



Courtside

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

Care Wellness Kooyong Classic

On a winner in 2024 pg. 6



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for a hot summer of
spectacular tennis.

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David J. Pitt honoured
with the Perpetual Trophy
for the Kooyong Open
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"The Classic is set to sizzle this summer and we look forward to Members taking advantage of discounted ticketing and hospitality package experiences now available."

Adam Cossar, President

President's Report

Dear Members,
Through the 2023 year the Club has experienced unrivalled activity in our sport, Member dining and through our social and leisure activities. I would like to thank our Members for their support and patronage of our Club.

As announced at our recent Annual General Meeting (AGM), I would like to congratulate **Ian Anderson** and **Sarah Sheer** for being elected as Ordinary Members of the Board for a 3-year term. Additionally, we have **Jeremy Brown-Greaves** and **Peter Tingate** continuing in their Board appointed roles.

Members will be delighted to know that **Brian Capp** received Honorary Life Membership at the AGM following his tireless service to our Club for 24 years as an Ordinary Member and Vice President of the Board. **David Pitt** was honoured with the Distinguished Member Award for his long-standing contribution to the Club through his work and leadership with Billiards and Snooker at Kooyong. Congratulations Brian and David from myself, the Board, management and your fellow Members.

I'm looking forward to continuing the work with the Board and our amazing Kooyong staff across the whole club in the new year, to returning our Club to profitability and, to closing out the external review being conducted by Grant Thornton, as referenced in my most recent communication to Members.

Our Club's community continues to shine a bright light on what we are all proud of as Members - here's to its continued growth and development.

Kooyong Classic, Kooyong Foundation Pro-Am and Club Championships

The Kooyong Classic is the ideal preparation for hosting

top men's and women's players leading into the Australian Open at "The Spiritual Home of Australian Tennis".

Recent player announcements in **Jannik Sinner** (current world #4), **Holger Rune** (current world #8), **Karen Khachanov** (current world #15), **Frances Tiafoe** (current world #16) and **Zhang Zhi Zhen** (current world #60 and winner of the 2023 Asian Games) set the scene for world's best competing at the 2024 Care Wellness Kooyong Classic. **Stan Wawrinka** and his backhand will be on show as well as the return of **Dominic Thiem** to grace our wonderful Centre Court. Further announcements with regards to our women's field will be made soon. The Classic is set to sizzle this summer and we look forward to Members taking advantage of discounted ticketing and hospitality package experiences now available.

The Kooyong Foundation Corporate Pro-Am was held on 4 December providing a perfect launch pad for the Summer

Our Club's community continues to shine a bright light on what we are all proud of as Members - here's to its continued growth and development.

of Tennis with the 2024 Care Wellness Kooyong Classic 'Love Kooyong24' to follow.

Our 53rd Annual Club Championships takes place from 9-25 February and will provide the opportunity for Members across all Member classes to participate in a highlight event of the Kooyong tennis calendar with entries closing on 23 January - QR code access for registration included in Courtside.

Our Billiards and Snooker Club Championships are being held this month with our Squash Club Championships being held in March next year.

Recent Sporting Achievements/Activities

At the recent Tennis Victoria Awards, held at Kooyong in late October, **Roisin Gilheany** was awarded Junior Female Player of the Year for the third consecutive year whilst **Julie Fidler** won the Spirit of Tennis Award.

Zoe Llewellyn and **Robert Foy** were named the 2023 Tennis Victoria Pennant Player of the year in their respective grades.

Four of our State Grade Pennant Players were named in the respective men's and women's teams of the year which included **Eliza Dunbar**, **Tom Patton**, **Zoe Llewellyn** and **Grace Darcy**.

The Cedric Mason Cup was held in October where our best 13-18 year old juniors competed against Royal South Yarra (RSY). Kooyong's captain **Ollie Hancin** led the team to victory wrestling the trophy back from RSY.

What a wonderful Pennant season for the Club in winning two pennant flags in Women's State Grade and Women's Grade 1 with two teams finishing runners-up.

The world's best players aged 65 and above competed at the Teams Championships, which were played in Mallorca, Spain and are considered one of the pinnacle events on the ITF World Tennis Masters Tour. **Glenn Busby**, **Rosemary Everett** and **Leanne Scott** were gold medallists.

The David J. Pitt Trophy for the Kooyong Open Billiards Championship was inaugurated in September.

Our Kooyong Foundation continues its wonderful work in supporting our young boys and girls in the development

of whole of life talent both on and off court. Some notable achievements of our rising stars include **Koharu Nishikawa** recently competing in the Junior Billie Jean Cup and **Pauline Ma** winning the recent 12/U Australian Hardcourt Championships in Adelaide.

We have three of our Kooyong Foundation players in **Eliza Dunbar, Cooper Errey** and **Roisin Gilheany** having recently signed with US Colleges, being awarded tennis scholarships commencing in 2024. They join their 15 fellow Foundation players already playing and studying in the US.

New Scholarship holders will be welcomed this month following trials recently held at the Club.

Congratulations to all our winners and participants.

The Kooyong Classic is the ideal preparation for hosting top men's and women's players leading into the Australian Open at "The Spiritual Home of Australian Tennis".

The Classic is set to sizzle this summer and we look forward to Members taking advantage of discounted ticketing and hospitality package experiences now available.

Our Kooyong community in all its forms is alive and well.

Around the Club

Our grass courts now open, it's wonderful to see tennis activity in full swing across all court surfaces.

The Club recently hosted Premier League finals on our famed Centre Court and whilst our respective men's and women's teams narrowly missed out on reaching the finals, it was wonderful to host with Tennis Victoria inclusive of our wider tennis and Member community.

Pickleball continues to engage Members from across all member categories and a big reach out to Beth and Ollie who lead the

'pickleball charge' at the Club.

The Sunday 'Social Tennis Afternoons' have been well patronised over recent months since its introduction further enabling connection across members in our tennis heartland.

International Women's squash week was celebrated for the first time at the Club this year in September - a great opportunity to raise the profile of Women's squash. Also, with World Squash Day being celebrated in October, our squashies made sure to get on court and enjoy a BBQ dinner following. Our Kooyong community in all its forms is alive and well.

Our Member and social groups have been active on numerous levels as updated further in Courtside and opportune to

remind members to book early with end of year an early new year events kicking off in earnest.

Christmas and the New Year

Finally, I would like to wish all our Kooyong family, our incredible staff and friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing you in and around enjoying our wonderful Club, 'One of the great clubs of the world' in all its forms though the remainder of 2023 and into 2024.



Adam Cossar, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

2023

Saturday 2nd December
Thursday 7th December
Saturday 9th December
Monday 11th December
Monday 25th December
Tuesday 26th December
Sunday 31st December

WFS End of year - tastes of summer dinner
Young Members Tennis, Pot and Parma Night
Social Committee Christmas Ball
Bridge Club Christmas Dinner
Christmas Day Buffet Luncheon
Boxing Day
New Year's Eve

2024

Monday 1st January
Wednesday 10th January
Thursday 11th January
Friday 12th January
Friday 26th January
Monday 29th January

New Year's Day
Care A2+ Kooyong Classic - day one
Care A2+ Kooyong Classic - day two
Care A2+ Kooyong Classic - day three
Australia Day Public Holiday
Young Members AO Men's Final and Dinner

Monday 5th February
Friday 9th – Sunday 11th February
Friday 16th – Sunday 18th February
Friday 23rd – Sunday 25th February

Wine & Food Society AGM
Club Championships
Club Championships
Club Championships

Monday 4th March
Wednesday 13th March
Saturday 16th March
Thursday 21st March

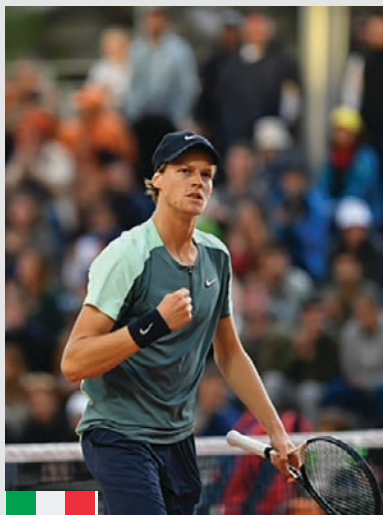
RCH Auxiliary Tennis Day
Labour Day Public Holiday
Young Members Day On The Clay
KLTC Bridge Group Sandbelt Competition



The Classic set to sizzle this summer

KOORYONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB
10-12 JANUARY 2024

THE PLAYERS



Jannik Sinner
Italy

World #4,
10 ATP singles titles
Age: 22 years



Holger Rune
Denmark

World #8,
4 ATP singles titles
Age: 20 years



Karen Khachanov

World #15,
5 ATP singles titles
Age: 27 years



Frances Tiafoe
USA

World #16,
3 ATP singles titles
Age: 25 years



Zhang Zhi Zhen
China

World #60,
3 ATP singles titles
Age: 27 years



Dominic Thiem
Austria

World #108,
17 ATP singles titles.
Age: 30 years

...and more to come!



