

Courtside

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE KOORYONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC. AUGUST 2017

Big shot

*Belinda Woolcock hits
her stride in U.S. NCAA
National Championship.*



KOORYONG



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50 Year Members Inducted

It was another great afternoon in early July when the Club celebrated the induction of our newest 50 year Members.



The day, hosted by Jason Richardson and featuring a panel of the Club's former President's interviewed by Alan Stone, was a look back on the development of the Club over many years.

Terry Fraser, Joe Devereux, Peter Quinn and Ian Hill all reminisced on the highlights of their respective tenures.

This year's group included 25 members: Brian Bateman, Toni Bucknell, Tim Christian, Brian Connor, William Craig, Peter Cumming, Ron Daly, Richard Eager, David Hansen, Monica Hodgson, Richard Howard, Barbara Jones, Ann Klopfer, Donald McNeur, Thais Mear, Barbara Michaels, Julian Millership, Neil O'Grady, Carolyn Phillips, Russell Pratt, Lorraine Tyler, Denise Van Baer, John Wilson, Janet Young and David Yunghanns.

There were some exceptional tennis players among the group with Janet Young, Brian Connor and Russell Pratt all going on to represent Victoria in junior and senior tennis while Janet also represented Australia, helping win the Fed Cup in 1973 and 1974.

We congratulate and welcome our newest members to this exclusive club! ■

- 1 Brian Bateman & Adam Cossar
- 2 Former Presidents Terry Fraser & Joe Devereux
- 3 Toni Bucknell & Adam Cossar
- 4 Brian Connor & Adam Cossar
- 5 50 Year Member Eva De Jong with her new book Drift Wood
- 6 Thais Mear & Adam Cossar
- 7 Monica Hodgson & Adam Cossar
- 8 Janet Young receiving her 50 Year Membership from Adam Cossar
- 9 Anne Klopfer & Adam Cossar
- 10 Barbara Michaels & Adam Cossar
- 11 Russell Pratt & Adam Cossar



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2017 Champions' Dinner

The highlight of the club's social calendar.



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Belinda Woolcock

Reaches the pinnacle of U.S. College tennis.

“What struck me on my return was the vibrancy of the Club that comes from the Members patronage of the facilities.”

Peter Carew, President

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The Club Report

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CEO'S REPORT

Following an excellent grass court season that allowed members to play through until the middle of June, winter has now set in, and once again work around the courts concerns annual maintenance programs. Baselines have been replaced, and it's evident that our court works are well advanced for this time of year.

Elsewhere around the property, garden work, including re-planting along the railway line, has been taking place. The difficult embankment along the south-western boundary has been cleared and re-planted, so that new cover can establish during the upcoming spring period.

Courtside details a number of our annual events, including the Champions' Dinner where we celebrated the many sports Kooyong members enjoy. Congratulations to Clarke Hansen who was recognised on the night with the Distinguished Member award for his long-time association and contributions to Kooyong!

Several new Fifty-Year Members were inducted at the annual lunch, while our groups have been active across many areas. The Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary, Bridge, Young Members, Wine & Food Society and Social Committee groups all have events planned to enjoy which are profiled in the pages that follow.

The Pennant season is at the business end with Kooyong teams competing across all levels and our juniors and mid-week ladies have strong representation across the grades. The squash competition in Club Circuit and SSL again has strong participation by Kooyong members, while we also congratulate the billiards and snooker group on their wins in the Church Billiards and VBSA A State Billiards competitions.



Chris Brown, CEO

was away from the Club over late June and July and I suspect like most members you only really feel like you are home when you have been back at the Club and immersed yourself in the many opportunities we have here.

What struck me on my return was the vibrancy of the Club that comes from the Members patronage of the facilities. The tennis and squash courts were full, the gym and pool were busy and the dining facilities brimming over.

50 Year Members Inducted

We belong to a very special club that you only need be a member of for a short time to understand why we have so many 50 Year Members who cherish all that is Kooyong.

The 50 Year Members lunch was another fantastic afternoon at the Club with 25 new inductees joining this exclusive group.

It was a great afternoon hosted by Jason Richardson with a panel featuring our four most recent past Presidents Joe Devereux, Terry Fraser, Peter Quinn and Ian Hill.

“We belong to a very special club that you only need be a member of for a short time to understand why we have so many 50 Year Members who cherish all that is Kooyong.”



▲ Our 22 newest 50 Year Members in attendance at the recent lunch to induct them.

The Champions' Dinner

It was a record crowd at this year's Champions' Dinner to celebrate the club's sporting feats with guest speaker Dylan Alcott a highlight of the evening.

Clarke Hansen's recognition as the Club's newest Distinguished Member award winner was well deserved for all the time and effort he has put into the Club, including the interviews to feature in the Club's museum projects.

To see representatives from tennis, squash, billiards and bridge in attendance on the night summed up vibrancy and camaraderie at this great club.

The President's Lunch

I would like to thank Vice President Brian Capp for hosting the July President's lunch in my absence.

With over 240 guests it was great that an ardent Collingwood supporter could be so gracious about our special guests from the Melbourne Football Club Jordan Lewis and Simon Goodwin and die-hard Melbourne supporter Mike Sheahan.

Thanks also to our master of ceremonies Ralph Horowitz who entertained us with his special Friday panel of Titus O'Reilly and Sergio Paradise.

Wimbledon

It was great to see several Kooyong Foundation Scholarship holders featuring prominently at Wimbledon this year.

John Peers followed up his Australian Open crown with a run to the semi-finals where he lost a heartbreakingly close match to the eventual champions while Andrew Whittington put in some hard-fought performances to qualify for the singles main draw for the first time.

Andrew also played doubles with Marc Polmans where they unfortunately ran into the Bryan brothers in the first round.

Destanee Aiava was also just one win away from qualifying for the main draw after winning her first two qualifying matches. Destanee has had a great year and is now ranked inside the world's top 160 players.

Kooyong Scholarship holder Belinda Woolcock has completed her US Collegiate career by winning the NCAA team title with the Florida Gators while also reaching the final of the individual singles tournament.

We congratulate Belinda on her fantastic achievements over the past four years but specially to win this year's NCAA title.

Club Competition

After another long and arduous Pennant season, it is great to see many of our teams playing in finals as the weather starts to warm up (albeit only a little).

With teams playing in finals from Grade 1 through to Grade 8 and the Masters and Men's Open Doubles, the Club has had another great season.

Our Squash Club also had many of their teams featuring in finals action while our Billiards teams have broken through for premiership success as well.

Master Plan

Many will be wondering how the master plan is progressing and I am pleased to report that we are planning to lodge our master plan with Stonnington in early September.

I will keep you up to date with the progress of the master plan in Courtside in the months to come, but I must say the Board is delighted to be taking this significant step which comes after some years of planning and considering the needs of the Members.

As always thank you for your support and continue to enjoy all things Kooyong!



Peter Carew, President

A very special night

Again a highlight on the Club's social calendar, the 2017 Champions' Dinner featured a near sell-out crowd for a wonderful celebration of the Club's sporting groups.

Daniel Byrnes received his second Open Club Championship trophy while Binasa Beslagic accepted the trophy for the first time.

◀ Daniel Byrnes, Open Singles Champion.

Opposite

- 1 New Distinguished Member
Clarke Hansen
- 2 Squash stars Sam Ejtemai &
Cam White
- 3 B Grade Squash winner Chris
Morgan
- 4 Tennis Men's Pennant Player of
the Year Mitch Burman
- 5 A Grade Squash Champion
Tate Norris
- 6 Guest Speaker Dylan Alcott
- 7 Best Female Pennant Player
Molly Polak
- 8 Maita and Mudiwa Munyimani
- 9 The Grade 2 Pennant
Champions: (from left) Shareen
Bottrell, Anna Clarkson, Sarah
Brooks, Mary Jayakody, Kate
Walker, Natalie Baic & Isabelle
Gammel
- 10 Under 21 Club Champion
Jasmin Starr
- 11 Open Ladies Champion
Binasa Beslagic.



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The night featured the honouring of Clarke Hansen

as a Distinguished Member of the Club. Hansen, the long-time ABC sports broadcaster, has been instrumental in the gathering of important historical interviews with players who have played a huge part in the history of Kooyong and which will feature in coming years in the Club's museum projects.

Another feature of the night was the guest speaker, Newcombe Medallist Dylan Alcott, who shared his inspiring story about growing up and not wanting to be seen as disabled and his journey to the top of two sports. Dylan's story was a fantastic insight into the mind of an elite athlete and that you can achieve anything if you put your mind to it which was apt considering the many aspiring tennis stars in the room.

