

VETSET

TENNIS SENIORS ACT INC

SUMMER ISSUE DECEMBER 2022

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 2022/23 were due on 1 July 2022 - only \$20. A membership form can be found on the website.

The 2022/23 Committee comprises:

President

Graham Smith (6161 5352)

Vice President

Pat Moloney (6262 3727)

Secretary

Warren Muller (0407 916 868)

Treasurer

Peter Bruegelmans (6258 4261)

Committee

John Greenup (6254 5263)

Tim Harris (6231 3642)

Colin Lyons (0434 531 449)

Bronwyn Thomas (0410 730 808)

Sue Willis (0434 982 924)

Website: www.tenniseniors.org.au/act

Tennis ACT Awards

Tennis ACT held its awards night on 17 September at Manuka Oval, with over 100 guests in attendance from the tennis community.

The event highlights collective successes including club growth, coaching talent and player highlights, showcasing the people and groups who were responsible for making it happen. The night also included the Tennis ACT Walk of Fame induction of Reg 'Blackie' Bennett.

Our hard working President Graham Smith was awarded the Most Outstanding 30+Tennis Senior. As the winner of this award Graham is then nominated for the Tennis Australia award.

Another of our members Tui Alison from the Forrest Tennis Club was awarded the ACT Adult Club Player of the year.

Congratulations to Graham and Tui.

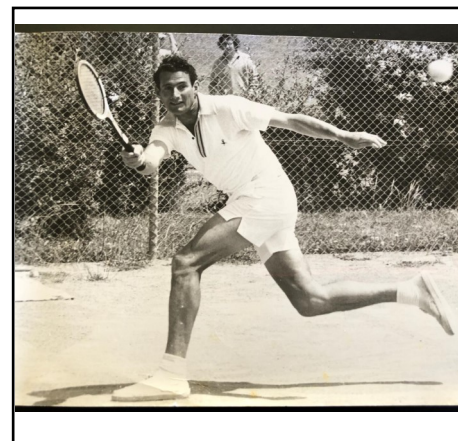


Graham Smith with his award

Is Cres really left handed

In the last Vetset our legend was Cres Roberts. In the photo of his forehand he was shown hitting it left handed. No Cres is not a lefthander as much as he may have wanted to be at times. He was and still is righthanded as shown in the correct photo to the right

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 👉 Who is trying to get hints for 👉
 their forehand. See Bruce 👉
 Larkham's photo on page 4 👉
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Tennis Seniors ACT welcomes the following new members and welcomes back some old members

Diane Baker,
 Natasha Banfield,
 Adrian Blackeby,
 Alice Cawte,
 Margie Cotter,
 Ross Greenup,
 Cathy Mayer,
 Qian Nugent
 Scott Smith.

Lucky Door Prizes

It's that time of the year. Our President, Graham Smith is looking for lucky door prizes for our Christmas Dinner. Please get in contact with Graham if you can help. Vouchers from your favourite coffee shop, wine or chocolates from your local IGA or fruit and vege voucher from the markets.

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Closing date for March Vetset
 Monday 13 February 2023
jgreenup@bigpond.net.au

President's Report by Graham Smith

Welcome to the Summer issue of Vetset.

As this year is quickly coming to an end, everyone is making the most of being able to get out onto the tennis court, with some playing up to three times a week when the weather permits. We have been able to attend country tournaments again and enjoy tennis and the social life that goes with it.

As I draft this report, the Teams Carnival set down for January 2023 in Swan Hill is still going ahead but the number of teams from each state is down. At this stage Tennis Seniors ACT have 5 Ladies and 5 Men's Teams. Players from other states are helping to make up numbers so we have six players in each team.

We are one team down in both Ladies and Men's Teams from 2022. So, keep practising and build up your fitness, it could be hot in Swan Hill.

Tennis ACT held their 2022 Awards night on 17 September. Tennis Seniors ACT nominated members for "Most Outstanding 30+ Tennis Senior of the Year". It was a great privilege

to be the winner of this award and I am now nominated for the Tennis Australia Award in this category. Tennis Australia in Melbourne will hold this awards night, and I am waiting to hear if I need to make a trip to Melbourne.

The Christmas Dinner is Saturday 10 December at Yowani Golf Club 7pm for 7.30pm start. It will be a two-course meal with main and desert plus the usual two free drinks on arrival.

I would appreciate it if anyone can obtain donations for lucky door prizes. Ask around and see what you can get for us please. Any donation is greatly appreciated.

A big thank you to the committee for all their help during a troubled year. We have held our meetings at the Southern Cross Club Jamison and the Mackellar Soccer Club.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to wish all members and partners a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and here is hoping 2023 will be a better year.

Teams for Swan Hill

The following teams have been nominated for the Australian Seniors Teams Carnival in Swan Hill from 8-13 January 2023

W50

Natasha Banfield
Joanne Adams (C)
Cathy Mayer
Rochelle Moore
Karen McLennan
Beverley Roberts

W60(1)

Jenny Armellin
Gloria Carr
Peta Hoff
Vicki Ratliff
Lynette Sebbens (C)
Karen Jameson
Thelma Winroe
Michele Grant

W60(2)

Diane Baker
Alice Cawte
Rosa Cotta (C)
Maureen Lancaster
Karen Renfrey
Merle Coutts

W65

Ros Balodis
Helen Holcombe (C)
Leonie Ainsworth
Christine Jarrett
Sue Willis
Gail Cannon (VIC)

W70

Betty Smith (C)
Rouna Daley (NSW)
Valerie Gavin
Daphne Kennedy
Sue Cowie
Helen Greenup

M55

Tim Harris
Scott Smith
Gary Thomas
Andrew Chalklen
Anthony Johnston
Grant Woodbridge (C)

M60

Gary Renfrey
William Henman
Ross Findlay (Cpt)
Con Kounnas
George Makascheff (Vic)
Nigel Becroft (WA)

M70(1)

