



Rosanna Tennis Club

Annual Report 2020 - 2021





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1. The Year in Retrospect

1.1 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The ongoing Covid19 pandemic contributed highs and lows across the year. Our membership reached a level not seen for many years including a spike in family memberships. Court hire by family and friendship groups was a popular way for many to exercise close to home during lockdown. Due to the mandated cleaning and distancing rules the online court booking system was closed to non-members during the height of the lockdown phases and the clubhouse closed to all. As restrictions have eased, we have seen a return of non-members and income from the on-line booking system.

The pandemic prevented competition play during the second half of 2020 and interrupted parts of the Autumn 2021 season. Social play experienced ups and downs and pandemic rules necessitated the rationing of court time amongst members. Membership was extended fee-free to all members until February and a discounted fee collected for the remainder of the year. The anticipated drop-off of members did not occur and the overall support from members during the disrupted year as we adapted to government requirements at very short notice, was noteworthy.

On behalf of all members I would like to thank Banyule City Council for the \$330,000 granted to the club in their 2020/2021 Budget and for their overall coordination of our redevelopment project

This funding provided an extraordinary opportunity to convert Courts 4 and 5 to synthetic clay and replace the surface on Courts 2 and 3 that were officially opened by CR Tom Melican on 28 March 2021. The funding also enabled us to complete the renewal of the court fencing that we had been doing in stages over the last few years. This has been transformative for the club and together with the on-line booking system positions the club to provide premier playing conditions for members and casual users from our community. Court 1 will remain en-tout-cas and rebuilding areas around the service lines is a future project. Our focus in the year ahead will be the conversion of the floodlights on Courts 2 and 3 to LED.

The en-tout-cas courts were in place for decades however our switch to an artificial surface in 2007 has shown that we need to renew this surface every ten to fifteen years depending on wear and tear. As such upgrades require tens of thousands of dollars each time, we will continue to collect the annual levy with membership fees in order to consolidate the Sinking Fund and be in a position to respond more quickly to costly works in the future. As one of more than twenty tennis clubs in Banyule, future support from Council may not be as generous as our recent experience.

Seniors Week was delivered on line in October and our annual event at the club cancelled. We will participate again in 2021 as this event has helped our Friday Social Group grow and strengthen over recent years. Due to the court resurfacing, our annual Open Day was postponed from mid-February to late March where the number of visitors was lower than in previous years.



CR Melican and President Ros Marshall at the opening; the table and chairs were purchased this year to enhance visitor comfort during matches.

The 2020 Club Championships were cancelled and the 2021 Club Championships have been postponed to the second half of 2021. We remain optimistic that they can be held safely before the end of the year more popular than ever on our new courts.

It was heartening to see most players return to representing the club in the district competitions in 2021 after the cancellation of all competition in the second half of 2020. Short lockdowns continued to disrupt the Autumn season however all were able to complete finals.

On behalf of the Committee and all club members I would like to thank the senior team captains, junior team managers and the parents who organise teams each Saturday morning, for the countless hours you spend ensuring the smooth operation of our participation in the NENTG, HDTA and NEJTA competitions. Details of the completed Autumn season start on page 7.

Sponsorship arrangements were put on hold this year. Viewbank Early Childhood Centre will be back next year and once our Saturday junior BBQ resumes, we look forward to continuing our relationship with Rosanna Baker's Delight.

Since the onset of the pandemic, our relationships with our peak body, Tennis Victoria, and Banyule City Council have reached a new level and our club and my role have been strengthened by their high levels of support. We have been united in measures and speedy communication in order to provide a low-risk environment and keep our community informed and active during this unprecedented time.

In the following pages, most sections will only address the first half of 2021 when the regular activities normally pursued across our membership started promisingly after the summer holidays. Only limited social play had been possible during the second half of 2020.

Finally, I extend my thanks to the Committee members who have ably assisted me during a year when we operated remotely for most of the time. We were able to meet face-to-face on only five occasions yet delivered one of the biggest club upgrades we have managed in decades. I invite more members to join us on Committee and bring new ideas and energy to the table as we strive to be a vibrant and quality venue engaging the Banyule community in tennis at all levels.

Roslyn Marshall
President

1.2 A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Initiating and managing the recent, highly collaborative redevelopment project is but the tip of the iceberg when considering the full range of duties associated with running a community sports club. For nearly three decades, Ros Marshall has led a small group of volunteers and completed most of the lower profile, day-to-day tasks on her own. From dealing with Council and contractors to tidying up our venue and tending to the personal needs of members, Ros is the helpful and equanimous face of our club. In recent years, she has also become part of the North Eastern Night Tennis Group Committee to ensure that night tennis continues to be available and enjoyable for all players across the association.

