PREFACE

VETSET is the newsletter of Tennis Seniors ACT Incorporated. However the views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the committee.

Membership fees for 2016/17 were due on 1 July - only $20. A membership form can be found on the website.

The 2015/16 Committee comprises:

President
Pat Moloney (6262 3727)

Vice President
Graham Smith (6161 5352)

Secretary
Gail Jones (6254 4240)

Treasurer
Peter Breugelmans (6258 4261)

Asst Secretary
Kerry Scarlett (6291 5233)

Committee
John Greenup (6254 5263)
Colin Lyons (0434 531 449)
Barbara McCluskey (6241 4402)
Warren Muller (6231 0825)

Website: www.tennisseniors.org.au/act

Inside
President’s Report 2
Vetset Over the Years 2
Christmas Dinner 2
Membership Fees Due 2
Welcome to New Members 2
From Helsinki 2
Adelaide 2017 (SA17) 3
2016/17 World Titles 4
From the Vetset Archives 5
The Land of the White Nights 6
U&Co Cafe 6
Bunnamagoo Estate Wines 6
Helsinki 2016 7
World Titles and River Cruise 8
Bill Sweeting 9
Sunday Round Robin Tournaments 10
Twilight Pennant 10
Senior Tennis Tournaments 10,11,12
2016/17 ACT Calendar 12
Country/Interstate Calendar 12

Gold, Gold, Gold

Some of you may remember Norman May, the Australian radio and television sports broadcaster and his calling of “GOLD, GOLD for Australia, GOLD” during the men’s 4x100 medley relay final in the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. Gold has generally by passed the Australian competitors in Rio. But this could not be said about the Australian seniors competing in the 2016 ITF Senior World Teams and Individual Championships held in Helsinki, Finland from 19 June to 2 July.

Our teams won two cups. The Maureen Connelly Cup team of Ros Balodis (as captain), Wanda Howes, Leanne Swaysland and Fiona Walker went one better than last year finishing with the gold medal. The Von Cramm Cup team (M60) of Glen Busby, Steve Packham, Stephen Dance and John Henning retained the Cup for Australia by winning the gold medal.

In the Individual Championships Australian players won 6 gold medals. Ros Balodis picked up another two gold medals winning the 55 singles and the 55 doubles with Leanne Swaysland (NSW). Glenn Busby (Vic) won the 60 singles and Brenda Foster (NSW) and Jill Meggs (Vic) won the 50 doubles.

For a more detailed report see page 4, and for articles from Narelle, Ros and Dale Brooker, see pages 6-9.

Annual General Meeting

The Tennis Seniors AGM will be held on Wednesday 7 September at 6.00pm, at the Pavilion, Canberra Tennis Centre, Lyneham. Entry is through the Next Generation building. Come along to meet the committee and pass on any ideas.

Remember we are looking for a new President and Secretary. Talk to Pat or Gail. They believe new blood and thinking is required.

Notice of the meeting along with nomination forms for positions were sent to all members in August. A copy can also be found on our website.

Closing date for December Vetset
Monday 14 November 2016
jgreenup@bigpond.net.au
President Pat apologises for the lack of a report for this Vetset. He is just back from his holiday of Ireland and the Netherlands but is still jet lagged. His annual report will be available at the AGM. He hopes to see you all there.

Vetset Over the Years

The first Vetset was printed in 1977. It was 4 pages (B5 size) with a cover page, two pages of typed articles.

The articles covered proposed social meetings, the Easter Tournament, Overseas Visitors, Canberra Life and the Brisbane Carnival and Championships.

Quoting from ‘A Word From the Editor’ Jerry Attrick, ‘This is the first issue of ‘Canberra Vetset’, a news sheet specially designed to fit the needs of Canberra’s veteran tennis players.”

Everyone’s heard of the Jet Set - now we give the Vet Set. We may be a little older, but we’re no less mobile and a whole lot fitter!”

“The reason for launching ‘Vetset’ is to bring ACT veterans a little closer together, both in tennis and socially, by keeping them properly informed about what is going on and what activities there are that they can join in.”

“We hope to make ‘Vetset’ a regular publication. Your contributions will always be welcome as will your (mild) criticism. Naturally, we love bouquets.”

The Vetset quickly grew in size with 14 pages in the March 1978 edition and became a quarterly newsletter with four editions in that year.

In the May 1978 edition under the heading ‘Vetset by Jet Post” it was felt some move should be made to identify all the people in the ACT interested in veterans tennis. It was felt one way of doing this was to secure a list of people through Vetset. If people wanted the Vetset posted to them they could put their name on a list. The privilege would cost $3.00 a year to defray the postage costs. And now nearly 40 years later its only $5.00.

In the May 1979 edition it was announced a membership list would be opened to obviate the situation that at present there exists a veterans’ organisation but no membership. The annual subscription fee was set at $5.00 which included a copy of Vetset being posted to each member.

Vetset continued to cover various tournaments, overseas tennis tours, social events and awards. There were articles covering the early days of tennis in the ACT raising issues that are still current. There were also some contributions that could test ‘political correctness’ in current times.

The editor will repeat some of these articles in ‘From the Vetset Archives - see page 5.

From Helsinki

Comment from a spectator at the World Titles when asked why they weren’t watching their spouse playing. “I don’t need to watch. I can see my spouse play anytime in Canberra.”

Membership fees due

A friendly reminder that your membership fees for TSACT for 2016/17 were due on 1 July.

Still only $20.

A membership form can be found on our website.