Greg Holcombe
John Stark
Graeme Rossiter
Neil Lynch
Graham Smith (C)
Alan Wilmhurst (GB)

M70(2)

Warren Muller (C)
Doug Williamson
Anthony Connell
Anthony Dromgool
Kerry Sindel (Vic)
Roger Taylor (Vic)

M75

Pat Moloney (C)
Don Masters
David Coutts
John Greenup
Peter Breugelmans
Ian Worland (NSW)



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

\$45 per person

2 course sit down dinner

**Presentation of
the Venezuela Cups**

**and
the Frank Thornton Player
of the Year**

**and
the Helshilwood Award**

**Form your own tables
(8-10 people)**

or

take your chances

**Contact Graham Smith
ph 61615352 or
mobile 0407 208 209**

**or email
bgsmith5352@gmail.com**

**Names and any dietary re-
quests to
Graham**

by

Thursday 1 December



Tributes to Ray White and Nancy Lane

Raymond Harold White

8 May 1939-3 October 2022

This tribute has been put together with the assistance of Judy Purdy and Wendy Parker.



To describe Ray, words that come to mind are determined, courageous, loyal, kind and dedicated to his wife Wendy and his family.

In his early years, Ray was a prominent footballer and gifted athlete. His love off all sports continued throughout his lifetime. He



was an avid Raiders supporter and had a Raiders flag hanging from the balcony.

Following an horrific road accident, Ray fought back through operations and pain to move on to play tennis and golf. As a golfer he was forced to adjust his swing and became proficient in chipping and putting. He even had a hole in one.

Ricky Stuart aka Ray White - Newcastle 1992

Ray was a TSACT (or its equivalent) member for about 10 years to 1995. He was on the committee for a similar period. He also played in a number of teams in the Teams Carnival from 1988 to 1995. He played in a number of country tournaments. Wendy was always there to support him. In one report from Merimbula, Wendy was in the supporters lounge. Ray was also a regular at Thursday tennis.

He was a hard worker being part of the organising committee together with his wife Wendy for the presentation dinner dance in 1995 when the Teams Carnival was in Canberra. The dinner dance was held in the Great Hall of Parliament House. He also organised a massive fund raising raffle.

In 2000 Ray was part of the relay team that carried the torch through Canberra for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

In 1991, Ray and Wendy were part of John Casey's first Outback Safari, trav-

elling through Longreach, Winton, Mt Isa, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Coober Pedy and Broken Hill. Memorable experiences included playing tennis on top of Ayres Rock with Peter Purdy, challenging



underground accommodation at Coober Pedy, fossicking for zircons at Gem Creek (with Charlie Boag and many more.



Ray and Wendy enjoyed these safaris with John Casey. Wendy and Dick Parker were on the same one as Wendy and Ray in 1995 going from Alice Springs through the Tanami Desert then to the Kimberley and Broome finishing in Darwin. Ray was the wine master making sure they didn't run out of wine.

Ray was a wine connoisseur. As president of the Canberra Club Wine and Dine, he introduced Wendy and Dick to their dinners at the Canberra Club - just marvellous.

Wendy found Ray to be a warm caring person, always looking out for others. When Dick retired he joined Ray, Peter Purdy and Bob Lane at a monthly event at Bob's lawn tennis court at Spence. Tennis, BBQ, a few beers and camaraderie. Magical times apparently!

Following the tennis days at the Lane's lawn court, get togethers took place over many many years with the Whites,, Lanes, Parkers and Purdys enjoying Christmas Dinners - special times.

Dinners at the White House consisted of French Champagne to commence followed by spectacular courses red/white wines (Ray and the

men were connoisseurs), coffee and liqueurs to finish. Always very generous hosts with lots of laughs which invariably included Wendy's games.

Ray enjoyed monthly lunches with a group at Kangara Waters where he and Wendy had moved. Organised by Len Osmond which included for a short time, a fellow resident Ferdie Ribiero.

Ray was very fortunate to have the lifetime support of Wendy and their children, Delene, Shane and Carmel, their grandchildren and recently their three beautiful great grandchildren.

A kind and generous man who will be missed.

Nancy Beryl Lane

16 December 1941-9 November 2022

This tribute has drawn on Nancy's eulogy put together by her children.



We only celebrated Nancy's 80th birthday and presented her with her OBE certificate in 2021.

Nancy was born in Bombala and brought up with her two sisters on

farms in the Bombala District. Nancy told her children she never drank cold milk as a child as it was always straight from the cow and still warm.

Tennis was one of Nancy's great passions. She started very young and played for 70 years. She won many tournaments in the far South Coast and Eden Monaro as a junior and becoming district age champion at that time. Bruce Larkham remembers playing in an under 13 tournament in Sydney when Nancy was there playing under 15s. In 1962, Bruce and Nancy won the Bombala Open Mixed Doubles.

In 1956 at 16 she took out the ladies singles (a big thrill for her) and again in 1959, 1962 and 1963. She played in the Bombala district representative team at the 1958 Country Week.

In 1961 at the age of 19 Nancy moved to Canberra, joined the Barton Tennis Club and quickly became part of the Canberra tennis scene. She moved to Turner Tennis Club after marrying Bob.

Through tennis circles Nancy caught the eye of Bob Lane. They began courting around November with Bob expecting Nancy to be on his arm to all the upcoming Christmas functions, only for Nancy to return to Bombala in mid-December.. (cont on page 4)

Tribute to Nancy Lane (cont from page 3)

The following February Bob left on a long planned trip that was expected to take he and a mate through Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia - ultimately to the pearling ships in Broome. The pearling ship plans were abandoned after Nancy met Bob in Darwin for a few weeks. They became engaged and married in Bombala in May. This marriage lasted only a few months shy of 60 wonderful years together.

As the family grew, Bob and Nancy moved from O'Conner to Spence complete with a grass tennis court in the backyard. Many family and friends get together centred around the tennis court with Nancy recycling many of her junior trophies as awards.