Many of the elite players of world tennis will be on show again in January 2024 when the annual Care Wellness Kooyong Classic returns to Kooyong.

The event will feature top 10 players **Jannik Sinner** and **Holger Rune** who have both enjoyed great success over the past year. Sinner had 4 tournament wins in 2023 and has risen to a career high number 4 in world and will be joined by Rune who achieved a number 4 ranking this year and is coached by the great Boris Becker.

The field will also feature Grand Slam champions **Stan Wawrinka** and **Dominic Thiem**, along with **Frances Tiafoe**, **Karen Kachanov** and the winner of the 2023 Asian Games, **Zhang Zhi Zhen**. Announcements will be made late in 2023 about the women's field.

This action will commence on Wednesday 10th January and run three days to Friday 12th of January. This is always a fantastic opportunity to see great tennis as players prepare for the Australian Open and soak up the special and relaxed atmosphere of Kooyong.

SBS will provide 6 hours a day of national free to air broadcast and our partner Media Pro Asia

is signing new international broadcast partners ensuring that the Classic and Kooyong will be seen in countries around the world including the USA on the Tennis Channel.

The Kooyong Classic is supported by title sponsor Care Wellness and gold sponsor Go Markets and we welcome our new partner Vietjet joining the event in 2024. The event is also supported by Schweppes, Versa cocktails, the Como Hotel, Dunlop, Score Buzzer, Perry Callan.

The Mitchelton bar and airstream will again be a feature on the Kooyong Common and there will be an offering of a great range of food and drink vans for patrons to enjoy in addition to the range of Versa fine cocktails.

AM Sportswear return as the official apparel supplier for the Kooyong Classic. Their range of outfits for officials, staff and ball kids will again feature the AM Earth clothing which, consistent with the Kooyong sustainability policy, is produced from recycled yarn.

Tennis Victoria will provide a range of fun activities for kids to enjoy including small court tennis and speed serve and there will be a range of other activities

including lawn bowling to keep everyone entertained.

Each morning the gates will open at 9am and Tickets are available to purchase through Ticketek.

There has been no increase ticket prices this year, so the Classic offers excellent value for a day out. Seats are available for areas reserved under cover or reserved premium view with no cover. In addition, there will general admission tickets that may be purchased prior or on the day at the event ticket box. Kooyong Members can take advantage of the members discount when booking at www.ticketek.com.au.

There are also great hospitality options available for both corporates and the public so make it a special day out by booking in to one of the Presidents Lunch or Stadium Lounge packages. Details are available at www.kooyongclassic.com.au.

We look forward to seeing you join us at the 2024 Care Wellness Kooyong Classic. ●



Club News

Regular diners at Bistro One and Italy 1 in years past may well remember the team of Nick Ward in the kitchen and Patrice Renaudin out front of house and recall favourably that their combined efforts delivered great dining experiences.

We are thrilled to have them reunited again at Kooyong and in charge of Member dining.

Patrice has been our Food & Beverage Manager since 2006 and has excelled in his dealings with Members. The regular awards achieved for his wine list demonstrate his excellent palate and great selections which have served the needs in the bar and dining rooms.

Nick Ward is highly credentialed and respected for his work as Executive Chef having managed kitchens in venues including Riva, Bistro One and Italy 1 following his early days at several of Melbourne's esteemed establishments including Lynch's, the Stokehouse, Fanny's, Glo Glo's and Petit Choux.



▲ Food & Beverage Manager, Patrice Renaudin (left) and Executive Chef, Nick Ward.

“He is bringing to Kooyong his vast experience, great ethics and understanding of dining customers and will certainly deliver the high expectations of our Members”.

“It will be terrific to work with Nick again, as we were previously together successfully for 5 years” Patrice said. “He is bringing to Kooyong his vast experience, great ethics and understanding of dining customers and will certainly deliver the high expectations of our Members”.

“My preference when creating menus is fresh seasonal products, preferably locally sourced” Nick commented. “Summer preferences can be lighter meals, including warm salads, fresh seafood, grilled meats, in season vegetables, and fruits, while winter might offer hearty soups,

slow cooked meats, braised dishes and warm desserts. I believe eating healthy food choices has a positive influence on our health and wellbeing.”

New menus starting this week reflect Nick's stylings, and dishes paired with one of Patrice's selected wines offer every reason to bring family and friends to the Club and enjoy a wonderful dining experience. ●



AUSTRALIA'S WINE LIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards were established in 1993 by Tucker Seabrook, Sydney's first Wine and Spirit Merchant (established 1838). The aim of the Awards is to recognise and reward the enormous investment by restaurant owners, managers and sommeliers in the time, skill and resources that go into developing the best quality wine lists. At the same time, the Awards recognise, pay tribute to, and reward the dedication and talent of those individuals, those sommeliers who create these lists for Australia's best restaurants, hotels, clubs, wine bars, pubs and cafes – large and small.

Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club

Cuisine: Modern Australian

Sommelier: Patrice Renaudin

Number of Wines: 132

Wines by the Glass: 18

Wine Price by the Glass: \$

Smartly catering for its audience, the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club offers a selection of established favourites interspersed with a few rising stars of local and international wine. What's eye catching here is the pricing, which sits just above retail and offers keen drinkers a plethora of well-priced choice. The older Australian wines in particular offer unmatched value, and that's not even touching on the surprisingly large by the glass selection. ●



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

Ma Wins National Title

Pauline Ma put on a dominant display at the recent 12/U Australian Hardcourt Championships in Adelaide taking home the girls singles title. After a close three set battle in the opening round, Ma only dropped 10 games in her next four rounds to win her first singles National title. Congratulations Pauline! ●



▲ Koharu representing Australia with pride in the Junior BJK Cup.

Koharu competes in the Junior Billie Jean King Cup

Koharu Nishikawa has helped the Australian Billie Jean King Cup junior team finish an excellent 6th place at the World team finals in Cordoba, Spain. The Australian team made up of Emerson Jones, Tahlia Kokkinis and Nishikawa performed admirably in the prestigious 16 and under teams event which was won by the USA. One of Australia's most promising juniors, the 14 year old has gained invaluable experience competing on the international stage. As

well as the BJKC Cup, Koharu represented Australia earlier in the year at the 14 and under World teams event. She will look to continue her outstanding year with some more international events, playing the Eddie Hurr and Orange Bowl junior championships in Florida. ●

► Pauline Ma was dominant in winning the Australian Championships.



One of Australia's most promising juniors [Koharu], the 14 year old has gained invaluable experience competing on the international stage.



Roisin Gilheany Tennis Victoria Junior Athlete of the Year

For the third consecutive year, Roisin Gilheany has been named the female Junior Athlete of the Year at the recent Tennis Victoria awards. The award recognises a fantastic year for Gilheany who reached a high of World number 69 on the ITF junior rankings. She qualified at Wimbledon juniors, played AO juniors where she also made quarter finals of the doubles event. Made singles semi-finals of junior events in Chuncheon, Burlington, Delray Beach and Bamberg. Gilheany also won two junior doubles titles in Bytom and Santo Domingo. Recently she has been competing in Women's ITF events where she's made a singles quarter final, two doubles quarter finals and the doubles final at the W25 Cairns ITF. Well done Roisin on an outstanding year! ●

▲ Roisin Gilheany celebrated another highly successful tennis season.

► Jasika all smiles after his 10th ITF pro circuit title.



Jasika Wins 10th ITF Pro Circuit Title

Omar Jasika has claimed his 10th ITF pro circuit title in Cairns with a hard-fought victory over Jake Delaney 6-7, 6-4, 6-4. Playing some quality tennis all week, Jasika was determined to grab the title "I'm really happy to play so well up here and win this week after having lost first round here last year". "I love coming up here, the conditions are great for tennis

and Cairns put on one of the best ITF events of the year". Jasika's ranking moves back into the top 280s in the World and is eyeing off an Australian Open qualifying place in January.

Jasika was part of a Kooyong Foundation coach/manager support tour to Cairns which included 7 Foundation players playing the two pro circuit events. ●

Jasika's ranking moves back into the top 280s in the World and is eyeing off an Australian Open qualifying place in January.



CORPORATE PRO-AM

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Monday 4 December 2023

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far beyond ordinary

CAREW COUNSEL
SOLICITORS





▲ Cooper Errey is off to University of Oregon in 2024.

◀ Eliza Dunbar is set to join Fresno State University early next year.

Dunbar, Gilheany and Errey sign with US Colleges

Eliza Dunbar, Roisin Gilheany and Cooper Errey have all recently signed with US College on tennis scholarships. They will be joining 15 other fellow Foundation players who are currently in the States following this pathway.

