



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2022

<https://play.tennis.com.au/saletennisclub>

In This Edition

- Life Members Day 2021
- Robin Lowe Arena
- Coaches Column
- Junior Report
- Saturday Summer Pennant – Seniors
- UTR Rating System Adopted by Tennis Australia
- Tennis Seniors Victoria – Sale Tennis Club - May 13 – 15
- Sale Hot Shots on John Cain Arena at the AO
- Night Pennants Grand Finals
- Volunteer Feature – Sonya Stephenson
- Sale Tennis Club Apparel Range – *Last Call*
- The Dahlsens Challenge
- TA Community Coaching Course
- 2021/22 Wellington Gippsland TA Championships
- Out & About
- Calendar of Events
- News Items & Email Addresses

Ashwood Homes
Brown/Wigg
Chris Webster Furniture
Dahlsens
Findex Accountants
Gippsland Custom Pools
GippsWIFI
Glencoe Lime
Graze Family Bistro
Gippsland Grammar

Herron Todd White
Ideal Hearing
Intersport
John Elliman Real Estate
Kalbar Operations
KFC
Khayaam Hair Salon
Kwik Tip Bins
Lazzaro Bros. Fruit & Veg
Lighthouse & Co

Mansi on Raymond
Payless Promotions
Phillipsons
Riviera Signs
Sale Central Storage
Sale Turf Club – The Laurels
Spider Sprayers
The Paint Rig
Turnbull Toyota
Warren Graham & Murphy

Life Members Day 2021

Sale Tennis Club celebrated its 17th Life Members Day on Saturday, December 18.

Life Members Day is a special day for the Club each year and is one of the most anticipated days on the annual calendar and this year was even more so given we had 2 postponements due to COVID restrictions. The full day's activities are a celebration of the contribution to the Club of all members, and especially Life Members, who have been recognised for their outstanding service.

As part of Life Members Day each year the Club welcomes back the extended Flint and Best families to celebrate their lifelong association with Sale Tennis Club.

After having to postpone the 2021 event twice due to COVID restrictions the Club was delighted to be able to host a successful celebration on the newly redeveloped courts with a good crowd in attendance.

The Club welcomed back 10 Life Members in Bruce Carter, Chris Deschepper, Mike Riley, Murray Fitzclarence, Helen Gerrand, Jan Saville, Robin Lowe, Karen Pollett, Karen Deschepper and Di Arnot as well as representatives of the extended Best and Flint families.

New Club Coach, Jason Yap, was also in attendance and outlined his ambitious long term plans to make Sale Tennis Club a centre of excellence for junior tennis within Gippsland. Given that he had over 40 students in his school holiday program that week it seems that his ambition may be well placed.

Kurt Best – our newest Life Member

The highlight of the day was the awarding of a new Life Membership to Kurt Best for his sustained outstanding contribution to the Club over many years. Kurt has served as a night pennant coordinator, Club Treasurer for 3 years from 1996 to 1999, Club President from 1999 to 2004, (making him the Clubs 3rd longest serving President), and Junior President from 2016 to the present.

Our newest Life Member, Kurt Best, with our oldest living Life Member and former Club Coach, Jan Saville.



Club President, Robin Lowe, praised Kurt for his *“dedication and the enormous time and effort he has devoted to Sale Tennis Club over his lifetime. Volunteers are the lifeblood of sports clubs and our junior programs simply would not exist at their current level without Kurt. Having been our Junior President since 2016 Kurt has done a sensational job in coordinating our junior programs. His calm demeanour and fantastic organisational skills has seen our junior programs expand and prosper against the national trend. How he manages the “fill-in crisis” that invariably emerges every Friday during the WGTA season is one of the modern wonders of tennis.”*

Kurt has also been passionate in promoting Hot Shots and other junior programs and tournaments as he tirelessly strives to develop the next group of junior tennis stars. As Club Coach Mick, then Anthony and now Jason have really appreciated his support with all of these programs as they have grown.

Kurt has served on consecutive Coach Recruitment Sub – Committees and played a pivotal role in recruiting Jason as our new coach to guide our junior and coaching program into the future.