Nancy was an avid gardener having a particular affinity for geraniums and fuchsias. Anyone visiting Bob and Nancy would have immediately noticed the beautifully tendered gardens. "Nancy's Nook" was Nancy's side hustle selling many of her propagations and plants. She was a member of the Canberra Geranium and Fuchsia Society for many years.

Caravanning was a long held dream of Bob's. The children remember Bob saying many times that "one day I'm going to take your mother around Australia in a caravan. We all know at the hint of winter in Canberra, Bob and Nancy would head north. Well this was the tip of an iceberg. Over the 20+ years of caravanning they did 3 round Australia trips and 2 Tasmanian trips. Their winter trips saw them travel up to Moore Park in Queensland, for a few weeks, then a few weeks in Evans Head and finally Sawtell.

With a few years caravanning under their belts Bob and Nancy ventured to Europe in 2003 to visit Cathryn and her partner Bill in Geneva.. Keen to explore but appalled by the cost of hiring a campervan, they settled on travelling by car and staying in a tent. As 60 something Australians camping out of a car (Nancy dubbed it Bluey) they made quite an impression in caravan parks across Switzerland, Germany and Italy.

The caravanning years were also the years that the grandchildren started arriving. And while Nancy loved travelling with Bob, if one of those babies were due when they would normally be travelling, Bob just had to wait until Nancy had had her first cuddle.

Nancy was quite active as a veteran. She joined the equivalent of TSACT in the mid 1980s. She played in Australian

Team Carnivals, the Easter Open Championships, the ACT Senior Resident Championships Merimbula, Uladulla and many other country tournaments.

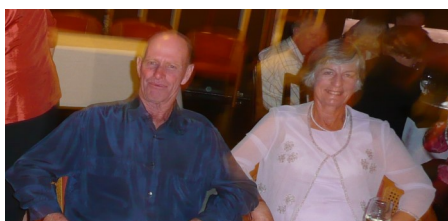
One most memorable highlight was winning the 60+ doubles with Heather McKay in the Easter tournament here when they defeated Lesley Heumiller and Mary Gordon both Australian rep players, in the final.

In her latter years, Nancy took up bowls and her skills and sportsmanship came to the fore on the bowls green.

At the 80th birthday lunch, Nancy said that one of the special aspects from the tennis scene are the friendships made and kept along the way- these are truly treasured. This was reflected in the overflowing chapel for her funeral service.

Nancy was seen by her children and grandchildren as loving, patient, affectionate, kind, sweet, gentle, accepting and very supportive.

I think any one who knew Nancy would use at least some if not all of those words to describe Nancy. She was that kind of person.



Christmas dinner (2007) above and Nancy with Ken Smith, Merimbula (2013) below



Nancy with Pat Muloney, Heather Berwick and Phil Higgs, Lynchar 2007

Social Program for Swan Hill

The social program for the Teams Week has been released. **Note the details of the ACT State Dinner.**

Opening Ceremony and Cocktail Party

Sunday 8 January - 4.45pm

Swan Hill Town Hall Performing Arts and Conference Centre

53-57 McCullum Street, Swan Hill

Cocktail Party is \$20pp and includes complimentary drink and finger food

"Smoking Ceremony" will be at entrance to building.

Dinner and Music at SHLTC

Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th January

ACT State Dinner

Wednesday 11 January 7.30 for 8pm

Swan Hill Resort

405-415 Campbell Street, Swan Hill

\$45pp payable on the night includes choice of 2 mains and 2 desserts

Players responsible for their drinks

10 minutes walk from Jane Eliza motel

Theme Night at Swan Hill Club

Wednesday 11 January

5/17 McCallum Street, Swan Hill

More details coming soon

Closing Presentation Dinner

Friday 13 January - 7pm

Murray Downs Golf and Country Club,

Murray Downs Drive, Murray Downs

\$85pp - includes 3 course meal

Entertainment by popular local band The Drowning Sorrows

Golf morning at Murray Downs Golf Club

Saturday morning 14 January.

Bookings for the Cocktail Party and Presentation Dinner at www.sh2022.com/social-events.



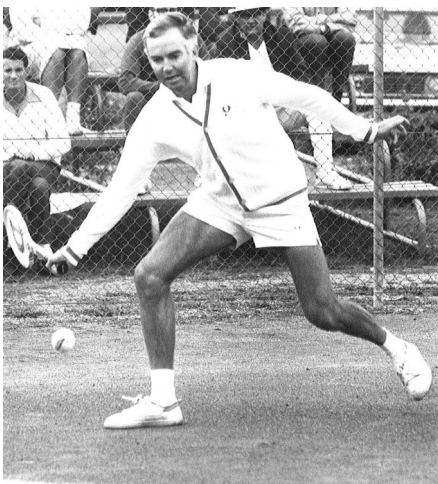
Legend by Sue Willis

This is the fifth article in our series of 'Legends!' On this occasion, we have chosen another outstanding Canberran, Bruce Larkham. When you say 'Larkham' in Canberra, ears prick up as we know it is a household name. When you read about Bruce's upbringing, you can see his success must have been in the blood!

However, we also know success is not only about the luck of the genes. With Bruce's hard work, dedication and the will to win, he has achieved huge success on the tennis court, both nationally and internationally. He also had the good fortune to meet his wife, Stephanie, also a very good tennis player, on the tennis court. You will be amused by Bruce's story of the 'courtship'!

From a personal point of view, I remember Bruce hitting that punishing forehand in the 1960s at Turner Tennis Club and at the old courts at Manuka, formerly ACTLTA before the development of Lyneham.

I clearly remember Bruce playing big matches on court 8, the showcourt at Manuka. He would drive each forehand into the corner until his poor opponent would be driven so deep that Bruce would just deliver the final blow into the open court. His opponent would just want to hold up a white flag and surrender. You could not see them for dust! Bruce also made it look easy!!