Dunbar will commence her scholarship in January at Fresno State University. Gilheany will also start her college journey in January at Oklahoma University, while Errey will join the University of Oregon August 2024. For Dunbar she was eager to get over to the States and begin her college tennis career

"I am very excited to have an opportunity to play college tennis at Fresno State. It's been my goal to go to college and I'm looking forward to meeting the team and playing in a competitive team environment."

All the best Eliza, Roisin and Cooper! ●

Dunbar will commence her scholarship in January at Fresno State University

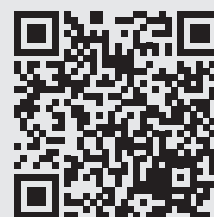
Donate To The Kooyong Foundation

If you would like to join other generous donors, who are assisting the development of Kooyong's outstanding and deserving young tennis players both on and off the court, please go to the "Sports Development Program" tab at: www.kooyong.com.au/web/pages/make-a-donation.

Alternatively, some members have opted to remember the Kooyong Foundation in their Will as their form of support for talented young players.

For information on this option, use your phone camera to scan the QR code below.

Donations to The Kooyong Foundation are tax deductible via our partnership with the Australian Sports Foundation and every dollar goes to the athletes as KLTC covers all the Foundation's administrative costs. ●



▲ Scan the QR code with your phone camera.



Junior Competition

This season, we had around 30 new Junior tennis players represent Kooyong. It has been great to see them giving their all each week.

Due to Bayside Regional Tennis Association (BRTA) not holding a Saturday competition this season, our Juniors played over two separate Associations, Saturday teams played in the Moorabbin and Districts Junior Tennis Association (MDJTA), and the Bayside Regional Tennis Association (BRTA) for our Sunday teams. As a result, it meant we had 2 teams in the MDJTA and 8 teams in the BRTA for this season.

In MDJTA our **Boys Grade 6 team**, led by Captain **Oliver Dennis**, have been giving it all, but have met some strong opposition along the way.

Victoria Ullmer's, MDJTA Girls Grade 3 team, has had six wins so far. They are currently sitting just outside the top four and hoping to finish the strongly to make the finals.

In the BRTA Association, **James Pollard's Grade 2 team**, has been fighting all the way, but have found it hard this season. Unfortunately, they have had a number of their top players unavailable due to commitments playing Association Junior Pennant.

James Porter's Grade 6 team is currently sitting sixth on the ladder. Only one match separates them and the third placed team.

They will be wanting to finish the season off strongly and gain some valuable points.

Our **Grade 8 team**, led by **Maximillion Lord**, has had a tough season and came up against some strong opposition. They have been giving it all and are learning from their experience.

In **Grade 10, Will Morris' team** has had 3 wins and is currently positioned sixth on the ladder. Whilst they have more wins than the fifth placed team, who they beat earlier in the year, they are a few points behind them.

Harper Barons' Grade 15 team is currently sitting sixth on the ladder. Whilst there have been a couple of stronger teams in their Grade, the rest of the Grade is extremely close in standard and results have been very tight.

Our **Section 18 team, Hugh Cotterall's team** is currently sitting on top of the ladder. They have had a great season so far. They will be hoping to maintain their momentum and finish the season and finals with the same dominance.

We had two teams represent Kooyong in **Grade 19** this season. **Camilla Tulloch's Kooyong Green team** has had 3 wins so far, whilst **Angus Clement's Kooyong Purple team** has had 2 wins. Both teams made a move from Section 21 in

Cedric Mason Cup

In October this year, we hosted the Cedric Mason Cup. The Cedric Mason Cup is an annual teenage challenge between Kooyong and Royal South Yarra. Kooyong put together a strong team and regained the Cup back off Royal South Yarra for the first time since 2016.

Whilst the weather clouds looked ominous and produced a few passing showers, play was not impacted too greatly. On the day our players and spectators enjoyed some great hitting, sausages on the BBQ and hearing some of Cedric's amazing stories.

Next year the event will be hosted by Royal South Yarra. Here's hoping that Kooyong can win it back-to-back.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the event. ●

▲ **Top** All RSY and Kooyong players enjoyed a great day of tennis.

Above Cedric Mason with Kooyong's captain, Ollie Elmslie.

◀ **Oliver Hancin** prepares to play a forehand in his match.

the previous season. Whilst there have been 3 teams dominating Grade 19, the rest of the Grade has been relatively even. In fact, there are only points that separate the third and seventh placed teams.

Well done to all of our Kooyong Juniors on a great season. We look forward to seeing you back on court for the 2024 Autumn Junior season. ●



◀ State Grade Premiers, from left: Grace Darcy, Eliza Dunbar, Zoe Llewellyn, Jasmin Starr, Isabella Crossman, Gabrielle Villegas and Ava Beck

Pennant

Kooyong had some fantastic results in Tennis Victoria's Pennant competition this season. We had a number of teams reach their respective finals and had two win premiership flags and two teams came runners-up.

This season, Tennis Victoria, reintroduced State Grade back into Pennant. **Jasmin Starr's State Grade Women's team** were on a mission all season, finishing on the top of the ladder. They carried this momentum all the way through the finals series. In the end, they came up against Harkaway in the grand final, which they won convincingly 4 - 0.

David Bidmeade's Men's State Grade team were a little unlucky this season and had a few results go against them. This meant that they played and went down in a close match to Fawcner TC in the Semi Final 4-2. Fawcner TC then went onto win the Grand Final 3-0 the following week.

We had two Kooyong teams in **Women's Grade One** this season. Both performed strongly throughout the season finishing second and third on the ladder. Unfortunately, this meant that they had to play against each other in the Semi Finals. **Sienna Opray's team** got up over **Olivia Quigley's team** in a close match 4-2. Fortunately, Sienna Opray's team got up over Heatherdale TC 4-2 in the final the following week to win the premiership flag.

Emmanuel Soepardi's Grade 2 Men's team went into the finals with great momentum. They won their Semi Final match against Eaglemont TC 5-1. However, Beaumaris LTC were too strong in the Grand Final winning 3-1.

In **Men's Grade 3, Charlie Tulloch's team** had some epic matches in their finals campaign. They won their Semi Finals match against Heatherdale TC by only 5 games. They went onto the Grand Final match against the Mountain Gate Beavers and had another close match going down 4 - 2.



Well done to all of our Pennant players on another amazing season.

Well done to all of our Pennant players on another amazing season. There were some amazing team and individual efforts. We look forward to seeing you back out on court representing Kooyong in next year's Pennant season.

▲ State Grade Player of the Year, Zoe Llewellyn.

► 3-time winner of the Junior Athlete of the Year - female, Roisin Gilheany.



State Grade Pennant Players named in the Team of the Year

With State Grade being reintroduced, Tennis Victoria recognizes players who were strong performers, both on and off the court. With the strong performances of both our Men's and Women's team we have four players named in the State Grade Team of the Year. Congratulations to the following players:

Tom Patton

Men's Team of the Year

Eliza Dunbar

Women's Team of the Year

Zoe Llewellyn

Women's Team of the Year

Grace Darcy

Women's Team of the Year

Pennant player of the year

Congratulations to two of our players who were named the 2023 Tennis Victoria Pennant Player of the Year in the respective grades.

Zoe Llewellyn

Women's State Grade. She was also awarded Women's State Grade MVP.

Robert Foy

Men's Grade 3 ●



▲ Grade 3 Player of the Year, Robert Foy.



► Spirit of Tennis Award winner, Julie Fidler.

MEMBERS RECOGNIZED AT THIS YEAR'S VICTORIAN TENNIS AWARDS

The Victorian Tennis Awards recognize Victoria's on and off court success into a community tennis celebration. The award ceremony was held at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. Congratulations to the following finalists and winners of this year's awards:

Winners

Roisin Gilheany

Junior Athlete of the Year - Female (Third year in a row!)

Julie Fidler

Spirit of Tennis Award

Finalists

Isabella Crossman

Junior Athlete of the Year - Female

Jenson Yokota-Ho

Junior Athlete of the Year - Male

Glenn Busby

Most Outstanding 30+ Tennis Master

Rosemary Everett

Most Outstanding 30+ Tennis Master ●

With the strong performances of both our Men's and Women's team we have four players named in the State Grade Team of the Year.



8PM-10PM AEST MONDAYS
LISTEN ON 1116AM MELBOURNE, 1170AM SYDNEY,
1629AM ADELAIDE, 693AM BRISBANE,
1620AM GOLD COAST, 1611AM DARWIN,
1629 HOBART, SEN WA, SENZ NEW ZEALAND
OR ONLINE AT SEN.COM.AU AND VIA THE SEN APP.



BRETT PHILLIPS





53rd ANNUAL MEMBERS' CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

22nd Combined Senior & Junior Event

Friday 9th (twilight), Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th February
Friday 16th (twilight), Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th February
Friday 23rd (twilight), Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th February (if required)

Entries close: Tuesday 23rd January 2024



Scan QR code to set
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Player Profile



Scan QR code
to enter tournament
online

Premier League

Introducing Kooyong's Premier League teams.