It was also great to see the Club celebrating our billiards, snooker, bridge, squash and tennis stars who all came out in force to support the night.

Daniel Byrnes received his second Open Club Championship trophy while Binasa Beslagic accepted the trophy for the first time.

Squash star Cam White also took home his first Club Championship trophy while Christine Nunn was overseas so was unable to accept the trophy on the night.

It was also great to see some of the stars of the future picking up trophies for winning their respective grades or age groups including current Australian representative Cooper White, Victorian Pizzey Cup captain Jasmin Starr, Daniel Paveska and brothers Mudiwa and Maita Munyimani.

Congratulations to everyone who took home trophies on a very special night and we look forward to another big year at the Club! ■



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FOUNDATION REPORT

BELINDA WOOLCOCK REACHES THE

PINNACLE OF U.S. COLLEGE TENNIS





TIM CASEY

Kooyong Foundation star Belinda Woolcock has helped her Florida Gators team reach the pinnacle of NCAA tennis when they won the National Championship recently.

She then followed that up by reaching the singles

final of the individual tournament in an unbelievable couple of weeks to complete her College stint.

Ranked No. 1 in the country all season, Woolcock's Gators quickly set the tones on the doubles court, where its depth had been on full display all season.

Junior Anna Danilina and freshman Ingrid Neel took a quick 6-2 win over Stanford's Emily Arbuthnott and Taylor Davidson on the top court. Minutes later, Josie Kuhlman and Belinda Woolcock clinched the doubles point with a 6-1 win against Carolina Lampl and Emma Higuchi to help Florida win the doubles point for the 28th time in 31 matches this year.

Kourtney Keegan starting things off on the right foot in the singles by defeating Stanford's Higuchi 6-0, 6-0 to give Florida a 2-0 lead. About 20 minutes later, Woolcock, ranked the 6th best singles player in Division I women's tennis, gave Florida a 3-0 lead with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Doyle before Stanford began to rally.

The Cardinals got on the board with a 6-4, 7-5 win by Melissa Lord over Florida's Josie Kuhlman and with the other three matches going into decisive third sets, Stanford attempted to stage a late comeback but Florida's youngest player pushed back. »

◀ Belinda smashes it in the Gators' match against the Miami Hurricanes in round two of the NCAA Tournament on Sunday, May 14, 2017 at Linder Stadium at Ring Tennis Complex in Gainesville, Florida, U.S.

▲ Belinda receiving serve during the Gators' 4-1 win against the Stanford Cardinal in NCAA Championship Team Final on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at the Dan Magill Tennis Complex in Athens, Georgia, U.S.



Woolcock called on all of her experience to extricate herself from a tough position to win...

Neel, a freshman ranked No. 31 in the country and the lone freshman on a Florida roster littered with upperclassmen, closed out the sweep with a 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 win on Court 3. She had been in this situation before having scored the clinching point in the ITA national indoor championships in February.

Florida opened the year on a 13-match win streak, which included a perfect 4-0 run at the ITA national team indoors, before suffering a 4-1 defeat to Georgia on its home court. This ended a streak of 163 consecutive home wins that dated back to 2004.

Then the Gators won 10 of their final 12 heading into the NCAA Tournament. The two losses came to Vanderbilt, first in the regular-season final to hand the Commodores the regular-season title, then a 4-3 defeat in the SEC Tournament final.

Since that match Florida went on an impressive 6-game run through the NCAA Tournament where they lost just 4 points overall. That run included a 4-2 come-from-behind semifinal win on Monday over that same Vanderbilt team that took both conference titles from Florida earlier in the season.

Woolcock's good form from the NCAA team titles continued as she fought her way through the draw to reach the singles final.

Seeded sixth, Woolcock played her way into the tournament with three straight sets victories to comfortably move into the quarterfinals.

There she met her Florida teammate Anna Danilina who had knocked out another Kooyong star, Ellen Perez, in the



▲ Belinda's run to the final of the individual singles championships was a first for a Kooyong member.

◀ Belinda holds the prestigious NCAA Champion team trophy.

▼ Her exploits throughout the team event saw her named the Most Outstanding Player of the 2017 NCAA Team Championships.

Woolcock capped a glittering NCAA career that included the following achievements:

- ▶ Winner of the 2017 Honda Sports Award for Women's Tennis
- ▶ Most Outstanding Player of the 2017 NCAA Team Championships
- ▶ 2017 NCAA Championship Team Winner
- ▶ Played in #1 Position for singles for the #1 ranked college in the country for 2016/2017 season
- ▶ 2017 NCAA Singles Championship Runner-Up
- ▶ 2017 NCAA National Indoor Championship Team Winner
- ▶ Four-year Gator career with a 113-37 overall record, including a 28-9 singles record this season
- ▶ 2017 ITA Regional Senior Player of the Year
- ▶ 2017 Most Valuable Player for Florida Gators Women's Tennis Team
- ▶ 2016 & 2017 All-American (Singles)
- ▶ 2016 & 2017 First Team All-SEC
- ▶ 2014-2016 Evelyn Puckett Most Improved Award (Team Award)
- ▶ 2014-2017 SEC Academic Honor Roll (due to >3.0 GPA)
- ▶ Nominated SEC Player of the Week twice (2016 & 2017)
- ▶ Career-High National Singles Ranking: No. 3
- ▶ Singles semi-finalist at the 2015 USTA/ITA National Indoor Championships
- ▶ 2015 & 2016 USTA/ITA Southeast Regional Championship Doubles Winner



previous round having also knocked out the second seed in the first round.

Danilina proved more than a handful for Woolcock as she took the first set 6/4 to force the Kooyong star to work hard for the first time in the tournament but she was more than up to the task.

Woolcock rallied to take the second set 6/3 before making the most of her opportunities in the third set to win it 6/4 and move into the semi finals.

Another battle ensued with Woolcock facing Miami's Estela Perez-Somarriba and despite winning the first set comfortably and being up a break in the second set, Perez-Somarriba found a way back into the match to force a deciding set.

Woolcock called on all of her experience to extricate herself from a tough position to win the match 6/1 5/7 6/3 and move through to the final where she played Michigan's Brienne Minor who had looked strong throughout the event.

In the final it was Woolcock who looked to run out of steam after a long teams event closely followed by the singles tournament as she went down to Minor in straight sets 6/3 6/3 but she had done herself proud in making it that far.

Congratulations from everyone at the club on a wonderful College career! ■



◀ John Peers reaches for a backhand volley on his way to the semi finals at Wimbledon.

Wimbledon Proves A Happy Hunting Ground For Kooyong Stars

Kooyong Foundation star John Peers again played a terrific tournament at Wimbledon after winning this year's Australian Open Doubles title.

Having reached the final in 2015 with Jamie Murray and the quarterfinals last year, Peers and Henri Kontinen, the top seeds, were entitled to be confident of another strong performance going into the biggest event of the year.

Despite dropping a couple of sets in the first three rounds, Peers and Kontinen seemed to cruise through to the quarterfinals where they met Ryan Harrison and Michael Venus, seeded 10, in what looked to be a tough matchup.

Peers and Kontinen were able to win the first set 6/4 to gain the ascendancy but the American and New Zealand combination then wrestled that back in their favour by winning the second and third sets in tiebreakers.

The fourth set could have gone either way and Harrison and Venus had a match point but Peers and Kontinen found a way to send the match into a deciding set by winning the tiebreaker 9 points to 7.

In the final set things unravelled for the 10th seeds as Peers and Kontinen forged ahead to win the final set 6/1 and move into the semi finals.

Their semi final opponents were in incredible form and it translated into an unbelievable doubles match as both pairs did everything they could to reach the final.

Lukasz Kubot and Marcelo Melo had won grass court

Peers and Kontinen forged ahead to win the final set 6/1 and move into the semi finals.

lead up events in both s'Hertogenbosch and Halle and won the first set 6/3 before Peers and Kontinen took the second set in a tiebreaker.

Kubot and Melo struck back to take the third set 6/2 but Peers and Kontinen weren't going quietly as they levelled the match at two sets apiece.

It all came down to the fifth and final set and unfortunately Kubot and Melo got the crucial break to win the match 9/7 in a heartbreaking result.

Peers also paired with Sabine Lisicki to reach the third round before bowing out at the hands of Marcelo Demoliner and Maria Jose Martinez-Sanchez 6/4 3/6 7/5.



◀ Marc Polmans and Andrew Whittington drew the Bryan brothers in the first round of the doubles.

▼ Andrew Whittington won three tough qualifying matches to reach his first singles main draw at Wimbledon.