Christmas Dinner

7.00 for 7.30pm
Saturday
10 December
YOWANI COUNTRY CLUB
455 Northbourne Ave, Lyneham
Pre-dinner drinks will be available from 7.00pm
Lucky door prizes
Come and Celebrate
$45 per person
Presentation of the Frank Thornton Player of the Year and George Henshilwood Award
Get your tables together (8 per table)
Contact Graham Smith
ph 61615352
or email bgsmith@grapevine.net.au
Names and any dietary requests to Graham by Wednesday 30 November

Tennis Seniors ACT welcomes the following new members:
Karen Jameson
Gina Brown
Nomination forms for ACT teams have been sent to all members. A copy of the form can be found on our website at [www.tennisseniors.org.au/act](http://www.tennisseniors.org.au/act) if you have misplaced your form or didn’t receive one. Nominations for the ACT teams close on Tuesday 27 September. Enquiries to Gail Jones (6254 4240).

All players are required to have an ACT Seniors uniform. If you don’t have the uniform you need to contact Peter Breugelmans (6258 4261) urgently.

A new and dedicated website now gives you all the information and updates you need. It gives you the opportunity to direct queries to them, and also provides updated information on Adelaide, accommodation and playing locations. Further news items will be added. Take time to have a look! Their site is [http://www.tsac2017.org.au/](http://www.tsac2017.org.au/).

In the teams week there are likely to be five venues used:

The headquarters of Tennis Seniors SA are located on the north eastern corner of Greenhill Road and King William Road. Entrance is gained from Greenhill Road.

The courts are positioned within the southern Adelaide City parklands and are surrounded by attractive eucalypts and grassland. The complex is situated close to the City of Adelaide, about 0.5 km from South Terrace.

The complex includes 18 carpeted tennis courts with club rooms on the southern side of the headquarters. Tennis Seniors SA shares availability of these grounds with Pulteney Grammar School and the Adelaide Hockey Club.

The other centres earmarked all have lawn tennis courts. These centres are Woodville Lawn Tennis Club (10 lawn courts), Kensington Gardens Lawn Tennis Club (15 lawn courts), Reade Park Lawn Tennis Club (15 lawn courts) and Tranmere Lawn Tennis Club (7 lawn courts).

The 2018 Championships will be on the Gold Coast.
The Seniors World Championships were held in Helsinki, Finland from 19 June to 2 July.

Canberra had 2 players in the teams events, Ros Balodis and Narelle Raffery. Ros captained the Maureen Connelly Cup team (W55) and Narelle was selected as no 2 in the Maria Esther Bueno (W50).

The Maureen Connelly Cup team of Ros (as captain), Wanda Howes, Leanne Swaysland and Fiona Walker went one better than last year finishing with the gold medal. Having been seeded number 3 this year after finishing the group round robin undefeated, the team met the strong USA team in the semi final and produced a resounding victory with Ros Balodis winning her singles hand- somely and combining with Leanne Swaysland to win the doubles in straight sets. This was a repeat of last year's semi final.

Italy surprised France to reach the final. Leanne got away to a brilliant and de- termined start and won the first rubber. Ros won the second rubber in straight sets and so won the final. Leanne and Ros were well supported by Wanda Howes and Fiona Walker who played the early matches and gave help in preparing all players for the competition.

The W50 team of Narelle, Brenda Foster, Jill Meggs and Di Cassel lost one match in their group round robin and thus were assigned to the second group which played for positions 7-12. Tom Hancy reports the ladies performed admirably in this section of the competition and defeated Sweden 3-0 to take position 7 out of a total of 20 teams.

The Von Cramm Cup team (M60) of Glen Busby, Steve Packham, Stephen Dance and John Henning retained the Cup for Australia by winning the gold medal. The team went through the early rounds undefeated with Glen Busby and Stephen Packham playing the singles and John Henning and Stephen Dance combining in the doubles. It met Great Britain in the semi final and had a regulation win.

Drawn against the number 1 seed USA in the final, the Aussies came out blazing with Steve winning the opening singles in straight sets. Glenn was then locked in a tense struggle with Dan Waldman, a past ITF Seniors World Champion on several occasions, and lost the first set 2-6. He reversed the score in the second set and both Dan and Glenn went head to head in a tense third set. Down a break on two occasions, Glenn fought back to take the match 7-4 in a third set tie break and thus give Australia an unassailable hold on the Von Cramm Cup.

The mens Fred Perry Cup team (M50) finished 16th out of 20 teams and the Austria Cup team (M55) finished 7th out of 22 teams. Again excellent efforts.

Overall, Australia and France won two cups and Italy and USA won one each.

In the Individual Championships held from 25 June to 12 July Australian players won 6 gold medals and 3 silver medals. Ros Balodis won the 55 womens singles and the 55 womens doubles with Leanne Swaysland (NSW); Glenn Busby (Vic) won the 60 mens singles; and Brenda Foster (NSW) and Jill Meggs (Vic) won the 50 womens doubles.

Leanne was runner up to Ros in the 55 womens singles and Stephen Packham (Vic) and Stephen Myers (WA) were runners up in the 60 mens doubles.

Taking a comment from an article by Jeff Kavanagh on the ITF Seniors website on the 55 womens singles final, “My legs were hurting,” said Swaysland, who had won the doubles with Balodis and also played the mixed doubles through to the semi fi- nals. “But Ros was too good on the day. She’s a very tough competitor. She’s tight on both sides and plays the tight points really well, she’s tough all round.”

Australian players were also successful in the consolation events. Mike Veverka (Qld) won the 50 mens singles defeating Martin Warwick (Vic) in the final. Di Cassel (NSW) won the 50 womens singles. Fiona Walker (Vic) defeated Wendy Harrison (Vic) in the final of the 55 womens singles.