WOMEN



Belinda Woolcock



Gabriella Da Silva-Fick



Isabella Crossman

AND... *Roisin Gilheany, Koharu Nishikawa, Jasmin Starr, Gabrielle Villegas, Ava Beck, Zoe Llewellyn and Amelia Zylberman*

MEN



Jacob Grills



Andrew Whittington



Jeremy Taylor

AND... *Josh Charlton, David Bidmeade, David Hough, Cooper White, Cooper Errey and Tom Patton*

Midweek Ladies

Kooyong will be represented by nine midweek ladies' competition teams in December, playing across two days and two associations.

Firstly, to Tuesday and the Midweek Eastern Metropolitan Region Ladies' Tennis Association (MEMRLTA) summer 2023 season concluded in March. **Lois Plowman's Section 1 Blue team** finished the winter 2023 season on top of the ladder. They defeated Templestowe Park 3-41 to 3-37 in a nail biting Semi Final to qualify for the decider. Unfortunately, the team couldn't replicate their premiership success from last season, losing the Grand Final to Glen Waverley 1-16 to 5-46. The summer 2024 season commenced in late August and the side are fourth on the ladder after eight rounds.

Steph Fry's Section 1 Gold team unfortunately remained on the bottom of the ladder to conclude the winter 2023 season, despite winning more sets and having a superior percentage compared to the second last team. They have improved to start this season, winning three of their first eight matches.

Lauren Sanford's Section 2 Blue team unfortunately couldn't make up a suitable team for the winter 2023 season. They are pleased their returned for the summer 2024 season, currently sitting in second position.

Skye Berman and Kimberley Mustow's Section 3 team remained in second position to conclude the winter 2023 season. They comfortably defeated East Malvern 6-48 to 0-30 to qualify for the decider. The team then beat North Balwyn 5-43 to 1-32 to claim the premiership! Congratulations to the whole team: Skye Berman, Kimberley Mustow, Angela Godwin, Anne Smith, Belinda Henry, Jill Kaminsky, Lisa Boothby and special thanks to all those who filled in during the season. The



team were once again promoted to Section 2 for the summer 2024 season and have made a solid start, sitting fifth on the ladder.

Sally Addison's Section 3 team had several team members away during winter for significant periods of time, so they decided to have a rest. Like Lauren Sanford's Section 2 team, they returned for the summer 2024 season. Unfortunately, they are on the bottom of the ladder but are on the same points as the second and third last teams.

A reminder that unlike MEMRLTA, Bayside Regional Tennis Association (BRTA) has February to June (autumn) and July to December (spring) seasons. **Kris Tulloch's Section A1 Yellow team** are currently fifth on the ladder after 13 rounds of the spring 2023 season. They unfortunately cannot qualify for the finals. There is only one round remaining and in a six-team section, the top two teams automatically qualify for the Grand Final.

Jenny Osborne's Section 2 Green team are on track to go one better following their Grand Final

▲ Grade 3 winners, from left to right Belinda Henry, Lisa Boothby, Angela Godwin, Kimberley Mustow, Jillina Kaminsky and Anne Smith.

defeat at the hands of Elwood Blue last season. They are three wins clear on top of the ladder. The team is guaranteed a Grand Final berth as, like Section A1, there are only six teams with the top two positions automatically qualifying for the Grand Final.

Noelene Duckett's Section 2 Yellow team are pushing for the finals in the spring 2023 season, having significantly improved on their sixth-place finish from last season. They are second on the ladder and in a nail-biting fight with Parkdale in third to automatically qualify for the Grand Final by finishing top two.

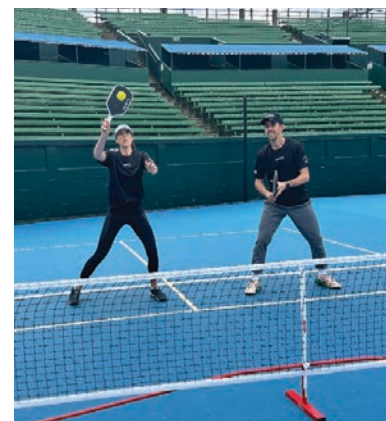
Heather Anderson and Libbie Geason's Section 3 Purple team are on track to go one better following their Grand Final defeat at the hands of Elwood Yellow last season. They are second on the ladder, 12 points clear of Mentone in third. The top two teams automatically qualify for the Grand Final.

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



◀ Members have been enjoying the introduction of Pickleball to the club.

▼ At each Open Session, Pickleball coaches Beth and Ollie provide participants an introduction to the game and rules.



Get Social at the Club!

It has been a very exciting time within the pickleball scene at Kooyong. The launch of our Sunday pickleball sessions have been a big hit thus far, with most sessions completely booked out by our members.

It has been fantastic to witness members of all ages and skill levels come and try this fun, exciting, and emerging new sport. Many of our members are now familiar with the basic principles of pickleball, how to score, and the key skill differences that separate pickleball from tennis and all other racquet sports. Above all, our member community at Kooyong frequently speak of how fun pickleball is to play, and the inherent social side to the game that makes it ever more engaging. We have seen some outstanding doubles partnerships sparked from our Sunday sessions, and we look forward to seeing our teams compete on the pickleball circuit throughout Victoria!

Additionally, it has been really wonderful seeing the enjoyment our members are having while at our pickleball sessions. Pickleball is a fantastic way to stay fit while having fun and developing friendships all at once. Don't have anyone to come play pickleball with? No worries! We foster a friendly and inclusive atmosphere each Sunday, with plenty of opportunities to play doubles with several different attendees. In this way, playing pickleball is an excellent way to



meet new people and connect with other members at the club.

Keen to try the world's fastest growing sport? Please register for the next available pickleball session via the Kooyong App! Professional coaches Beth and Ollie are excited to continue the Pickleball journey at Kooyong. If you have any questions about our Sunday pickleball sessions, or any questions about pickleball in general, we would love to hear from you at pickleunitedaus@gmail.com.

Cheers and see you on the court soon! ●

By Beth & Ollie

▲ Participants at the Social Tennis Afternoon not only get to play tennis, but also a chance to meet other members.

Social Afternoon Tennis

Over the past two months, the Club has been running a new tennis initiative, the Social Tennis Afternoons. The aim of the Social Tennis Afternoon is to provide members with an opportunity to meet with other members and have a fun and social hit.

The afternoons are being held once a month. The afternoons have been a great success, with sessions being filled out and having a waitlist.

Many players have enjoyed themselves so much that many have signed up again and again. One of the players who has participated each month is Robert Byrne. Robert says 'The Social Tennis Afternoons are an enjoyable afternoon all around. It's a great chance for members, and particularly new members, to meet with other Kooyong tennis players. Well organized.'

The next Social Tennis Afternoon is being held on the tenth of December. Still register if spots are taken, as the Tennis Department offers those on the waitlist list the first opportunity to sign up for the next month. ●

Congratulations to our Kooyong Tennis Club, Head Coach, Glenn Busby.



Experts of an interview with Glenn, with the ITF :

Firstly, Congratulations on your current 3 world title wins in Majorca, it's a super effort. After some research we have found you have actually won an amazing 22 World ITF singles, doubles and World team titles and last year won 2 age groups in the same year, which has never been done by a male in the history of the ITF, what keeps you going?

► There are many aspects to it I guess, I love training and when you find a training program that really works and you enjoy working hard with it, it definitely makes the journey easier. I thrive on the challenge of competing with myself and against others, especially younger players. I enjoy travelling and seeing different parts of the world, I just wish it didn't come with the jet lag! Meeting incredibly diverse people and the experiences that come with different cultures has also provided me with some amazing opportunities that I can't believe ever happened. I'm so fortunate to be doing what I love.

You talk about your training program and know that many players want to know what you do, can you expand on this?

► Whatever training program a player does it has to be something you believe in and know that you can "do it day in day out". I train 6 days a week off court but for only a maximum of 30 minutes at any time. It's called "specificity of training". I have studied so many programs, due to past injuries and wanting to be the best I can, I am always in search of what's the best programs out there to provide me with that extra edge. Having an extensive Biomechanics and Physiology background I have a good understanding what systems and movement patterns are required for tennis players and for life, especially at a senior level. I don't run, which I do miss and don't do weights, but know I am as strong as I was 20 years ago.

So what do you do?

► Too hard to go into detail here, but I use a mini trampoline, tera bands and my own body weight. You know, the trampoline exercises are great for all ages

and not only for tennis. There are so many health and physical benefits and most of the studies were initiated by NASA. I have simulated a range of activities that are very simple and like any activity the benefits come from intensity, frequency and duration. At home I have had 3-94 year olds on the trampoline.

Do you have anything online for people to see?