Kooyong's Andrew Whittington lived a childhood dream when he qualified for his first Wimbledon singles main draw...

Another Kooyong star making her name in both singles and doubles is Ash Barty and the teenage prodigy continues to take giant strides in her second coming. Despite falling to fourth seed Elina Svitolina in a tight battle in the first round of the singles, Barty then went to work in the doubles with Casey Dellacqua as the eighth seeds and they battled their way through the draw to reach the quarterfinals before falling to the eventual champions, Russians Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina in an epic three set encounter 6/4 4/6 6/4.

In the singles, Kooyong's Andrew Whittington lived a childhood dream when he qualified for his first Wimbledon singles main draw. Having slipped outside the top 200, Whittington headed into qualifying on the back of two tough first round losses in Ilkley and Nottingham against fellow Aussies Matthew Ebden and Kooyong's Marc Polmans.

In the first round, he faced experienced journeyman Stephane Robert and lost the first set 6/3 before staging a great comeback to win in three sets 3/6 7/5 6/4 after also trailing 1/4 in the final set.

Tim Smyczek, the former world number 68, was waiting in the second round and posed another huge challenge for the young Victorian but despite again losing the first set, this time in a tiebreak, he fought his way out of trouble to move within one win of a main draw berth with a 6/7 6/4 6/4 victory.

In the final round of qualifying, played over the best of 5 sets, Whittington faced off with another tough American, Denis Kudla, who has been as high as number 53 in the world rankings. Kudla started in impressive fashion winning the

first two sets 6/4 and 6/2 and looked set for a straight sets victory before Whittington dug in to force the third set to a tense tiebreaker that he came through 9 points to 7.

With all the momentum, Whittington used the confidence and belief he had gained in the previous two matches to surge towards victory by taking the fourth set in another tiebreaker 7 points to 3.

This broke Kudla, who had two match points in the third set, and the American had no answer to the big Whittington serve as he closed out the match 6/0 in the fifth set.

In the main draw, Whittington faced off with young Brazilian Thiago Monteiro and from the outset it looked to be a tight contest.

Whittington won the first set 6/4 but Monteiro bounced back to take the second set 6/3 and from there took his chances in the following two tiebreaks to win the match 4/6 6/3 7/6 7/6.

Whittington also paired with Kooyong's Marc Polmans in the main draw of the doubles but they were cruelled by drawing the Bryan brothers in the first round and despite putting up a great fight they went down 7/5 6/2 6/4.

Fingers were also crossed for Kooyong's Destanee Aiava after the 17-year-old won her first two qualifying matches in impressive fashion to move within one win of the main draw.

Aiava faced New Zealander Marina Erakovic for a spot in the Wimbledon main draw but unfortunately Erakovic proved to be too strong as she won 6/3 6/2.

Congratulations to all of our players for their wonderful performances at Wimbledon! ■



2017 Tennis Australia Young Stars European Tour

By Cooper White

Kooyong Foundation rising star Cooper White has been on the Tennis Australia Young Stars European Tour over the past few weeks and has kept us up to date on all his travels:

After a long flight Team Australia flew into Paris, France. Our first tournament to play was the Open des jeunes Stades Francais - BNP PARIBAS CUP.

I had to qualify and won my first 4 matches to get into main draw. I then won first round but lost the second in 3 sets. Doubles, I played with Philip and we got to second round.

The courts and facilities are amazing and there are players from all around the world playing here. We even got a chance to go from tennis players to tourists for a few hours and see the sights of Paris.

Next ... Velp, Netherlands

A lot of the players from Paris took the bus provided to Velp, Netherlands for the Windmill Cup. This is probably the best tournament I've played at. The facilities are great.

They converted an indoor court into a huge Player's Lounge. My team mate Philip Sekulic and I are staying with a Dutch family, the Schulz, for our stay here. For this tournament I was in main draw and won my first 2 matches making R16.

I lost to a new friend Christopher Li from Peru, which I met at the Paris tournament. I played doubles with Casey and we made it through to the semis, but loss in a super to Luca & Giorgio from Italy. Team Australia won the Windmill Cup FAIR PLAY prize which was pretty cool.

Next stop... Munich, Germany.

Philip and I took the train from the Netherlands to Munich which took about 8 hours. I played in the Junior ITF »

We even got a chance to go from tennis players to tourists for a few hours and see the sights of Paris.



Cooper White's European adventures saw him travel to several different countries to play tournaments over the past six weeks.





(International Bavarian Summer Championships 2017). Germany started out cold and we had a lot of rain delays. Unfortunately, I lost my first round match in singles and in doubles with Philip.

Next stop ...Ulm, Germany.

This week we were supposed to go to Vienna, Austria for a training camp, but there was a change of plans and I entered a tournament in Ulm (40. LBS Muller Junior Cup Ulm). Because I was a late entry I had to go through qualifying, made main draw and have so far won my first round. I'm hoping to do well here over the next week.

After this tournament I travel back to Munich for the Bavarian Open, and after 6 weeks in Europe I return home to Melbourne. ■



Jasmin Starr Wins Tennis Australia Cup

Kooyong Foundation Scholarship holder Jasmin Starr broke through for a great win earlier in the year at the Pizzey Cup.

While captaining Victoria in the State teams event, Jasmin also took out the individual Tennis Australia Cup on the grass courts in Shepparton.

Starting the event as the number 6 seed, Jasmin won her first two matches in straight sets to cruise into the quarterfinals where she met the second seed from Queensland, Danielle Morris, and she dropped the first set before staging a great comeback to win in three sets 3/6 6/4 6/1.

In the semi final Jasmin faced NSW's Grace Schumacher and was able to get her nose in front in the first set before dropping the second set to send the match into a decider and she again came home strong to move through to the final 6/4 3/6 6/2.

To win the title Jasmin had to get past the top seed, NSW's Monique Burton, who was yet to drop a set in the event but she would drop two in the final as Jasmin won in straight sets 6/4 6/2 to take out the title!

The club congratulates all our Victorian representatives for their Pizzey Cup selections and especially Jasmin on her Tennis Australia Cup win! ■



NEW MUSEUM DISPLAYS

The Kooyong Foundation continues to support the collection of tennis memorabilia proudly displayed throughout the clubhouse.

This support has seen several new displays take shape over the past month including the addition of a collection of Neale Fraser's memorabilia as well as a fantastic new collection of trophies from long time Scholarship holder John Peers.

This also includes several screens highlighting some of the performances of our current Scholarship players.

The new displays can be seen near the member's entrance at the southern end of the clubhouse while Wayne Arthurs' memorabilia can now be seen at the entrance to the Racquet Club. ■



The new planting design sees eight new species of Australian natives...

Garden Projects and Improvements

An exciting regeneration of the railway and pigface embankments is underway as part of a masterplan for improvements to the grounds and garden areas at Kooyong.

The area was initially covered with Jute matting to suppress weeds, conserve water and help with soil erosion. The new planting design sees eight new species of Australian natives comprising around 700 individual groundcovers and grasses arranged in natural drifts and en masse.

New plantings are also underway to the south of the grass courts along the railway embankment. The frontline of this area has been cleared to make way for over 1000 new native shrubs, grasses and groundcovers.

Highlights of Gynea Lilies flow on from the old Pigface embankment and mass colour has been introduced with the use of two herbaceous perennial groundcovers. ■



► Kooyong Grounds Manager Nick Rennison (third from right) with some of the Wimbledon Grounds staff during his secondment.



Grounds Manager Visits All England Club and Queens Club

By Nick Rennison

Kooyong Grounds Manager Nick Rennison has recently returned from a secondment and fact finding mission to London and below he shares his experiences:

In early June I was given the wonderful opportunity by the management and committee of Kooyong to visit the all England Club for a two week secondment and information gathering trip.

Grounds Manager Neil Stubbley and his staff were very welcoming and generous with their time and began by giving me a comprehensive tour of the entire site as well as a complete run down of the year round maintenance operation and facilities.

When I arrived, the courts were in “tournament ready” condition and only required regular mowing, marking out and rolling to have them ready for play.

Their playing season starts around the 20th May and runs through to mid-September but there was very little play on them whilst I was there.

They have 41 individual grass courts consisting of 22 practice courts and 19 championship courts, as well as 5 indoor courts, 8 American clay courts and 8 Plexipave Acrylic courts.

They operate with a staff of 35 during the busy summer period consisting of Managers, Ground staff, Gardeners, Irrigation technicians, and mechanics.

General maintenance of the stadiums and facilities is carried out by a separate team.