A number of Australian players reached semi finals in their events - Mike Ford (Qld) in the 55 mens singles; Malcolm Pearson (Vic) and Greg Westwood (NSW) in the 50 mens doubles; John Burness (Qld) and Stephen Dance (Tas) in the 60 mens doubles; Wendy Harrison (Vic), Leanne Scott (Vic) and Wanda Howes (Vic) in the 55 womens doubles; Rosemary Davis (Vic) and Sue Ellis (NSW) in the 60 womens doubles; Brenda Foster (NSW) in the 50 mixed doubles; and Leanne Swaysland (NSW) in the 55 mixed doubles.

Apart from Ros, Canberra had two other representatives. Narelle Raffery reached the quarter finals in her three events, the 55 womens singles, the 50 womens doubles with Shelly Works from the USA and 50 mixed doubles with Martin Warwick from Victoria. Dale Brooker entered for the experience losing second round in the 60 mens singles. Turn to pages 6-9 for Narelle’s, Ros’ and Dale’s perspectives.

Super Senior World Titles Moved

Following the events in Istanbul on 28 June, the ITF took the decision to change the venue for the 2016 ITF Super-Seniors World Team and Individual Championships from Turkey to Umag in Croatia.

The Croatian Tennis Federation, in partnership with the Croatian Seniors Tennis Association, has kindly agreed to act as host for the 65+ age groups.

The teams events will now take place from 12-17 September and the individual events from 18-25 September. The change in dates from October were neces- sary due to the availability of hotels in Umag.

There are no Canberra and district members in the Australian teams

2017 World Titles

Young Seniors - Cape Town, South Africa from 19 March - 1 April 2017

Seniors - venue and dates will be an- nounced shortly

From the Vetset Archives

As We Were

This article is taken from the November 1982 edition of Vetset.

The age of computers and other forms of high technology leads us to assume that we are now handling things more efficiently than our parents and grandparents did, but is this necessarily true?

Veteran tennis players and ACT tennis officials generally would be interested to read the publication “Official Handbook and Pennant Fixtures” of the Federal Capital Territory Lawn Tennis Association for the year 1934, a copy of which has recently come to light.

One of the Association’s early (1930) Vice President A W (Gus) Paul, who later became the Permanent Head of a Commonwealth Department, was wont to tell his younger officers when they were thirsting for change, “first find out why the people who made the current arrangements so ordered things because they were not fools”. How wise he was and how much do we current players owe to those who shouldered the task of giving form to organised tennis in the ACT.

48 years ago, the FCTLTA produced its official handbook, excellently printed by the Federal Capital Press as an 84 page booklet! Canberra tennis players were provided with all the information they could possibly need to ensure the season 1934 would run without a hitch.

The foreword written by the Honorary Secretary L (Les) Marriott expresses the hope that this (1934) annual publication will be enlarged and improved as the years roll by. The years certainly have “rolled by” but let us go back to 1934 and learn about tennis in the ACT.

By 1934 there were nearly 1000 registered tennis players in the FCT and the pennant competition attracted 73 teams. The association and affiliated clubs had 60 courts.

There are some who complain about today’s cost of hiring courts at Lyneham and it is revealing to find that in 1934, and bear in mind the depression of the early thirties, the cost of hiring an association court at Manuka was 5/- (50 cents) for a half day.

Advertisements in old journals make fascinating reading. Wine buffs might drool at an advertisement by the Hotel Ainslie which offers “a wonderful line of dry wines at 2/6 (25c) a bottle”. There is also an ad by C Williams, Malvern Star Cycle Store. Page 11 carries an ad for “Canberra’s leading Restaurant” the Blue Moon cafe and offers meals at all hours.

It will stir memories for many veterans to recall the brands of tennis balls used in the thirties: Dunlop Perdrian, Barnett Glass, Spaldings Latexeam and Wright-Ditson.

What a wonderful sport we have with a fascinating heritage even in newly created Canberra.

Tennis Commandments

These Commandments appeared in the February 1981 edition of Vetset. Charles Kral had seen them displayed at the International Tennis Centre, Wollongong and provided the editor of Vetset with a copy.

1. Thou shalt not run around Thy backhand.
2. Thou shalt not poach.
3. Thou shalt not double fault at the point when all eyes are upon Thee.
4. Thou shalt furnish a new can of balls from time to time.
5. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain when thou hast caused Thy racquet to come in direct contact with Thy shin.
6. Thou shalt not bear false witness to Thy partner’s line calls.
7. Thou shalt not discuss Thy tennis elbow with thine opponent prior to Thy match.
8. Thou shalt not allow Thy racquet to become airborne when Thou hast caused an easy overhead to be directed into the net.
9. Thou shalt not covet Thy neighbour’s steel racquet, nor his warm-up suit, nor his backhand smash.
10. Thou shalt bear in mind that tennis is only a game, and when Thine reflexes have diminished, and Thine bones begin to creak and Thy eyesight begins to fail…Thou canst always take up…golf.

Membership Subscriptions

Also from the November 1982 Vetset, a familiar message.

Our financial year commences on 1st October (don’t confuse this date with our current financial year which begins on 1 July - see the notice on page 2). The annual Club membership subscription is $8. Members please note renewal of subscription is now OVER-DUE. Payment may be made direct to the Secretary or Treasurer or alternatively to any member of the Committee who will pass it on to the Secretary.