Kurt has also been our Club's Wellington Gippsland Tennis Association representative for most of the last 5 years, a task made more difficult after a turbulent year with Mick as President.

He never misses a working bee and usually brings the whole family – which is helpful as there is a good crowd of them. We wholeheartedly appreciate the enormous time and effort that Kurt has devoted to our Club.

The award of a Life Membership was even more special for Kurt as both his parents Monica and Keith were Life Members, a special and unique legacy.



Sale Tennis Club Junior President Kurt Best (centre) holds his Life Membership award accompanied by fellow Life Members Helen Gerrand, Robin Lowe, Di Arnot, Karen Pollett, Chris Deschepper, Karen Deschepper, Jan Saville & Murray Fitzclarence.



Four of the Best: Kurt with his sisters Annemarie, Lee and Susan in front of the Life Members Honour Board that features Monica and Keith and, soon to be, Kurt's name.

And the winners were.....

With the mercury topping 35 degrees the tennis for the day was adjusted to 3 sets of Fast 4 tennis. The ladies on Life Members Day play for the Keith Best Memorial Trophy the juniors for the Monica Best Memorial Trophy and the men for the Ian Flint Memorial Trophy.

At the end of 3 sets the winner of the Ian Flint Memorial Trophy was Peter Nissen. Playing in his first Life Members Day Peter produced some great tennis to win all 3 sets and finish ahead of Rowan Waters with Jason Page coming in 3rd.

In the women's event the Keith Best Memorial Trophy was won by Susan Mattson with Karen Deschepper and Nok Pate coming in 2nd and 3rd. Susan is the daughter of Keith and Monica Best so she was delighted to accept the trophy named in her father's honour.

In the junior event Emma Best was successful in winning the Monica Best Memorial Trophy with Lucy Best in 2nd place and Cooper and Charlie Nissen equal 3rd. Emma and Lucy are the granddaughters of Monica and Keith Best so their wins were particularly special for the whole Best family.

We wish to thank Andy Pate who coordinated the catering effort for the day. For their assistance with the catering a big "thank you" goes to Karen Deschepper, Joan Lowe, Di Arnot, Betty Flint, Karen Pollett, Jason and Tina Page, Jo Rule, Sonya Stephenson, Nok and Andy Pate, Sandra Elliman and the Best and Flint families and

A big thanks to Rob Tatterson for presenting our Clubhouse and grounds so well and with his help with the set up. Chris Deschepper manned our BBQ and had 100 sausages, 50 burgers and 5 kg of marinated chicken cooked to perfection right on schedule.

Our raffle sponsors did a fantastic job with a table stacked full of prizes. The fantastic lawn games donated by Sonya Stephenson were especially popular with lots of summer fun in the offering. Thanks Sonya they are much appreciated.

Our sponsors were: Intersport Sale, The Esplanade Resort & Spa, The Flint Family, The Best Family, John Elliman Real Estate, The Karma Collective, Lazzaro Bros. Fruiterers, Deschepper Family, Lowe Family, Stephenson Family, Karen Pollett and Di Arnot and Murray Fitzclarenc.

Life Members Day will resume its normal second Sunday in September timeslot in 2022 (subject to COVID not rearing its ugly melon of a head again).



2021 Life Members Day Winners. L to R: Charlie Nissen, Rowan Waters, Cooper Nissen, Peter Nissen, Susan Mattson, Emma Best, Karen Deschepper, Lucy Best, Jason Page & Nok Pate

Robin Lowe Arena

Sale Tennis Club has honoured long serving President, Robin Lowe, by naming Showcourts 1 and 2 “**Robin Lowe Arena**” as permanent recognition of his contribution to the Club over many years as well as for his role in the redevelopment of the clubhouse and courts that has stretched out over 3 difficult years.



