
East Camberwell Tennis Club - Centenary - Kerry Melville (Reid)

1 message

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Hi everyone, in our last centenary update we shared the Presidents report from 1962 which highlighted Pennant success at the club and also that Kerry Melville had won the Ladies singles title for the first time.

This update will focus on the achievements of Kerry Melville (Reid) who we believe is the highest profile player to come from the Club.

One of the earliest references to her in the club records was the 1960 Presidents report which highlighted her as part of a group of club members that had performed well in metropolitan and open tournaments.

The 1962 Presidents report noted that Kerry had won the Ladies Singles championship (aged 15). She would go on to win the Ladies Singles Championship again in 1963 and 1964.

Kerry began her Grand Slam tennis career in 1963 when she reached the third round of the Australian Open. In 1966, she reached the semi-finals of both the Australian and US Open, defeating Billie Jean King in the second round of the latter tournament. In 1967, Kerry again reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open and reached the semi-finals of the French Open for the first and only time.

Kerry was the women's singles runner-up at the 1970 Australian Open, losing to Margaret Court in the final in straight sets. Kerry also was the women's singles runner-up at the US Open in 1972, losing to Billie Jean King after defeating Chris Evert in the semi-final 6–4, 6–2.

In 1972, Kerry reached the final of the inaugural WTA Tour Championships, where she lost to Chris Evert 7–5, 6–4.

In January 1977, Kerry won her only Grand Slam singles title when she defeated fellow Australian Dianne Fromholtz 7–5, 6–2 in the final of the Australian Open.

Kerry capped her last year on the professional tour in 1979 by beating Martina Navratilova for the first time in tournament play. Kerry defeated her in the Family Circle Cup semi-final 6–3, 7–6, then lost to Tracy Austin in the final 7–6, 7–6.

Kerry won the Australian Open women's doubles title twice, outright in 1968 and shared in December 1977. With Wendy Turnbull in 1978, Kerry won the women's doubles title at Wimbledon and was the doubles runner-up at the US Open.

Kerry was a member of the Australian team that won the Federation Cup in 1968. She also helped Australia reach four consecutive Federation Cup finals from 1976 through 1979 on a variety of court surfaces. She held a 37-10 win-loss record in the Federation Cup.

Kerry was ranked in the world's top 10 for 12 consecutive years from 1968 to 1979 and held a career-high ranking of No.5, with her chief rivals being Margaret Court, Billie Jean King, Evonne Goolagong Cawley and Chris Evert.

Kerry married tennis player Grover "Raz" Reid in 1976, who became her coach. She later retired to South Carolina and has two daughters.

Kerry was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II in 1979. She was inducted into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame in 2014.

Kerry had an amazing professional career and we are happy to share her story with you. We have included some photos of her below.

We are not sure how long she was a member of the East Camberwell Club. Based on our records we believe it was at least 10 years. We had a reference

to her in club records in 1960 as a 13-year-old. Kerry was also a member of the clubs Women's "A" Pennant winning team in 1965. We have a photo of that team in the clubhouse (copy below).

In 1968 she was still named as part of the Women's A Grade Pennant team. She had reached the semi-final of 4 grand slam tournaments by then so she would have been a handy number 1 player! She was still recorded as a member of the club in 1970.

In researching Kerry's tennis story, we have found that this involved more than just her playing results. She was one of a group of players that had a profound impact on Women's tennis which is felt to this day. That will be a subject of our next update.

Until next time.

Grand Slam singles tournament timeline [\[edit \]](#)

Key

W	F	SF	QF	#R	RR	Q#	A	NH
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(W) Won; (F) finalist; (SF) semifinalist; (QF) quarterfinalist; (#R) rounds 4, 3, 2, 1; (RR) round-robin stage; (Q#) qualification round; (A) absent; (NH) not held. SR=strike rate (events won/competed)

Tournament	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977 ¹	1978	1979	Career SR	
Australia	3R	2R	3R	SF	SF	3R	SF	F	A	A	SF	SF	2R ³	1R	W	SF	A	A	1 / 14
France	A	A	A	1R	SF	4R	QF	1R ²	2R	4R	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	0 / 7
Wimbledon	A	A	A	3R	3R	3R	2R	4R	QF	3R	QF	SF	2R	QF	QF	4R	4R	0 / 14	
United States	A	A	A	SF	4R	A	1R	QF	SF	F	QF	QF	QF	2R	4R	4R	QF	0 / 13	
SR	0 / 1	0 / 1	0 / 1	0 / 4	0 / 4	0 / 3	0 / 3	0 / 4	0 / 3	0 / 3	0 / 3	0 / 3	0 / 3	0 / 3	1 / 4	0 / 2	0 / 2	1 / 48	

East Camberwell Tennis Club - Womens A Pennant - 1965

L.T.A.V.
WOMENS "A" PENNANT
WINNING TEAM



MRS. B. RICH

MISS K. MELVILLE

1965

MISS M. BUCK

MRS. P. BARNETT

MISS W. LEATHER

Kerry Melville (Reid) - On the international circuit





KERRY MELVILLE

Inducted into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame - 2014



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