

Red Hill Tennis Club Newsletter March 2015	
Important dates for your diaries:	<p>Micro working bee – 10am to 1pm: Saturday 22 March</p> <p>Great big working bee – 10am to 5pm Sunday 3 May</p> <p>McLeish farewell BBQ – (at working bee 12-2pm 3 May)</p> <p>AGM– 7pm: Thursday 19 March</p> <p>Social Tennis – 7pm onwards: every Thursday</p> <p>Friday social tennis/dinner nights will start again after Easter with a bonfire and a bbq – we’ll send out an email to let you know details:</p>
Welcome	<p>Dear members,</p> <p>Welcome to another year of tennis at Red Hill.</p> <p>We have so much to tell you in this newsletter – we seem to be upgrading everything – the carpark is done, we’re talking with the ACT Government about upgrading lights; the clay court refurbishment will be done on once the lights are sorted out, the website has had an upgrade and the bush on the Carnegie Street side of the courts is to be tamed.</p> <p>We have some club events coming up with the AGM next week (this really is a non-threatening occasion which coincides with Thursday social tennis), a couple of working bees to get the maintenance under control and a social night after Easter because it’s been too long since we had a roaring blaze in the fire pit and a bbq! And we’re saying farewell to the McLeishs as they have moved to their farm near Delegate.</p> <p>There are more details on all this below together with reports on membership, coaching news and our pennant teams.</p>
Membership	<p>Thanks so much for supporting the club again this year. We have around 140 members so far – a large group of tennis lovers from across the ACT - such a great thing.</p> <p>We have to thank our indefatigable Membership Secretary in the Geneva branch of the Red Hill Tennis Club – Libby McCutchan. Libby works behind the scenes and on the other side of the world, in a different time zone to do all the work to process our memberships. Thank you so much for all your work Libby – your contribution is enormous!</p> <p>If you still haven’t got your 2015 membership done, click onto the new improved link and get it done before the end of March to avoid the joining fee:</p> <p>https://tennisau.omnisportsmanagement.com/Memberships/(S(uthtvtkb5ctz4t1pfunhs3c))/OSMMbr_CustomClubScreen.aspx?id=HDousP7%2fYFl3yuwPCfXMq1Z8868Jwc19kPZT%2bAOE34%3d</p>
Pennant News	<p>Our junior pennant teams have started up again with our biggest number of teams ever – 19 teams ranging from two teams in Division 1 to the whole of Division 7 being Red Hill teams!!!! We are still the best represented club in Junior pennant thanks to the amazing enthusiasm of Matt and the support of David Lloyd and Carolyn Paris. Keep an eye on how they are progressing with Matt’s chart on the Pennant notice board at the clubhouse. We also have 3 Adult pennant teams competing on Monday nights competing in Division 2 and 3.</p>
New lights	<p>We are so excited to tell you that the ACT Government has been working with the committee to see if they can help fund new lighting for the courts.</p>

	<p>The initial process involves three tenders for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the supply of the lighting arrays; - the installation of electrical cabling (including digging trenches) and the light poles & bases, and the light control system. - the rolling up of the synthetic grass before the trenches get dug then the remediating of the grass and the clay courts after the work is completed. <p>If all the tenders go well, the ACT Government will provide us with a grant to obtain new lights.</p> <p>We would really love to get LED lighting as it expected to provide consistent, maintenance free lighting for at least 30 years! But I'm sure you'll agree any improvement to our old, dangerous lights will be very welcome. In the meantime lets all keep our fingers crossed (and try not to hit the lights with tennis balls) that the old lights hold out until new lighting can be put in!</p> <p>As part of this process the ACT Government has funded lighting engineers to provide technical assistance for assessing the tenders and the project management, including making sure there isn't light spilling out to the surrounding properties and making sure all Australian lighting and building standards are met.</p> <p>We will keep you informed</p>
<p>Clay Court upgrade – Granite Pride</p>	<p>We have put off the upgrade of the clay courts until new lighting has been sorted out as it will involve trenching in the clay courts.</p> <p>In the meantime, our president, Marc Mowbray-d'Arbela has worked tirelessly to keep rainwater channelling away from the baselines to reduce water-logging as well as spraying weeds and removing leaves and berries from the Carnegie side of the courts.</p> <p>Thanks to everyone who looks after the clay courts, watering them before playing and bagging them after your games. I hope you were rewarded with the smell of lovely wet loam, a firm surface to play on and a sense of satisfaction as you dragged the carpet over the court at the end of your game.</p> <p>There have even been mystery clay court carers sweeping the lines before Junior Pennant on Sunday mornings. And thanks must also go to Matt McDonald's crew who roll the courts as they need it.</p> <p>As with the lights, we'll keep you informed about the dates of the clay court upgrade which might mean they are out of action for a short time, but you will be astounded how good they will be to play on afterwards! We'll be able to feel even more Granite Pride!</p>