Club Secretary Sonya Stephenson and Club Treasurer Karen Deschepper present Robin Lowe with the sign that will hang on Showcourts 1 and 2 – now “**Robin Lowe Arena**”

Club Vice-President Murray Fitzclarence made the presentation to Robin on Life Members Day on December 18. Murray noted that Robin has been involved in all of the Club’s significant developments over the past 2 decades commencing with the building of the Clubs first two showcourts, 1 and 2 and the splendid John Leslie Grandstand in the mid 2000’s. The Club, with Robin’s enthusiastic leadership, then spent nearly a decade seeking funding for its grand plan to build 4 more international size courts, redevelop the clubhouse and the remaining 8 en-tout-cas courts including new fences, LED lighting, battery storage solar power, accessible paths and a spectator friendly layout.

The first big breakthrough happened when John Leslie committed \$500,000 on behalf of the John Leslie Foundation. This encouraged Tennis Australia to then commit \$150,000 and the Club had its first important steps toward its ambitious plans. (Unfortunately John Leslie did not live to see the redevelopment come to fruition but we know he would have been very proud of what has been achieved.)

What then followed was a frustrating series of near misses, with State Government Major Facilities and other grants applied for but not approved. This all changed with the formation of the Latrobe Valley Authority Community Facility Fund which was tasked with offsetting the economic impact of the closure of Hazelwood Power Station. An initial grant application of \$1.0 million was approved and things started moving forward in earnest from then. Wellington Shire committed \$500,000, the Federal Governments Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund \$150,000 and then John Leslie Foundation increased their contribution by a further \$100,000. All this added to the Clubs own contribution to make a \$2.85 million dollar investment.

This allowed tenders to be released, contracts to be let and the redevelopment was under way. However as Scottish poet Robert Burns would remind us *"the best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry, and leave us naught but grief and pain, for promised joy!"* and significant problems with court building and then COVID made for some very difficult times. Through all of this, Robin, as President of the Club, was at the forefront trying to achieve best outcomes at every twist and turn. Of course *"no man is an island"* and Robin was well supported by a strong committee and our ever vigilant curator, Bruce Carter, who has dedicated a massive amount of time and effort to the project. As they say *"the rest is history"* and we now have a magnificent facility of which we can all be proud.

We are already hearing rumours that Robin is now refusing to concede defeat on any match he plays on *Robin Lowe Arena* so we will have to wait and see how that plays out.



Coaches Column

What a summer of tennis! We wrapped up the final term for 2021 with a Christmas Holiday Clinic with Saint Nick making a guest appearance and playing some points against 40+ kids. Next step was an Australian Open Holiday Clinic, a 3-day event full of fun group drills and games to assist them to improve their overall game. We completed the jam-packed summer of tennis at Day 1 of the Australian Open where 10 lucky local Sale kids graced the courts at Melbourne Park for a Kids-on-court Experience. Kai Garg was given the privilege to toss the coin for a match on John Cain Arena between past Aus Open Winner Sofia Kenin and Madison Keys on live TV.

To top it all off we couldn't have scripted 2 more deserving AO Champions for our kids to look up to: Ash Barty and Rafa Nadal both symbolize the definition of hard work, dedication and humility.

As we approached the beginning of Term 1, 2022, I spent countless days and nights creating a new schedule with several new programs introduced with the goal to develop a tennis training pathway to cater for all ages and skill levels. Our most exciting new program is catering for the tiny tots. Now you can start introducing kids as young as 4 years old to tennis lessons. The tennis training pathway is as follows:

Launchpad Beginner Hotshots ➡ Hotshots Juniors ➡ Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced Juniors ➡ Junior Talent Squad ➡ High Performance Squad.

I have also introduced a Junior Fitness Program, which is run in the mornings before school focusing on building fundamentally sound, physically strong, mentally tough and emotionally intelligent humans on and off the court. I didn't forget about you big grown-up kids out there with Adult Cardio Coaching and Personal Training / Private Lessons on offer.

To say it has been a busy and chaotic start to the Term would be an understatement. Almost all the programs are running at full tilt, many new faces have joined, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. To cater for the increase in demand, we have started a new Coaching Mentorship Program where 4 new High-Performance kids, who have displayed a great attitude on and off the court, were chosen to become qualified as Assistant Coaches: Alex Boxall, Samuel Bertino, Aaron Donaldson and Rachel Page. They have all hit the ground running and have already made an amazing impact on the program. We are truly excited to have them onboard as a part of the team and pumped to watch them grow personally, whilst assisting the younger kids to become better well-rounded tennis players.