► I am thinking about it, but you know whatever program a player or anyone does it has to be something that they enjoy and see benefits, otherwise they won't keep doing it. This is the most important factor of any fitness program. There is a saying that I have followed for years and that is, "Success is not an accident, it's a choice" good habits done daily are what separate best from the rest. Sport, business, and/or relationships are all the same, it's the effort you put in behind the scenes that no one sees, that determines your success. You must enjoy and thrive on the hard work.

You have a business in Australia, at the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, where the Australian Open was played before going to Melbourne Park, I believe it's dubbed the "Spiritual home of tennis?". Can you tell us about it.

► Kooyong was voted the No. 1 private club in the world by the ITF in 2018, it is one of the amazing clubs of the world. It has nearly 8500 members, 51 tennis courts including 26 grass, 22 ent-out-cas and 3 hard courts in a now reduced 4500 seat stadium. It also has 6 squash courts and a brand new fully inclusive gym, indoor pool, multiple restaurant options and caters very successfully for corporates. It offers an extensive range of activities like the food and wine society, children's hospital

foundation, bridge club, young members club and so much more.

And your business?

► I run the coaching programs along with the Proshop where we cater for the clubs needs which currently includes 3-year-olds through to a 95 year old. There is nothing we don't offer, ranging from early junior development through to elite players, extensive programs for seniors, highly world ranked senior players including 2 former no 1 players. I am also very fortunate to have some very long-term amazing staff, who are exceptional, this helps a lot.

We also have a program at the club which is called the "Kooyong Foundation" I don't know anything like it in Australia or even around the world. It's a foundation that supports players and provides support for not only Kooyong players, but players around Australia who are in need of assistance. About 5-6 years ago there were 6 players from our Kooyong Foundation that represented the club, playing in the first round of the Australian Open. I don't know of any other club in the world has been able to achieve this.

We have seen that you have been successful as a coach and player in your own right, can you tell us a little about your background?

► As a junior I won a junior grand slam doubles and quarter finals of the singles, at that stage I wanted to go overseas however my parents didn't have the ability to support this financially, so I ended up doing an App Sci degree in Physical Education. This was a very unexpected bonus in knowledge for coaching, playing and life skills; I love learning. I then taught PE, coached, practiced and kept developing my skills until I raised enough money to support myself to go on tour. I got to 305 in the

world in 6 months but fortunately or unfortunately I was bonded to the Education Department as they financed my education and had to come back to teach.

Coaching wise, next year I will have had my own business for 50 years. I was fortunate to coach and live in Florida for a 2 year period, working and travelling with some top 10 ATP/WTa players. I learnt more in those 2 years than the 20 years prior on how to work with players at that level, and how to apply this knowledge to the players I have worked with, since then. Back here in Melbourne I worked with a young player who was aged

Sport, business, and/or relationships are all the same, it's the effort you put in behind the scenes that no one sees, that determines your success.

7 when we started together taking that player through to the semi-final in doubles and second round in singles at the Australian Open, achieving an ATP ranking of 150. Probably the biggest learning has come from really understanding your player and knowing what they want and how hard they are prepared to work to get there. This is such an important skill to implement as a coach, to support and enable a player to reach their potential.

I have had 16 of my players, who I have coached for more than 5 years, achieve a full scholarship to USA Universities. This is an amazing pathway to enter the professional circuit and/or gain a great education. Many exceptionally good USA players are now coming out of this system.

Was there any takeaways that you saw from this year's world titles?

► As research has shown, playing tennis consistently has proven to elongate your life up to 10 years more than any other sport. This year at the worlds there were two 100-year-old players entered, one was an Australian who travelled to Majorca, who also happened to have played with Federer and I think Tsitsipas, during the Australian Open this year on Rod Laver Arena. To be alive at 100 is one thing but still playing singles is truly exceptional. There were also nine over 90 years of age playing, to me this is the pinnacle of tennis, having total admiration for these players. I had not seen this before, amazing! You know, at Kooyong we have many players that have been playing together for over 50 years. We are so fortunate to be involved in this sport for both our physical and mental health.

Thanks Glenn , for giving us a glimpse into your life as a player and coach. ●

KITA Programs 2024

Together with all our inclusive programs on our website look out for our mid-afternoon adult clinics/squad training where Glenn will be looking to conduct some short-term programs. These will incorporate all aspects of your tennis game over small blocks, more information in the new year to follow. Please enquire at the Proshop for any of your needs, we look forward to assisting you and sincerely hope you all have a great festive season, good health to all and a big year ahead of great tennis enjoyment. ●

KITA Team



View it on video!

Glenn talks about specifics you can think about when trying to improve your volleys for the

Please call the Proshop for any of your tennis needs on 03 90387141 or email proshop@kooyong.com.au

A fabulous day
out for friends
and colleagues



KOOYONG **MEMBER OFFER!** STADIUM LOUNGE & TENNIS EXPERIENCE

KOOYONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB 10-12 JANUARY 2024

*A special opportunity to enjoy Kooyong Classic tennis
and wonderful Club hospitality*

Special Member rate of \$2,250.00 for eight guests – normally \$2,415.00 (inc. GST)



STADIUM LOUNGE

- Access with views over **Centre Court**
- **Roving brunch** from 10am until 11am including drinks from **Mitchelton wines**
- Opportunity to return and purchase drinks until close of play
- **Afternoon tea** served to your Stadium Suite

STADIUM SUITE

- **Shaded seating** for 8 guests
- Your organisation's **sign displayed** on the outside of your suite
- Initial **Eskey drop** of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks in the suite at the start of play

KOOYONG COMMON

- Access to the **Corporate Bar** on the Kooyong Common with drinks provided for two hours from 5pm to 7pm

* Bookings are made in groups of eight only.

* Additional drinks available for purchase from the Stadium Lounge or at your suite during the day.

For further information please contact the Events Team
on 03 9822 3333 or email info@kooyongclassic.com.au.

Billiards & Snooker

The David J. Pitt Perpetual Trophy for the Kooyong Open Billiards Championship.

In September, President, Adam Cossar inaugurated the David J. Pitt Trophy for the Kooyong Open Billiards Championship.

David Pitt was present at the ceremony and was caught unawares of the announcement. The Club and Billiard's community kept the trophy a secret, as they wanted to surprise him with the recognition of his amazing contribution to the Club and to the sport.

Whilst David has been an integral part of the activities at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club for some 35 years, the trophy was in recognition of the work, dedication, and passion that David "Mr. Billiards" has championed over his time, as well as the recent successes of the group in competition.

David has been Chairman of the Billiards and Snooker Committee since the Club's Billiard Room was first established in the late 1980's.

Over that time, he has worked tirelessly to promote Billiards and Snooker for Kooyong members and always warmly welcomes Club Members when they enter the room introducing them to the billiards and snooker community.

He has facilitated the hosting of State and National billiards events at Kooyong as well as friendly matches with visiting interstate clubs. He liaises with Chris and Club management to ensure that the Billiard Room is maintained to an impeccable standard.

On this note, and reference to words from Don Richter, 'David maintains the Kooyong Billiards Room in meticulous order - ironing the tables, keeping the cue racks neat, retipping cues, replacing the spots on the table and doing minor maintenance repairs to the tables. Consequently, many visiting billiard players from other Clubs



claim that Kooyong billiards room is the best room in Melbourne (or can I say in this country!) to play in ... Additionally, Australian billiards champion Jim Long once claimed that there is no one more passionate about billiards than David'.

He has organised Club Championship events and has managed Kooyong's interclub pennant teams. In recognition of the latter David in fact founded the City Clubs Billiards and Snooker circuit in 1990 (9 clubs inclusive of Kooyong compete) and since Kooyong's joining this circuit in 2016 Kooyong has participated in 4 grand finals in 7 years - an incredible effort!

David has fostered the growth of billiards and snooker within Kooyong to the point that the club now fields nine regular pennant teams each year including the recent wins by the A and B Grade Pennant Champions. Three Kooyong players were competing in the quarter finals of the 2023 National Billiards Championship, and I think I have this right that Steve Misfud won in a close encounter in the final against Dave Cosgriff.

▲ David has fostered the growth of billiards and snooker within Kooyong. **Above**, receiving his award from KLTC President, Adam Cossar (left).

Club Championships

As we go to press, the Club Championships are underway and they should be completed by Christmas. This year 24 different Kooyong members have entered events with a total of 72 entries across the six events, which is pleasing.

This year there are two new events: championships in both billiards and snooker played without handicaps, but with the top players excluded. As well there are the usual championships in both games with and without handicaps. Results will be published in the next Courtside.

Starting in February Kooyong will be entering teams in both games in the VBSA competitions. If you are at all interested in playing, please send an email to our leader and new Distinguished Member David Pitt at david.pitt@bigpond.com. Elsewhere in this edition of Courtside is an article about David's long service to the Club. And for good measure, here is a photo of David in action at the table.

By Alistair Macindoe

Beyond Kooyong, David is a leading light in the Victorian billiards community, actively organising state, national and international events.

