vision Australia fundraiser.

Our local community groups have become such a special part of Kooyong's events. We acknowledge the Rotary Club of Hawthorn and Glenferrie, as well as the Melbourne Ladies Probus Group, the Ionian Club and the Vernier Society, who all regularly enjoy our hospitality.

Our passionate events team is made up of myself (Renee), Melanie, Madeleine and Rachael. We have almost 50 years of combined service at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. We are gearing up for a vibrant and busy festive season. We thank our members who bring their events to us – birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, conferences and cocktail parties – and invite you all to continue to join us in our fabulous spaces! ●

Racquet Club and Bistro



← Tiramisu served during the club's Italian promotion in October

FOOD AND WINE PROMOTIONS

Every July for the last few years, our French food and wine promotion has seen members dive head-first into celebrating all things French. This year, as always, members relished tucking into delicious dishes and sampling a selection of French wines from various regions.

On a high from the success of the French promotion, our kitchen team commenced work on an Italian promotion for October, featuring an all-Italian special menu paired with classic Italian wines. This promotion was immensely successful and introduced our members to fantastic dishes and exciting grape varieties.

These themed promotions transform the member dining experience into something truly special and a cherished club event.

We're looking forward to next year's themed menu – already in the planning phase – that will provide an opportunity to delight our members once again! Keep an eye out for our forthcoming promotions in 2025.

GRAND FINAL AND MELBOURNE CUP DAY CELEBRATIONS

On the last Saturday in September, there was a real buzz in the club as members intently watched the AFL Grand

Final in the Kooyong Room, with drinks and obligatory party pies and sausage rolls in hand.

Weeks later, on the first Tuesday in November, members were invited back to the Kooyong Room to watch the race that stops the nation. There was nothing better than watching the race with friends and family on the big screens, hearing the roar of the crowds and sharing the excitement of the race – it was almost as good as being there! To celebrate the occasion, members were able to purchase a celebratory glass of 'bubbly' as well as a classic thirst-quenching Tom Collins cocktail. To top the experience off, the club provided complementary chicken and cucumber sandwiches for members to munch on while watching the race.

AUSTRALIA'S WINE LIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Staying true to tradition, the club once again enlisted in this year's Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards. This is a great opportunity for Kooyong to benchmark itself in the wider hospitality industry. Kooyong and its 'wine man' Patrice Renaudin were awarded a goblet and an excellent review of the "intelligent and value-packed wine list" that boasts "strong brands with a story to tell" and "bargains for the keen-eyed wine lover".

WINE OF THE MONTH PROMOTIONS

These promotions are the perfect occasion to showcase a new winery, region or country to Kooyong's members. This year we have featured the likes of Bress (Victoria), Peter Lehmann (South Australia), Ottelia (Mount Gambier) and Camel

Road (California), to name a few. This December, we are bringing you a small selection of pre-dinner drinks to celebrate the Festive season. Let's finish the year with a little bit of fizz!

OUTDOOR DINING AT KOOYONG

Embrace the warmth of summer with al-fresco dining on our beautiful balconies. Whether you're looking for a casual lunch, a mouthwatering barbecue, dinner under the stars or a more refined dining experience, the Racquet Club balcony is a tranquil dining setting.

Indulge in delicious dishes while enjoying the fresh air and stunning courtside views. With seasonal specials and refreshing drinks, every meal becomes a celebration of summer! ●

Bookings can be made either online, on the Kooyong App or by calling reception directly on 9822 3333.

Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club

Modern Australian

Cuisine Modern Australian
Sommelier Patrice Renaudin
Number of Wines 131
Wines by the Glass 19
Wine Price by the Glass \$

The Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club dates back to 1892 and its traditions are reinforced by this compact and intelligent wine list. Classics lead the way with a focus on strong brands that specialise in storytelling. There are also plenty of bargains for the wine lovers with an astute eye for detail. Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club members should delve into this value-packed list with enthusiasm and mirth.

A full-page photograph of a male tennis player with a beard and a black cap worn backwards. He is wearing a bright blue long-sleeved shirt and black shorts. He is captured in a dynamic pose, hitting a backhand shot with a tennis racket. A bright green tennis ball is visible in the lower-left foreground, just before being struck. The background shows a blue tennis court and blurred stadium seating. The overall lighting is bright, suggesting an outdoor setting during the day.