All the championship courts are completely renovated and re-seeded after the tournament. This consists of

physically removing the top 20mm of the court surface with machinery, preparing a new seed bed, seeding with their chosen blend of perennial rye grass, covering and watering.

The playing characteristics and maintenance of their courts is quite different to ours due to the colder climate, soil type, usage patterns and grass selection however there were also many similarities.

I was able to get valuable information on the latest state of the art mowing, spraying, and renovation equipment they use and gain an understanding of the close working relationship they share with the STRI (Sports Turf Research Institute) and the technical input that goes into presenting the courts as they do.

I also had the opportunity of visiting Graham Kimpton at The Queens Club in Hammersmith 10 days before they staged their annual tournament and again received a very warm welcome. In many ways, Queens has more similarities to Kooyong than Wimbledon does. It is a club with 4000 members with high usage of courts and facilities. They have 20 grass courts in total with 12 in play at any given time and use a shared tramlines system as we do to rotate courts. Unlike Wimbledon, which are pure Rye grass, the courts are a blend of Rye, Bent, and Fescue and have a more natural look to them.

The whole trip was a great learning experience and has opened the opportunity to network more closely with the staff from both clubs in the future. I look forward to reciprocating the hospitality I received from both Neil and Graham and hopefully showing them how we do things here sometime in the future. ■

Sustainability

The Club continues to look at ways to be sustainable across the day to day operations and some of these measures can be seen below:

- Virtually all our irrigation requirements are met by using reclaimed water pumped directly into the storage tank adjacent to court 45.
- We have the ability to harvest storm water from around the site and collect in the underground tank on the northern side of court 31. From there it can be pumped into the storage tank and used to water courts or for other irrigation requirements.
- All our grass clippings and small garden waste is collected in 4 x 1.5 meter organic bins which are then collected as required by Veolia and eventually used to make mulch. In the height of summer this can equate to up to 12 cubic meters of waste not going into landfill.
- Where possible all larger garden waste is mulched and used back in the gardens.
- The grounds area has a paper/cardboard and plastics recycling bin.
- All waste water/chemical tanks and machinery wash down is treated in a triple interceptor before being discharged into the sewer.
- Clubhouse lighting and squash court lights have been converted to energy saving LED lights.
- We have started using recycling bins within the kitchens.

We hope to continue to build on these measures to play our part in a sustainable future. ■



2017 GOURMET TRAVELLER'S

WINE LIST OF THE YEAR

Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club has again been

honoured at the Gourmet Traveller's Wine list awards.

The wine list was assessed on its content, balance, suitability, presentation and pricing and was awarded a Goblet as a "Recommended" list.

As published in the Aug/Sept Gourmet Travel Wine Magazine:

Membership of the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club comes with some serious vinous benefits. Here's a very well curated wine program that is richly endowed with classic Australian wine, some of the progressive or avant garde wines du jour and a serious grounding in some of the world's great wine regions.

You could finish up a couple of sets with some of cult wine producers Sorrenberg's or Bindi's top end chardonnays, though grillo, a lesser-known white grape variety from Mount Etna, might pique your interest. For the days when tennis elbow is keeping you off the court, there's some of Australia's top end shiraz to work through, with Henschke's Mount Edelstone from 2001 at bargain pricing.

Other mature wines, like 2001 Peter Lehmann Stonewell Shiraz, 2000 Mitchelton Print Shiraz or 2002 Clarendon Hills Brookman Vineyard Merlot are icing on the cake of a list that offers a grand scope of Australia's fine wine canons, while titillating with some lesser-known drops for good measure. ■

**THOMAS PATTON****Age:** 14**Grade:** 3**Australian Ranking:** 914**Play L/H or R/H:** R/H

Tennis Achievements: Getting a Kooyong Scholarship, playing in representative tennis carnivals, winning a few Aust Ranking junior tournaments, playing Firsts Tennis for Scotch College, winning the 14A junior pennant and getting picked to award the Australian Open wildcard to Jordan Thompson.

- ▶ **Most admired sportsperson/why?** Pretty simple, Roger Federer. I love the way he plays and the way he is so humble on and off the court. He is a great champion.
- ▶ **Greatest influence on tennis career/why?** My Dad because he always comes to my matches and gives me tips before and after my matches. I also enjoy hitting with my dad and my brother, Will.
- ▶ **Greatest sporting moment witnessed?** Apart from watching (on TV) Roger win his 19th grand slam and Rafa win his 10th French Open, I was at the Australian Open 2017 match between Ivo Karlovic and Horacio Zeballos, with Karlovic eventually winning the match 22-20 in the 5th set. This is also the greatest sporting moment I've witnessed, because I never see North Melbourne win.
- ▶ **What goals have you set for yourself in tennis?** Become professional, get to world number one and win the Australian Open, the French Open, Wimbledon and US Open.
- ▶ **What do you enjoy most about pennant tennis?** I enjoy the team spirit that is associated with pennant tennis. I like how it is just not you out on the court but it is the whole team. I also enjoy the switching of doubles and singles each week because it gives a good variety of tennis.
- ▶ **If you weren't a tennis player what would you be?** If I wasn't a tennis player, I would be a cricketer. I love the game, the challenge and the team aspect.
- ▶ **What do you do outside tennis?** Outside of tennis, I play cricket, soccer and I do athletics. I play cricket for my club and do soccer and athletics for school. I enjoy these sports but not as much as tennis.
- ▶ **How much time do you spend developing your tennis each week?** During winter, I practice on average 5 days a week. I have three tennis lessons during the week, a practice hit on Saturday and comp on Sunday. In summer, I play a lot more.
- ▶ **Sacrifices required to play tennis at a high level?** Not going out with my friends or missing their birthday parties. I also have to do more study during the week because I don't have time on the weekends.

**GRACE FOUNTAIN****Age:** 13**Grade:** 3**Australian Ranking:** 534**Play L/H or R/H:** R/H

Tennis Achievements: Kooyong Club Champion Under 14 Singles, Semi Finalist Tasmanian State Championships, 3rd Tasmanian State Age Championships, 3rd World Tennis Australia 14's event.

- ▶ **Most admired sportsperson/why?** I admire Lleyton Hewitt because he would not allow negative emotions to get the best of him.
- ▶ **Greatest influence on tennis career/why?** My parents and past and present coaches Daryl Greeves, Wes Horskins, Greg Gunn, Pete McCraw and Paddy Lake because they have given me so much support.
- ▶ **Greatest sporting moment witnessed?** Watching Carmin and Carolyn Martin qualify for the 2016 Olympic Games. Carolyn coached me in Taekwondo and I was thrilled by their achievement. I know how hard they worked and how many obstacles they overcame to get there.
- ▶ **What goals have you set for yourself in tennis?** My current goal is to play College tennis in the USA.
- ▶ **What do you enjoy most about pennant tennis?** I like playing for Kooyong because of the close team, club environment and the food at the end of our matches.
- ▶ **If you weren't a tennis player what would you be?** If I weren't a tennis player then I would be competing in Taekwondo fighting competitions.
- ▶ **What do you do outside tennis?** Outside tennis I like to spend time at school with friends, family and playing various sports.
- ▶ **How much time do you spend developing your tennis each week?** I spend approximately 15 to 20 hours a week developing my tennis.
- ▶ **Sacrifices required to play tennis at a high level?** Sacrifices I make are: Less time with friends, less time playing other sports, less sugar and sore muscles. ■

Tough competition

It has been an up and down season for Kooyong's men's Pennant teams with some very young and talented teams representing the club at the highest levels of competition.

These young teams are getting some fantastic experience but have also found the going quite tough at times and will no doubt be better for it in the future.

Jeremy Taylor's Grade 1 team went into the season as one of the favourites for the flag and they haven't disappointed having finished second on the ladder.

They will play Centre Court Indoor in their semi final and will be confident of a good showing.

Matthew Nickels' Grade 1 team finished the season in a familiar fifth spot after another great finish to the season while the club's two Grade 2 teams found the going tough with Ted Williams' team finishing in sixth spot and Cooper White's team in seventh.

In Grade 3, the club had another two very young sides finding their way but they both competed extremely well at this level with Lachlan McAndrew's team finishing in fifth spot and Alexander Taylor's team finishing just behind them in sixth position.

Bryce Mitchelson's Grade 5 team have again finished on top of the ladder but with their section being extremely

competitive they have a tough semi final against Royal South Yarra ahead of them.

In Grade 7, Peter May's team made big steps forward in their second season at this level and finished a very credible fifth while James Goller's team in Grade 8 have finished second and will host Greythorn Park in their semi final.