Editor’s note. In 1982 Tennis Seniors ACT was known as the Veterans’ Lawn Tennis Club of Australia (ACT Division), a branch of the ACT Tennis Association. Hence the reference to Club membership.
Well at least I was among the Gold in Helsinki, I tried hard to hang around the 55 women’s and 60 men’s team as often as possible. I even had my photo taken with Glenn Busby with his gold medal round his neck!

So, now onto our efforts over there. Our team was seeded 6 and we managed to get Germany and Estonia with us. Unfortunately we struck the Germans first match. Playing indoor hard-court takes a little getting used to. Not so much the surface but having a roof instead of sky and solid colour curtains all-round the court. Feels a little closed in and not much chop for chasing too much or lobbing, without a lot of practice. However, there seemed to be a lot of people who could lob very well and a lot.

Narelle was in a team with Brenda Foster, Julie Meggs and Di Cassell. I lost in 3 sets in my first match. I seem to have got back to my younger days of going on walkabout, but time has caught up and the magical win in three is becoming more elusive. Brenda then lost the next singles so we were down 2-0. We decided to play for a confidence boosting 2-1 loss by putting a strong doubles partnership in. It worked and we lost 2-1.

However, only a miracle win by Estonia over Germany would keep us in contention for a medal place. That was not to be.

U&Co Café is situated in Unit 7 Gwydr Square, Kaleen. This is the shopping centre near the Service Station in Maribyrnong Street.

It is open for breakfast, lunch and morning and afternoon coffee. You can either sit in or take away. As the card above shows, U&Co offers a welcoming warm ambience to complement an excellent breakfast and lunch menu as well as lively events and functions throughout the year.

U&Co Café can also cater for your function. For further information see the website www.uandcocafe.com.au.

U&Co Café have supported TSACT since January 2015 so if you get the opportunity check out the Café. I can assure you that you won’t be disappointed.

Our Vice President, Graham Smith came across Bunnamagoo Estate Wines at the Forbes Teams Tournament. A representative was offering a taste as well as sales. They offer a full range of red, white and sparkling wines.

Graham has had further contact with the representative and they look as if they will donate some bottles of wine for prizes at the Christmas Dinner as well as set up wine tasting at the Easter Tournament.

Although the cellar door is near Mudgee you can order online at www.bunnamagoowines.com.au.

We then played Estonia and had a convincing win. This left us to fight for the next best placing of 7th. We went through the next few matches without a loss and played Sweden for the 7th-8th position. We won 2-1.

So we had a pretty good week overall. It was just a shame we didn’t know the Germans and we got them in the first match. If we had a match under our belt the result may well have been different.

Moving into the 2nd week of the individuals, I ‘confidently’ entered the singles, doubles (partnering Shelly Works from the USA) and the mixed (partnering my best mate, Martin Warwick). I managed to get to the quarter finals of all 3 events.

Once you manage to get through the first couple of rounds, then it gets tough. By no means were we (I) disgraced, particularly, my singles and mixed quarter finals could easily have gone my (our) way. A few points made the difference.

I am always very proud and honoured to represent my country in the sport I love. Without it, I don’t think I would have survived nor managed to find the real meaning of life (thank you Martin)!

Onwards and upwards, I will continue to strive to play better, harder and stronger. I will get that gold at the end of the rainbow.

Congratulations to all the Aussie players and particularly those who were among the medal tally. I think we all did Australia proud.

Thanks to all those who continue to support me. I appreciate it very much.
We had very convenient connections/flights on our way from Canberra to Helsinki, so we arrived on Tuesday 14 June in a record low time of less than 28 hours travel. Our home for the next 3 weeks was the Original Sokos Hotel Presidentti, which was the only official hotel for the ITF World Seniors. It was in a great location only a short walk to supermarkets, restaurants, buses and trams.

We had a day of lovely weather on Wednesday and we walked around central Helsinki seeing the Esplanade, the Uspenski Cathedral, the Helsinki Cathedral, the food and flea markets, and the ferry and cruise boat terminals.

Our Australian team for the Maureen Connolly Cup (Women’s 55) was the same as last year: Ros Balodis, Wanda Howes, Fiona Walker and Leanne Swaysland. Our team’s Cup was hosted by the Esport Centre, in the suburb of Espoo. All the other events were played at the Talin Tennis Centre. This was the first year that the ITF had held the World Seniors at indoor venues. Spectators had a very different view from usual as they had to watch matches from walkways above the courts.

**Esport Centre**

The rain started on Thursday afternoon. It rained often on Friday and then most of the day on Saturday. When matches started on Sunday, it was still raining. It rained, on average, about every second day during our trip. The indoor venue meant that the playing schedule was not disrupted by the weather and the tournament ran very smoothly. The Finnish volunteers did a great job and we really appreciated that they had given up their customary midsummer holidays to work at the tennis tournament.

An advantage of playing at Esport was that our ITF bus left at 8.30am, so we had time to relax over breakfast. The players going to Talin had to leave at 7.15am for first practice or 8.00am for second practice. We settled in to the conditions at Esport quickly and in the round robin stage beat Finland 3-0, Ireland 3-0, then South Africa 3-0, to reach the semi-final against the USA.

It was a strange trip on the ITF bus to the courts for our semi. The bus driver assured us that he knew the way, but after 20 minutes we appeared to be totally lost. The Netherlands team saved the day by getting their computer to operate as a GPS and it successfully navigated our driver to the courts.

This was the fourth year in a row that we met the USA in the semi of the Maureen Connolly Cup. We won 2-1. Ros won the No 1 singles and then combined with Leanne Swaysland to win the doubles against the USA doubles specialist pair Cynthia Johnson and Vicki Buholz.

