

# Robin EY

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It has been brought to my attention that a shy man by the name of Robin EY from Penola was awarded the Citizen of the Year title on Australia Day.

Robin was recognised for his sporting efforts casting the spotlight on his commitment to coaching and long-standing community involvement.

Born and raised in Penola, Robin EY has helped the community through various roles over the years, mainly with local tennis,

Robin's ongoing involvement with local tennis dates back to when he was 17 years old and became the Penola District Tennis Association secretary. This forms the main component of his Citizen of the Year nomination.

The nomination states Robin has been coaching junior tennis since 1952 and has done so without interruption. His passion for tennis has been passed on to his four sons, two still living in Penola and two who live in Adelaide, but who returned to their home to celebrate with their father.

Robin continues to coach children of all ages on Saturday mornings and in an after-school program during the week.

He has also chaperoned junior teams to Adelaide to take part in competitions or country carnivals. Robin competed in the Australian Masters in Alice Springs last year and returned with a gold medal in singles and doubles.

But tennis has not been the only community sport, organisation or committee he has been involved with. Robin was the scout leader for the Penola Brigade, he was heavily involved with the local football club playing more than 250 games and was at one stage club president.

His interests are varied as he has appeared in more than 40 plays with the Penola Players and he was an active member of the Penola Primary School Parent Committee.

We congratulate Robin on all his achievements and wish him many more good years coaching and playing our wonderful game of tennis.

## ARTICLE:

### Complex named after late Penola great

A Penola tennis legend was honoured on Australia Day recently when the town's tennis courts were renamed the Robin EY Arena. The complex's new name honours the impact EY made over decades in the region.

In sad news, EY died on the following Sunday after seeing his beloved courts renamed.

Around fifty people gathered at McCorquindale Park for the unveiling of the new sign at the courts. EY's family, friends, teammates, opponents, and supporters were present as Kerry DEGARIS introduced a number of people to share their stories of EY's tennis career.

Former South East Veterans Tennis president Bruce White shared some fond memories of playing alongside EY at a number of competitions. "This is such an honour for Robin. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this," he said. "I have always been proud to be a friend and teammate of Robin. He was a genuinely great player and coach for the local children."

EY's health had been deteriorating and despite his inability to speak on the day, his family conveyed his feelings of gratitude and honour. His son John said EY was humbled by the recognition. "Dad is very humbled by this honour and feels very blessed," John said. "His love of tennis saw him dedicate his life to the game."

EY started playing for the Coonawarra Club in 1950 where his father also played for a number of years. After some time at school in Adelaide, he joined the bank and was shifted to Laura for a short time. EY returned home to work and play tennis for Coonawarra. Buying a farm west of Penola, he joined the Wattle Range Tennis Club and played for many years – retiring in 2014.

EY was president of the Penola District Tennis Association for seven seasons, vice-president for three seasons and secretary for four. He received life membership in 1979.

During these years, he played Country Carnival, intertown tennis and tournaments in most towns, organising and attracting players from all areas to the Penola tournament. The EY Shield is still played today. EY had great success and won many singles and doubles games, including a gold medal at the Alice Springs Masters games. He coached juniors for nearly fifty years on Saturday mornings, while he also coached the SAPSASA and Country Carnival juniors. When a South East Seniors competition was organised, EY was the first president and still played until recently.

The funeral for Robin EY was held at Rymill Hall on Friday 3rd February, followed by interment at the Penola cemetery.



On Australia Day, the Penola town courts were renamed the Robin EY Arena in recognition of his contribution to tennis in the town. Robin was the first President of the South East Seniors Division and is seen on that day with the other three Presidents, Bruce WHITE, Tut AGNEW, and Trish DOUGLAS.

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Sources:

SA-VET Vol 122 – March 2017

"Story courtesy of The Border Watch Newspaper Group" - Kyrá SYKES