David's positioning with his peers has seen him elected as a Life Member of the Victorian Billiards and Snooker Association.

Attendees: Jeremy Sneddon, Greg Baker, Doug Wright, Martin James, Don Richter, Simon Fortune, Rowan Blyth, David Pitt, Alistair Macindoe, Steve Misfud, Chris Brown. ●



Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary

Over \$50,000 raised this year! Huge efforts and great results!

Our **Winter Wonderland luncheon in July** exuded a fabulous ambience - pine foliage on the tables, thousands of bud-lights, pillar candles and sparkling silent auction and raffle tables all produced an illuminated treat. Convened magnificently by **Patty Wallace-Smith**, the luncheon was thoroughly enjoyable and a very profitable event. Many said it was the best event they had ever attended at Kooyong! We hosted 96 guests; 18 more than 2022. This year we raised \$11,955.23, nearly \$3,000 more than last year. A truly mighty effort!

Special thanks to our Kooyong President, **Adam Cossar**, **Peter Carew** (Past President) and **Chris Brown** (CEO) for their unstinting generosity and unwavering support of the work we do. Sincere thanks to all our donors who assisted so willingly in our fundraising:

- Ashleigh Barty AO
- Kooyong LTC
- Flinders Hotel
- Kim Tram of Studio Craft, Hawthorn
- Lonsdale Links
- Anglesea Golf Club
- PUMA Australia
- Georgios Restaurant, Armadale
- Conor Horgan, MECCA COSMETICA
- The Pro Shop, Kooyong LTC
- The Carew family
- The Cossar family
- The Wallace-Smith family

Our media personality Guest Speakers, **Jason Richardson** (Stawell Gift winner) and **Tamsyn Lewis Manou** (World Champion 800m runner), were outstanding! 'Richo' in his inimitably engaging and seasoned professional manner established a bright, convivial, warm and humorous tone for the day as MC. He also proved an invaluable dab hand at auctioning the framed Ash Barty tennis top (from her first Grand Slam win at Roland Garros), working the room exceptionally well to achieve a highly appreciated, above-reserve total of \$1,100. He and Tamsyn engaged in an entertaining dialogue. Tamsyn spoke with passion about her drive and dedication to excel at her beloved sport. She also narrated many little known, behind the scene morsels about athletics and athletes at the top of world performance.

Helen Birdseye, together with **Jean Burgess**, Past President, seamlessly conducted our September Card Luncheon contributing to the raising of over \$4,000. We welcomed 100 guests, both Social and Duplicate Bridge players, all of whom very generously supported our efforts on behalf of the RCH. We sincerely thank **Terry Crawford** for the donation of his time to direct the Duplicate Bridge players.

▲ **Left** Winter Wonderland guests.

Right Jenny Booth, Past President of our Auxiliary, (centre) being awarded a 'Living Treasures Award' at the hospital by Sue Hunt AM (left), CEO RCH Foundation and Tiffany Lucas (right), President, RCH Auxiliaries.

At the Royal Children's Hospital Combined Auxiliaries AGM our immediate Past President, **Jenny Booth**, was presented with a 'Living Treasures Award' by the RCH. She is the tenth member of our Auxiliary over the 85 years since our inception to receive this award. An impressive and well deserved achievement!

Our sincere thanks go to 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. ●

By Lyn Wheat
President KLTC RCH Auxiliary

▼ Card Day Raffle Winners.



► Tamsyn Lewis Manou being interviewed by Jason Richardson.



Bridge Club

Kudos to Kooyong Bridge Club-Australia Wide Open Event

Played in the spectacular stadium room, 33 Kooyong Bridge club pairs battled it out during the same week in August that 1477 other pairs played the identical cards in bridge clubs all over Australia. It's not called Australia Wide for no good reason with clubs from Blue Lakes and Bribie to Warwick and Wellington and lots of clubs in between. Kooyong finished with 3 pairs in the top 20, Maria Campbell and Susie Stock 11th, James and Kerin Tulloch 14th and Sue Douglas and Deb Fogarty 20th. No other club can boast such a good result.

The event, run by the Australian Bridge Federation, is played in August each year with the Australia Wide Novice event (under 100 masterpoints) held in May, and Australia Wide Restricted pairs (under 300 points) played later in the year. It's a great way to pit yourself against players from all over the country to see how your standard compares.

Getting back to the bridge club at Kooyong, a few themes emerged when speaking to the 3 successful pairs listed above.

Generally, players emphasized the importance of partnerships although our top pair on the day was a scratch pair! There are always exceptions to the rules in bridge. Sticking to the rules was felt to be a fundamental key to long term success.

Those who had played cards from early on found it easier to learn the game, although again that was not essential - one of our top pair had never played cards until taking up bridge in middle age. The majority had started to learn and play bridge after retiring, with more spare time, wanting a new challenge and to keep the brain stimulated. The social aspects were considered beneficial as well.



The married couple (a novice pair) lucked out that day with their best score ever! That is one of the other good things about bridge, that at times anyone can rise higher than their masterpoints might suggest they should. In addition, unlike tennis, people of quite variable standards can play together quite happily.

With the tennis season hotting up around Kooyong over summer, maybe bridge players not so keen on the tennis could do a tour around Australia and drop into some of the bridge clubs at Gawler, Goondiwindi or Gold Coast and have a game. I'm sure they would be very welcome. ●

By Kerin Tulloch

A Successful Year

The Kooyong Bridge Club is fast becoming one of the most successful clubs in Victoria.

At the recent McManamny Teams Competition the 5 Kooyong teams combined were placed first among those clubs entering teams.

Kooyong club Members **Penny Blankfield** and **Sue Read** have had a very successful year in National competitions. They were selected to represent Victoria in the Australian National Teams championship held in Perth in July and the Victorians were runners up in the final. They also won the Stepbridge Under Grand Master Butler Swiss Pairs in the Australian Autumn Nationals in May.

The club also participated in the Australia Wide Open pairs competition with 3 pairs placed in the top 20 among a total of 1510 pairs, an excellent result, and in the Australiawide Restricted Pairs competition in October **Libby Jones** and **Elizabeth Neal** were placed 33rd out of over 900 pairs nationally.

Following the conclusion of supervised play sessions run in the main by club members, some of those learning the game have joined the ranks of regular duplicate players. Hopefully more of those players will have the confidence to join the duplicate sessions with or without more supervised sessions elsewhere.

In general, the numbers attending the 4 weekly sessions have continued to increase. Members particularly enjoy the competition and the various venues at the club for play and frequently partake of the meals and refreshments either before or after play. ●

By James Tulloch

▲ **Top** Sue Read and Penny Blankfield

Above Nationwide Pairs winners, from left: Sue Douglas, Deb Fogarty, Susie Stock, Maria Campbell, Kerin Tulloch and James Tulloch.



International Women's Squash Week

This year for the first time, Kooyong celebrated International Women's Squash Week, which took place from September 18th-24th and aimed to celebrate and raise the profile of women and girls in squash. We hosted a social squash event on Saturday September 23rd which was attended by

supper, which was provided by the amazing Bistro staff – thank you to Melinda and her team for putting a fantastic menu together for us! It was a great afternoon of squash and socialising and we look forward to hosting this event again in 2024. ●

By Daryl Thompson

▲ *International Women's Squash Week participants*

We were also joined by Kooyong Scholarship player and touring professional Sarah Cardwell, who ran us around in a Queen of the Court session.

around 15 enthusiastic women. Our attendees were a mix of experienced players as well as those who were relatively new to the sport. We were also joined by Kooyong Scholarship player and touring professional Sarah Cardwell, who ran us around in a Queen of the Court session. I can't say we won many points against her but we all enjoyed the opportunity to share a court with a top-level player.

After a few hours of squash, we headed upstairs for a well-earned



Squash in the 2028 Olympics

CONGRATULATIONS to World Squash Federation, PSA Squash, and US Squash.....SQUASH IS IN THE OLYMPICS.

The news that squash has finally been admitted into the Olympics, making its debut in Los Angeles 2028, is long overdue.

Squash should now receive the support and acclaim it deserves as its athletes prepare to shine in one of the biggest sporting arenas in the world. While it might be a bit too late for many of our more senior players to realise their Olympic dreams, this is fantastic news for Kooyong's junior players as it means that the club now has another sport which could provide an opportunity to represent team Australia at the world's leading international sporting event. ●

By Chris Harris

Squash at Kooyong in 2024

It's been a busy year for squash at Kooyong and we have hosted many popular events. Some events were new to the roster while others were old favourites, and we aim to continue many of these in 2024. Here is a look at what squash at Kooyong looks like for the first half of the year.

Introduction to Squash: monthly drop-in sessions run on a Friday afternoon that aim to encourage new players to try squash. Racquets and balls are provided and all sessions are supported by committee members or scholarship players.

2024 dates (first 6 months): 2/2/24, 1/3/24, 12/4/24, 10/5/24, 7/6/24

Junior Squash Squad: held every Sunday morning from 10-11am, currently supervised by head pro Malcolm McClarty. All juniors 18 years and under are welcome.