In the other semi, Italy beat France, our conquerors from last year. For each of the four Italian players this was their first year in the 55 age group.

In the final on Thursday, Leanne Swaysland played the number 2 singles and won a tense 3 set match against Francesca Ciardi. Leanne ran down lots of Francesca’s good shots and hit some great winners on big points. Ros had just enough energy to get over the line in her singles against Simonetta Bozzano, so Australia won the Maureen Connolly Cup.

Our medal presentation was held at the Talin courts on Friday after the finals for the other events were completed. Our Australian Men’s 60s team won their final, so we had a double celebration.

The Individuals competition started on Saturday 25 June. The Individuals were played at the Talin Tennis Centre. The Centre had 2 buildings with a total of 22 hardcourts. The bus service between the hotel and the courts was excellent, leaving the hotel on the half hour and returning on the hour from the courts.

**Talin Tennis Centre**

Ros played her first match on Monday and surprise, surprise, it was raining again.

In summary, Ros and Leanne defended their Women’s 55 doubles title, winning the final against Susan Wright and Vicki Buholz (USA No 2 and No 3 respectively) 7-5 6-2. The next day, Ros won the singles final over a weary Leanne.

Leanne did extremely well to reach the singles final by beating Susan Wright in three sets 6-7, 6-2, 6-4, coming from 1-4 down in the third. Leanne had never beaten Susan before and had just lost to Susan in two sets (4-6, 3-6) in the teams week. Ros had very hard matches against Vicki Buholz (7-5, 6-4) and in her semi against former World Champion Ingrid Resch (6-3, 6-4).

Juris and Ros had half a day for tourism after the tennis and we visited the Natural History Museum. It had taunted us every day since our arrival because it was opposite our hotel room’s window; but a combination of the midsummer public holidays, long matches, medal ceremonies and an inclination to spend any good weather outside had prevented an earlier visit. The Museum was wonderful. Of course it rained most of the day.

**Natural History Museum**

Many thanks to Tennis Seniors ACT and all the members for your encouragement and support.
After months of planning and eager waiting, we left chilly Kambah at around 6.00am on Thursday 23 June 2016 to commence our bus journey to Sydney then flights from Sydney to Amsterdam (via Hong Kong) and from Amsterdam to Helskinki in Finland. We were late leaving Hong Kong due to congestion in Chinese airspace – something we subsequently found out from other travellers was a common occurrence.

Our delay in Hong Kong meant that we missed our connecting flight from Amsterdam to Helsinki on the Friday morning and had to catch a later one that afternoon. We arrived at our hotel in Helskinki at 6.30pm their time, which meant that we had been travelling for some 41 hours. We were very weary travellers by that time.

The first thing we noticed about Helsinki was how green and lush everything was. The second thing we noticed was how few people there were in the streets for a city of a population of 1.4 million.

After we checked in to our hotel and headed out for dinner, we ran into, of all people, Narelle Raftery. She told us that it was the summer solstice public holiday, hence the lack of people and that we would be lucky to find a restaurant open.

She was right. The place was almost deserted, but we managed to find one (by that time we were very hungry). Saturday was almost the same but it started rocking by Sunday to the point that by the end of the week, it seemed that the whole city was eating out at restaurants – a total transformation.

Dale was drawn to play a chap from Denmark in the first round at 10.00am on the Saturday but after getting dressed and ready and keen for play found out that he had received a walk-over (a win, yeah).

He drew the 10th seed (a lovely chap from Peru who was also there with his better half) in the second round, which was played on the Sunday. He didn’t ‘trouble the scorers’ but threatened to win a game or two.

Dale said he felt so important, with each player given an A3 sized poster with their name and the country they were from to display at the court for their matches and the court supervisor bringing the balls and doing the toss.

The tennis was played at the Helsinki indoor tennis centre which has 22 hard courts. There were walkways above the sides and ends of the courts for spectator viewing. The courts were relatively slow in pace, similar to the Lyneham indoor courts.

We found the organisation of the tournament to be exceptionally good, with complementary transport to and from the venue provided hourly from our hotel. Everyone from the organisers, to the bus drivers and the hotel staff were really hospitable - kiitos parljon (thank you much in Finnish).

On the Monday, Kerrie had booked in for a Finnish food tour (interestingly it was organised by an ex-patriate Australian). Dale headed out the courts to watch a bit of tennis and he also had a doubles match scheduled for 4.30pm that day.

Kerrie arrived at the tennis centre mid afternoon with a big smile on her face and said that she enjoyed the experience very much.

Unfortunately, Dale’s doubles partner misread the draw and failed to turn up for the match and they had to forfeit. Dale was not a happy camper, having travelled all that way and then not get a doubles match. They were due to play a British pair (who would have beaten them anyway). They were nice chaps and felt for him.

Dale entered to play in the consolation event (rather than take the points from walkover win) and because he had drawn a bye in the first round, did not play that until the Wednesday.

This left Tuesday free and we decided take the ferry from Helsinki to Tallinn (Estonia) and return for the day. It was a two hour ferry ride and an eye opener. On each leg, there must have been more than 100 trucks of various sizes and many more cars along with about 800 passengers.

That night was the official tennis dinner with Finnish fare the theme for the food. Pickled herring and reindeer were nice to try (once). The band played some nice dance music but it felt odd to be dancing in the daylight (in Helsinki, it never really gets completely dark in June and July).

In the consolation event on Wednesday, Dale played a Mexican chap, who had been in Helsinki for the teams event. He fared a bit better this time but consistency and fitness were his let down. Three matches – three losses – just usual for Dale but nonetheless he had fun (apart from the doubles mishap of course).

