



## **PRESIDENTS REPORT 2020/2021**

This report covers the period 1 July 20 to 30 June 21. It is my 8th report to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

With the foundation of the Club in 1928 this is perhaps the 93rd AGM. The minutes of the 1975 AGM reported that that meeting was number 47. At that time, club membership was 71.

The club has had five Presidents in the last 60 years or so. With the late Jack Langham retiring as President after 40 years of service, Mark Phillips was President in 2002/05; the late Alison Ade was President during 2005/2008 and the late John Gavin President from December 2008 to October 2013.

The Club is affiliated with Tennis ACT. Committee members attend a number of their meetings.

I want to thank the Committee for their work and support during the year. The Club is fortunate to have such a committed group to manage the Club.

Sue Willis as Vice President for her initiatives and strong support; Peter Willis as Secretary for recording our meetings during the year and for providing guidance; Ann Poole as Treasurer for managing our financial affairs; Michele Grant for going out of her way to warmly welcome new members and for managing our membership on the Clubspark platform; Michael Poole for his insightful support particularly with our IT support systems; Brian McFarlane, another Reid resident, for his support and encouragement and Neil Lynch for his wealth of wisdom from a long association with the club.

The club is fortunate to have such a dedicated and resourceful Committee. Of the 8 committee members, 5 live in the suburb of Reid. Truly, a community tennis club.

In addition to the Committee, I would like to acknowledge the support provided by the captains of the various groups who have had permanent bookings over many years. Members of those groups are the backbone of the club. Keith Croft for his assistance with maintenance issues and Ian Warden for enhancing and maintaining

the gardens Many compliments are received about the varied floral displays during the year.

### **COVID 19**

Again, the major issue for the club in 20/21 was managing the impact of COVID 19. During the year, the club house was closed; the courts were locked; they were open on a restricted basis; further restrictions were eased and gradually the club house and courts were returned to “normal.”

The club was guided by instructions from the ACT Government and Tennis ACT. During the year, the club participated in many virtual meetings with Tennis ACT the contents of which were communicated to club members and other contacts.

Surprisingly, when play was restricted and later when courts were all available both court usage and membership increased dramatically. It is assumed, that people were playing at Reid because tennis offered a venue for physical exercise, social interaction in a beautiful garden setting.

### **BOOK A COURT**

Again, perhaps the most significant change to the management of the club was to implement Book a Court and Clubspark. It has revolutionised the day to day running of the club, including court bookings and details of financial transactions while providing information about club membership ie, age; gender; financial status; contact details including post codes. For example, a quarter of our members live in Reid and more than 30% on members are under 35.

The impact of Book a Court cannot be over estimated. Just a few years ago the club house and courts were not locked and court bookings were made on a booking sheet in the porch of a local house with fees deposited in the mail box. The club has gone from a 1950 type arrangement to the latest international tennis court management system.

Tennis ACT advised that in June 20, Reid was the number one club in Australia based on Clubspark usage and membership signups. A significant achievement!

I wish to thank Peter Willis, Michele Grant and Michael Poole for their enthusiastic approach to running these systems.

### **TREE ROOTS AROUND THE COURTS**

This has been a continuing problem for many years.

Discussions continued with the the ACT Government to install a root barrier around the courts. Their representatives and representatives from their insurance agency met with committee members to discuss the matter.

The ACT Government later requested that three quotes be sought to install a root barrier around three sides of court 3 and 4. Subsequently our case was rejected.

As the roots were becoming more evident, the club went back to the ACT Government seeking a review of their decision.

Following another visit to the club, the Government agreed to review the issue and requested that updated quotes be sought.

The quotes have been requested but COVID 19 has slowed progress.

I am confident of a satisfactory outcome for the club.

### **REPLACEMENT OF LIGHTS**

New LED lights were installed on all courts in February 21.

An Engineer, engaged by the Committee, oversaw the project and certified their installation.

Grants were received from the ACT Government and Tennis Australia. The net cost to the club was approximately \$16,000.