Pennant (Club Circuit & SSL): Autumn 2024 pennant season begins Monday February 12th.

Squash Club Championships: March 2024 (date TBA) ●

By Daryl Thompson



Australian Junior Squash Championships

I recently travelled with the Victorian State Squash team to compete in the Australian Junior Championships in both the individual and team events. In the Under 17 individual event I took home the bronze medal and after a 34-year hiatus, the Victorian State Team took home the Gold.

Both parts of the tournaments were exciting and thrilling the whole way through. Leading into the tournament I was playing a fast-paced and structured style of squash in my Kooyong pennant matches in A1 Club Circuit and I was able to maintain my squash consistently throughout the tournament against skilful opponents. During the individual event, I comfortably made my way through the round of 16 with a 3-0 win. In my quarter-final match I played the left-handed WA under-17 #1, Aidan Finlay Mulligan, and won 3-1. I then advanced into the semi-finals against fellow Victorian Haider Naqvi, who would be my toughest opponent because we know each other's style of play so well. I had a narrow loss of the first game after having a game ball and ultimately lost the match. I then versed the Tasmanian #1 Jarrod Atkins for 3rd place and won 3-0, securing the bronze medal.

Following the individual tournament, I represented Victoria against the other states and won all my matches. On the first day, Victoria comfortably defeated NSW. Then we progressed on the second day against both WA and SA and continued our winning streak,

not conceding many games to these two states. On the final day we faced our toughest opponent, Queensland, who were the defending champions and gunning to secure a threepeat. Team Victoria played beyond expectations with some players winning against the same opponents they had conceded to



◀ Darcy Hayes competing in the Australian Junior Squash Championships

Team Victoria played beyond expectations with some players winning against the same opponents they had conceded to in the individual draw.

in the individual draw. It came down to the last match of the tournament where Qld and Vic were tied on points. It all rested on the shoulders of the U19 Boys Victorian Team Captain and Kooyong Scholarship player Andrew Lynn. He remained composed under pressure and managed a 3-1 win. I really enjoyed the team camaraderie, especially the electric team spirit off-court during the final match. We were fortunate to also receive a special announcement from the flight Captain congratulating the team on our return flight to Melbourne.

I am particularly proud to have now been selected to represent Australia for the first time in the Trans Tasman Test match to be held in New Zealand. I am really looking forward to representing Team Aus in early December 2023. ●

By Darcy Hayes



▲ World Squash Day participants.

World Squash Day

Over 20 players including juniors and adults enjoyed match play, routines, an exhibition match and various competitions to celebrate our great game for World Squash Day on Saturday October 14th. We were then treated to a fabulous BBQ dinner in the winter garden with a few nice cold drinks. It is great to see squash thriving again. ●

By Chris Harris

Health Club

It has been fantastic to see more members using the club's gym facility and participating in the group fitness classes. Here is an insight into the new talent at the club.

Edward James

How long have you been in the fitness industry for?

I have been in the fitness industry for over a year now.

Style of training?

My main style of training is Functional Strength and Conditioning.

What do you specialise in?

My main speciality is in Strength and Conditioning; however, I also have an interest in Athletic Development and Pre/Re-Hab Training.

What is your ethos on health and fitness?

My ethos is consistency over intensity. Showing up to the Gym consistently, even if it's not a massive effort each time, builds a solid foundation of well-being that outlasts sporadic intensity.

How will you help Kooyong members to achieve their goals?

As a dedicated Strength and Conditioning Coach at Kooyong, my primary focus is helping members realise their fitness aspirations, no matter how big or small. I tailor personalised workout plans, provide expert guidance, and offer unwavering support to ensure every individual achieves their unique goals. Whether its improving performance, losing weight or simply leading a healthier lifestyle, I'm here to help our members every step of the way.

What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time, I lead an active lifestyle, playing Local Aussie Rules Football with St Marys Salesian, indulging in some Basketball, and Strength and



▲ Edward assists his client's with their functional strength and conditioning training.

► Jana specialises in pre- and post-natal training and injury prevention.

Conditioning training to enhance my athletic performance. I also appreciate the simple joys such as going to the movies, watching sports, especially the NBA and reading. Above all, I cherish spending quality time with family and friends.

Who is your favourite team?

The Collingwood Football Club.

Jana van Bladeren

How long have you been in the fitness industry for?

I have been in the fitness industry for a year now. I have always been involved with sport teams through coaching and playing hockey.



Style of training?

My style of training incorporates balance, strength, endurance, and flexibility. All four training styles are beneficial for sport specific training, rehabilitation, or injury prevention, and to improve overall fitness.

What do you specialise in?

I specialise in pre- and post-natal training, injury prevention, sport specific training and functional training.

What is your ethos on health and fitness?

I am a hard worker, with a positive attitude and determination to help to achieve your fitness goal. Life is a rollercoaster and having the hunger to keep going is what keeps you on track to achieve your dreams.

How will you help Kooyong members to achieve their goals?

I provide encouragement, reassurance, and constructive feedback to help members gain confidence in the gym environment. I believe fostering a healthy club environment can help members achieve their fitness goals.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I play premier league and reserve hockey for Waverley hockey club, partake in park runs and hiking whenever I get a chance.

Who is your favourite team?

My favourite team will have to be the Springboks (South African rugby team). Born in South Africa,



I consider rugby is my religion. I believe that the Springboks are a beacon of hope for the people of South Africa.

Christopher Iramiyan How long have you been in the fitness industry for?

I have been in fitness for 8 years and have participated in sports for over 15 years.

Style of training?

My style of training is focused on strength development across all ages, as well as sport specific training that enables athletes to get the most out of themselves on game day.

What do you specialise in?

I specialise in body transformation and hypertrophy development. Sculpting my clients' bodies into what their goal physique is, whether that be

▲ Christopher specialises in body transformation and hypertrophy development.

losing body fat, gaining muscle tissue and size or shredding up for the summer season.

What is your ethos on health and fitness?

I believe that prioritising our Health and Fitness are the most important things to have a long and prosperous life. Along with this, having a good level of fitness and being in good shape can bring about more opportunities, order, happiness, and progression across all aspects of your life.

How will you help Kooyong members achieve their goals?

I endeavour to be able to help every Kooyong member that I have the privilege of personal training through various training techniques to suit their individual needs, as well as be in contact regularly with my clients to discuss training and dietary tips to ensure continued progress. I seek to develop trust in my clients so they can rely on me making sure they will progress throughout our training together and in turn, I can rely on them knowing they are giving 110% not only in our sessions but throughout the week too.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I don't have much free time but if I ever do I use it to train my brain through reading books about business or philosophy or playing chess.

Who is your favourite team?

Carlton Football club...
Go the baggers!!! ●

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

Wine & Food Society

In recent month, Kooyong Wine and Food Society members have continued to enjoy some of Australia's finest wines accompanied by excellent food.

Bindi Wines

We were privileged to welcome Michael Dhillon, founder and winemaker at Bindi Wines, to a bespoke dinner in the Davis Cup Room at Kooyong. Michael was the Halliday Wine Companion's inaugural Winemaker of the Year in 2022.

Bindi is undoubtedly one of the finest small wine producers in Australia. The wines sell out quickly every year and they are also exported to the UK and the USA.

Michael's winery is in Gisborne and is classified as being within the Macedon Ranges region. Michael established the winery in 1988 on what was his family's farmland.

Michael showed WFS members four pairs of wines – each pair was matched with a bespoke small course. The medium rare roasted duck breast was a great match with a the pair of 2015 and 2022 Bindi 'Dixon' Pinot Noir.

I do hope that we have the opportunity to enjoy some of Michael's fine wines at Kooyong once again in the near future.

Tellurian Wines

Sixty WFS members and friends enjoyed a range of wines from Tellurian Estate in Heathcote at a Master Class in the Stadium Room at Kooyong. Founded some 20 years ago, the wines from Tellurian Estate have quickly earned the reputation as some of Heathcote's finest. The vineyard is situated on the famous Cambrian soils is now certified organic.

A range of three whites and six reds were accompanied by a number of small food platters that made for a most enticing evening.

Tobias Ansted, winemaker at Tellurian, spoke of the care that they take with the viticulture, harvesting and winemaking.



Tellurian is another 5-star Winery in the Halliday Wine Companion.

A most impressive showing – an enjoyable and entertaining evening!

Congratulations to Allan Foster who was the lucky winner of a magnum of Tellurian Tranter Shiraz.

Bendigo and Heathcote Weekend

41 WFS members and guests enjoyed a weekend of fine food and wine in central Victoria.

Members stayed in Bendigo and began the weekend with a ride to the centre of Bendigo on the town's historic tram. Dinner at a Bendigo restaurant set the scene for a fine weekend.