<p>Coaching News</p>	<p>Matt has been working overtime to bring people together to play tennis with his incredible effort with the 19 Pennant teams – hours of texts and talking has gone into this amazing achievement!!!</p> <p>As you all know Matt continues to enthusiastically coach our club’s young people to become incredible tennis players and inspire its older folk to play better tennis than they ever thought possible.</p> <p>If you’d like to arrange lessons, give Matt a ring on 0412 565 137.</p>
<p>Website upgrade</p>	<p>Committee member Paul Stapleton has put a lot more information about memberships (new easier link), social tennis, court hire and club news onto our club website. Take a look and if you have any ideas for more information, good photos, or news you’d like to share, let us know and we’ll put it up (email redhilltennis@gmail.com). Website address is http://www.tennis.com.au/redhilltennisclub/ Thanks Paul!</p>
<p>Tree clean-up on Carnegie Street side</p>	<p>We have been talking to the ACT Government to see if they can tame the trees overhanging the Carnegie Crescent end of the courts. After several visits to the courts by the government officers, we have received an overwhelming response saying they will not only do a trim but they will provide a 2 metre clearing from the court boundary and they will remove the weedy undergrowth and dumped green waste.</p> <p>This will help with the drainage of the courts (which naturally slope that way) and reduce shading of the courts and reduce leaves and berries dropping onto the courts. It will also provide greater amenity while maintaining the green backdrop to the courts that we all appreciate.</p> <p>The ACT officers could not give a date for this work to be done, but it should be within the next 6 months. We are very grateful to this assistance provided by the ACT Government and we will write to them once the work is completed to say thanks.</p>
<p>McLeish Farewell</p>	<p>As part of the Great Big Working Bee (see below) we will be holding a bbq to formally say farewell to Toni and Robert McLeish.</p> <p>We think this is fitting as Robert and Toni organised many working bees in their time providing amazing stewardship of the club resources. We are sad to see them leave the suburb and hope they come and visit from time to time – to keep an eye on us!</p> <p>Thanks so very much for all your work for the Club over the years Toni and Robert, and all the best for your new life in the bush!</p>
<p>AGM</p>	<p>Attending the AGM (Thursday 19 March 2015 7pm) will give you an overview of 2014 from our president and treasurer, we will elect a new committee and have a chat about priorities for 2015.</p> <p>We are always looking for volunteers to become new committee members and who wouldn’t want to be part of our dynamic, funny, charming, tennis loving team!</p> <p>This year we’re particularly on the look-out for a Vice President (not a very onerous role – just sub in for the president when he/she can’t make meetings) to replace Robert McLeish. Otherwise nominate for general committee member (very low commitment role!)</p> <p>All welcome – and you can still get back to social tennis afterwards!</p>

<p>Thursday Social Tennis</p>	<p>Thursday Social Tennis happens each Thursday (of course!) at 7pm onwards. Everyone is welcome – really everyone from beginners to advanced – we’ll introduce you to people you’ll enjoy playing with. Prices are \$4 for members and \$7 for non-members.</p>
<p>Working Bees – micro bee and the Great Big working bee</p>	<p>Micro-bee – 10am to 1pm. This is just a small event to get the weeds under control near the carpark and in the garden beds before winter. Also it would be great to clean out the drains (I know not a fun job but very satisfying) before the winter rains. Just come for an hour and bring your gardening gloves and weeding tools. We’ll have a trailer there to take away the green waste. It will look so much better. I am hoping we can plant some low shrubs below our wonderful hand-painted sign on the street side of the practice wall.</p> <p>Great Big working bee and McLeish farewell BBQ Sunday 3 May –10am to 5pm. This is a larger no holds barred working bee which will tackle big issues like the fascia on the clubhouse, replacing the wood on the seat between courts 1 and 2, putting up new court number signs, the final coat of paint on the doors and toilet walls (particularly the men’s toilets), new soap dispensers in the toilets, replacing the solar light at the gate and replacing broken capping on the concrete blocks, and cleaning up the storeroom. If you have other ideas of how we could make the club facilities better, let us know and we’ll add it to the list (at redhilltennis@gmail.com)</p> <p>Pop these in your diary – just give an hour or so of your time and together we can give the clubhouse the make-over it deserves!</p>