

**Annual General Meeting  
Treasurer's Report 2019**

Dear Members,

Another year has slipped by and once again it is time to report. I was hoping to be informing members that the committee had secured funding for either a short or long term solution to repair or redevelop our courts. Sadly, that is not the case.

The huge amount of time and effort the committee has committed in trying to secure funding for a redevelopment of the Gardens Tennis courts largely goes unnoticed. The hundreds of hours have unfortunately fallen on deaf ears with the government failing to provide a solution or even a suitable suggestion to either the short or long term action for Gardens Tennis Club. I don't begrudge other sports receiving grants, but when the government hands out \$12m (to a club that had an operational profit of almost \$2m) to fund the building of a stand that will be filled no more than four times a year, the excuses are preposterous and demonstrates clear ineptness of government. I don't say this lightly, with tennis' participation across all ages, cultures and genders and the insight that tennis has an estimated participant spend in Australia of \$298 million, which is almost three times that of AFL. Then there is the recent \$29m spend on a Rugby League ground, for a sport that doesn't even rate in the top 20 in Australia. After years and years of no funding and minimal facilities, a \$16.9m facility for tennis at Marara, to enable tennis to finally grow, is not an excuse for the failure to upgrade Gardens Tennis, which was in fact earmarked to be upgrade prior to Mararra being built. Tennis participants continue to be a poor cousin to most sports and at a time when tennis is all over the news due to the sensational Ash Barty and a global growth sport, go figure...

This financial year we have had to be mindful of any spending as every option submitted to the NTG for an upgrade, had to incorporate a financial input from Gardens Tennis. Initially it would have been an illogical waste of funds to undertake any repairs that would have been ripped up and replaced in a redevelopment. Unfortunately our original submissions took Minister Moss's office almost three months to provide a uninspiring response, further submissions were made. Submissions and responses, when they do eventuate, have been going back and forward to government for almost 18 months. The last comprehensive submission, was in October 2019, the submission was after government asked us to provide a 'short term' fix. After again seeking quotes and assistance through Tennis NT and Tennis Australia, a request of approximately \$160k was made. This would have enabled, with an additional commitment from Tennis Australia, Tennis NT and GTC, a repair and repaint of all courts. The basis of the short term approach, requested by government, was to provide us approximately three years to go back to government with a new proposal for a long term redevelopment. Again financial assistance was denied and we were shocked to be advised to apply for a Grant, for the short term fix, through the Community Benefit Fund in 2020! One has to consider how absurd this is when you realise in 2015 the NTG withdrew a \$75k grant to enable resurfacing, as the courts were determined unsuitable back then and a full redevelopment required. Now they are telling us to apply for a grant they previously awarded 5 years ago, then withdrew, when the courts were in better condition then they are now.

It has been disappointing to learn that a GTC member has been promulgating erroneous information regarding the financial state of Tennis NT and making false claims about intentions of the peak body in regards of the Club. Tennis NT has been working very hard in also lobbying Government to provide support for both a longer term and short term remediation of the court infrastructure and we are most grateful for their efforts and support.

Moving on, at the end of the 2018/19 Financial year we have posted a Net Profit of **\$72,641.40** with an adjusted Net Loss for the corresponding 2017/18 financial year of **(\$29,085.02)**. The Financial situation this year has been improved by a one off payment for the insurance settlement relating to Cyclone Marcus, identified in last year's report. Pleasingly, we were also successful again in a number of grants, which have also increased our underlying position, especially a grant from Tennis Australia which assisted in recouping \$14,994.78 towards the LED lights installation, expensed in the 2017/18 period.

Grants received for the period were;

Tennis Australia – Lights Installation	\$14,994.78
Tennis NT – Clontarf Program	\$1,320.00
NTG - BizSecure Grant — Fence	\$16,186.00
NTG – BBQ Area	\$28,163.00

Total Grants received for 2018/19	<b><u>\$60,663.78</u></b>
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Additional Grants applied during the period:

Unspent NTG Grant 2017/18 – Shed	\$22,965.00
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Total Grant Income applied during the 2018/19 period	<b><u>\$55,465.78*</u></b>
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Other income:

Allianz Insurance payment from Cyclone Marcus	<b><u>\$42,032.46</u></b>
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\*Doesn't include the NTG BBQ Grant. To ensure we are conservative in our approach, any unspent grant from the Profit and Loss Income was transferred to the Balance Sheet as a liability under 'Unspent Grants'. This will be brought into the accounts when the grant is used for the intended purpose. As a result this has meant last years Profit and Loss was required to be adjusted, in relation to the shed grant, resulting in the increased aforementioned net loss for the 2017/18 period. This practice has been adopted to represent a more concise picture on when we apply our grant income and it is no longer treated as a liability.

During the year, as the applicable grants were applied against their intended purpose, our assets have also increase. New assets include;

Shed	\$32,770.70
Front Fencing	\$25,190.00
Book-a-Court Gate	\$3,200.00

Total New Assets at cost price	<b><u>\$61,160.70</u></b>
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Our outgoing expenses totaled \$66,967.47, which included \$29,295.00 in depreciation.

Overall whilst pleasing to report a net profit, the road forward needs to be carefully considered. Without the Tennis Australian Grant and the Insurance payout, we would have have been only recording approximately a \$4,000 Profit. With the the increasing deterioration of our court surfaces, repairs that were held off whilst lobbying government, will need to be urgently addressed.

The repairs have been generously commenced by Mr Bryan Dowling, a member who has given up his time and effort to undertake a temporary repair to Court 8. However all courts will need to be considered as best as possible before the wet season sets in properly.

Due to a proposed change by government with Special Liquor Licences, such as that held at Gardens Tennis, there was a requirement to review the premises and have them inspected for adherence to fire standards. It was identified that the club house is not up to standard and this is resulting in some considerable costs being required to upgrade emergency lighting to comply and the circuit board to provide capacity for the fire standards required.

After careful consideration, due to the cost and delay in the manufacturing of the original shade sail for the upgrade of the BBQ area, it was decided that a hard cover construction would be more aesthetically pleasing and better suited. The new BBQ's have been purchased and the, design, permits and construction progressing.

Finally, I would like to thank all those that helped during the year and the committee for continuing the hard slog with government in an attempt to ensure appropriate funding is allocated to upgrade the courts. I would also like to thank Ben McLachlan and his team for continuing to assist us grow Gardens Tennis to be the great place it is. Ben and his team's passion for tennis, coaching and quality products has benefitted us all and has allowed the President to compose an excellent submission for Club of the Year Award.

As a result Gardens Tennis Club won the Club of the Year Award for 2018/19, now three times out of the last four years, providing further evidence of the great club Gardens Tennis is.

Jamie T. O'Brien  
Treasurer  
Gardens Tennis Club Inc.  
5 Nov 2019

