

MERIMBULA RESULTS

Event	Winners	Runners Up
Monday – Mixed		
80/100/110	G Woodbridge P Downes	D Johns K McCauley
120	L Little S Little	N McNamara S Roche
130	P Moloney L Southwell	K Hampson L Britt
140 (1)	J Stimson I Stimson	K Smith N Lane
140 (2)	R Hughes J Simpson	G Hunt W Bingley
Singles		
45/50MS	Michael Vickery	Steve Vogt 6-3 Ret.
55/60MS	Len Little	Ian Grose W/O
65MS	Graham Wurtz	Ron Milledge R/R
70MS	Phil Higgs	John Mansfield R/R
75MS	John Stimson	Dave Herring R/R
55/60WS	May Howard	Judy Buzza 6-2 6-0

Tuesday – Men's and Women's Doubles

35/45/55MD	L Little M Pisa	S Smith G Woodbridge
65MD	R Hughes J Mansfield	D Coutts F Marris
75MD	G Potter K Smith	T Flood D Herring
45/55WD	J Buzza J Simpson	P Downes K McCauley
55/65WD	R Castle D Martin	M Wayte L Ainsworth
65/75WD	J Logan D Kennedy	D Fraser D Lucas

Wednesday - Men's and Women's Doubles

40/50MD	D Goodridge G Woodbridge	P Gilles S Vogt
60MD	D Coutts F Marris	R Hughes J Mansfield
70MD	P Higgs P Moloney	C Armstrong H Chee
40/50WD	L Ainsworth J Buzza	P Downes K McCauley
60WD	M Wayte J Cousins	S Roche K Savory
70WD	D Martin L Pengelly	D Kennedy J Logan

Thursday – Combined Age Men's and Women's Doubles

100/110MD	M Pisa F Ofati	N McNamara G Woodbridge
120MD	P Higgs G Smith	P Bryant B Warren
130MD	R Hughes L Little	R Milledge B Sale
140MD	D Coutts F Marris	G Wurtz B Lane
150MD	G Potter K Smith	T Flood J Hammond
110/120WD	J Buzza L Ainsworth	P Downes D Kennedy
130WD	J Cousins M Wayte	D Martin J Simpson

Although two hailstorms interrupted play in Monday's Mixed events, play continued under sunny skies for the rest of the week. Players returned on Thursday morning to complete the "unfinished business" from Monday, so results were achieved in every event.

Singles play kicked off at 8am and 9am, followed by each of the Doubles events at both Merimbula and Pambula, at 11. Most events were completed by 5pm, allowing some time for "happy hour" at the club – a most enjoyable part of the day!

Whilst competition is quite fierce, there is great camaraderie between players from ACT, VIC and NSW, which this year numbered 121, a little down on last year, but not much. ACT featured strongly in the Winners' list, with a few surprises. May Howard had a great win over Victoria's Judy Buzza, and even surprised herself.

Lennie Little from Victoria had a win in EVERY event, and Canberrans were consistent winners in almost every Doubles pool. Phil Higgs showed great form in Singles, making a comeback after time off through injury. Notably, Frank Marris and David Coutts "faced off" with Rob Hughes and John Mansfield in two events – sharing the spoils, taking one each! Some lucky players requested partners, played well together, and ended up in the Winners' list – which is great to see!

It was lovely to see family members playing together, and in the winners' list – sisters Kaye Savory and Sue Roche, and mother and daughter Pauline Downes and Daphne Kennedy. Not to mention the husbands and wives – John and Irene Stimson, Lennie and Sue Little, Kamila and Miroslav Pisa, Daphne and Victor Fraser, Leonie and Graeme Ainsworth, Graham and Betty Smith, John and Alex Organ, Merle and David Coutts. Nancy and Bob Lane plus Barb & Gerry McCluskey and Marg Harrigan are related, but didn't play together this year.

Healthy discussion took place as to how to engage the "younger set" from 35 to 45, and a suggestion has been made to change the days/dates to encourage them to participate next year. These players are the future of Seniors 35+, so we need to have them discover how good it is! The Merimbula committee will take a vote at their first meeting, and an announcement will be made shortly. There are mixed reactions to a change, as the tournament has been running for 34 years using the Monday to Thursday format.

John Stimson arrived with only his racquets, no tennis clothes or shoes, which remained nice and clean back at Stanwell Park! He should be forgiven for his forgetfulness – he did have a HUGE birthday on the Sunday before the tournament – three quarters of a century! And then he won two of his five events!

We were graced with the presence of Myrtle Boate once again, who is 97 and still playing tennis twice a week! Bruno Nosek from Cooma is 84, and featured in the winners' list! He plays a great game. Also, he was very pleased to win the gold Wilson racquet bag!!!

Arthur and Robyn enjoyed running the tournament as John Rheinberger had "flitted off overseas" to represent Australia in Croatia, and then take Gae on a world trip afterwards.

There were very few complaints, so it must have run smoothly. The new committee had no experience and really needed a hand – so these two jumped into the breach. The committee is keen to have the tournament continue, and would like to "tweak it" to make improvements for the future.

The Tuesday night Trivia went very well, but with the questions skewed towards the youngsters, the oldies didn't stand a chance. Not to worry, the pizzas were popular, and good fun was had by all. A great job by coach James Poso, Michael Quinlan and Trent!

Anthea Parker did a fantastic job keeping the players "fed and watered" with help from some locals and Yvonne Bryant. Anthea was also new to the scene, so a job well done! She even managed to cater for the players heading to Pambula – making sandwiches and sending them off in lunch bags – it was all good!

Presentations were made on Thursday, firstly after the Singles matches and the Mixed were completed and again after the Combined Doubles. It was decided to give cash prizes this year instead of vouchers, which proved quite a popular change.

In conclusion, may I add that it is a pleasure to visit Merimbula – the “jewel” of the Sapphire Coast, and it’s great to see some of the original competitors returning to what has become a real icon in Vets’/Seniors’ tennis. See you (and others!) next year!

SNIPPETS:

At the Trivia Night:

Who was the Park Ranger and holder of a University degree in Parks and Wildlife who said the Cassowary (not the emu) was Australia’s tallest bird? GW

Who was the man intent on opening the Shower door, to show someone the shower, even though there was a lady in there in the process of dressing? (No knocking, he just went and got the key, and barged in!) A bit distressing for a 77 year-old!

Robyn Castle