



Spring 2023 Newsletter

President's message

Make a difference! Red Hill Tennis Club needs you!

Some of our committee members are moving away and stepping down at the end of this year.

You can make a real difference to the community; you can make new friends, work with purpose and see lasting change in your neighbourhood.

Together we laugh, drink wine and eat chocolate, hold bonfires and barbeques and club championships, and did I mention laugh....a lot! We work with Matt the coach, who is the backbone of the club, to bring a love of tennis to our community – our kids, us and our families.

I know life is busy and it doesn't seem possible to commit to helping out sometimes. But being on the committee here at Red Hill has made my life so much more exciting, meaningful and happy – I'm not just saying that.

Give us a ring to talk about how you can be involved, we will help you get up to speed. It's not hard or overwhelming. And it can be whatever you decide. A hold few meetings and the odd social event if you want. Keep the club running with heaps of support from Matt and the people at Tennis ACT. Have good ideas and watch as you make them a reality.

This is a great opportunity to make the organisation work the way you want it to.

Carolyn Paris – 0407 974 203

Libby McCutchan – 0468 751 165

Femke Rensen – 0402 608 042

Carolyn Paris

RHTC President

New members - welcome!

Gautam Ayyar	Kieran Ginges	Glenn Renner
Eadie Croston	James Lawlor	Ekansh Shukla
Samuel Darrough	Tom Lovejoy	Luca Smith
Franklin Dennett	Francesco Macarlino	Sunyul Song
Gabriel Fernandez Pena	Grace McIntosh	Andrew Szydzik & family
John Fisher & family	Jack and Joseph Meredith	Hridya Tippani

And our new furry club member ... who has happily finally moved into the beautiful possum box Dan made for us!



Club Championships 2022

Club Championships were held in December 2022, and are a highlight of the club year for many.

Results for 2022

Women's singles

Winner: Lyndal Hughson

Runner up: Libby McCutchan

Men's Doubles

Winners: Kieren McConville & Hamish McConville

Runners up: Geoff Tooth & Ian McConville

Men's singles

Winner: Kieren McConville

Runner up: Ian McConville

Mixed Doubles

Winners: Hamish McConville & Femke Rensen

Runners up: Geoff Tooth and Libby McCutchan





Adult Tennis League



RH1 vs Rh2 final round in Div 6 summer season

Red Hill Tennis Club – Online shop



TOPS: Adult \$40 / Juniors \$36 CAPS: \$20

BUY ONLINE AT <https://play.tennis.com.au/redhilltennisclub> - 'SHOP' tab

***We currently have Junior sizes 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 – and caps in stock. Other sizes are 2-4 weeks**

MONDAY NIGHT - ADULT LEAGUE MIRACLE!!!



Red Hill Roos may well change their name to the Red Hill Cats after the **Div 7 Monday night Tennis League Team** used up at least 9 lives in their heart-stopping Grand Final victory over Kaleen at the ROOS RANGE on Wednesday night (June 2022).

When the teams were split at 1 apiece after a tight 4-6 doubles loss for **Adrian McConnon** and **Chris Chapman** and a composed, clinical 6-1 singles victory from team no.1 **Saurabh Anand** there was little sign of the madness to come. This is about the time the full moon shot out above Carey Gardens Village and things got crazy!

Only the most die-hard ROOS fans still gave **Chris 'Chappo' Chapman** a hope when he fell behind 1-4 , in the no.2 singles rubber . His Kaleen opponent was seeing the ball like a watermelon, dominating all aspects of the match and was surely thinking victory was a formality... Though Chris grew up on the mean streets of Dubbo, in country western NSW where giving up was never an option and showing any sign of weakness was akin to signing off on your own death warrant. Slowly but surely Chris scratched and clawed his way back into the contest. When the combatants met at the net for the handshake, almost an hour after the 1st bell had rung neither fighter could barely keep their hands up and it was Chris who had prevailed in a tie breaker 7-6!

Next up was **Adrian and Saurabh's doubles**. Again the ROOS found themselves 5-6 down and only a couple of points from defeat . Up stepped Club stalwart **Adrian McConnon**, who showed absolute nerves of steel to hold a wonderful service game to send the rubber into another tie breaker. Adrian was the dominant force in the tie breaker and fittingly it was a McConnon

'fireball  forehand-drive' that brought up the victory .

This set the ROOS up nicely with a 3-1 advantage overall. Prompting the words from a mysterious, spiritual member of the Kaleen support crew who had been seated next to Jimmy Thomson and your correspondent "*this is all over, I am going inside to pray*". (Club mascot Rupert the ROO' also disappeared at this point and was later recovered with a number of voodoo needles in his body). The Grand Final momentum flipped in Kaleen's favour in an instant. Let cords, balls off the back of the line, Roos' players being blinded by low flying, overhead objects; you name it, everything and anything appeared to suddenly be conspiring against the home team. To the flashpoint where not only had Kaleen erased the deficit, with singles defeat of Adrian, they had one hand on the trophy and their feet firmly on the ROO's jugular when they shot out to a 4-1 lead in the season defining doubles match v Chris and Saurabh.