### **REPLACEMENT OF SURFACE ON TOP COURTS (1 AND 2)**

After 16 years of wear, the courts were in poor condition.

In July 20, the Committee decided to resurface these two courts. Three quotes were received and Sporztzone, a Sydney Company, was selected to undertake the work. This Company has installed all the courts over the last 20/25 years.

The work was completed in September 20. The Committee has received many positive compliments about the new court surface.

### **COMMUNITY FLORIADE**

For the first time, the club approached the ACT Government to take part in Community Floriade. After obtaining a permit to use public land for the event, 2 meters of soil was purchased, the garden beds formed and the 400 bulbs and annuals, supplied by the ACT Government, planted.

Thanks to the club members who were involved in the project.

## **COACHING**

Coaching was again severely impacted by COVID 19.

In April 21, the club signed a revised Memorandum of Understanding with our coach. As coaches could not work during lockdown, the club provided some financial relief for their court hire.

Robbie Manzano of Tennis Canberra, continues his coaching at Reid. Thursdays are busy, coaching juniors after school and cardio tennis/coaching for adult players of all standards.

The club is also fortunate to have Arena Yakoutseva continuing her coaching at the club. She can be seen at the club on most days. Her work with juniors is particularly gratifying.

## **NEWCOMBE MEDAL PRESENTATION**

In July 20, Tennis Australia approached the club seeking assistance to produce a short video to be used during the Newcombe Medal presentation in Melbourne in December 20.

The focus was to be on grass roots tennis with a human interest angle; the impact of COVID 19 on clubs; why increasing numbers were playing tennis and any other initiatives employed by the club to increase participation rates.

Extensive discussions with Tennis Australia, led by Michele Grant, resulted in the club providing extensive documentation covering the history of the club, photos, statistics and videos. Tennis Australia also planned to send a film crew to the club to interview some key members and film the courts and surrounding gardens.

Sadly, the event was cancelled because of COVID. Tennis Australia hope to revise the project for December 21.

## **TENNIS ACT ANNUAL AWARDS**

The Club walked away with three awards in 20/21.

Vice President, Sue Willis won two awards for being the Most Outstanding 35+ Tennis Senior and secondly as the ACT Adult Club Player of the year. Double congratulations Sue.

Sue has been a great asset to the club as an administrator, player and personality.

With significant support from the Committee, the club President won the Volunteer of the year award which included a \$5,000 donation from the ANZ Bank to the tennis club.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

Membership remains strong with more than 260 as at 30 June 2021. During 19/20 membership was about 200.

The Club entered teams in the Monday night unisex competition as well as the Thursday night competition.

The Club has an account with the Commonwealth Bank and uses a cheque account with Combiz to manage income and expenditure. Thanks so much to Ann Poole as Treasurer. The Club also has term deposits with Beyond Bank. Our accounts continue to be audited by Ian Hollow of Charter Group Accounting.

Six meetings were conducted during the year. All meetings were well attended by Committee members.

During the year, the Club hosted five tennis events. The Christmas party was held in November 2020 and was well attended by members and Reid residents. Thanks to Michael and Ann Pool who distributed invitations to all Reid households. The New Years tennis evening proved popular as did the welcome to new members day in January 21. In addition, two "Wimbledon at Reid" afternoons were organised. One was hosted by Tennis ACT.

The club participated in Club Forums conducted by Tennis ACT. The Forum provides an opportunity for Tennis ACT to interact with Clubs and for club members to exchange ideas with other tennis clubs in Canberra.

The club was also represented at meetings of Presidents of other clubs, hosted by Tennis ACT.

During the next financial year, the Committee hopes to improve the kitchen and floor covering in the toilets and to install a root barrier around courts 3 and 4.

With the strong support of the Committee, the Club is in a sound financial position for the foreseeable future. I am sure you will agree that the facilities and surrounds of the Reid Tennis Club continue to be enticing for members and their guests.

My sincere thanks. I appreciated the support of the committee, members and supporters of the Reid Tennis Club.

Terry Walker  
President  
19 October 2021