

# tennis 30<sup>+</sup>

Vol 140 – July 2021

**TENNIS SENIORS ASSOCIATION of SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC. - TSSA**

This **Special Edition** features feedback from many of the interstate captains whose teams helped make the 33<sup>rd</sup> Berri Teams Carnival a roaring success.



Our cover girls are from the renowned Kooyong Tennis Club in Melbourne. They showed brilliant form both on and off the court at the Berri Carnival!

Going around the table from front left: Sue THOMAS, Julie MURPHY, Brigette LAIRD, Wendy HARRISON, Lois PLOWMAN, Annette SHEPPARD, Maya FERGUSON, Rachel DICKINSON, Barb WESTON, Julie FIDLER, Fiona WALKER, Leanne SCOTT, Annie SAVILLE, Rosemary EVERETT, (Absent Karen COREY).

We're told they'll all be back in 2022!

*Max FORAN*

## **BARRARATS (Victoria) 60+ MEN**

*John HANNETT*

Berri Teams Carnival 2021 inspired a six-player BARRARATS team from the Victorian cities of Ballarat and Ararat to be formed. The pandemic and subsequent lockdowns in Victoria caused much distress and isolation and the opportunity for tennis and catch-up with our tennis friends at Berri and districts was much anticipated.

Team members and partners individually headed off on the seven-hour drive to Berri after gaining SA and Vic Police border crossing permits and met at Berri Hotel on Friday night to familiarise and discuss event arrangements while enjoying an excellent dinner.

COVID's impact led to the event organisers arranging what BARRARATS considered to be efficient, venue-specific Welcome/Information sessions and suggest this should be the norm from now on. In our case it led to prompt start of play at Barmera on Saturday morning with an ensuing excellent day's tennis. Provision of precise tennis venue address information beforehand by the committee helped team newcomers arrive on time and at the correct location.

With a first match win secured the team was looking forward to the next match in Berri but were disappointed to learn that sets had been cut back to six game sets even though matches still finished quite early in the day. But BARRARATS didn't let reduced court time interfere with our long weekend away, using the down time to catch up with other players from past years and also just enjoy having a great time in South Australia.



**BARRARATS** Leigh DUNNE, Michael TEE, Martin HALE, Terry DREW, John OATES, John HANNETT  
(Captain) (Photo courtesy of Leigh Dunne)

BARRARATS congratulate the new committee and volunteers for all their hard work we look forward to future competitions at Berri and districts.

## **BENDIGO GO GIRLS (Victoria) OPEN WOMEN B**

Sheryn LONG

### ***Bendigo Go Girls hit the Berri Carnival scene!***

Being first timers (except Jenny) to the Berri tennis teams' carnival in May, we had no idea what to expect in terms of format, competition and most importantly social opportunities. And, might I say, we had a ball!

Our surprising win in the Open B section simply capped off what was a fun adventure for us. Personally, I'd only ever briefly passed through the Riverland area. From our stop for lunch at the Trentham Estate winery with its' stunning views, to dinner at the character filled Renmark Hotel, it was so nice to get away from COVID central in Victoria.

The sun shone over us for three days of good tennis, played in great spirit. We thoroughly enjoyed our section of ladies who shared our passion for tennis.

Plenty of laughs as you'd hear Fitzy's smoker's voice over the crowd, giving advice to whoever would listen. Her Sambuca shots at the Berri Hotel on Saturday night were well received.

While we were all competitive, our group got to know each other very well and learn a little more about life at the various clubs across our states. We had three incredibly fit 80+ year old sisters (sorry I've forgotten your names) in our group, who were very capable of putting away the odd winner when required.

A big thank you to the organisers of this wonderful event, Tennis Seniors SA and the Riverland crew. We really appreciated your hospitality, the coffee van, great wines and to whomever donated the persimmons at Baramera, thanks, they were delicious!



**BENDIGO GO GIRLS** (L-R) Jenny GROSE, Sue MCPHERSON, Sheryn LONG, Linda DOHNT, Debbie BANNAN, Ros BRADBURY

## **BENBOROUGH (Victoria) OPEN MEN**

*Kieran FITZGERALD*

### **WATCH TIME SLIP AWAY!**

The Benborough team in the Men's Open division at the Berri Carnival this year was made up of father son Kel and Mick NOONAN from Maryborough and father and son Kieran and Aidan FITZGERALD and son-in-law Brandt FLEMING from Bendigo.