With all the free time we had, we did a fair bit of sightseeing. Helsinki is a lovely old place and the people were so friendly.

After Dale was out of the tennis on the Wednesday, we decided that as we were so close, we would catch a train to the Arctic Circle (about 900kms) to visit the Santa Claus Village and see the midnight sun.

The train ran on 5ft (1524mm) gauge tracks – the Russian gauge (Finland was Duchy of Russia in the 19th Century). It was a long (8 hours), but nice trip through country side Finland. It has a surprisingly flat topography. The train fair scooted along, reaching speeds of up to 200km/h at times.

Here is a picture of Dale and Kerrie with Santa at the Arctic Circle. (cont next page)
The World Titles and River Cruise (cont)

Dale stayed up to watch the midnight sun and took a picture of it.

If you look closely, you may see a fisherman in the foreground.

Actually, it wasn’t quite midnight – it was 11.59 but Dale had to leave because his phone was running out of batteries and he was being carried away by mozzies – yes, mosquitoes in the Arctic Circle. They must be tough blighters. The big mozzie at Hexham, NSW (for those who have seen it) has nothing on the Finnish ones.

We arrived back in Helsinki on the Friday and bade farewell to Finland on Saturday 2 July to commence the next part of our holiday – an eight night cruise on the Rhine River from Amsterdam to Basel.

Amsterdam – well what can you say about it besides that is two metres below sea level and full of canals and lovely old buildings. We cautiously (having heard lots about Amsterdam from friends who had been there) ventured out the first night.

We were there to have dinner and have a look around. My, there were lots of ‘coffee shops’ with interesting odours emanating from them. We stumbled across the red light district and now know why it is called that. It was only early in the night so there were not that many ‘models’ on display.

Our cruise from Amsterdam to Basel was delightful, stopping for excellently guided tours at many old and beautiful cities along the way, including Cologne (and yes, we bought some souvenir bottles of 4711 Eau de Cologne – many of our seniors members will remember that perfume), Koblenz (at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle Rivers), Rudesheim (Seigfried’s Mechanical Musical Museum), Mainz (Gutenberg printing museum), Heidelberg (medieval fortress/castle ruins but has a 350,000 litre wine barrel inside), Strasbourg (lovely old cathedral with astronomical clock), Breisach (from where we had a coach tour to the Black Forest and Kerrie bought her much wanted cuckoo clock).

The architecture and engineering works of these cities is amazing. To see such old (many, many centuries) and beautiful buildings really does put your place on this good earth into perspective. It’s even more spine tingling that many of these cities and infrastructure where destroyed in the Second World War but have been mainly restored to their former glory.

The architecture and engineering works of these cities is amazing. To see such old and beautiful buildings really does put your place on this good earth into perspective. It’s even more spine tingling that many of these cities and infrastructure where destroyed in the Second World War but have been mainly restored to their former glory.

The Rhine River in itself is a marvel. It was like a busy highway with freight ships passing us by frequently. It is navigable for over 870km and averages 400 metres in width.

The hospitality on board the ship was fantastic with buffet breakfasts, buffet lunches and four course dinners each day. We met some lovely people on the ship, including a spritely couple of 80 years young from England, who put us to shame on the dance floor.

We and many of the other couples we met whiled away most evenings listening and dancing to on board musician Gerry (from Bulgaria). He played some lovely music and was very accommodating with requests. The Aussies on board (about a dozen of us) asked him to play ‘Living next door to Alice’ and he knew it (even the Aussie version).

If anyone is thinking of doing a European river cruise, we would certainly recommend it.

The end of our cruise found us on a coach from Basel to Zurich. It was the hottest day we had in Europe at 31 degrees but we managed some sightseeing although very tired by this time. A highlight (for Dale at least) was a ride on the cogwheel train.

We farewelled Zurich for our return trip on Monday 11 July and arrived in Canberra to almost snow on the following Wednesday.

All in all, a great and memorable trip.

---

Round Robin Tournament

9.15am Sunday 11 September

Venue to be advised

Entry fee is $10.00

Entries to Colin Lyons on 0434 531 449 or seejaylyons@gmail.com or - Warren Muller on 6231 0825 or warren.muller@internode.on.net

Alan (Bill) John Sweeting (MBE) 4 November 1918 to 9 July 2016

Bill passed away on 9 July, aged 97. Quoting from his death notice "Bill was a true gentleman, an accomplished writer, editor, historian, a keen sportsman and an avid reader."

Bill played a lot of his tennis at the old Throsby Tennis Club which was behind the Griffith shops.

In the twilight of his tennis years, he was a member of Canberra Veterans for around ten years from 1980-90 and during this period in played in three Australian Teams Championships.

The first one was 1981 in Melbourne in a 60s team with Harry Gibbs, Bob Hay, Arthur Ide and George McGrath. He then was in two 65s teams in 1985 in Hobart and again in 1987 in Canberra. This last team included Arthur Brown, Peter Cannon, Frank Kornfeld and Ron Thompson.

He also played in the Thursday tournaments and was often seen in his later years at Tomato and Mulled Wine Days with his fellow veterans.
Twelve enthusiastic players descended on the Belconnen Tennis Club for the tournament on 24 July, our first tournament for three months. The May and June tournaments had to be cancelled due to the weather.

In sub tropical temperatures hovering around 10 degrees, play commenced with 6 men and 6 women competing for ATP points. Warren Muller picked a good time to be swanning around North America, especially Canada, en route to meet Donald Trump at the Republican convention. Chances are it was warmer in Alaska.