Bruce Larkham has been a great contributor to our community in many ways. With his involvement in coaching for over 35 years, he gave his time generously to encourage players of all standards. He put a lot of work into junior tennis and would often take them to tournaments. He was a great sport and always had time for the 'oldies!' For example, he played in the

local Turner Club Championships and for fun played with my father Ken Willis in the doubles.

There was one match where they were clearly the underdogs and caused quite an upset. Bruce covered a lot of court that day! Of course, those with a wicked sense of humour soon suggested that Bruce played with my father in doubles, so that he could improve his singles!!!! Oh, the laughs and friendship that comes from this wonderful sport of tennis!

With his outstanding contribution to tennis and excellent results, Bruce was inducted into the Tennis ACT Walk of Fame alongside Thomas 'Charlie' Boag in 2018. Thank you Bruce for your hard work and dedication to tennis.

Also, thank you to Stephanie for travelling downunder and marrying that good looking Aussie with the big forehand! You have built a wonderful family. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement relaxing and enjoying the peace of Narooma -smelling the roses!!

Bruce Larkham - Legend

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Yass and brought up in Canberra.

Did your parents play sport?

Both my parents were sporty having been brought up on farming properties in the Yass area where they had their own tennis court and cricket pitch. They used to play against farming communities around their area. They were both top cricketers and tennis players, with Mum (Marie) being vice-captain of the NSW Southern Districts cricket team who played against the English touring womens team in about 1952.

She also won the ACT Tennis Resident titles in Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles in the 1950's. Dad (Perc) was an A grade cricket player, well known for his fast bowling for the Ainslie team, and also an A grade tennis player for the Ainslie tennis club.

When and where did you first pick up a racquet?

I started playing tennis at about 6 years of age, again at the Ainslie Tennis Club, which would have been around 1948. I was taught by Mum and Dad as there were no resident coaches and I had my first lesson from a visiting coach, Vic Welch, when I was about 12 yrs. I played social ten-

nis and adult competition between the age of 10 and 12 and then moved to Braddon and represented them in competition.

I went to the Ainslie school and walked to the courts with Ray Manning to practice as often as possible. My family moved to Turner at about age 15 and I started played competition for them instead.

Many seniors will remember being at the end of your punishing forehand. Was it your favourite shot?

As everybody knows who played tennis in my era, my forehand was my favourite shot (and probably the only one that I could win points with!!) and I was very good at running around my backhand. I was quite consistent at all other shots and my will to win and competitive temperament was a great weapon.

What was your favourite surface?

Because I was brought up on the Canberra dirt (plus all the country tournaments were the same surface) my game became based around this and hitting hard and sliding into the ball automatically developed my style. Very little of the front part of the court was used as the ball came through fast and bounced high, so volleys and drop shots didn't feature as much.

How did your tennis develop? Can you tell us about your overseas experience?

After getting the leaving certificate at age 16 yrs (quite young these days?) I worked in the Public Service for about 4 years. During this time I played hours of tennis, local competition, country tournaments, some Sydney tournaments and country week.

At 21 yrs, I had saved enough money to take a ship (6 weeks on board) to Europe via the Suez Canal to return via the Panama Canal (8 weeks on board). I played overseas for 2 yrs, in Europe and the UK. My tennis greatly improved and I had some good results the second year. I really enjoyed the European Clay and the UK En-Tout-Cas. I won tournaments in the UK, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany in singles and the UK and France in doubles with different partners.

I understand you met Stephanie on the tennis court. Can you tell us about the courtship?

I met Stephanie through one of my partners, Geoff Bluett, a top British player. He was at the same club in NW London as Stephanie. He gave me a lift to the South of France (cont page 6)

for a circuit down there in 1965. We won the doubles in Cannes, Nice, Beaulieu, Monte Carlo and Menton on the French Riviera.



Geoff and Bruce, Nice

It was there that I was introduced to Stephanie by Geoff Bluett. I played against her in mixed doubles, where she instantly took a dislike to me, as I was playing with an English girl who she could beat and we won!! According to her, I hit big forehands through her while she was at the net as well, so that did not go down too well!! However, love is a strange thing and here we are, married for 53 yrs. Bob Thornton, who was a great friend from Turner Tennis Club, gave Steph away at the wedding - just a bit of important trivia.

Stephanie was a good English player. She won the British Junior Doubles title and was a singles semi-finalist. She came to Australia a year after I had returned, as a 10 pound Pome, planning to stay for 2 years but I am delighted that I managed to propose just before she caught the boat home - a close call!! As it turns out Geoff Bluett married Steph's best friend at the tennis club in England and their eldest daughter is now married to our eldest son Brent!

What were your best results?

My best results in Australia were after my return from Europe as I gained a lot of experience and confidence in those 2 yrs. I was then sponsored by Dunlop and managed to play as many country tournaments as I could around NSW and Sydney and a few in Victoria. During this time, I was working at the ANU and the National Capital Development Authority (as it was then). I won the NSW Country Singles, NSW Hard Court Doubles with Dick Crealy, Canberra Resident Singles (8 times

altogether), Canberra Open a few times and numerous country tournaments, plus some Sydney tournaments at Roseville and Rockdale.

Some of the best players I beat were: Tony Roche, Frank Sedgman, John Marks, Bill Bowrey, Mark Edmonson, all of whom were Australian Open Champions at some stage.

Most of this came to an end when our children Brent and Todd were born in 1972 and 1974 respectively. That was when I decided to become a tennis coach, with the intention of becoming a full-time coach in the future.

How did you go about setting up your coaching business in Canberra?

We proceeded to have a house built in Higgins and then built a tennis court ourselves in the backyard, where we did our coaching. I qualified first after many hours in Newcastle under the coach there and an exam in Sydney. Stephanie followed, also having to go to Sydney which was a big deal in those busy mothering days. I retired from the Public Service in 1976 and we went overseas to visit Steph's family and on the way back we called in at some Tennis Centres in Spain and the US (where they were way ahead of Australia in this area) to get ideas to build our own place in Canberra.