OMAR JASIKA RIDES A CAREER HIGH

Recently battling a challenging stretch in his career, Omar Jasika has found himself on a remarkable hot streak, racking up 29 consecutive match victories.

A tough period wherein he lost eight first round matches caused Jasika's ranking to take a hit, meaning he narrowly missed out on a spot in the qualifying rounds for this year's US Open. This knock left him with added pressure yet hungry for a fresh perspective. Seeking rejuvenation, he made the decision to travel to Bali.

In Bali, Jasika aimed to recharge both mentally and physically while competing in Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) tournaments and International Tennis Federation (ITF) events. The trip turned into a fruitful combination of competition and relaxation.

Jasika quickly found his rhythm by starting with a victorious UTR event. "I needed to get some matches in after a rough few months on tour," he explains. Winning the UTR not only boosted his confidence but delivered prize money – a bonus to his holiday.

After the UTR event and a week of a 'tennis holiday', the first ITF event in Bali commenced. Jasika continued to find his rhythm, breezing through to the finals with relative ease. The final, however, tested his stamina. In a gruelling three-hour match, he triumphed 7-6 in the third set, overcoming cramps both players faced. "It was great to pull through and get the win in tough conditions," he says.

The next tournament in Bali, an M25 ITF event, presented a stronger field. After a quick recovery, Jasika cruised through to the semi-finals where he faced rising star American Andre Llagan and won a tightly contested two-set match 7-6, 7-5. In the final, he faced Jay Clarke, a seasoned English player formerly ranked 150 on the comeback trail. Jasika's performance was nothing short of dominant – he won the match 6-4, 6-1.

With Bali behind him, Jasika headed to Darwin, eager to capitalise on his winning momentum. "At this stage, I'm seeing the ball like a beach ball and I am motivated," he said, emphasising his focus and drive to secure points for the Australian Open qualifying round. However, the physical toll of continuous competition began to weigh on him, with minor injuries cropping up.

Despite sustaining minor injuries, Jasika's strong form continued and he made it through to the finals in Darwin where he faced Aussie Jake Delaney. He won the final 7-5, 7-5 and extended his streak to an impressive 22 matches. "I was feeling it



↑ Kooyong Foundation's Omar Jasika and fellow scholarship player Marc Polman

physically, but I had a goal in mind which kept me motivated," he says.

The second event in Darwin continued to showcase Jasika's prowess. Playing relaxed and confident, he reached yet another final against New Zealand's James Watt. Aiming for his fourth ITF title in four weeks, he delivered a stellar performance, clinching the victory and a continued surge up the World rankings after collecting 90 Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) points in the past month. In a heartwarming moment after his victory, Jasika gifted his shoes to a ball kid, which brought joy to the young fan.

Losing eight first round matches caused Jasika to miss out on a spot in the qualifying rounds for the US Open, however, this knock left him hungry for a fresh perspective.

→ Ava Beck

→ Koharu Nishikawa

Jasika has broken into the World's Top 200, coming in at a career high ranking of 181.

It was onto Cairns, where Jasika was the defending champion from 2023. After a couple of tight three setters in the opening rounds, Jasika made his way through to the final where he met longtime teammate, fellow Kooyong Foundation player Marc Polmans. Jasika's form proved too strong, winning the battle 6-3, 6-4 and claiming his fifth ITF pro circuit title in a row.

Following Cairns, strong quarter final showings at ATP challenger events in Adelaide and Sydney meant solid ranking points continued to come in, with the Australian summer in his line of sight.

As he reflects on his 2024 season, Jasika acknowledges the journey has been filled with ups and downs. "It's been the best thing I've done this year in terms of scheduling," he says, appreciating the decision to step back and play ITF events to build his ranking back up.

With six titles to his name this year, Jasika has positioned himself nicely for the remainder of the year, particularly the Australian Open in January.

Jasika is set to compete in ATP Challenger events in Japan to close the season. "I'll push through and aim to keep momentum going – I always look forward to coming home at the end of the year," he shares, anticipating time with family, friends, and participating in events like the Kooyong Foundation Pro-Am.