Conditions were quite reasonable until the Antarctic cooling breeze arrived around 11.30am!

Greg Hunt showed the benefit of playing in a recent Seniors Tournament in Taree and played consistent tennis to win the big money on 27 games closely pursued by Linda Valente and Leonie Southwell on 26. Linda failed a drug test (served too many aces!) so Leonie took home the Grange Hermitage.

Twilight Doubles Pennant

5.00pm
Wednesday 26 October 2016 to 15 March 2017
Canberra Tennis Centre, Lyneham

Break for Christmas/New Year/January.

Entries close on Wednesday 5 October

Ball fees will remain at $10.00 each week,
All players will need to be members of TSACT.
Names (preferably as pairs) and any queries to Graham Smith on 61615352 or email bgsmith@grapevine.net.au.

Forster

Greg Holcombe

Seen at the Forster Seniors Tennis Tournament held from 29 July to 1 August were Helen and Greg Holcombe, Leonie Ainsworth, Dave Pruckner, Helen Nealer, David Sprott, Steve Vogt and Paul Gillies. These Canberra/Queanbeyan locals braved the 7 hour car trip to enjoy the balmy seaside air (and seafood) at this tournament.

Helen must have (and did!) produce a stellar performance because she won two events with Greg who said he played terribly all week end. She then came runner up with Leonie who said she felt like a passenger as well in a much younger and stronger age group. Meanwhile Greg got bragging rights by winning a third event with Ian Grose from Shepparton (who must have really played well too!). In this event a round robin three pairs ended up tied however Ian and Greg won in a count back.

By weekend’s end the back of the Holcombe car looked liked a Harvey Norman bargain sale but all participants were happy with the well run tournament and relaxed local atmosphere.
Cowra Open Teams

Cowra held their teams tournament on 28-29 May attracting 23 teams (compared to 17 teams last year). Teams came from Cowra, Canberra, Nowra, Orange, Blayney, Bathurst, Tumut, Murrumbateman, West Wyalong, Springwood and Camden. There were two grades in the ladies and mens with 4 teams in division one ladies and 5 in the second division while the men had 7 in each grade. Of the 9 ladies teams 6 had ladies from Canberra in them. In the mens 5 teams were from Canberra or Murrumbateman.

Those players in Cowra on Friday night heard the rain on their roofs and awoke to further rain in the morning. The outlook did not look good. Some players camping returned home with wet tents and gear while others returned to nearby towns. However mid morning the rain stopped and with assistance of super soothers and players efforts play did commence around 12.30pm on very damp courts.

Play continued under lights till a shower sent players off the courts around 7pm. Matches had been shortened to one short set (tie break at 5 all) against each pair and only one deuce. Sunday was a much better day allowing matches to be completed by late afternoon.

The first division in the ladies was won by Tumut - Pam Crawford (Tumut), Gail Windsor (Bathurst), Joanne Adams and Linda Valente. Canberra came second with Helen Holcombe, Betty Smith, Marilyn Walter and Helen Worland (Orange). This was a similar result to last year.

In the second division Val's Girls - Val Gavin, Marg Selwood, May Howard, Sue Willis and Sue Metcalf (Lithgow) - romped it in. Leftovers - Lynette Sebbens, Bev Roberts and June Longfield and Maureen Wallace (Cowra) - snuck into second.

In the mens first division the Nowra boys dominated. However in the second division Canberra had a team finish second called the Canberra Musketeers - Prem Rajaskekarap, Mark Ferris, Siddharth Macal, Charra Ravinuthalp and Geovanny Navarro Batos. This was a younger group from a number of clubs in Canberra including Ainslie, Forrest and North Woden. It was good to see the younger set from Canberra getting involved in this tournament.

A special thanks should go to Sue Metcalf for taking over the reins from Maureen Wallace. She did an excellent job in spite of the weather. Maureen was still around to assist but also enjoying the opportunity to concentrate on her tennis.

Our thanks also go to the ladies in the kitchen and all those who supplied the delicious cakes, slices, scones, soups and sandwiches.

Once again a good weekend.

Queensland Senior Championships

Colin Holgate, Shane Huggins, John Stark and Neville Rodwell made the journey north to play in the 2016 Tennis Seniors Queensland Championship (ITF1) with mixed success. The tournament was held from 1-4 July.

Colin made the quarter finals of the 60 mens singles before losing to the eventual winner David Tunbridge from Tasmania. However Colin’s fortunes got better making the final of the 60 mens doubles with Terry McLean from Albury and winning the 60 mixed doubles with Lesley Walton from NSW.

John made the quarter finals of the 65 mens singles before losing to the no 1 seed Max Bates. Neville unfortunately lost his first match in the 65 mens singles before making the final of the 65 mens doubles with Alan Hooper from the Sunshine Coast. Shane lost his first match in the 55 mens singles.

Victorian Claycourt Championships

The 2016 Victorian Seniors Claycourt Championships (ITF5) were successfully held from 10-13 June at the Dingley Tennis Club in Melbourne. Three players from Canberra entered - Shane Huggins, Miroslav Pisa and Neville Rodwell.

Neville was the only one to have any success retaining his 65+ singles title from last year and going one step further in the doubles from 2015 by winning the 65+ doubles with the seasoned campaigner Hayden Rees (Melbourne).

Forbes Open Teams

Graham Smith

Forbes Teams Tournament was held on the weekend of 6-7 August this year so it didn’t clash with the Forster Tournament. The ladies only had one division with five teams while the men had three divisions. Mens A had eight teams, Mens B and Mens C had five teams.