We were able to buy a block of land in Hawker and began our life there in 1978, having built a house attached to a clubhouse and 4 hard courts. We then added 2 gravel courts ourselves, with the help of Bruce's brother Geoff, and began our full-time coaching, court hire and 7 days a week life.

The Centre flourished, with plenty of hard work and some employed coaches and we very quickly had a thriving business, with as many as 400 kids to teach per week. Also taught adults, with individual and group lessons, ran tournaments every Saturday, joined ACT Junior Pennant, organised Adult Social Groups, taught ACT squads, captained ACT Junior teams in interstate nationals and became utterly exhausted!!!

We also had a pro shop with clothes and refreshments and Steph even sat up all night making ladies tennis clothes to sell. After a few years, we built 6 additional synthetic grass courts and covered the dirt courts with carpet as well. We ended up lighting 6 courts. We produced many top Canberra Junior players including Brent and Todd, Alun Jones and Amanda Grahame, all becoming top 10 adults players in Australia.

How have Brent and Todd's tennis careers developed?

Brent and Todd both went on to reach a ranking of close to top 100 in the world and after finishing their careers they became top Australian coaches. Brent was at the AIS as Head Coach, then Head of the Australian National Tennis Academy in Brisbane, with a break in between as Head of Sport at Radford College in Canberra, and now back in Brisbane with the same title as previously.

Todd had many years as State Coach in ACT where he has produced some excellent players, quite a few of them going to Colleges in the US. He also spent 7 years with Nick Kyrgios, which is another story and survived numerous and interesting experiences with him at tournaments!!

What prompted you to retire to Narooma?

We finally left the Hawker Tennis Centre due to some ill health. We could not sell it and the Government would not help in any way by changing the lease or even being interested in a new development. After much heartache, we leased the Centre and 10 years later managed to sell it. We came to Narooma to recover but were soon discovered and put in another 3 years coaching part-time here.

You entered some of the Seniors Tournaments where clearly that big forehand was still very effective. Can you tell us about some of your results?

During the years when I was around the 50 age group, I managed to play some Seniors Tournaments including the NSW and Australian titles. I won Australian titles in 45 mixed with Bernice Riddle (Sydney) 45 mens doubles with Alan Richardson and with Bruce Burns (Sydney) 3 times. I represented Australia for 3 years in the 50 events in Europe.

Australian Perry Cup team



Tennis has been a major part of your life. What do you enjoy the most now?

Since being retired in Narooma we have still kept up our love of Tennis. We

Legend (continued from page 6)

played in a local comp. for a few years and managed to meet some great people to play social (very competitive !!) tennis in such a small town. We love the game and manage to get to the Australian Open every year, first to watch Brent and Todd in the juniors and main draw events and then all the kids they have taught.

We still go and have our main holiday of the year for the whole 2 weeks and absorb the wonderful atmosphere. It is still the best two weeks we have ever spend. We both still hobble around the court and find it hard to accept our age

but have never lost our desire to win points. It has been a huge part of our life.

Will the Larkham grandchildren continue the family tradition of dominance on the tennis court?

We have unfortunately not encouraged our grandchildren enough to follow the family tradition, BUT they are very competitive in soccer, 3 boys in Brisbane and dancing for the 2 girls in Canberra. THEY ALL LIKE TO WIN!! SOUNDS FAMILIAR IN THE LARKHAM FAMILY!!



The Larkham family - l-r Brent, Stephanie, Bruce and Todd

Sunday Round Robin

by Colin Lyons and Warren Muller

The current period of wet weather has been impacting on our Sunday round robin tournaments. As there was no tournament scheduled for September we managed to work in one for 9 October. However again the weather was the winner with the tournament washed out.

In blustery but fine conditions, which changed constantly, we had a strong roll-up of 24 players at Weston Creek on 20 November for our last tournament of the year. This number included 5 new players which was very encouraging.

Our starters were split into two groups of 10 and 14, which was necessitated by having 5 courts, with 4 players having a bye each round.

Because of Junior Pennant having a considerable number of courts booked in the morning, we were not able to start until 10am.

In the 2nd Division, there were three new players Peter Johnson, Tim Newton and Ott Hathaisatong who we hope will be back to join us in the New Year. They advised they really enjoyed their involvement. The competition in this section was closely fought and ended in a dead heat between Karenn Layne and Bronwyn Thomas with an average of 5 games (out of 8) from their four sets.

In the top section, Gary Renfrey played excellent tennis as an honorary woman on the day to take home the chocolates with 24 games from his 4 sets, hotly pursued by newcomer Mike Lavis who showed great touch and consistency to record 23 games. We understand that Gary will need to take special precautions to keep his wife Karen away from his prize.

Mark McLennan, also playing for the first time displayed very good form also and was third with 20 games. Similarly, it is hoped to see Mark and Mike back with us in 2023.

The weather has made organizing the tournaments a challenge this year and also court availability caused us to miss our September event.

Warren and I look forward to seeing the familiar faces and new blood join us in the New Year.



U&CO Café
Unit 7 Gwydir Square, Ka-
leen

ph 6241 1100

Great coffee, great food,
come along and try it

and
Amaroo

12 Pioneer Street

Call in and say hullo

My Irish Trip by Pat Moloney

In June I thought it was time to revisit Ireland to catch up with friends, relatives, do some sightseeing and play some tournaments. It had been three years since I had visited Ireland, due to the problems of Covid and travel restrictions. In June the Covid problems had reduced and borders and countries had opened up. Trying to book through a travel agent proved to be a problem as they were down on staff and I was at the bottom of the list.

By the time I realized this, the fares had increased and I ended up booking online which turned out ok. The cheapest way to Ireland, or Europe was, surprisingly, via America. A lot cheaper and a looong trip. As I had friends in Los Angeles I stopped over on the way back for 10 days to visit them.