Because of his recent success, Jasika has broken into the World's top 200, coming in at a career high of ranking 181, a testament to his resilience, focus, and the joy of tennis. ●

Kooyong Foundation



AVA BECK AND KOHARU NISHIKAWA HEAD TO JUNIOR BILLIE JEAN KING CUP

Rising stars Ava Beck and Koharu Nishikawa have been selected to represent Australia in the prestigious Junior Billie Jean King Cup (JBJKC). This honour is a direct reflection of their development and success over the past year. They have been selected alongside New South Wales teammate Renee Alame.

Both Beck and Nishikawa represented Australia in team events. Beck played in the qualifiers for the JBJKC earlier this year and Nishikawa in the 14/U World team championships in 2023. The pair have formed a strong friendship from training together and representing Kooyong in the State Grade Pennant.

They joined forces to win doubles titles at this year's J100 Canberra junior ITF and J200 Sydney Oceania Junior

Championships and will now take on the world's best at the 16/U event in Turkey.

Their shared experiences and willingness to extend support and guidance to each other has been pivotal in their development as athletes.

"We understand each other's games so well. It's exciting to represent Australia together – it's a dream come true for both of us," says Nishikawa.

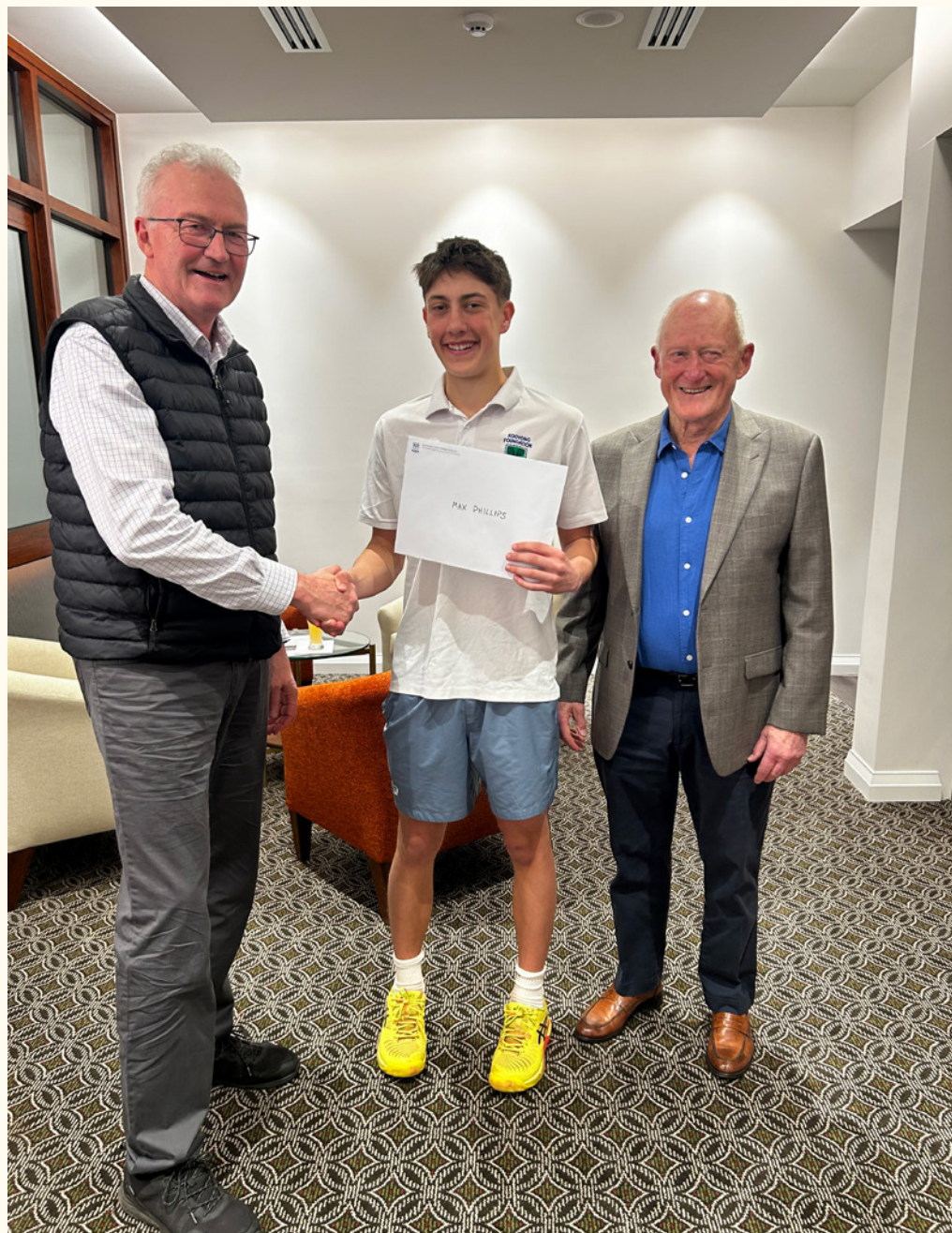
Both players are bringing their best performances to the court for their country. The JBJKC finals will showcase the best emerging talent from around the globe and present a significant opportunity for Beck and Nishikawa to showcase their skills on an international stage.