1-4 became 2-5, 0-40 with Kaleen serving for the match, Tennis League title, the trophy - EVERYTHING .

At this moment 2 interesting things happened. The Kaleen supporter left the clubhouse and reappeared on the side-lines, enquiring after the score. And then a ray of sunshine and good vibes in the form of **Remi Chapman** arrived . When I morosely informed Remi that the ROOS were facing 3 match points and their whole season was riding on the result of this last doubles match, she simply shrugged and said "*it's not over yet Matt*".....

The rest is now history, the results are in and the plaque will sit forever in the clubhouse of the ROO' RANGE. **Chris and Saurabh** basically would not take no for an answer and with no margin for error managed, with EVERYTHING on the line to string 5 games together to secure an unforgettable 7-5 victory and the **Canberra Tennis League Championship**.

Victory was fittingly secured, at the net from yet another sublime, classy volley winner from **Saurabh** who along with **Chris** was just tremendous . They both showed excellent mental toughness , support for each other and a refusal to give up .

CONGRATULATIONS



Adrian,



Chris and



Saurabh

Junior Tennis League



Junior League remains strong and a standout feature of our club fielding so many teams. Thanks to **Matt** for all his enthusiasm, and to **Libby** for the support getting teams entered and sorted. **Jade Caboche** has started helping too, adding value to this busy part of club and School of Tennis operations.

Recent winners as follows:

Spring 2022

Div 6 team 2 (**Parth, Oskar, Srivathsa and Raphael**)

Autumn 2023

Div 8 team 3 (**Jack and Joseph Meredith, Huon Smith Berry and James Lawlor**)

Winning teams now receive a plaque for the clubhouse (rather than a flag) and these have recently been put up on display (made by Libby).

Pizzey Cup

Club member **Sophie McDonald** was selected to play in Pizzey Cup this year. The club donated \$100 to contribute towards Sophie's participating costs. Here is a thank you and lovely article from Sophie:

It was a real privilege to represent the 2023 ACT Secondary Schools Pizzey Cup team and THANK YOU very much for the \$100 contribution from Red Hill Tennis Club - very generous. It went towards off-setting the ACT uniform costs and once again, I'm pretty sure I was the only team member to receive assistance from their tennis club - thank you very much!

The Pizzey Cup has been going since 1963. It is Australia's premier secondary schools tennis event where the leading 16 (8 boys, 8 girls), year 7 to year 12 players from every state and territory (with the exception of Northern Territory this year) square off against each other, to determine the champion state and champion individual male and female.

This year's championships were held in Canberra. I was one of three Narrabundah College girls selected and the girls manager was one of my favourite teachers from Telopea School, so I was looking forward to being involved with her again!

Though I didn't contribute much on **Day 1** the ACT Girls served a little notice when we actually beat Qld - though when combined with the boys team we lost narrowly overall. **Day 2** was a beauty. After a heavy loss in the individual singles tournament on Day 1, I had one of my best singles wins in the consolation event, over a Queenslander. Despite the girls narrowly going down to WA, I was reunited with one of my regular doubles partners Aliyah Dwyer and we had a decisive win. The Managers then left us together and we went on a bit of an undefeated run, getting up over SA, VIC, and NSW (who were crowned 2023 Pizzey Cup champions).

The Girls Team were lucky enough to record more victories against SA and VIC. The Girls' defeats of QLD and VIC were '1sts' for the Territory. The boys team were great and had some top results but as a team we still hadn't won overall, then came the Tasmania matchACT prevailed 17 rubbers to 1. I was fortunate enough to contribute a singles and mixed doubles victory. It was a great end to a special week and the team managers were very happy.

- **Sophie McDonald**



Free Juniors Social Tennis Sunday Afternoons

Starts 8 October

Barton, Yarralumla and Red Hill Tennis Clubs invite junior players aged from 8-14 years for **free social tennis**, alternating between the clubs over a six-week period.

These sessions will suit juniors:

- in Div 6 to 8 of the Junior Tennis League,
- who are thinking of joining League or a JDS tournament and want some extra practice, or
- who just want to have fun in a non-competitive environment.

You need to be able to play a match and serve, but you don't need to be super confident!

What to bring: You will need to bring along your racquet, a hat, water bottle and sunscreen and be prepared to have a fun time!

We will provide: A coach to supervise matches and provide on-court playing tips; a snack for afternoon tea.

To register: please email the Yarralumla president: adam.bartlett@au.kwm.com

The afternoons will be held at the clubs as follows:

Sunday 8 & 15 October – Yarralumla Tennis Club – 2-4pm

Sunday 22 & 29 October – Barton Tennis Club – 2 - 4 pm

Sunday 5 & 12 November – Red Hill Tennis Club -2-4pm

We will be interested to obtain feedback from both players and parents at the end of the six weeks - as these sessions may continue.