In the Men's Open Doubles, Steve Gay's Grade 1 team are sitting on top of the ladder but need to win their last round of the season to hold on to that position and move straight through to the grand final.

That match against East Malvern will pit some of the club's fellow members against each other.

In the Masters 45+ competition, Rob McLauchlan's Section 1 team have finished second on the ladder and will host Geelong Lawn while Peter Hays' team finished in seventh spot on the ladder.

In Section 2, Gordon Hammet's team have the chance to move into third spot on the ladder in the final round of the season against Royal Park to lock in a finals spot.

We wish all of our teams the best of luck for their upcoming finals matches! ■



◀ Josh Charlton, Greg Jones, David Bidmeade and Jeremy Taylor ready for their semi final clash with Centre Court Indoor.

Finals campaign

The women's Pennant season mirrors that of our men's teams with some great results but also some very young teams representing the club and finding their way in senior tennis.



◀ Laura Langmead and Kate Antosik's Grade 1 Kooyong teams met in the semi final in early August.

Laura Langmead's team has been a rock all season...

This has proven to be difficult for some teams but it has also given those young players some great exposure to stronger tennis to help their development.

In Grade 1, Laura Langmead's team has been a rock all season with just one loss on their record having been so consistent across both singles and doubles weeks.

They finished on top of the ladder which means a semi final clash with Kate Antosik's Grade 1 side who finished in fourth spot on the ladder.

This isn't ideal considering both teams met in the Grade 1 grand final last season and now they will face off early in the finals and we will see one team knocked out of contention for the flag.

Jasmin Starr's Grade 1 team also made the finals but face the unenviable task of travelling to Geelong to take on ladder leaders Centre Court Indoor where they are very rarely beaten while Kat Valos' team finished in fifth spot on the ladder.

In Grade 2, Anna Clarkson's team were knocked off the top of the ladder in the final round but will go into the finals series knowing their best tennis is good enough to win the Pennant again. They will host MCC Glen Iris Valley in their

semi final and they will be hoping to find their best form during the finals series.

Maddy Bailey's team was also in Grade 2 and they finished in seventh spot on the ladder as did Ashley Spinks' Grade 3 team while in Grade 4 Paris Rollnik's team were sixth at the end of the home and away season.

With a large group of younger girls dominating these three teams there was plenty of upside despite the end of season ladder positions.

Another season of tough competition under their belts will no doubt help their development and we hope to see that improvement continue through the summer.

In Grade 5, Jenny Osborne's team finished in second spot on the ladder and will host Bruce park in their semi final.

This team finished just one point off the top spot so will be looking forward to a strong finals campaign while Angela Woodruff's Grade 5 team finished in fifth spot on the ladder after another strong season.

We wish all our teams the best of luck for their respective finals campaigns! ■

Flying four flags

The club has just finished another successful Junior Competition season with our teams winning four flags as well as having several others play off in grand finals.



From Section 1 through to Section 18, the club was well represented at all levels of the Bayside Regional Tennis Association competition on both Saturday and Sunday mornings.

On Saturday mornings, the club had 5 teams playing across the two sections on offer including 3 teams in Section 1 and 2 teams in Section 2.

Charlie Hummerston's Section 1 team finished on top of the ladder and won their semi final to move through to the grand final while Harry Mezger's Section 1 team finished in second spot but weren't able to replicate that when they went down to a determined Carmelite team.

Unfortunately Charlie's team also went down to Carmelite in the grand final with half of their team unavailable due to the school holidays but they put up a great fight.

Yasmin Spyrou's Section 1 team finished the season in seventh place on the ladder.

In Section 2, Richard Jones' team finished the season in fourth place and lost their semi final to a very strong team from Royal South Yarra while Zara Hunter's team finished just outside the top four.

On Sunday morning, Kooyong's two Section 1 teams were extremely competitive across the season as they battled it out between each other to lock in the last spot in the top four.





In the end it was Sebastian Sarafian's team that finished fourth and played a strong Grace Park team in the semi final that they eventually lost but showed they would continue to grow in seasons to come while Celeste Rayment's team were just five points outside the finals.

In Section 2, Patrick Wraith-Bell's team finished a very credible fifth and Angus Cosgriff's team was not far behind in seventh spot.

The club had a terrific result in Section 4 with both teams reaching the grand final despite finishing second and fourth respectively.

In the grand final it was Martin Buttery's team that came out on top of Jack Ganly's team by just two games in a fantastic contest between two young and talented teams.

In Section 6, Josh Palazzo's team snuck into the finals but lost a tough semi final match against the top side, Hurlingham Park, who went on to win the grand final while Zoe Kantanis' team finished in seventh spot on the ladder.

The club also had two teams in Section 8 with Blake Stewart's team finishing in sixth spot while Mia Geason's team finished in eighth spot on the ladder.

In Section 9, Lachlan Main's team finished the season in third spot on the ladder but had a great finals series where they won their semi final before beating the top side, Royal Avenue, in the grand final to win the flag.

It was another flag won in Section 10 when Lachlan Tingate's team proved to be too strong for the entire season.

Having finished on top of the ladder it was great to see the team go on to win the flag.

In Section 17, Felix Kan's team finished in third spot on the ladder and unfortunately lost their semi final to Royal Avenue while in Section 18 we had an all-Kooyong grand final.

Henry Stevens' team finished on top of the ladder and Bronte Game's team finished in second spot and with both sides winning their semi finals the scene was set for a great morning of tennis for the club's two youngest teams.

In the end it was Henry Stevens' team that came out on top in a great match here at the club.

Congratulations to all our teams and their parents for another great season and we look forward to more success in the July to December season! ■



NEW SEASON

The July to December season is off to a great start with many teams and players having moved up into higher sections due to their success last season.

The club again has five teams playing on Saturday mornings and 14 on Sunday mornings across various venues in the area.

We also have several players representing the Association in the newly named Association Junior League and we wish them well for the season ahead.

Kids wishing to play this aged-based event in future should contact Daniel O'Neill for more information.

Please also make contact if you would like to look at starting your transition to senior Pennant tennis starting in April next year.



THE CEDRIC MASON CUP

Expressions of interest for the Cedric Mason Cup will soon be sent out for the 2017 event.

Last year's event was hosted by Royal South Yarra and it was fantastic to see the Cup return to Kooyong's hands for the first time in several years and we'd like to keep it.

This teen team event, to be played at Kooyong later this year, features around 32 players from each club so please get your entries in early.

If you have any questions please contact Daniel at the club on 9822 3333.



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CLUB COMPETITION



Metro Masters

The Kooyong Section 1 Metro Masters team were 2017 Autumn season premiers defeating East Croydon/Kilsyth in the grand final in early June represented by Dennis Maddern, Neil Sebastian, Chiro Mukerjea and Dennis Mihelyi.

This was the third consecutive grand final between the two teams with Kooyong avenging their defeat in the previous season's grand final and making it two of the last three titles for the club.

The team, that also included Grant Porter, Barry Evans and Peter Gard, went through the season undefeated retaining the Ward Hillier Shield as the best performed team in all grades of the Metro Masters competition.

Congratulations to all who played in the Metro Masters team for another outstanding season!

The team looks forward to the Spring season commencing in August and the return of a fit and well Peter Keller. ■

▲ From left Neil Sebastian, Dennis Maddern, Dennis Mihelyi and Chiro Mukerjea.

Midweek Ladies

As of August, the club's representation in Midweek Ladies competition has increased to 14 teams playing in three different associations across three days.

Kris Tulloch's Tuesday MEMRLTA Section 1 side lost a heartbreaking semi final to Doncaster, 3-37 to 3-39. In the winter 2017 season the team is unfortunately last on the ladder with three rounds remaining.

There is a second team in Section 1 for the Winter season, consisting of captain Leanne Scott, Natalie Harwood, Caroline Venn, Maya Ferguson and Julie Fidler. They are currently four points clear on top of the ladder.

Sandra Daly's Section 2 team is currently sixth on the ladder but only a game away from third while Sally Addison's Section 3 team have kept their promise to make some gains in the winter 2017 season. They are third on the ladder and will make the finals.

Priscilla Kiernan's team, taking over the captaincy from Jo Rush, unfortunately remained in Section 4 after losing the Summer Grand Final and are in a battle to make this season's finals while Mary King's team are in second spot in Section 5.

On Wednesday mornings in the Bayside Regional Tennis Association Jane Cash's Section 1 team defeated Parkdale 2-4-42 to 2-4-37 to claim the February to June 2017 premiership! Congratulations to the whole team: Jane Cash, Fiona Medina, Mandy Morgan, Linda Dohnt, Sheryl Kerwick and Rosie Kovacs.