We wish them all the best!

INAUGURAL BARRY BARTON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Kooyong Foundation is thrilled to announce 16-year-old Max Phillips is the recipient of the inaugural Barry Barton Scholarship Award. The scholarship – valued at \$5000 – is dedicated to a member of the Kooyong Foundation scholarship program from country Victoria. The scholarship recognises exceptional behaviour and sportsmanship, in addition to tennis development.

Phillips – originally from Koroit – has already made significant strides in tennis. He joined the Kooyong Foundation scholarship program at the start of 2024 and has shown a high level of dedication and talent since relocating to Caulfield Grammar as a boarder. The move – which came at the end of 2023 – marked a significant change for Phillips, who previously commuted over two and a half hours multiple times a



week to train in Geelong. "It was a tough decision to leave home and the family, but it's been a really good experience so far and great for my tennis development," he says.

Phillips expressed his gratitude for the recognition. "It feels great to be recognised and supported by Kooyong and the Foundation. I love being at Kooyong, training in the Foundation squads with quality players and coaches and embracing all the facilities the club has to offer," he says.

↑ FROM LEFT
Ken Barton,
Max Phillips
and Kooyong
Foundation
representative
Brian Capp

Barry Barton's son Ken said the family is very pleased to be supporting the Kooyong Foundation and assisting junior tennis players from country Victoria. "Dad loved watching the development of kids from the bush and was keenly aware of the challenges they faced," says Ken.

AWARD BACKGROUND

Barry was a titan in country tennis, winning the 1953 singles title at the Victorian Country Championship which was held at Kooyong for many years. These were the days →

when Kooyong hosted the Country Week teams event for the first week and then the individual championships followed the next week. Winning titles like that was no mean feat, particularly in an era when only those in the Davis Cup Squad travelled internationally.

As a boarder at Scotch College in the 1940's, Barry recalled wagging school to cross Gardiners Creek and play tennis at Kooyong. He became a 50-year member of the club with very fond memories attached.

Barry was also a founding member of the Warrnambool Lawn Tennis Club and won the club championships 21 times. He took part in exhibition matches at the club featuring Australian and international greats including Rosewall, Fraser, Gonzales and the like. The annual Labour Day tournament was a successful event for him, with many competitive matches against touring professionals including a three-set loss to Neale Fraser the year he won Wimbledon.

In later years, he went on to represent Australia successfully in seniors tennis. He passed away in 2013 at the age of 85.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Kooyong Foundation, with the generosity of the Barton family, will be providing an annual scholarship that pays homage to Barry's playing record and sportsmanship, in addition to his connection with Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club and association with Country Tennis – all things he held dear, and supports the next generation.

Congratulations to Max Phillips, the first recipient of the Barry Barton Scholarship Award!



↑ **TOP**
Nikolar Baker, winner of ITF junior doubles title at the J60 event in Kenya.



↑ **ABOVE**
Gabby Villegas (left), winner of the ITF junior doubles title at the J100 Kawaguchi.

ISABELLA CROSSMAN SIGNS WITH GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

Isabella Crossman has signed with Grand Canyon University on a tennis scholarship beginning in January 2025. The 18-year-old was Kooyong club champion in 2023 and a member of the winning Women's State Grade team in 2024.