For Kel and Kieran it was their ninth appearance.

Accommodation this year swapped from the Renmark Golf Club to a houseboat close to down- town Renmark. A good change but, be warned, if you are taking off your jumper with your phone in the pocket, it may fall out and, after two warm-up jumps, end up in watery grave.

It was so good to have six teams in our section taking away the horrible thoughts of the year with only five teams and the previous years with only the four teams.

Congratulations to all involved with the event, particularly in such a difficult environment. We were lucky enough to have the borders open and were able to get back home again without any worries.

t says something about the quality of the event when there are always 90+ teams competing each year. Well done! Special mention to Renmark Tennis Club for the superb condition of your courts.



**BENBOROUGH** boys Mick NOONAN, Brandt FLEMING, Aidan FITZGERALD, Kieran FITZGERALD, and Kel NOONAN with a trophy they prepared earlier.

## **BELLARINERS (Victoria) OPEN MEN'S**

Romeo SALLA

The Geelong Bellariners was made up of players from Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula - Romeo, Toby, David, Rad and James.

We headed off to Berri-Renmark on the Friday Morning in an RV, which broke down an hour into the journey, providing us with lots of laughs, particularly after the local mechanic was convinced we were attending some sort of alternative convention – even offering a free can of lube for the weekend!!!

After leaving the RV for repair in Ballarat, we hired a trusty Kia Carnival for the weekend. Off to Rio we went!! 😊



*Romeo could not supply a recent picture, so we had to use this one from our files!*

The competition was, as expected, quite strong in the OPEN MEN'S and we struggled to win many sets on Saturday and Sunday, before winning our first rubber on the Monday morning.

The South Australian teams, in particular, were very competitive and deserving of the places in the final. They played with skill, tenacity, and good spirit, providing us with a decent benchmark from which to launch our 2022 challenge!

Overall, it was a great weekend, with ample tennis, good accommodation, and fun night-time activities.

The organisers did a great job in providing a variety of tennis venues and ensuring that the tournament was run without fuss. Well done and we look forward to competing in 2022.



## MIXED FASHIONS (ACT & SA) 65+ WOMEN

*Helen GREENUP*

This year we had six teams participating in our division.

It was an interesting and diverse mixture with two from Adelaide, two from the Riverland, one from Murray Bridge and Mixed Fashions – with four of us all the way from Canberra and Lyn from Jamestown.

We have played together for a number of years now and were very sorry when COVID-19 hit last year and could not come and play as we love coming and catching up with all our friends. We have been coming for more than 14 years.

A lovely time was had by all and the venues were great as were the meals at night. Once again, we travelled to different places and enjoyed the food.

At the conclusion of the minor rounds, it was Midweek Friends (Riverland) and Mixed Fashions (Canberra) who played off for the wooden spoon. Riverettes (Riverland) maintained their third position over New Crocks from Adelaide.



Lyn HAMMATT, Helen GREENUP **MIXED FASHIONS** Gail JONES, Rosa COTTA

Thank you for your hard work and hope to see you all again next year.

Cheers from Helen GREENUP and her very happy team!


## WANG WARRIORS (Victoria) 65+ MEN

Noel *BOYD*

We had a team of five players, and this is the second time we have played at Berri -having first played in 2019.

We really enjoyed the tournament and the collegiately amongst all the teams in our section. Our team was placed third overall and we have already decided to return next year as we will move up to the next age group.

A number of other players from Wangaratta, who we informed of our experience on our return, have indicated a desire to enter next year.

We stayed at Loxton arriving a couple of days early so we could enjoy many of the features that the Riverland offers. This certainly added to the enjoyment of our visit as seen from photos later in this bulletin. As can be seen, we enjoyed the hospitality of the Woolshed Brewery, could not get enough wine from Banrock Station, beer at the Overland Pub, and the tranquility of the mighty Murray at Loxton. 