Tumut won the ladies narrowly defeating a Canberra team. Tumut team members were Pam Crawford (Tumut), Gail Windsor (Bathurst), Heather Mackay and Leonie Ainsworth. The Canberra team consisted of Betty Smith, Marilyn Walter, Bev Roberts and Helen Worland (Orange). Valerie Gavin’s team with Joanne Adams, Allyson Gell, Margie Sellwood and Sue Metcalf (Lithgow) came mid field. Rochelle Hogan played with ladies from Cowra which helped their team.

Men’s B was won by Camden and Men’s C was won by Old Chaps. This team consisted of Don Masters, Chris Adams from Canberra, Paul Corcoran from Boorowa and John Chapman from Harden and enjoying his very first country tournament and “happy hours” was Warwick Foley from Queanbeyan.

Men’s A was won by Albury/West Wyalong with West Wyalong being the runners-up. My team enjoyed strong tennis in this division. It was good to have Ben Sterland and Josh Fraser with Tim Harris and Ian Worland (Orange).

The weather over the weekend was mostly overcast but we didn’t get rain. As usual we all had a great weekend and lots of good tennis so motel bookings were made for next year.
**Tennis Seniors ACT Calendar 2016/17**

**TOURNAMENTS AND PENNANTS**

26 Oct 2016-15 March 2017 Twilight Doubles Competition - closing date 5 October 2016

8-20 January 2017 Australian Tennis Seniors Championships, Adelaide

Twilight: Contact Graham Smith (6161 5352)

Australian Seniors Championships: Contact Gail Jones (6254 4240)

ACT Open Seniors Tournament: Contact Pat Moloney (6262 3727)

**DINNERS AND SPECIAL FUNCTIONS**

Christmas Dinner - 10 December (see page 2 for details).

Members booking for the dinners should be aware that if they cancel after the closing date they may be required to pay the cost if the caterer charges Tennis Seniors ACT.

Contact Graham Smith (6161 5352)

**SUNDAY ROUND ROBIN TOURNAMENTS**

Tournaments are scheduled for a 9.15am start on 11 September, 23 October and 13 November 2016.

Dates and venue may change, so please check the website.

If you put your name down and find you cannot play on the day, please notify one of the organisers so that the other players are not inconvenienced.

Contact: Colin Lyons (0434 531 449) or Warren Muller (0407 916 868)

---

**Country and Interstate Tournament Calendar 2016/17**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28 Oct-1 Nov</td>
<td>Victorian Seniors Champs (ITF2), Kooyong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6 Nov</td>
<td>Raworth, Hunter Tennis Resort</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8 Nov</td>
<td>Tennis Seniors SA State Championships (ITF3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13 Nov</td>
<td>Bathurst Carillon City Teams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-28 Nov</td>
<td>Victoria Senior Grass court Champs (ITF2), Yarrawonga</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4 Dec</td>
<td>Nelson Bay Seniors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Australian Teams Carnival, Adelaide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-13 Jan</td>
<td>Australian Individual Champs (ITFA), Adelaide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-20 Jan</td>
<td>Australian Individual Champs (ITFA), Adelaide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-13 Mar</td>
<td>Oceania Regional Champs, Kooyong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Cowra – Graham Smith**

The players who travelled to the Cowra Seniors Tournament held on 25-26 June played bravely in the wet and cold conditions. The tennis balls on Saturday were so wet after one game it was a struggle to keep them in play. The B grade ladies on courts 4 and 5 did well to see the balls as they quickly turned brown and wet. Canberra and Queanbeyan players again outnumbered the others who ventured from Orange, West Wyalong, Bathurst, Tumut, South Coast, Wagga Wagga and Central Coast.

The tournament was well organised by Sue Metcalf from Lithgow and many of the matches resulted in 4 all and so winners won by close margins. No injuries this trip but a number of players who usually go to Cowra were missed so we hope they will be on deck next year. Sue thanked the Canberra players for their support over the weekend as "we would not have much of a tournament without you guys".

**Results**

**Saturday American doubles**

**Ladies**

Pool A Winner Gail Windsor (Bathurst) r/u Pauline Downes
Pool B Winner Sue Willis r/u Marilyn Walter

Pool C Winner Wilma Bingley r/u Rochelle Hogan
Pool D Winner Thelma Winroe r/u Jan Aubrey

**Mens**

Pool A Winner Andrew Bartlett (West Wyalong) r/u Andrew Boneham (West Wyalong)
Pool B Winner Grant Woodbridge r/u Steve Pile (Cowra)
Pool C Winner Don Masters r/u Paul Corcoran

**Sunday Doubles**

**Ladies**

Pool A Winners Pauline Downes/Kim McCauley r/u Gail Windsor (Bathurst)/Pam Crawford (Tumut)

Pool B Winners Kathy Penrose/Chrissie Kjoller (Orange) r/u June Langfield/Maureen Wallace (Cowra)
Pool C Winners Jan Aubrey/Pauline Honeyman r/u Janet Davenport/Lindy Crossley (Orange)

**Mens**

Pool A Winners Andrew Bonchean/Andrew Bartlett r/u Scott Smith/Grant Woodbridge
Pool B Winners Chris Adams/Paul Corcoran r/u Brett Campbell/Sam Radojcic (Orange)

**Sunday Mixed**

80/100 Winners Betty Smith/Col Armstrong (Nowra) r/u Rebekha Fisher/Stewart Palmer (Bathurst)
100/120 Winners Kathy Penrose/Brett Campbell (Orange) r/u Marg Sellwood/Neville Thomas
130 Winners Rochelle Hogan/Paul Corcoran r/u Sue Willis/Don Master