I would like to thank Barbara Hapgood for nominating Ros for a much deserved 2020 Volunteer Award presented by the Federal Member of Jaga-Jaga at a community function in February. It was long overdue and on behalf of everyone at the Club, I congratulate Ros and extend our thanks to her family who support and assist her in countless ways.

Barbara Carpenter
Secretary

2. General Business

2.1 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The total number of members increased by 19% over the year from 174 to 207. Our court/member ratio increased from 1:35 to 1:41; well above the Tennis Victoria guideline of 1:25.

2020-2021 Club Membership

- Male Members: 112
- Female Members: 95
- Senior Memberships: 145
- Junior Memberships: 62
- Life Members: 5

2.2 TREASURER'S REPORT

We started the financial year with carry-over funds of \$39,565.21. The long periods of closure due to the pandemic impacted both revenue and expenditure. The costly redevelopment project was met entirely by Banyule City Council, leaving our funds intact and growing slightly to close at \$42,040.09.

Below is the statement of Receipts and Payments, detailing the income and expenditure during the financial year.

2.2.1 Cash Position

As at 30 June 2021, the amount of cash held by the Club is \$12,213.76 at the Commonwealth Bank, Rosanna; \$15,587.50 at the Bendigo Bank Heidelberg in the sinking fund established to hold the special refurbishment levy and \$14,238.83 in the discrete Book-A-Court account, also at the Bendigo Bank Heidelberg, which is paying interest.

For ease of managing electronic banking, the Commonwealth Bank account will operate as the Levy account and the Bendigo Account will become the primary trading account from 01 July 2021. There will be no change to the second Bendigo Bank account that is dedicated to Book-a-Court receipts.

2.2.2 Income

Income for the 2020/2021 Financial Year totalled \$21,273.46 compared to \$45,598.77 the previous year, a drop of 54%.

Membership dues, levy contributions, night competition floodlight fees and coach fees were all significantly down due to reduced activity in the second half of 2020.

New revenue continued in response to pandemic restrictions with several small grants, including one for electric hand dryers in the bathrooms, utility refunds and a reduction in Council charges.

In spite of several closures of the entire venue due to pandemic restrictions, Book-a-Court income increased 8.1% from \$4,606.65 to \$4,981.46. Enabling members and occasional tennis players from across the local community greater access to floodlights and daylight bookings helped many in the community to gain much valued exercise during several periods of lockdown.

2.2.3 Fundraising

Fundraising was disrupted by the reduction in club activities and suspension of the Junior competition when competition returned. There were only a few uniform sales. Our sponsorship arrangements with the Viewbank Early Childhood Centre will continue next year after being deferred in 2020/2021 due to the pandemic.

2.2.4 Expenditure

Overall outgoings almost halved from \$36,345.96 to \$18,798.58 reflecting the reduction in running costs due to court closures. Court maintenance, other maintenance, cleaning costs and team registration fees were all much less than usual. Utilities overall were also much less due to the halving of electricity charges (\$1,710), however water (\$762), and gas (\$445) were similar to last year.

Improvements included the purchase and installation of two electric hand dryers, a picnic setting for the pergola, two new Honour-boards and part-payment of the fencing upgrades. Other outgoings covered court hire for competition during the redevelopment period and trophies for the Junior end-of-season presentation.

2.2.5 Future

We continue to operate on a sound financial position for the coming year. Our focus has turned to converting the floodlights on Courts 2 and 3 to LED. Thereafter a part rebuild of our remaining en-tout-cas Court 1, will become our focus. Building club reserves through the levy (held in the Sinking Fund) and income from Book-a-Court (held in a discrete bank account) are essential elements of our commitment to the long-term sustainability of the club. Income is expected to remain below previous levels again next year as impacts from the pandemic continue to limit our ability to provide our full range of playing opportunities.

Thanks and appreciation to Pat Dixon for being the Treasurer again.

