

Bernard Lawrence Raftery
12 November 1935 – 10 September 2013

One of our early members, Bernie Raftery died on 10 September 2013, aged 77. He was farewelled by family and friends on Tuesday 17 September at St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Wanniasa.

Our records show Bernie as first becoming a member of Canberra Tennis Veterans (now Tennis Seniors ACT - TSACT) in 1983. He won or was runner-up in a number of Veteran Resident doubles titles pairing with Mike Hussey, Peter Purdy and Ron Honeyman. He also played in a number of ACT teams in the Australian Teams Carnival when it was held in Canberra. The last time was a 55+ team in 1995.

Tennis played a large part in Bernie's life. He was an active player in the ACT tennis community and well known coach until he and his wife, Moyna, moved down the South Coast. They came back to Canberra about 6 years ago. There were a number of his former students and fellow tennis players at his funeral.

Bernie and Moyna had five children – Lee, Michael, Shane, Narelle and Chris. He encouraged the children to play tennis at an early age. Lee spoke of the family going to numerous country tennis tournaments as was the trend in those days.

Lee continues to play tennis at the Pines with her husband Brian. We often see them around the Seniors' events, either playing or dancing and singing, generally at Easter and Christmas. The Raftery family certainly know how to enjoy themselves.

Narelle is a current member of TSACT representing both the ACT at the Australian Seniors Titles as well as Australia at the World Seniors Titles. She has won a number of Australian titles as well as reaching semi-finals at the World Titles. She had given the game away for a while but with Bernie's mentoring and support Narelle has again reached the high levels of which she is capable. It was only last year that Bernie and Moyna were at our Easter Tournament providing support.

The boys in the family all started to play tennis. Chris and Michael reached high levels before going on to do other things. Sadly, Michael passed away four years ago. Shane lost interest in tennis at an early age.

The family remember Bernie as a loving husband (married 57 years to Moyna) and a loving father who was a good mentor and was always there for the family.

“Celebrate the life you're living every single minute. Give yourself to each new day, and take the joy that's in it.”