Detje Marcel's Section 3 team bounced back strongly this season to defeat Elwood Park 2-5-35 to 0-1-24 in the February to June 2017 Grand Final! Congratulations to the whole team: Detje Marcel, Nerissa McLean, Alisa Bennett, Kimberley Mustow and Melissa Lamb.

Cate Noonan's Section 3 team also performed strongly during the February to June season, finishing in fourth position. They unfortunately lost their semi final to Beaumaris CC by a set despite winning more games. The team were promoted to Section 2 for the current season.

There is also a new team in Section 2 for the July to December season, captained by Jill Kaminsky.

On Thursday mornings, Kooyong's presence in BRTA's February to June competitions remained at four teams. Anne Forbes' team finished the February to June season strongly to finish in fifth spot on the ladder while Kris Tulloch's recruitment of Anna Clarkson and Laura Langmead paid dividends throughout the February to June season. The team defeated Beaumaris Lawn in an epic Grand Final! After both teams were tied on 2-4-34, Kooyong prevailed after two match tie breaks. Congratulations to the whole team: Kris Tulloch, Sally Potter, Chris Sherman, Anna Clarkson, Steph Fry and Laura Langmead and Sue Lester.

Ange Godwin's Section A/1 team finished the February to



▲ Alisa Bennett, Detje Marcel, Nerissa McLean and Merryn Olive.

◀ Rosie Kovacs, Sheryl Kerwick, Mandy Morgan and Jane Cash.

June season second last on the ladder. They have switched to Section 1 on a Wednesday for the July to December 2017 season, with Gillian Ricketts taking over the captaincy.

Danielle Suttor's Section 2 team remained in sixth position for the February to June 2017 season, narrowly missing the finals by one point.

Finally, there are still two teams in Waverley & District Tennis Association's Thursday competitions. Alita Davis' A Reserve 2 team finished the February to June 2017 season second on the ladder. They went one better than their preliminary final loss last season but unfortunately fell to Lum Reserve in the Grand Final, 2-29 to 4-44. A Grand Final appearance was enough for a promotion to A Reserve 1 for the July to December season.

Wendy Johnson and Jan MacLeod's B Special 2 team also finished the February to June 2017 season in second place. After losing a controversial semi final to North Ringwood, 1-16 to 5-47, Legend Park unfortunately defeated them 4-46 to 2-35 in the Preliminary Final. However, a preliminary final appearance was enough for a promotion to B Special 1 for current season.

We wish our midweek ladies teams all the best for the current season! ■

Australia's success was led by Kooyong legend Sarah Fitz-Gerald, the five-time World Champion and former world No.1...



◀ Bert Armstrong & Sarah Fitz-Gerald celebrating their Masters Games gold medals.

Masters Squash

The World Masters Games were played earlier this year in New Zealand with the squash events being held at the North Shore Squash Club.

Australia's success was led by Kooyong legend Sarah Fitz-Gerald, the five-time World Champion and former world No.1 who secured the Women's Over-45 title after beating local hope Lisa Cowlard in the final.

Our own Bert Armstrong also came home with a medal and can be seen pictured with Sarah on their return to Melbourne.

Congratulations to all of our players who made the trip to New Zealand!

VICTORIAN SQUASH OPEN

The Victorian Doubles Squash event was played at MSAC on full size doubles courts (with 13" tins) on July 22 & 23. Mixed, Men's and Women's events were contested by players ranging from juniors through to adults.

It was great to see so many Kooyong players feature in the finals of these events.

► **The winners were:**

- Mixed:** Sarah Cardwell & Sam Ejtemail def Christine Nunn & Rex Hedrick 11-8, 11-8
- Women's:** Sarah Cardwell & Lisa Camilleri def Christine Nunn & Selena Shaikh 11-9, 11-9
- Men's:** Cameron White & Sam Ejtemai def Rex Hedrick & Luke Sims 11-9, 11-7



◀ The Squash Presentation Night is always well celebrated. Below Owen Cook & Ben Armstrong reached the 500 game mark for Kooyong recently.

▼ Tate Norris continues to go from strength to strength.



Squash Presentation Night

The Squash Presentation night was another fantastic evening as we celebrated Owen Cook and Ben Armstrong reaching the 500 game mark of pennant games played for Kooyong.

Outscoring Owen and Ben was the popular John (Matho) Mathieson and John Menissos who each reached 600 games in the past season.

Many perpetual trophies recognising past players were presented to worthy winners.

Special new trophies were established with the John Link Perpetual Trophy to be awarded to the best and fairest Scholarship player each year.

The inaugural winner was Sarah Cardwell for achieving her highest world ranking this year.

The John Piccolo Perpetual trophy is to be awarded to the Club's best and fairest player each year.

The inaugural winner was Steve Jones, who piloted our A2 team to the A2 flag. Not only did Steve win every match of the season, he then won matches in both the semi final and grand final giving our A2 team a great launching pad for the win.

World Champ Sarah (Fitzy) Fitz-Gerald addressed the gathering as did SSL Player of the Season Caroline (CAZ) Van Dort.

The discussion around the who's who of squash was still going late in the night when the lights went out.

We all look forward to doing it again but we just have to wait another 12 months. »



THAILAND SQUASH OPEN

Kooyong Scholarship player Tate Norris recently celebrated two achievements in his squash career.

Tate was recently named captain of the Victorian State Team and will lead the Victorians against all other States in this year's Championship State titles.

Tate was also invited to participate in the Thailand Squash Open Championship, with coach Malcolm McClarty travelling with Tate to Bangkok and they were both ready for action.

He unfortunately missed the final after going down in the semi final, but as this was an Open event and Tate has two more years in junior ranks, reaching the semi final was a great effort. Well done Tate!

Kooyong plays host to the Pro Squash League of Victoria

A new elite level squash league is being piloted and

Kooyong is excited to play host to one of the 5 initial rounds. The Pro Squash League of Victoria is a five week squash spectacular, with four teams made up of touring professionals and Victoria's best men and women going head to head for prize money.

The new competition features the top 10 men's players and top five women's players in the state along with leading touring pros, with names such as Rex Hedrick, Christine Nunn, Sarah Cardwell, Abdulla Al Tamimi and Chris Binnie headlining the star-studded competitor list.

Kooyong member and Pro Squash League of Victoria Coordinator Mike Wilkinson, teamed up with former World Open champion Rodney Martin to create the concept, and Mike said the aim of the new competition is to create an icon league that brings world class squash to local venues, providing a source of income for the state's best players.

"We've been very keen to develop something that creates a showcase for top level squash in Victoria; perhaps a step up from the current pennant comp's that get played, where every match is of the absolute highest standard," Mike said.

"Rod Martin and I got talking and he has a similar view. In about a month we'd raised some funding and had terrific support from players and clubs wanting to host the event. We were very lucky to have Kooyong put its hand up and also one member here in John Link, who has always been an incredible supporter of our own squash programs, step in and contribute some money".

"We're really keen for this to become something that the squash community, and others from our club who just want to witness sport at an elite level, can jump in and participate in and really support. If the Pilot is a success, we have plans to extend this to a 12 week season in 2018 and are confident we will be able to attract top ranked pro's who will be challenged by the best of our local players."

Players taking part will support each of the host clubs by running free junior clinics one hour prior to matches kicking off, with all levels of players welcome to take part. Entry is free to all spectators at each event.

"The key for us at this stage is just to get out there and put on a show, and hopefully attract as much interest as possible from spectators and hope that leads to something bigger," Wilkinson said.

"The players have been very generous in giving back to the clubs who kicked this off. At this stage it is a pilot, so if we get the interest from spectators and certainly the players are very keen that it progresses, our goal is that this pilot period will lead to an extended season that runs around about this time next year." ■

Bridge Club

by Susan Douglas

Penny Blankfield and Rob Nurse winners of the 2017

Borin trophy attended the Champions Dinner at Kooyong.

The Bridge Committee has engaged Bill Jacobs, our Thursday director and VBA Teacher of the Year 2016, to present a series of intermediate lessons this year.

Seventy-five members embraced this opportunity and attended the first lesson in July on competitive bidding.

We have scheduled four more of these complimentary classes this year and invite our members to consult the website for the specific dates. ■



◀ Penny Blankfield & Rob Nurse at the Champions' Dinner.
▼ Bill Jacobs teaches a Bridge Class at Kooyong.