My 'base' in Ireland was staying with Frank Aiken. Some players may have come across Frank as he has been coming out to play with Victoria in the Australian Seniors Championships for a number of years now. Unfortunately he won't be coming out for Swan Hill as he may have to have a shoulder operation.

Most of my previous tournaments in Ireland were 'open' tournaments as there are very few seniors tournaments. This time I selected three seniors tournaments. I arrived in time to play, and win, the Irish 75 National Championships. These were played at Rushbrook (near Cork), on synthetic grass and in good weather, which was a change from some previous tournaments. There were only 4 in the draw but one was a top player who I was able to beat in the final in a good match.

My next tournament was the seniors tournament in Tipperary. I had played here before but in their 'open' tournament. I entered the 75 singles but unfortunately I was the only entry. The 70s and 65s also had no entries so I was down playing singles in the 60s. Again only a small draw of 5 players.

I had a bye and then played the 2nd seed

in the semis on a damp court in slight rain with used balls. Giving away 17 years playing in these conditions wasn't the best and I lost fairly easily. Never the less good experience!! There was one other pair in the 75 doubles and we won 10/7 in the third set tiebreaker on a private indoor hardcourt because of rain.

The other attraction to playing in Tipperary is that it is my fathers birthplace and I feel a sense of belonging. Also I have accommodation there with my cousins. The Tipperary club has only 3 clay courts but use the synthetic grasscourts from two surrounding clubs and a member's indoor hardcourt for the tournament. As I experienced previously you can play on all three surfaces in the various rounds. A player has to be versatile. Their 'open' tournament has been going for 97 years!

My last tournament was the Super-seniors Interprovincials. This is very similar to our Australian teams championships in January in that teams are in age groups and there are dinners and get togethers. Here there are only 4 provinces (Leinster, Munster, Connaught, Ulster) and this year it was played in Galway on synthetic clay as part of their rotation basis.

I played for Leinster and overall we came second to Ulster. However I don't think I will be allowed to play in future as I don't have permanent residency. I got away with it this year. This is a similar ruling to our January teams and it is remarkable how similar these two tournaments are.



Mathew Connolly, Noel Murphy (Munster) Pat Moloney, Ben Cranwell (Leinster)

Overall the tournaments are run in a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The committee and players are nice and friendly and made me feel welcome. However you must be prepared to play in the rain. Previously I have played in rain and came off soaked and have been told "if we come off for rain we would never finish tournaments". I came prepared this year as I had a rain jacket which I could play in but it remained unused (for this year).

On the sightseeing side there is plenty

to see and do. Ireland has a lot of history and good scenery. Currently it is going through 5 centenary years of major historical events for which there is enactments and plenty of memorabilia. A new Immigration Centre has recently been open in Dublin which details the history of Ireland and its immigration and is well worth a visit (allow 3 hrs).

A 'off the beaten track' visit was to a very small village, Moyglass, the home



of Ned Kelly's father. He was transported to Australia for stealing 2 pigs. He stayed and married an Irish Girl from Northern Ireland and fathered Ned. Moyglass celebrates Ned as can be seen by the wall painting which forms part of the Ned Kelly Village Inn.

Ireland will probably draw me back next year. Warmer rain is better than Canberra's cold winter days!



Irish Famine memorial donated by American Choctaw Indians.



Pat Moloney, Patrice O'Connell (President), Noel Robinson. Presentation of 75 doubles winners.



Reports on Senior Tournaments

TSNSW State Championships by Ros Balodis

The TSNSW held their State Championships over the October Long Weekend from 30 September to 3 October 2022. The venue was the Rockdale Tennis Club, home of the Illawarra Suburbs Lawn Tennis Association.

Ros Balodis, Sue Willis, and Gary Thomas were our three ACT representatives at this event.

Much of the Rockdale Tennis Club was recognizable to Ros from when she last played there in the 1970s. Since then, many things may have changed. The court surface had changed from loam to synthetic grass and there were extra courts beyond the Muddy Creek canal.

Rockdale Tennis Club is a great venue for a tournament of this type. The club is 5 kilometres from Sydney Airport. Car parking is available inside the complex and traffic on the long weekend was quiet. We had access to the licensed club, where we could buy meals and drinks and sit in comfort. We could also sit on the upper balcony to watch matches on the front row of courts.

The weather on the October Long Weekend is often wet, and this was true for 2022. Despite the rain, all matches were completed due to the fantastic organisation from Steve Longworth, Arthur Olsen and other TSNSW committee members. The club has 18 courts which were in good condition and coped well considering the amount of rain.

Only 20 matches could be completed on Friday because of the weather. Sue Willis started a singles match on Friday and returned on Saturday to finish it off, losing a close 3-setter to Jan Vick from Queensland.

On Saturday, singles matches were reduced to 2 sets and a super-tiebreaker ('best of 2' format), while doubles were also 'best of 2' but with sets being played as first to 4 games. Rain interrupted play during Saturday, but enough matches were played to

get most events to the semi-final stage.

There was a lot of rain over Saturday night. On Sunday morning many people helped to mop up the courts and play was only delayed by an hour. Ros was first match on court and was pleased to get her tournament underway.

On Sunday, singles and doubles were still 'best of 2', but the doubles had changed back to 6 game sets. There was a storm on Sunday afternoon, but we were back on the courts within an hour, and all matches scheduled for that day were completed.

The tournament was strongly supported by NSW Senior players and received good support from Queensland and Victoria. Overall there were 226 entries, but more entries, particularly in the Women's events, would give greater opportunities for tennis. While socialising in the club was enjoyable, more time on court would be fun.

Monday dawned bright and sunny, and singles matches were back to best of 3 sets.

Now to the results for the ACT.

In his 60 Men's singles Gary got a walkover and then lost to the number 2 seed Chris Arms from Victoria. In doubles Gary and Warren Dixon from Sydney lost to the number 1 seeds Peter Gard and Aldis Purins 6/4 6/4.