A suggestion from an administration point of view could be that each captain in each age group share mobile numbers so one can co-ordinate who picks up the balls each much to save travel if playing away from Berri and not staying in Berri. Just an idea I think would help. (Very good suggestion Noel! *Editor*)



**WANG WARRIORS** (L-R) Geoff ALLEN, Noel BOYD, Russell O'BRIEN, Mick KEOGH, Peter ABALZEJ

## **MID COURT CRISIS (Victoria & Tasmania) Open WOMEN** *Fairlie LAMOND*

Another amazing teams' event!

We wish to congratulate the organizers for such a well-run, friendly and great experience for all.

Having been supporters of this event for more than 10 years we were really pleased that feedback from the past has been taken on, to make the event even better.

We understand that everyone who is involved in the event are volunteers and work really hard with probably very little kudos, lots of headaches and very little thanks. So please take this as our personal thanks for the many, many years of hard work that make this event possible.

You have definitely hit on a niche market, a teams' event is very special in the eyes of many, and we have very little opportunity to come together and play in such a format, and hence appreciate the opportunity.

I personally enjoy the event so much that I now travel from Tasmania to be able to play with my Victorian friends, and love playing on your wonderful South Australian grass.

We did want to make note that we really appreciated the change in process each day that teams would meet at their first match venue rather than having to go via Berri Tennis club.

I think this acknowledges the success of the tournament in that it is so popular that participants must stay broader afield than just Berri. For many of us in the past used to have to travel to Berri to pick up the score sheet and then double back to our first match venue which meant extra travel and frustration.

Many thanks for the change – it was so appreciated by us travelers who have to stay off-site. (*Cont.*)



## **MID COURT CRISIS (Victoria & Tasmania) Open WOMEN** *(From prev. page)*

We must confess that we were disappointed by the influx of participants who were unable to stay for the duration of the tournament. I understand the committee welcoming them into the fold as it did create a much greater competition at the top, but felt it undervalued the long-standing players in all grades that ensure they put those three days aside to play. The empty front courts at Berri on finals day and comments by the players who were relegated to the far courts was an unfortunate end to the event.

Once again, thanks so much for your wonderful event, all your time and effort – you are all fabulous!



**MID COURT CRISIS** (L-R) Fairlie LAMOND, Kaye PRICE, Chris LUHRS, Lyn ROBERTSON, Sue WALTER

## VIC GIRLS LO (Victoria) OPEN WOMEN

*Lois Plowman*

Here are a few comments from the Vic Girls Lo affectionately known as Lo's Hos

*Lois PLOWMAN*

As the non-playing captain, I had just as much fun as my teammates. The organisation, logistics and willingness to assist in whatever way possible was first class. The fact that you were prepared to change the playing format to accommodate many interstate players' need to get away was amazing. This change was done in consultation with the team captains, so everyone had the opportunity to be heard and I think you came up with a good resolution.

It may have been nice to do a final ranking from 1 to 8 based on results as I think our team would have moved into the top four but that is a minor detail.

Personally, I had a great time and found everyone from the players, organisers, club volunteers in the kitchen (the food was amazing) to be extremely friendly and welcoming. Nothing was too much trouble.

Will definitely return next year.

*Wendy HARRISON*

So pleased I decided to join the group of girls from Kooyong and head to Berri for the first time. I had heard so much about it from when I played Tri State in Mildura. The event totally lived up to my expectations. Played a lot of great tennis on some beautiful grass tennis courts. Reacquainted with old friends and met some lovely new ones. The best thing was the sportsmanship in our event, it was first class. Can't wait to get back to Berri next year and experience the event without all the COVID restrictions.

Thanks Tennis Seniors SA for putting in such a fun event.

*Barb WESTON*

Berri was great fun and loved being close to the river. Other courts were good, but not so good that we had to rely on others to ferry us around. The people working at the clubs were great and thoroughly enjoyed the freshly made sandwiches, slices and hot food/coffee and tea. It was great to play against different people and the standard was fantastic, as was the sportsmanship and friendly way the games were played. Weather was perfect too. *(Cont.)*

## **VIC GIRLS LO (Victoria) OPEN WOMEN** (From prev. page)

*Maya FERGUSON*

We're so glad to have been a part of the Victorian cohort who travelled to South Australia to play in the 2021 Berri Tennis Carnival. From the Welcome Address on Day 1 to the last ball that was played we were made to feel welcome by all - from the tournament officials to the many teams who have a long history with the event to other "newies" like us. Great tennis was had by all and as a wonderful bonus we forged new friendships - in short, we had a ball! See you in 2022!