Crossman decided to begin her college career directly after finishing her Year 12 exams. "I'm excited to begin at Grand Canyon. They have an Aussie head coach Dane Vorster, who I connected well with, which made my decision easier. The program has really improved the last few years, I look forward to contributing to the team," she says.

All the best to Isabella on her college journey!

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION JUNIOR TITLES FOR FOUNDATION PLAYERS

In recent weeks, many Kooyong Foundation junior players have been competing across the globe with much success. Nikolas Baker won his first International Tennis Federation (ITF) junior doubles title with a victory in Nairobi, Kenya, at the J60 event.

Gabby Villegas won her second ITF junior doubles title of 2024 at the J100 Kawaguchi. Pauline Ma had a breakthrough in New Zealand at the J30 Auckland ITF juniors event, winning both the singles and doubles titles at her first ITF junior titles.

Ava Beck won her third ITF junior and biggest singles title of the year at the J200 Miki-Japan Open Junior Championships. The win took her to the cusp of the World's top 100 junior rankings. ●

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

WORDS BY MIRIAM FANNING, PRINCIPAL OF MIM DESIGN



Good design holds meaning – it's about the coming together of form, function, flow and beauty. My family and I have lived in our home for seventeen years and I can comfortably say the house has become a space we feel deeply connected to and genuinely love to live in.

A well-designed home should never be dependent on the amount of space or crafted for the here and now. Design should instead draw on timeless materials, skilled craftsmanship and an understanding of the nuances of how a home will be lived in – bespoke designs with a logical spatial plan and thoughtful view lines will always endure in both style and quality.

Recently, apartment design has become a greater focus for my practice, Mim Design. This discipline of design calls for considered solutions that leave room for all the cherished elements that make a house a home.

Designing within a smaller footprint does not require compromise, rather it allows us to bring the same high standards of quality and functionality to apartment spaces as we do to standalone homes. We see apartment design as an exciting opportunity to reimagine the essentials of home and create spaces that maintain warmth, familiarity and a sense of refuge.

Creating a comfortable and inviting interior is about thoughtful spatial planning, especially in apartment design where every

◀ **LEFT**
Adelaide Villa.
PHOTOGRAPHY
TIMOTHY KAYE

↑ **TOP**
Miriam Fanning.

