



MR ROBIN O'NEILL, National Community Tennis Manager, Tennis Australia was a guest Speaker at the January Annual General Meeting of Tennis Seniors Australia held in Newcastle. Robin made the following comments during his talk.

- Expressed his sympathies to those affected by the devastating floods and that the response from Tennis Australia will be to inject funds towards the tennis community
- Congratulated the organizers of our events for ensuring our events succeed and facing challenges positively.
- Reinforced change to progress tennis seniors requires movement in the thoughts and approach of many people and it is your executive that is focused on making this happen.
- At the junior level there are some statistics that are very important. It is known, if you have not played the sport and feel comfortable with the sport by 15 years of age, there is an 85% chance that you will never play the sport with regularity. The implications are we invest in Hot Shots and coaches to ensure they have a thriving business to introduce the sport to their local area and that their programs present an easy opportunity to play the game and that they represent a very high public profile.
- Ease of tennis administration is a concern being addressed with a user focus on online systems – tournament planner, competition planner and mytennis – they have a long way to go but good leaders aware of integration and local user issues. More resource is being applied here to make it easier.
- In the last 12 months, 27 Community Tennis Officers have been appointed bringing the total throughout Australia to 58 to build local relationships and connect groups to tennis clubs. Their impact has been particularly felt growing MLC Tennis Hot Shots to 194,000 last financial year and 138,000 so far this financial year.
- Tennis Australia reaffirmed its support financial and administrative to maintain:
 - closer connections with the State Seniors Divisions
 - ensure the transition of closer relations with their Member Associations.
 - representative international teams selected by TSA are largely supported financially by Tennis Australia
- The court rebuilding program had been responsible for the building of 945 courts in the past two and a half years. Tennis Australia's significant contribution of \$9 million dollars to the court rebate system has resulted in \$154 million dollars of project value. This has been achieved by the Community Tennis Officers and staff of the Member Associations connecting closely with

local council governments and staff of Tennis Australia working closely with staff of Member Associations, as a team, to leverage every dollar possible.

- Encouraged a team work approach to all Tennis Seniors: by the State Seniors Associations working together in partnership with their Member Associations and supporting the TSA executive to ensure a vibrant and robust event profile, he believes there will be a long and healthy future for TSA.
- Bruce Osborne is a fulltime staff member at Tennis Australia and the appointment allows Tennis Australia to ensure our communication and progression of programs for Tennis Seniors continues consistently.

Mr Brian Dew, Chairman and outgoing Vice-President, thanked Robin for updating member of TSA on Tennis Australia's initiatives and the support that he and Tennis Australia continue to give TSA and its Divisions.

Tom Hancy,
March 10, 2011