Many thanks for a great carnival. The general consensus from our team, to quote Arnie, is - **"we'll be back!"**



**VIC GIRLS LO** (L-R) Wendy HARRISON, Maya FERGUSON, Lois PLOWMAN

## INTERSTATERS (Victoria) 60+ MEN

Rob NICHOLLS

*The Interstaters comprised five players from around Geelong and Shepparton – namely Rob NICHOLLS (pictured), Ken LEMAITRE, Graeme BEST, Jon MIDWOOD, and Ian GROSE.*

*Captain Rob Nicholls is very humble about his team's results, but we must acknowledge they won a super competitive section and will no doubt be the benchmark in 2022.*



*Here is Rob's report.*

This year our team, Interstaters, went up to the 60+ Men's. Our team's ages ranged from 60 to 70.

We had seven teams in our section so there were no finals. All matches were very close, and we were lucky to go through as champions.

Our last match was two rubbers all and was decided on games against fellow visitors Barra Rats.

The Renmark and Barmera courts were excellent. Berri courts had improved since the last time we played there but were still spongy with very little bounce.

Because of COVID some changes were introduced which I think we're an improvement.

Not having to go to Berri to pick up balls or team sheets made it a lot better.

Health and COVID permitting **we will be back!**

## VIC GIRLS SCOTTY (Victoria) OPEN WOMEN

Leanne SCOTT

The signs said *Welcome to Berri Teams Carnival 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021* and what a welcome it was!

Arriving in from Melbourne after having all our local tournaments and events cancelled, we were so appreciative to be on the grass and surrounded by all these enthusiastic tennis players.

The Berri Teams Carnival got off to a great start! We Melbourne ladies arrived with three teams, at total of 15 ladies ready to enjoy our grass court tennis. With 48 ladies' teams entered we knew that the tennis was going to be "hot". That it was! We were taken back by the welcome of open arms, friendliness, and pure enjoyment by our fellow competitors.

The venues were all different – Loxton, Renmark, and Berri. It gave us visitors a chance to get out and enjoy the scenery, admire some wineries that looked very inviting and play at new grass-court clubs.

OVID was handled with utmost respect and it did limit the social activities, but that is to be expected. We had come from being restricted to a 5km radius. We were so like a group of teenagers at a disco!

Our thanks go out to the organising committee, to our co-ordinator, Marie STEVENS, and to everyone who made us feel most welcome. We are looking forward to returning next year and have already booked our accommodation. Not only will it be tennis, but dancing and more socialising. It is not always about the tennis!



VIC GIRLS EVERETT  
Back row - white tops  
VIC GIRLS SCOTTY  
left hand side.  
VIC GIRLS LO  
right hand side.

**See you in  
2022!**

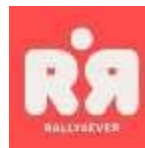


## WANG WARRIORS

These pics need no captions. We reckon they really savoured many of the delights of the Riverland!



## How you can be part of our **RALLY4EVER** program



Tennis Seniors SA is set to begin Rally4Ever sessions in August and we need help to ensure the success of this important mental well-being initiative.

**We need coaches and helpers** – the more volunteers we have, the broader our program can be. Thanks to those who've already put up their hands.

**We will need pre-loved racquets, shoes, and tennis apparel in good condition** because some of our participants may not be kitted out.

Tennis Seniors SA's RALLY4EVER series will provide an initial 10-week *Tennis for Mental Well-Being Program* at South Park Centre, working with people who are homeless, marginalised, disadvantaged, isolated, lonely, or just feeling low.

Session times will be confirmed ASAP.

We are partnering with **Louise PLEMING**, RALLY4EVER CEO, former professional player, and Grand Slam commentator, who founded the program.

If you can help or want to know more, please contact Max FORAN on 0409 096017 or [maxieforan@gmail.com](mailto:maxieforan@gmail.com).

**These famous faces are our RALLY4EVER AMBASSADORS.**



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**Louise PLEMING**

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and WE NEED YOU!

Our club was formally established on 12 December 1972 and the management committee wants to celebrate this important milestone throughout next year – culminating in a major event on 12 December 2022.