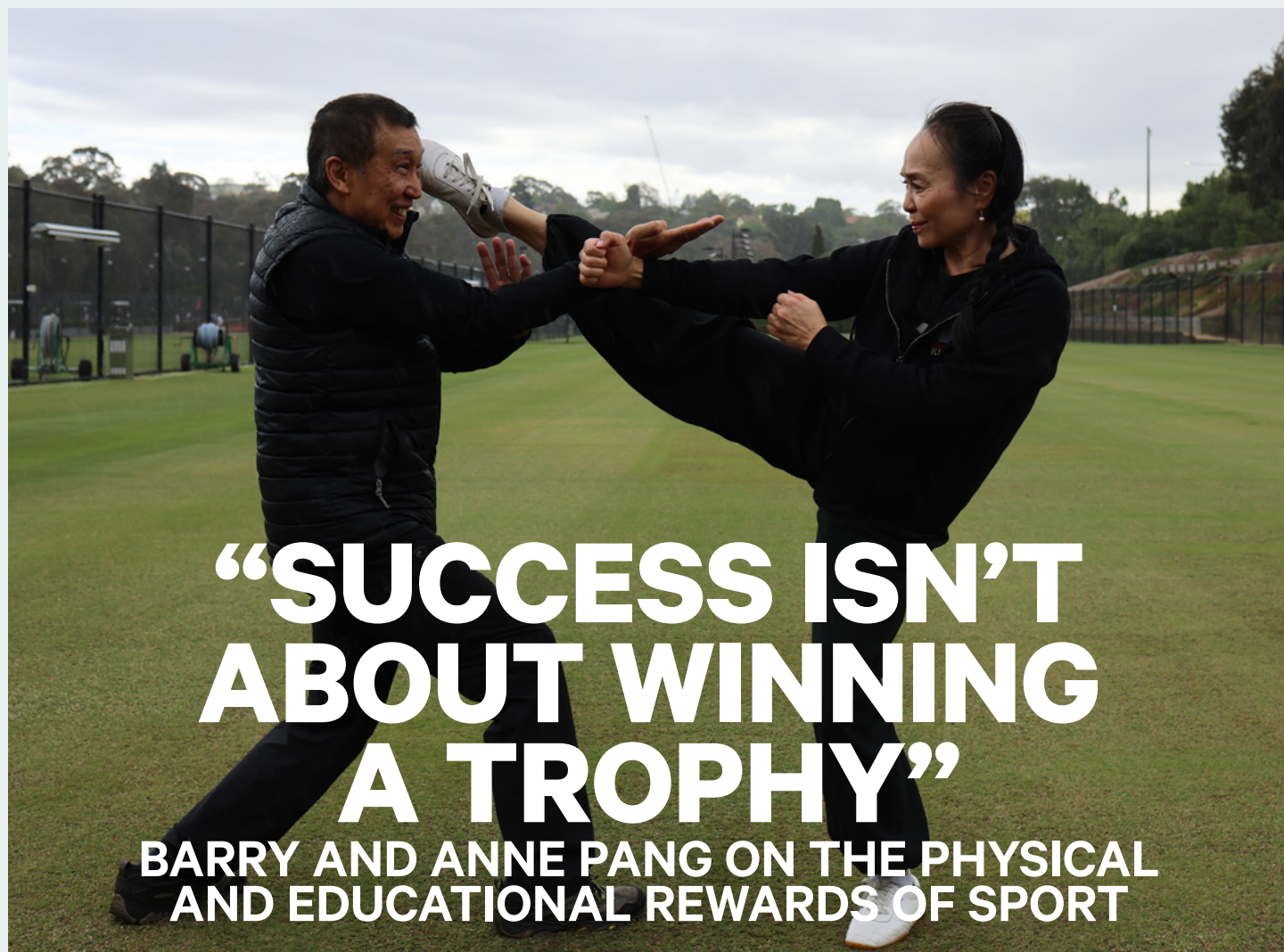
▶ **RIGHT**
Armada Residence.
PHOTOGRAPHY
TIMOTHY KAYE

square metre counts. For example, an open-plan kitchen, living, and dining area welcomes natural light, while private spaces, such as the study and main bedroom, are carefully considered to offer moments of quiet retreat. This balance of openness and seclusion is essential to apartment living, ensuring that even in a compact space, there is room for social connection and personal retreat.

'Aspect' is just as important in apartment design. While 'aspect' often refers to views from inside to outside, in interior design, it also means the sightlines within a home. The internal view lines through and between spaces bring a whole new dimension to everyday life – from the spaciousness of entering a room to the dialogue between furniture settings facing a great piece of art. Thoughtful configuration of sightlines frames those important elements that enrich daily rituals and make even a compact space feel expansive and connected.

People should feel empowered in their spaces and as if their home has been thoughtfully customised to their personal way of living. Be it for the home of a family who require ample space to grow or an apartment to accommodate a new chapter in life, design is a powerful tool to enhance living experience. ●

Miriam Fanning is the founding director and principal of leading Australian interior design and architecture practice, Mim Design.



“SUCCESS ISN’T ABOUT WINNING A TROPHY”

BARRY AND ANNE PANG ON THE PHYSICAL AND EDUCATIONAL REWARDS OF SPORT

We sat down with one of the club’s esteemed members, Barry Pang, and his incredible wife, Anne Pang. Barry is a notable figure in the horse racing community as the first Chinese person to win the Melbourne Cup. He was also recently a guest speaker at the club’s President’s Day Luncheon. In addition to these accolades, Barry and Anne have forged an amazing legacy for Chinese martial arts in Australia, specifically Kung Fu.

The Pangs appreciate the fact that in comparison to other clubs, Kooyong is a vibrant and active sporting club with facilities including the gym and tennis and squash courts. Members are encouraged to play, train and participate in multiple sporting activities and not confine themselves to one discipline.

THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE AFFORDED BY SELF-DEFENCE

Barry established a martial arts school in 1974 and it was one of the earliest Kung Fu schools in Melbourne. As local interest in martial arts grew, Barry’s teachings became available at numerous universities across Victoria – he also had a hand in establishing multiple martial arts tournaments. He continues his legacy of being

↑ Barry and Anne Pang

an instrumental figure for the development of Kung Fu in Australia and his school, The Barry Pang School, still operates today.

