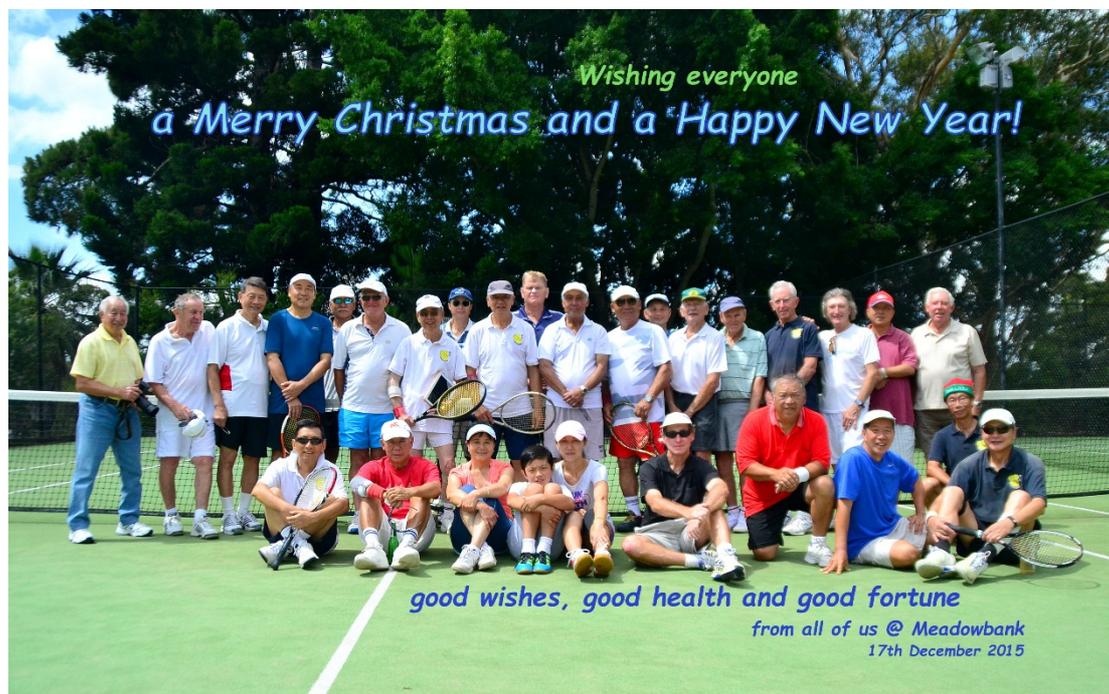


*For we are ONE... we are many but*



If you wonder why a group of grownups meet regularly at Meadowbank Park Tennis Courts on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays keenly with their tennis racquets for a hit, you can wonder no more. This has been going on for well over forty years! And if you have not discovered tennis as a lifetime sport, you need to ask yourself if any other sport such as soccer, basketball, and rugby league or rugby union can take you into your eighties. Not that we are all in our eighties. Not a lot of sports can manage that.

We are quite a mixed bunch. We have players from various vocations. Builder, restaurateur, clerk, accountant, businessman, property manager, racing driver's trainer, Doctor, Engineer, technician, import-export trader, solicitor, bankers, jeweller, computer programmer, Officer of the Court, "coaches", and in our varied vocations, we have players who has driven taxis, owned and operated restaurants, and we also have a few ladies joining in as well.

We have base-liners, moon-ballers, slicers, choppers, blockers and even serve-volleyers. We have dinkers, drivers, lobbers, drillers, double-handed backhanders, including ambidextrous switch-handers. We have pushers and slammers but not as the ones you think. We have retrievers and chip chargers. We have different levels of skills as much as we have players at different ages. We are many but we are one.

We have players who play in local District competitions, Inter-District Hardcourt competitions, veteran's competitions and even keen enough to travel overseas to China to play in veteran's tournaments.

We are players who are Dinky Di Aussies of Scottish, Irish, Welsh, and English heritage and expatriates from China, Hong Kong, Germany, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, and the Philippines. We are a varied and very inclusive group.

We have no members or membership, just players turning up on the day, signing in and paying their dues for the session. There is no compulsion to turn up, you are allowed to take leave, go on holidays, travel the world or cruise the Pacific, but when you return, it is like only yesterday that you have played there. We have a player who has moved to Queensland and every few months still return to play at Meadowbank. Another player who lives in the bush and whenever he is in town visiting family, he is here to visit his tennis family as well. The camaraderie, priceless.

We are fortunate to have dedicated people managing this group and we can have a chat over a cuppa and biscuits. Every now and then a cake appears to celebrate a birthday. At year's end we make it a point of holding a Christmas party in one form or another and celebrate the friendship and fellowship, thankful to be in the group picture for another year.

Well if I neglect mentioning a vocation that my fellow players do or country of origin where they come from, it is because we are many but we are still one in tennis.

*Jeffrey Chin*