Statement of Accounts		2020 - 2021	
Receipts	\$	Expenditure	\$
Bank Interest	2.63	Affiliation fees	1,839.20
Book A Court Revenue	4,981.46	Capital works/improvements	4,697.35
Capital Levy	1,355.00	Cleaning and maintenance	1,465.00
Coaching fees	475.00	Club lease and Rates	1,381.83
Court Hire	115.00	Court Maintenance	1,888.70
Fund raising	270.00	Other maintenance	1,055.00
Grants		Postage and stationery	611.64
Junior ball sales	100.00	Supplies	290.81
Lighting Levy		Team registrations	480.00
Membership fees	11,180.00	Tennis Ball purchase	330.00
Other	2,794.61	Utilities	2,915.55
		Other	1,843.00
Total	21,273.70		18,798.08

2.3 COACH'S REPORT

The coaching at Rosanna Tennis Club has been extremely challenging over the last financial year. Without the full support of the club, coaching numbers would be down a lot more than they already are. We are committed to re-establishing our coaching services to previous levels and hope that the recent increase in interest shown by the community towards our club continues and extends to coaching services.

The year started with coaching shut down through all of Term 3. Term 4 started tentatively with the hope that clients would return after lockdown restrictions eased. Unfortunately wariness of Covid19 implications was high, resulting in coaching numbers being at an all time low and cancellations at an all time high. There was a notable increase in private or semi-private sessions and weaker demand for group classes. Total numbers during Term 4 were around 40% down on the same time last year. Continual lockdowns have made it extremely difficult to get coaching back to pre-Covid19 levels.

Our annual school program with Rosanna Primary School was shut down with the school hesitant to commit to any such program. Hopefully the school will return in Term 4, 2021.

Term 1, 2021 started off with only one court available due to our new court renovations. With up to three courts normally used throughout the week, it became another very challenging time that led to a further 25% decrease in clientele from the previous term. The last weeks of Term 1 were busy focussing on delivering as many catch up sessions as possible once the courts were handed back.

The court resurfacing project also effected the timing of our annual Open Day. It was pushed back from mid-February to late March. Numbers for our Open Day have always been extremely positive due to the high profile the Australian Open generates for tennis and traditionally this interest draws new clientele to coaching. Losing this momentum impacted attendance at the Open Day and flowed into fewer intakes into coaching than normal.

Coaching resumed at the beginning of Term 2 with hopes of getting through the term with no disruptions. Even though coaching numbers were still at a minimum, there was an air of excitement around the club that we might have turned the corner and those enrolled would enjoy an undisrupted term. Competition had resumed, team training sessions were being run and coaching was running smoothly until the middle of the term when another two week lockdown was imposed. We returned with two weeks left in the term and by focussing on extra coaching during those two weeks and into the school holiday period were able to catch up and deliver all sessions.

This extremely challenging period would have been more uncertain without the dedicated coaching group that worked with me to deliver coaching whenever possible; inevitably, some coaches gained coaching opportunities whilst others lost some. I have never been more proud of my coaching group and together we look forward to providing the best possible services in what is hopefully a less disruptive year ahead.

3. Our Venue

3.1 CLUB IMPROVEMENTS

3.1.1 - Court Resurfacing

Discussions held with Banyule City Council last financial year gathered steam when they confirmed in their 2020-2021 budget that funds would be allocated to the resurfacing of four courts and the replacement of sections of court fencing that our own efforts had not yet addressed. The tender process went smoothly allowing for work to commence in February. The fencing, conversion of Courts 4 and 5 from en-tout-cas to synthetic clay and the resurfacing of Courts 2 and 3 were possible with a Banyule City Council Grant in the sum of \$330,000.



3.2 OUR FUTURE STRATEGY

3.2.1 - Upgrade to LED Floodlights

The next item needing updating is LED floodlighting on Courts 2 and 3. Committee obtained quotes from three suppliers with different lighting patterns during the past year and will finalise a contract in the second half of 2021.

Suppliers have indicated that the existing four light poles can be retained, reducing the total cost and enabling the project to progress sooner. The light colour will be very similar to the new LED floodlights on Courts 4 and 5 but the resulting light pattern will be different due to the different number of poles.

3.2.2 - Rebuild En-tout-cas Court

Court 1 will be retained as an en-tout-cas surface and needs the area around the service lines to be rebuilt. Committee will seek quotations and undertake the work when funds become available.

3.2.3 - Consolidating the Sinking Fund

Our recent infrastructure renewal projects have demonstrated that tens of thousands of dollars are required each time. Furthermore with a doubling of courts with artificial surfaces and the need to renew that surface every ten to fifteen years depending on wear and tear, the levy will continue to be collected with membership fees in order to consolidate the Sinking Fund and be in a position to respond more quickly to costly works in the future.

4. Competitions

4.1 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Due to the ongoing public health restrictions in the second half of 2020, it was not possible to hold the 2020 Club Championships. The closure of courts during the refurbishment project has delayed the 2021 Club Championships usually held in February/March. Whether they can proceed in the second half of 2021 will depend on prevailing Public Health considerations.