Anne is an incredible voice for women in Kung Fu. She has founded her own style and encourages women to embrace the knowledge, skills and confidence that comes with learning self-defense. The vision for her business, Anne Pang Self Defence, is to help women feel empowered and gain respect for themselves and others. Her program promotes community safety and provides women with tools and techniques to protect themselves against unwanted physical contact and advances.

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER ON THE BUS

Barry was born and raised in St Kilda. Like most Australian boys, he had a love for football and cricket. He quickly developed the skills required to participate in sports, however, he found it difficult to compete with kids who were twice his size.

In combating the small disadvantages of his size, he drew inspiration from films such as James Bond and The Samurai, and despite the heavy resistance from his family, leaned into his Chinese heritage and

started learning Taekwondo. Taekwondo was locally known as “Korean Karate”, as the knowledge around Mixed Martial Arts was scarce in the area.

Barry explained that he felt lucky to have grown up in St. Kilda, as the area and school were multicultural and the majority of families had also migrated to Australia.

Anne was born in Taiwan. Her family migrated to Australia in 1970, and they settled in Pascoe Vale. Her experiences when she first arrived in Australia were somewhat different to Barry’s upbringing. As an 11-year-old in school, Anne was not able to speak an ounce of English. At times, she found it incredibly daunting, but she still enjoyed her Australian childhood.

For Anne, her fascination with martial arts started in Taiwan, from reading comics of the heroine Mulan and other legends. She was only able to start practicing martial arts when she moved to Australia and met Barry.

Their meeting story is very wholesome – Barry’s and Anne’s mothers met on a bus. Anne’s mother spoke Mandarin and Barry’s mother spoke Cantonese and they exchanged phone numbers and became instant friends, later introducing Barry and Anne.

THE BEST ATTITUDE IS THE BEST ATTRIBUTE

Barry says Kung Fu has been instrumental in the development of his character and the skills he uses in everyday life.

“It has taught me virtually everything I know – in business and horse racing, I have used the same principles gained from Kung Fu such as determination and confidence in finding success,” says Barry.

Barry cites doubt from loved ones and those around him as inspiration for pursuing Kung Fu. When he first started training, his parents said he would struggle to be successful as he was Australian-born and that he should instead focus on a more promising career such as medicine or law. This lack of belief and confidence encouraged Barry to prove them wrong. He knew he had to develop a different range of skills from everyone else because of the limitations of his stature.

Barry maintains the rewards of a can-do attitude – he is frequently asked how he knows who has the makings to be a

Barry says Kung Fu has been instrumental in the development of his character and the skills he uses in everyday life.

successful student. “It’s simple – the student with the best attitude always surpasses the student who has the ability,” he says.

BENEFITS OF MARTIAL ARTS EXTEND BEYOND PHYSICAL HEALTH

The Pangs believe sport is fundamental in teaching children values and contributing to personal development – it is a form of education, with benefits extending beyond mere physical health.

They speak of how Taekwondo relies heavily on education and teachings, particularly because of the Chinese philosophy that underpins the style, evident in extending respect towards elders and instructors and believing in education and the rewards of a positive attitude.

Anne says Buddhism is a driving force for her involvement in martial arts as the religion emphasises the importance of patience, determination and tolerance. She is also inspired by Taoism, namely the idea that one’s body can possess a relationship with nature.

Both Barry and Anne are Christian in faith, however they draw from numerous philosophies within their teachings.

Anne references a quote that resonates with her and Barry about overcoming obstacles and unlocking a sense of inner determination.

“Success isn’t just about winning a trophy – success is to keep going. If you turn up, you’re successful, rather than success being the materialistic trophy you see displayed on the mantelpiece,” she says.

“Success in life is consistency, the ability to believe, to keep going – your performance of showing up is a demonstration of your success.”

Persistence has ultimately been a huge factor in how Barry and Anne have found success and prosperity. ●

“Anne Pang Self Defence” can be found online at <https://annepangselfdefence.com/women-self-defence-project/>



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