Ros won the 60 Women's singles, and partnering Leanne Swaysland from Sydney, took out the 60 Women's Doubles and 55 Women's doubles.

In her Women's 65 singles, Sue played some good tennis but didn't go beyond the Round Robin Group stage. In the 65 mixed, Sue and George Penney from Sydney went down to Jan Vick and Ross Orford from Queensland. In the Women's 65 doubles, Sue and her partner Sue Roche (photo right) finished with a highlight win over the number 1 seeds Judy Buzza from Victoria and Sara Goddard from Sydney.

Thank you to the tournament committee, the officials and Rockdale Tennis Club for an entertaining weekend



Wanda Howes, Graeme Sticka and Ros Balodis at Rockdale



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COUNTRY CLUB CANBERRA

Reports on Senior Tournaments

Merimbula

Tournament Director John Rheinberger was very pleased with the number of entrants in the tournament held from 14-17 October. There was a total of 140 players nominating. This was the first tournament since 2019 due to Covid and competitors were keen to get back on court and play some tennis. The tournament was heavily supported with Canberra players as well as numbers from along the coast to Wollongong and south to Gippsland and Melbourne. A further twelve players came from Albury and Wangaratta and will return to find their local courts under flood waters. A group of six players also come from South Australia.

A special thanks goes out to new club member Grant Woodbridge who took on the job of catering organiser and Anthea Parker who managed the Kitchen. Grant and Anthea were supported by a dozen or more club members who assisted with the BBQ, court preparation, raffle tickets, photography and general duties. It was good to see Grant working behind the scenes seeing what is involved in running a tournament, let alone a Teams Carnival.

The raffle was well supported by players and was drawn at 5pm on Sunday. First and second prize watches courtesy of Eric from Leading Edge Jewellers were won by Ross Greenup and Barbara McCluskey, Turkish Rug courtesy of Tony McClosker of Harvey Norman Carpets Fyshwick was won by Keith Murdoch, accommodation at Lakeside Holiday Apartments was won by Barbara McCluskey and tennis equipment from coach Hans Zeegers Sapphire Coast Tennis pro shop was won by Ross Greenup. Ross couldn't carry his father in the combined 120 doubles but certainly got amongst the raffle prizes.

Tournaments winners for each event:

Mens Singles

30/40 - Craig Barnard
45 - Nathan Zimnowoda
50-55 - John Brunner
60 - Glen Roberts
65 - Gary Wealand
70-75 - Graham Wurtz

Mens Doubles

35-45 - Craig Barnard/Scott Smith
55 - John Brunner/Phil Peck
65 - Ken Wurtz/Graham Wurtz
75 - Herbie Chee/Geoff Metzler
30-40 - Craig Barnard/Scott Smith

50 - John Brunner/Phil Peck
60 - Dennis Love/Chris Paton
70 - Neil Mitchell/Graham Wurtz

Ladies Doubles

45-55 - Pauline Downes/Dot Green
65-75 - Leonie Ainsworth/Christine Jarrett
40-50 - Pauline Downes/Marlene Veness
60-70 - Leonie Ainsworth/Helen Holcombe

Mens Combined Doubles

100-110 - Steve Drummond/Adrian Pang
120 - Peter French/Michael Luke
130 - Dennis Love/Foster Ofati
140 - Neil Mitchell/Stephen Smith
150 - Graham Wurtz/Keith Murdoch

Ladies Combined Doubles

90-110 - Catherine Long/Joanne Adams
120 - Diane Arnot/Jenny Fisher
130 - Helen Holcombe/Christine Jarrett

Mixed Combined Doubles

100 - Grant Smith/Joanne Adams
110 - Mike Luke/Jenny Luke
120 - Tim Harris/Beverley Roberts
130 - Dennis Love/Leonie Ainsworth
140 - Geoff Cook & Susan Roche

Going through the winners a number of our members appeared at least twice - Leonie Ainsworth(3), Pauline Downes(2), Christine Jarrett(2), Helen Holcombe(2) and Joanne Adams(2). Tim Harris and Bev Roberts had a win in the combined 120 mixed doubles.

Although the weather forecast was threatening for the week end only a few light showers eventuated. The weather gods were kind to the tournament after an absence of 2 years due to covid and lack of sponsorship due to bush fires.

A new format was used for the mens singles with all matches being played in a round robin format on the Saturday evening. There were no entries in the ladies singles which was to be played at the same time and under the same format.



Bev Roberts and Tim Harris - combined 120 mixed winners



Pauline Downes and Dot Green receiving their winnings from John Rheinberger



Pam Crawford, Gail Windsor, Helen Holcombe, Christine Jarrett - combined 130 ladies doubles runners-up and winners.



Joanne Adams and Catherine Long - combined 90-110 ladies doubles



Leonie Ainsworth and Dennis Love

Reports on Senior Tournaments

World Titles

This is an extract from a letter from the ITF informing of some changes to the timing of the World Titles

We are informed that Pope Francis, Head of the Catholic Church, is confirmed to visit Lisbon in early August 2023 for World Youth Day, an event that is expected to see large numbers of people in the city.

The ITF and Portuguese Tennis Federation ("FPT") have held further discussions with local authorities and official hotel providers in Lisbon because it is apparent that the demand for hotel rooms and the impact on room rates will be significant.

The ITF and FPT have therefore decided that the dates for the ITF World Tennis Masters Tour – 55, 60 World Team Championships must be adjusted to Sunday 13 to Friday 18 August 2023, with the 55, 60 World Individual Championships moved to Saturday 19 to Saturday 26 August 2023.

This adjustment is unfortunate but hopefully understandable and it has been taken in the best interests of the National Associations, Players, and event. We apologise for any inconvenience caused. The event dates for all other age groups and locations are not affected – as shown below:

30, 35, 40, 45, 50 World Team Championships

Manavgat, Antalya, Turkey

Sunday 19 to Friday 24 March 2023

Nominations for Australian Teams

close at 8pm on Wednesday 30 November.