Saturday saw visits to three of Heathcote's excellent wineries. Winemaker, Michael Wren at Wren Estate, showed us the benefits of his work as a Flying Winemaker in Portugal as well as Australia and he led us through a range of his excellent wines. Greg Flynn has been making wines for 25 years in Heathcote and his barrel tasting of a range of his wines showing the effects of different types of oak development was fascinating.

▲ Greg Baker (left) with Allan Foster, winner of the magnum of Tellurian Shiraz.

▼ Saturday lunch on the Bendigo and Heathcote weekend was hosted at the Vinea Marson Winery (their 2021 Prosecco Col Fondo pictured).



Wine Tasting and AGM

2024 will kick off with our Annual General Meeting and Wine Tasting on Monday, 5th February. I expect that we will once again be able to present a range of interesting wines from a local producer accompanied by some small food dishes for our enjoyment.

Mario Marson hosted lunch at Vinea Marson Winery. Mario was for many years winemaker at the famed Mount Mary Winery before starting his own winery. He also worked at highly regarded wineries in both France and Italy. He demonstrated his passion for all things Italian with his excellent wines and a compelling range of charcuterie.

The weekend concluded with an excellent dinner at the iconic Balgownie Estate Winery in Bendigo. Founded over 50 years ago by Stuart Anderson, one of the wine industry legends, the company has now expanded to include a Yarra Valley operation. The food and their wines were a delight to savour.

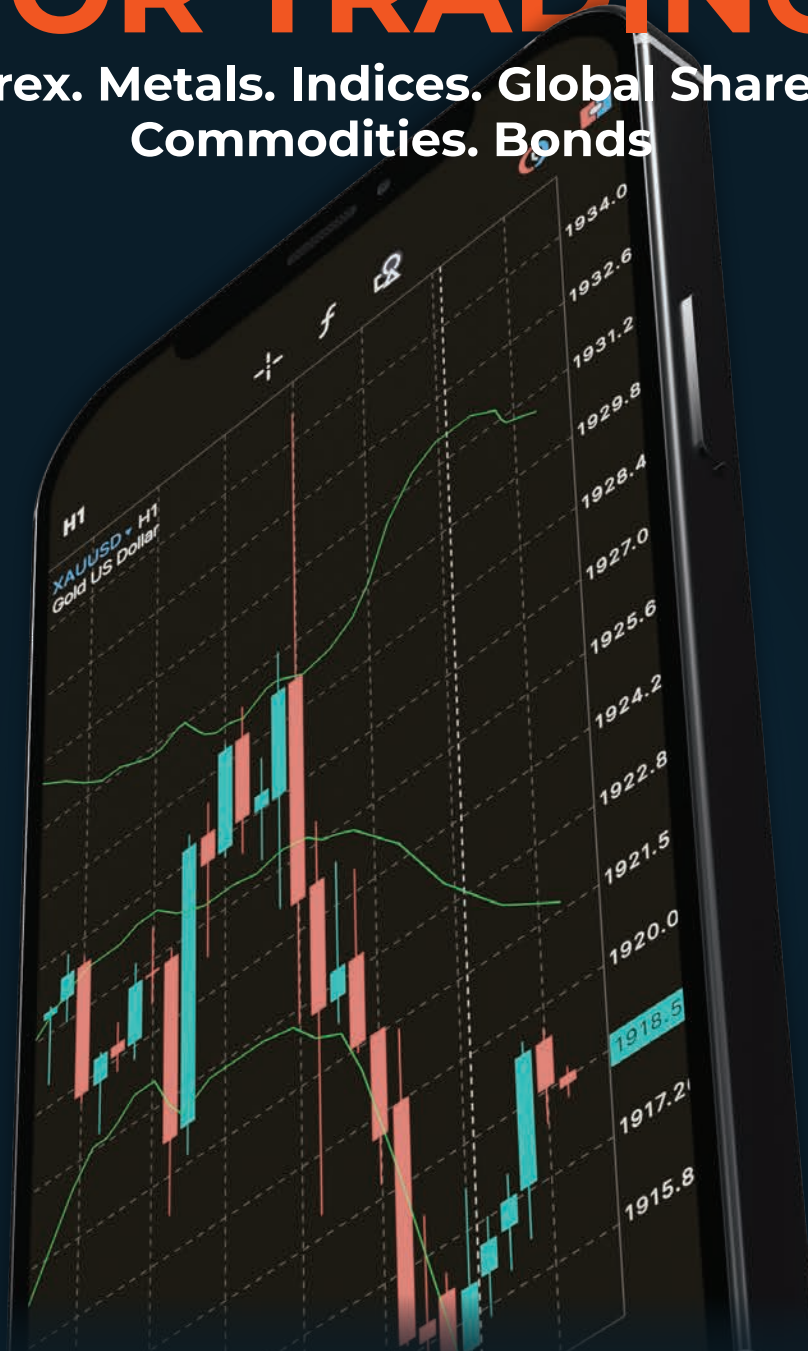
Thank you to Leanne Parer and her hard working subcommittee who organized this outstanding weekend. Thank you also to the local winemakers who ensured that it was a fascinating and enjoyable weekend. Bring on 2024!

By Greg Baker,
President Kooyong Wine & Food Society



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Social Committee

A warm welcome from the Social Committee.

The second half of the year has seen the social committee host two key marquee sell out events.

Trivia night

The Trivia night in August saw a fun filled evening full of tricky trivia hosted by Scott Kennedy's trivia team. The night also featured numerous auction items with signed Ash Barty tennis and football paraphernalia, particularly popular amongst members and their guests.

Spring Speakers Series Ladies Luncheon

The Spring Speakers signature ladies luncheon followed in early October and was such a special afternoon enjoyed by all. The luncheon featured the inspirational Jelena Dokic, former professional Australian Tennis Player who spoke from the heart about her experiences throughout her tennis career, the abuse she suffered from early childhood and importantly her inspiring story of survival – she warmed all of our hearts and we are grateful for her honesty and positivity.

We also pass on our heartfelt thanks to the amazing efforts of the KLTC event & catering staff who provided exceptional services on the day.

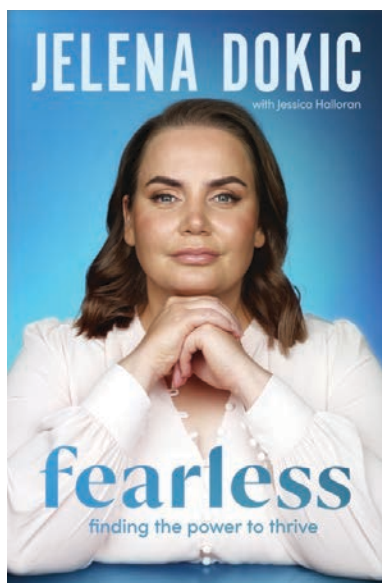
Coming Events

The Annual Christmas Ball is set for Saturday 9th December featuring the high-energy Baker Boys band.

We hope you can come along and dance the night away.

On behalf of the Social Committee, we thank for joining us in a fun filled year of social events and wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year. ●

by **Amanda Thomas,**
President KLTC Social Committee



▲ The Social Club organising committee, from left: Kate Wheeler, Amanda Thomas, Jelena Dokic, Larissa Langley and Liz Jones.

► Social Committee President, Amanda Thomas, with Jelena.

◀ Jelena's book, 'Fearless: Finding the Power to Thrive', published in September this year, is receiving great reviews.

▼ Tables dressed and ready for the Ladies Luncheon.

► The inspirational Jelena in the Kooyong Room.



Young Members

The year 2023 has served up an ace for the Kooyong Young Members, and 2024 is poised to be a grand slam!



◀ Young members pose for a "Night at the Oscars" themed photo – glitz and glamour on show.

From left: Sarah Macky, Orla Kilpatrick, Vivienne Johnston, Francesca Johnston, Huw Gatford.



Since our last Courtside update, our talented committee has been smashing it with monthly social tennis rallies, netting pot and parma evenings, rallying for the second Day on the Clay social tennis tournament, and bringing back the YarraYong event, this time served up in Kooyong's swanky new Stadium Room.

A huge shoutout to **Harry Stobie** and **Tom Cameron** for their unparalleled event management skills and their social media game, which aced the YarraYong event, making it a smashing success!

As we gear up for 2024, our young members can anticipate a volley of new and thrilling events to join the classics. While the specifics of these fresh events are currently under wraps, be sure to mark the following important dates on your tennis calendar. ●



▲ Lights, camera, action! Chloe Sibbel and Tom Cameron enjoying the night's festivities.

◀ Singer and MC for the night, Morgan Lobe, crooning the crowd with some old world classics.

UPCOMING 2024 EVENTS

1st Thursday of each month	Tennis, Pot and Parma night
28th January 2024	Men's Australian Open Final
16th March 2024	Day on the Clay #1
18th May 2024	"Leung" Lunch
5th October 2024	Day on the Clay #2
26th October 2024	YarraYong



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



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