Current and former members are invited to nominate themselves or fellow members to be part of a task group to organise the celebrations. Some will be shanghaied onto the group.

We also encourage members' suggestions for the types of activities the club could undertake to mark this memorable occasion.

## **Some celebration ideas already suggested include;**

- A book detailing our 50-year history.
- Big celebratory tennis day 12 December 2022 – a Monday, or 11 December. Tennis clothes and equipment of the 1970s. Catered lunch, bar open all day. Special speakers such as John Fitzgerald, Alicia Molik, and, invited guests.
- Commemorative women's tops and men's shirts, pre-ordered.
- Club's own branded tennis balls for competition and for sale.

For those who need reminding here are some icons of 1972.



**Please contact Kathy PARKER 0428 839091 or Max FORAN 0409 096017 to nominate for the task group or to put forward your celebration ideas.**

# FOR YOUR DIARY



Tennis Seniors SA is affiliated with **Tennis Seniors Australia (TSA)** who annually collate the information from each state and territory regarding the senior tennis tournaments / carnivals each is conducting. The **2021 TSA Australian Tournament Calendar** can be found on our **LINKS** webpage and **Tournaments** sub web page.

On our **LINKS** webpage you will find the following listed:

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## 2021 Tennis - Tournaments/Carnivals & Events

Jan. 22	<a href="#">Twilight Adelaide Tennis 30+ Event - Wrap up &amp; Snapshots.</a>
Mar. 28	<a href="#">Annual TSSA 'City' vs Northern Areas Match - Wrap up &amp; Photos.</a>
May 15-17	<a href="#">33rd Berri Teams Carnival</a>
Sept. 19-24	<a href="#">2021 Gold Coast Australian Seniors Championships</a>
Oct. 2/3	<a href="#">2021 Adelaide October Tennis 30+ Event</a>
Nov.14-16	<b>2021 ITF S100 Adelaide - SA State Tennis Seniors' Champs.</b>

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## 2022 Tennis - Tournaments/Carnivals & Events

Jan. 9-14	<a href="#">2022 Swan Hill Australian Tennis Seniors Championships</a>
Jan. 17/18	<a href="#">2022 Adelaide January Tennis 30+ Event</a>
Apr. 3	<a href="#">Annual TSSA Northern Areas vs 'City' Match – Jamestown SA</a>

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## 2022 Social Play & Open Court Twilight Sessions

To play in one of our weekly **Social Play Sessions** or Friday **Open Court – Twilight Session** you just need to turn up at our South Park Tennis Seniors Centre (Park 20) and register your name with the **Social Play/Open Court Coordinator**. Pay a \$5 participation fee and they will then schedule you into doubles matches.

Tuesday & Thursday Mornings	8.45am to Noon
Friday morning	8.45am to 11am
Friday Twilight	5.15pm to 7.45pm
Sunday morning	9am to noon

Check out our **Social Play** sub webpage located under **TENNIS** webpage for more details.

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## TSA RANKING LISTS

Please be advised that TSA Ranking lists are available on the TSA website – [www.tenniseniors.org.au](http://www.tenniseniors.org.au)

Players who are travelling overseas to compete in ITF tournaments **MUST** advise Gail Bates on [maxgailbates@bigpond.com](mailto:maxgailbates@bigpond.com) that they have played in an overseas ITF tournament, or their results/points will not be added to their TSA rankings

## PRIVACY

Tennis Seniors SA is uses Tennis Australia's Club Spark database for recording member details.

If you have any objection to such information being used in this manner, please contact:

TSSA Secretary | Frank SPIEL | 0419 855 182 | [fspiel181254@gmail.com](mailto:fspiel181254@gmail.com) |

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***From the editorial panel: Max FORAN & Kathy PARKER***



We are always interested in publishing anything that promotes tennis for the over 30s, so if you have anything that you want us to include, just email either of us at:

Max at [maxieforan@gmail.com](mailto:maxieforan@gmail.com) or Kathy at [kathypswan@gmail.com](mailto:kathypswan@gmail.com)

We would also be keen to hear from anyone with information and anecdotes about the early days of “veterans’ tennis” in South Australia as next year we will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*We love to*

***Welcome!***

***New & Returning Members***

*through preparing individual*

***Profiles***

If you have any information regarding new and/or returning players, please pass onto Kathy and/or Max.