30, 35, 40, 45, 50 World Individual Championships

Manavgat, Antalya, Turkey

Saturday 25 March – Saturday 1 April 2023

55, 60 World Team Championships

Lisbon, Oeiras and Estoril, Portugal

Sunday 13 August to Friday 18 August 2023

55, 60 World Individual Championships

Lisbon, Oeiras and Estoril, Portugal

Saturday 19 to Saturday 26 August 2023

65, 70, 75, 80, 85 World Team Championships

Capdepera, Mallorca, Spain

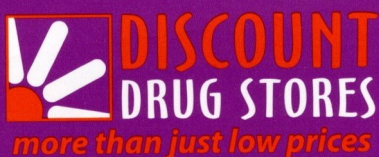
Sunday 8 October to Friday 13 October 2023

65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90 World Individual Championships

Capdepera, Mallorca, Spain

Saturday 14 to Saturday 21 October 2023

As previously stated, individuals are advised not to make non-refundable flight or accommodation bookings until the official Fact Sheet is released, which we are aiming to share not less than 4 months prior to each event.



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Orange

Around 10 members from Canberra and their supporters travelled to Orange for the Ex-Services Seniors Tennis Tournament held on the weekend of 17-18 September. The weather gods were very kind as there were floods all around Orange from heavy rain on the Thursday. Friday saw enough sun for the courts to be ready to play Saturday morning. All the events were completed over the weekend.

As normal the catering by the ladies was wonderful with fresh toasted sandwiches and amazing slices. Monty spent his weekend pleading with the sausage sandwich man for a sausage for himself.



Some of our members came home winners or runners-up.

- Bev Roberts - runner-up Ladies American A grade, group 1
- Betty Smith - runner-up Ladies American A grade, group 2
- Tim Harris - equal first Men's American A grade
- Greg Hunt - runner-up Men's American B Grade, group 2

Sunday morning

- Bev Roberts/Cathie Long - runner-up Ladies A Doubles
- Colin Elliot/Wayne O'Connor - winner Men's B Doubles

Sunday afternoon

- Betty Smith/Tim Harris - equal first A Mixed Doubles



Tennis Seniors ACT Calendar 2022/2023

TOURNAMENTS AND PENNANTS

8-13 January 2023 Australian Tennis Seniors Teams Carnival Swan Hill

16-20 January 2023 Australian Tennis Seniors Individual Championships Swan Hill

7-10 April 2023 ACT Open Seniors Tournament

Australian Seniors Championships:
Contact Pat Moloney (6262 3727)

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

DINNERS AND SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

Christmas Dinner - 10 December -see page 2.

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

The first tournament for 2023 is scheduled for 22 January - see notice below,

The dates for the rest of the year are not yet available. The rest of the year will be in the March Vetset and on our Website once available.

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 2022/23

Some of the dates are yet to be confirmed and may change and some tournaments may be postponed or cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. You should check the relevant State's website for any changes or restrictions on travel just prior to the relevant tournament.

2022

4-6 Nov Hawks Nest, Myall Park

12-13 Nov Bathurst Carillion City R/R

25-28 Nov Victoria Senior Grass court Champs (S700), Yarrowonga

2-4 Dec Nelson Bay Seniors

2023

7-13 Jan Australian Tennis Seniors Teams Carnival Swan Hill

15-21 Jan Australian Individual Champs (S1000), Swan Hill

17-19 Feb Ulladulla Summer Games

24-26 Feb Geelong Classic (S100) (tbc)

3-5 Mar Walcha Seniors

10-12 Mar Narooma Round Robin

9-13 Mar Oceania Regional Kooyong (S1000) (tbc)

18-19 Mar Tennis Macarthur, Lumeah

24-26 Mar Goulburn Seniors

1-2 Apr Inverell

7-10 Apr ACT Open Seniors Tournament (S400), Canberra

22-25 Apr ITF MT200 NSW

29-30 Apr Bathurst R/R

5-7 May Gold Coast Seniors (tbc)

5-7 May Picton Seniors R/Robin

12-14 May West Port Macquarie

20-22 May Berri Seniors Teams Carnival (SA)

20-21 May Howe Park, Singleton

27-28 May West Tamworth Seniors

27-28 May Cowra Open Teams (tbc)

9-12 Jun Victorian Seniors Claycourt Champs (S400) (tbc)

10-12 Jun Robyn Castle Mixed Teams

17-18 Jun Lake Macquarie Seniors

23-26 Jun Tweed Heads Pro-one Tennis (S200)

24-25 Jun Cowra Seniors R/R

7-9 Jul Central Coast Wyong

21-23 Jul Gloucester R/R

4-7 Aug Forster Seniors R/R

5-6 Aug Forbes Open Teams (tbc)

12-13 Aug Muswellbrook Park

18-20 Aug Batemans Bay R/R

26-27 Aug Wyong Mixed Teams

1-3 Sep Cessnock Seniors R/R

9-10 Sep Manning River, Taree

16-17 Sep Orange Ex-Services R/R

23-24 Sep Gunnedah Seniors

29 Sep-2 Oct Tennis Seniors NSW State Championships (S700)

30 Sep-2 Oct Southern Mixed Teams

13-15 Oct Gosford Tennis Club R/R

13-16 Oct Merimbula Seniors

20-22 Oct Dubbo Paramount Seniors

27-30 Oct Victorian Seniors Champs (S400), Kooyong (tbc)

27-29 Oct East Port Macquarie

3-5 Nov Hawks Nest, Myall Park

Nov Kiama R/R date tba

24-27 Nov Victoria Senior Grass court Champs (S700), Yarrowonga (tbc)

1-3 Dec Nelson Bay Seniors

Dates for the Queensland ITF tournaments in 2023 were not available for this edition of Vetset.

Dates for the Victorian ITF tournaments are all to be confirmed..

Sunday Round Robin

22 January

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Warren Muller on 0407 916 868 or warren.muller@internode.on.net

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