When Championships resume, our Champions will be recorded on new Honour-boards as the existing ones had run out of room. Once Victorian businesses reopened, we procured two matching boards from The Diamond Valley Trophy Centre that will record our Club Champions for many years to come.



4.2 MID-WEEK LADIES

The number of members participating in Mid-week ladies remained stable and involved registration in the Heidelberg Districts Tennis Association Tuesday competition. No flags were added to our trophy cabinet.

4.2.1 Spring 2020

The Public Health landscape changed many times during the second half of 2020 preventing the start of competition. Optimistically, two teams had been entered to compete. Players met socially whenever possible to maintain friendships and keep active.

4.2.2 Autumn 2021

The number of members playing in the Heidelberg Districts Tennis Association was eighteen, one more than the previous year, and two teams, graded to Sections 2 and 5, commenced the season. Two rounds were abandoned due to pandemic restrictions and neither team reached the finals.

4.3 NIGHT TENNIS

Night tennis in the North Eastern Night Tennis Group was well supported again by members and two additional flags were added to our trophy cabinet in the Autumn 2021 season.

Our President, Ros Marshall continued her involvement with the NENTG Committee in the Treasurer's role.

Thanks and appreciation to Rita Beanini for coordinating the Ladies night teams and Simon Swindon for coordinating the Men's.

4.3.1 Spring 2020

Even though the statewide pandemic shutdown had begun, the NENTG did call for team nominations. As the length of the shutdown grew ever longer, it reached a point where starting the season became untenable and was abandoned completely.

As restrictions eased, teams met at the club on their match night in order to stay connected and hit a few balls.

4.3.2 Autumn 2021

The season started optimistically and as scheduled. Even though several rounds were abandoned during the season due to short pandemic lockdowns, the season did conclude with the playing of finals. Two flags were added to the Club's trophy wall.

4.3.2.1 Men

Five teams were entered - the same as in Autumn 2020. The teams were graded to Sections 3, 4, 6, 10 and 13. Mens 4 and 10 became premiers whilst the remaining teams did not contest finals.

4.3.2.2 Veterans

One team was entered and graded to Section 1. After playing in Section 2 for several seasons, they did not reach finals. A second team that played their first season in Autumn 2020 has not yet returned to competition.

4.3.2.3 Womens

Four teams were entered, one more than the previous Autumn. Teams were entered in Sections 4, 6, 11 and 12. Womens 6 narrowly lost an exciting Grand Final and Womens 4 and 12 played in semi-finals.

4.3.2.4 Mixed

There was one team registered and graded to Section 4, the same as in 2020. They did not reach finals.

4.4 JUNIORS

Participation in the North Eastern Junior Tennis Association remained strong and all teams were scheduled to play their home matches at the club. No flags were added to our trophy collection this year.

Thanks and appreciation to Sandro Madrigale for being the Junior Secretary and for his efforts in bringing a full complement of juniors back for the Autumn competition. Wendy Shaw is now coordinating uniforms for the club.

Due to social distancing rules, the junior canteen did not operate this year. We look forward to reestablishing the generous support of Baker's Delight, Rosanna, when the aroma of onions and sausages is able to return to Saturday mornings.

The support of parents is invaluable and greatly appreciated in the roles of team managers, venue supervisors, and when teams are playing at away venues. This year they have also helped in responding quickly to a changing environment and in helping each team to focus on a return to play.

4.4.1 Spring 2020

The NEJTA optimistically accepted nominations however the whole season was cancelled due to pandemic restrictions.

4.4.2 Autumn 2021

Seven teams: two Girls and five Boys, were entered into the competition. This was one less Boys and one less Mixed team than was entered in Autumn 2020. Three rounds were not played due to further short periods of lockdown and both the semi and grand finals were delayed. Five teams - Girls 9, Boys 5, 11, 15, and 19 - contested semi finals.

Completion of the season enabled the conferring of the 'Best Performed Player' award to the following in their respective teams: Georgia Birney (Girls 9), Ella Clifford-Doughty (Girls 10), Jude Birney (Boys 5), Aiden Kwong (Boys 11), Flynn Hamilton (Boys 15) Toby Erskine (Boys 17), and Matteo Sculli (Boys 19).

The Boys 15 team, comprising Flynn Hamilton, Troy Ferreira, Josh Vertigan, Devlin Sheehy and Sam Herrick, was awarded the Club's Fennin Award after a very strong season where they finished second on the ladder with 118.57%.