KITA Coaching

by Glenn Busby, Director

It's been a very eventful last couple of months having some of our players do extremely well such as Andrew Whittington at Wimbledon and players like Max Flaherty gaining a lot of invaluable experience travelling to junior ITF tournaments in Fiji and New Zealand. We have also had a young 12 year old girl from Greece training here, Athina Pittas, for the past 6 weeks, who is an amazing talent. She won and was runner up in 2 of the biggest junior tournaments of the year during the past school holidays, a great result.

Andrew, achieved an amazing result in winning 3 tough matches to qualify for Wimbledon. He unfortunately went down narrowly in 4 tight sets, which could have gone either way. He then, with fellow Kooyong Foundation member Marc Polmans had to play the Bryan brothers first round which was a hard first round ask against the experienced pair.

The more matches I watch, the more I realise that so many matches come down to 4-5 key points and it's all about who is prepared and confident enough at these stages to take on the game, rather than hoping your opponent will make the mistake. At 4 all or 5 all, 30:30 or break point up... are players prepared to step up and apply the pressure, doing what they have been working on in practice or do they play conservatively. Confidence comes from being brave and believing in the outcome and this is what separates so many players and match results at all levels.

I am very fortunate enough to travel and see so many different players and what stands out continually all over the world, is that so many young players look amazing in the warm up and in practice, but don't know how to play. They don't have a game plan, they are not sure why they are winning or losing, they just hit tennis balls.

The sooner a player understands these fundamentals, at any age, junior to senior alike, the more they enjoy their tennis, as there is a process and structure to follow, which enables the player to have a greater perspective and say in their outcome.

To this end our squad programs have been extremely successful and filling this need. We view this as a vital tool in the development of all our players. All squads from our young Fundamentals to Performance and High Performance levels are working toward instilling enjoyment, competitiveness, discipline and game sense to all our pupils.

Anyone who is playing competition at any level or is looking to get ready for competition is highly recommended to participate in our squad program. Our squads run Monday, Wednesday, and Friday after school. This coupled with a private or semi-private lesson provides the pupil an opportunity to fast track their development in terms of producing and establishing a more rounded game, this



▲ Andrew Whittington qualified for the main draw at Wimbledon recently.



◀ Ian Pittman continues to work on his tennis.

being the technical (private) and the game based strategy (squad) side of their game.

Our day time High Performance Squads from 1-3pm have proven to be very successful for those preparing themselves for high level tournament play both here in Australia and overseas. The calibre of players here, include AMT level, prospective College players, Kooyong Foundation Members, former and current ATP players and players who are wanting to really work hard and fulfil their potential.

At this time I would also like to recognise one of our long term players. Not only his longevity in the sport but also his desire and effort to maintain a standard and keep working at his game and at 88 years of age Ian Pittman, who does two 30 minute sessions a week, is an absolute marvel. I have an enormous admiration and respect for his efforts. Well done Ian!

Finally, to all members please note that we will be offering a 30% discounted lesson rate during the winter season for all new lessons during the time of 12 -3 pm daily. We also have more cardio sessions available during the mornings and adult squads happening on a Thursday night. Whether you are a beginner or someone playing competition at any level, we are sure we can meet any of your tennis needs. *Please contact Ben at the Pro Shop on 9824 6860 for further information.* ■

Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary

by Marie Devereux, President Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary

On Sunday 23rd July, 2017 our RCH Auxiliary held a very successful "Christmas in July Luncheon at Kooyong". Our numbers swelled this year, we had 125 guests attending, which filled the Kooyong Room.

We welcomed our guests with a glass of champagne on arrival, and with the grand piano on the upper level, a pianist entertained us with soft music in the background, creating a very friendly atmosphere.

When seated at our tables to commence the Buffet Lunch, the tables looked a picture, decked out with Christmas decorations courtesy of the Club. The Buffet was superb, commencing with soup served at the table then called to the Buffet table by table, finishing up with desserts including Christmas Pudding. Delicious!

My congratulations to the Chef, Chris, and his kitchen staff, a great meal and to all the Kooyong Staff, who made our day so enjoyable. The quote for the day was - "Kooyong at its best".

Our MC for the day was none other than the great Richmond legend Kevin Bartlett and guest speaker was Simon Madden, one of Essendon's famous players. Kevin's introduction to Simon was very entertaining and we enjoyed learning all about Simon's days at the great Essendon Club.

Then followed the silent auctions of many articles donated by the Committee and their friends, including a couple of special items on which "Auctioneer Kevin" raised two large amounts. Well done Kevin!

Last but not least, I must congratulate my great Committee for all their hard work, and in particular Denise and Deb, for achieving such a wonderful outcome, and a very enjoyable day. Overall the amount raised for the Hospital was about ??? which included a raffle, a marvellous result.

None of the above would be possible without the co-operation of our CEO Chris Brown and all his office staff, plus being able to enjoy the great amenities and generosity provided by our great Club. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

2nd Card Day - Monday, 11th September

Trivia Night - Friday, 13th October



▲ **Top** Kevin Bartlett takes centre stage as the auctioneer.

Above AFL Legends Kevin Bartlett and Simon Madden with Hagen Cosgriff.

► Deb Elrington and Sharlini the pianist.





Young Members

by Lucy James

Embracing the warmer weather, the Kooyong Young Members and their guests took to the courts for our annual 'Day on the Clay,' featuring a round robin of doubles matches followed by drinks and canapés on the terrace. A fun day was had by all!

As the cold weather set in, the Viva Italia Long Lunch provided an opportunity for members and their guests to warm up. Featuring a three course Italian themed meal accompanied by matched wines introduced by a sommelier, the day was a fantastic occasion for guests to socialise and enjoy a lovely lunch.

The highlight of the young members' calendar is undoubtedly the Yarrayong Ball, this year to be held at Kooyong on August 19. Featuring DJs, casino games and cabaret-style performances it is sure to be a great night! ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Yarrayong Ball – August 19

Young Members Golf Day – October, date TBC

Day on the Clay – December, date TBC

Keep up to date with all information pertaining to future events via email and through the 'KLTC Young Members' Facebook page.



From the Day on the Clay to the Long Lunch, there's plenty of opportunities for the Young Members to enjoy the club.

Billiards & Snooker

by Alistair Macindoe

Kooyong Wins Church Billiards Premiership

In July Kooyong's Church Billiards team stormed to victory in the Grand Final, winning 4 matches to nil, defeating the fancied team from Burwood RSL in the most emphatic manner.

This is Kooyong's first premiership in this competition and first billiards or snooker premiership for many years. The win was especially meritorious as Burwood beat Kooyong in all three matches during the year, including a 3-1 win only two weeks before in the semi-final. Then in the Preliminary Final, Kooyong had the narrowest of victories over Cheltenham: 2 matches all, winning by a mere 8 points in aggregate.

Captain Martin James was a worthy winner of the Association's Best & Fairest trophy and Don Richter won the highest break prize with a magnificent run of 96. Thanks also to Neil Maclachlan, Simon Fortune, Don Richter, and David Pitt who also played in the team during the year.

In the first half of the match, Steve Murphy played superbly to defeat his opponent the very experienced Roger Buckmaster off the stick. Given that Steve had a 90 start, this result put the team in a winning position. Steve's game featured sound all-around billiards: steady potting, solid losing hazards and well-controlled cannons.

On the other table Ian Koochew emerged victorious after a close and tense match. Ian's game is built on reliable losing hazard play mixed with some delightful gentle cannons.

In the second half of the match, both Martin James and Greg Baker were always in a comfortable position. Martin almost beat his opponent Steve Balmford (who is a stylish left-hander) off the stick; given that Steve had to give Martin a 90 start, this game was more or less over at the half-way mark. Martin plays a nice all-around game of billiards, with good screw in-offs, solid potting and good break management. In the final match Greg Baker was always in full control. Greg played many telling safety shots, as well as some splendid losing hazards, and even the odd forcing cannon.

At the end of the night, Kooyong had won 4 matches to nil, and with a points advantage of 318 – a splendid victory. ■

MATCH REPORT

1. Martin James (+80) 220 d. Steve Balmford (-10) 157
 2. Steve Murphy (+110) 293 d. Roger Buckmaster (+20) 162
 3. Greg Baker (+170) 307 d. Daryl Whinney (+40) 205
 4. Ian Koochew (+170) 264 d. Malcolm Trompf (+120) 242
- Kooyong 4 (1084) d Burwood RSL 0 (766)**



Kooyong's Church Billiards Premiership team was a first for the club for many years



Wine & Food Society

by Ken Wheat, President Wine & Food Society

Previous 2017 Events

We delighted in our first dinner of 2017 in the Racquet Club. The theme was Tastes of King Valley, so we relished a luscious and subtle Italian influenced culinary creation, by Executive Chef, Chris Goulding. The Abbacchio alla Romano, a Roman spring time delicacy of roast suckling lamb, was for many the dish of the night. All of the wines originated from vineyards of Victoria's North East. The wines selected by Sommelier, Patrice Renaudin were predominantly reflective of the Italian heritage of King Valley winemakers. The one outsider was an Ovens Valley Saperavi, a brawny red originating from Georgia in the Caucasus.

“The stand out dish was the ‘forest floor’ dessert which was the epitome of fruit and chocolate opulence.”

We were guests for Dinner at Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club where we were treated to excellent service and a fine meal. The stand out dish was the ‘forest floor’ dessert which was the epitome of fruit and chocolate opulence. The wines served were all natives of a variety of Italian regions, a Nebbiolo Delle Lange DOC 2014 being the highlight of the night. We were able to make direct comparisons between some of these Italian ‘originals’ and those sourced from the King Valley at our March dinner.

At the time of writing this article – Bastille Day 2017 – we are anxiously anticipating a Dinner Inspired by the Tastes of France in the Kooyong Room, Friday 28 July. Having consulted with Chris Goulding and noting his excitement engendered from his recent tour of France and its excellent restaurants, and having also pre-selected Australian and French wines proposed by Patrice Renaudin, I believe, at the end of the evening, all who attend our midwinter feast will be thrilled by l’inspiration française. ■

AROUND THE CLUB



UPCOMING EVENTS

Dinner at L'Hôtel Gitan, Jacques Reymond's Family Restaurant, Friday 12 October

'Celebrated chef Jacques Reymond joined the ranks of fine-dining escapees to explore his more relaxed side at L'Hôtel Gitan ...' This event is an opportunity for a very fortunate few Wine and Food Society members and guests to enjoy the exclusive private room at L'Hôtel Gitan – the Reymond family's beautifully restored 'gastro pub' Jacques Reymond has designed a menu exclusively for this event. The Wine and Food Society Committee has selected an excellent range of wines to complement each course.

Formal End of Year Celebration in the Kooyong Room, Saturday 9 December

Again our end of year celebration will display Kooyong at its epicurean best. The Kooyong Kitchen will assemble a sumptuous repast, and as has been our custom for several years, the dinner will also feature a range of wines, from one of Australia's notable winemakers, which will be apt accompaniment to the food.

Health Club

by Michael Kull, Health Club Manager

Yoga

Emma Krouglova has been practicing yoga for over a decade and continues to expand her knowledge in the areas of health, wellness and yoga. Yoga was introduced to Emma during her career as a competitive freestyle skier as a means to recover, condition the body and focus the mind. She has since gone on to train internationally with some well-respected figures in the yoga industry.

Through these teachers, Emma was exposed to a wide range of unique training methods and is passionate about making yoga accessible to everyone and strives to inspire others to use yoga as a means to feel alive, connected and grounded.

Teaching style

I am a super passionate, creative and energetic yoga teacher with a collaborative spirit and a firm believer in the divine transformative power of yoga. My teaching style is playful and sequential with an emphasis on alignment, meditation, relaxation and having fun! Yoga plays an integral part in my everyday lifestyle and encourages me to be a more conscious and compassionate human being. As a teacher and a student, yoga for me feels like coming home. Yoga is an incredibly humbling journey that teaches me lessons and challenges me to learn more about who I am and why I'm here. I am passionate about making a positive impact and strive to inspire others to live a more mindful, happier lifestyle.

Benefits of yoga include

- Improve flexibility and balance
- Build muscle strength
- Relieves stress
- Weight loss
- Preventative care such as cartilage and joint breakdown
- Emotional health boost
- Reduces muscle tension, strain and inflammation
- Relieves pain and aids recovery of pre-existing injuries
- Cultivates mindfulness and awareness

Why you should join the class

Have you set yourself a health goal for 2017? Do you want to become more flexible and ease back pain? Are you stressed from day-to-day life? Yoga can help you get fit and live a happier lifestyle. One of the most significant aspects of any yoga routine isn't just physical - it's the quieting of the mind. Come to one of my Wednesday night classes to experience the incredible transformative power of yoga. I look forward to seeing you on the mat. Namaste(Greetings)!



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

Social Committee News

by Cindi Damian, Social Committee President



▲ Adrienne Bishop happily accepts the Social Tennis Cup on behalf of RSYLTC, presented to her by Cedric Mason.

KLTC v RSYLTC Social Tennis Cup

By Jenny Silvers

Kooyong was host to the Kooyong LTC versus Royal

South Yarra LTC Social Tennis Cup on Sunday 30th April, which continued the friendly rivalry between the two clubs.

With 24 tennis players taking part from each club (48 in total), there was plenty of good spirited, competitive tennis played. This year Kooyong had to hand the cup over to RSY (RSYLTC 119 games to KLTC 82 games). After the tennis, the rivalry was left on the courts with all players enjoying the canapés and drinks in the Sir Norman Brookes room with plenty of friendly banter between the players. The Social Committee extends a big thank you to Jarrad Wright, Sports Director from RSYLTC who assisted us in holding the event.

MIXED DOUBLES ROUND ROBIN

by Jenny Silvers

On Sunday May 28th our Mixed Doubles Round Robin was held under threatening skies. Before any tennis could be played the rain came a tumbling down! Many players stayed and enjoyed the indoor activities that were on offer. Very competitive games of table tennis and snooker were played, whilst some members enjoyed a quiet afternoon catching up with the newspapers. Other members who were feeling more energetic headed to the gym for a workout. Canapés and drinks were followed afterwards, with many of the participants commenting that they had enjoyed a relaxing afternoon.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Cindi Damian, President

Joining me, Jenny Silvers, Rowan Harris, Frankie Katz, Tanya Fryc, Kat Benyon and Mary Bernard is our latest recruit, Peter Tingate. We warmly welcome Peter to the Committee. He will be a great asset and we look forward to his contributions. »



Happy Hour 16th June

The Happy Hour proved a great escape from the winter chills as members rocked up to the Sir Norman Brookes, Davis Cup and Presidents Rooms for a friendly get together with fellow members and guests while listening to the dulcet tones of Mike on Mike.

Mike will be performing again at our August Happy Hour on Friday 11 August. Put your dancing shoes on and join us for what will prove to be another terrific night. Guests welcome. ■

UPCOMING FUNCTIONS

► Saturday Night Fever Saturday 26 August

Boogie on in to the Kooyong Room for some jive talkin' and a fabulous night of delicious food, fun and frivolities. Chris Goulding, KLTC Executive Chef has devised a scrumptious 3 Course Meal including Canapés and Beverage package included. Melbourne's premier dance band, The Smits plus Barbs Disco Divas are the entertainment for the evening. Members and Guests welcome. Discount for Table Bookings of 10.

► JJ Mixed Doubles Round Robin

Our next tennis event will be on Sunday 1 October. Members and Guests welcome. Get your bookings in early to avoid missing out.

► Christmas Function

Please join us as we wrap up 2017 with a festive celebration including Live Music by Mike on Mike, Food & Beverages inclusive on Sunday 3 December in the Kooyong Room and Terrace.

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

August 2017

2nd	New Members Night
11th	Social Committee Happy Hour
18th	Year 8 Disco
19th	Young Members Yarrayong Ball
26th	Social Committee Annual Dinner Dance

September 2017

3rd	Father's Day Lunch
11th	Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary Card Day
25th	Bridge Club AGM

October 2017

1st	Social Committee JJ Mixed Doubles Round Robin
13th	RCH Trivia Night
25th	Kooyong Lawn tennis Club AGM

November 2017

19th	Bridge Club Congress
26th	President's Day
26th	Crèche Christmas Party

KOORYONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB SOCIAL COMMITTEE

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

BLACK TIE DINNER DANCE



SATURDAY

26 AUGUST 2017

7 PM - MIDNIGHT

Put on your boogie shoes & get down to the Kooyong Room for a fabulous night of jive talkin'.

CANAPÉS, 3 COURSE MEAL AND
PREMIUM BEVERAGES

MEMBERS & GUESTS WELCOME

\$140.00 per head or **\$1350.00** per table of ten

DRESS TO IMPRESS: BLACK TIE

Booking Deadline: Friday 18 August 2017

Featuring Melbourne's Premier Party Band:

The Smits

Plus: Barb's Disco Belles

Booking forms are available from the Members Sign-In Desk, KLTC reception or can be downloaded from the Members Group/Social Committee section of the KLTC website

For information please contact Social Committee member Cindi Damian on 0416 023 784



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