As we approach the end of the term, we are on the lookout for players, young and old, to jump on the Sale TC team bus to take on Bairnsdale's best in the Dahlsens Challenge on April 3rd. This will be by selection only. However, if you are interested, don't be shy and please let me know. Looking forward to a big year ahead!

For more information, I can be contacted by SMS on 0403 082 388 or through email on jason@grandslamfitness.com.au

P.S - We are only just getting started!

Junior Report

Junior Ladders

Section 1

POS	TEAM	BYE	P	W	L	D	G%	POINTS
1	● Sale De Minaur	2	8	7	0	1	227.94	78.5
2	● Sale Kyrgios	2	8	4	3	1	100	55.5
3	● Longford	2	8	3	3	2	99.22	52.5
4	● Sale Barty	2	8	2	5	1	72.61	38
5	● Maffra	2	8	1	6	1	70.65	37.5

Section 2

POS	TEAM	P	W	L	D	G%	POINTS
1	● Longford White	10	8	0	2	206.94	79.5
2	● Longford Red	10	5	3	2	109.42	55.5
3	▲ Sale Millman	10	5	4	1	107.9	53
4	▼ Longford Blue	10	5	4	1	110.42	51.5
5	● Maffra	10	2	7	1	75.55	33.5
6	● Briagolong	10	1	8	1	54.55	25

Section 3

POS	TEAM	BYE	P	W	L	D	G%	POINTS
1	● Sale Bolt	2	7	5	0	2	149.09	61
2	● Briagolong	2	8	4	2	2	129.13	61
3	● Sale Thompson	2	8	3	4	1	111.31	55
4	● Sale Duckworth	2	7	3	2	2	112.5	46
5	● Maffra	2	8	0	7	1	39.32	24

Section 4

POS	TEAM	BYE	P	W	L	D	G%	POINTS
1	● Stratford	2	8	7	0	1	214	79
2	● Longford	2	8	6	2	0	157.43	67
3	● Heyfield Kangas	2	8	3	3	2	118.72	57
4	● Sale Perez	1	9	4	4	1	77.35	45
5	● Heyfield Roos	1	9	2	5	2	84.71	44
6	● Maffra	1	9	2	6	1	66.98	36
7	● Sale Sharma	1	9	2	6	1	65.75	32

Section 5

POS	TEAM	P	W	L	D	G%	POINTS
1	● Sale Sanders	10	7	2	1	156.9	58
2	● Sale Polmans	10	7	2	1	156.74	57
3	▲ Longford	10	6	2	2	154.55	52
4	● Stratford Head	10	6	1	3	136.11	52
5	▲ Sale Stosur	10	5	4	1	124.31	49
6	▼ Sale Cabrera	10	5	3	2	110.79	49
7	● Stratford Babolat	10	4	4	2	115.49	43
8	● Maffra	10	1	8	1	63.7	21
9	● Briagolong	10	0	8	2	37.94	15
10	● Seaspray	10	1	8	1	33.79	12

Section 6

POS	TEAM	BYE	P	W	L	D	G%	POINTS
1	● Sale Inglis	1	9	6	1	2	198.25	63
2	● Maffra	1	9	6	1	2	168.99	55
3	● Heyfield Joey's	1	9	5	1	3	138.3	53
4	▲ Briagolong	1	9	4	3	2	112.58	45
5	▼ Stratford Slazenger	1	9	4	4	1	102.99	42
6	● Nambrok	1	9	3	4	2	74.23	36
7	● Longford White	2	8	2	5	1	83.62	35
8	● Stratford Yonex	1	9	2	6	1	68.56	28
9	● Longford Blue	1	9	0	7	2	42.92	21

Section 7

POS	TEAM	BYE	P	W	L	D	G%	POINTS
1	▲ Sale Popyrin	1	9	6	2	1	119.43	50.5
2	▲ Maffra	1	9	5	3	1	109.84	47
3	▼ Sale Purcell	2	8	5	3	0	104.32	47
4	▼ Heyfield Skippy	2	8	3	3	2	105	46
5	● Stratford Technifibre	2	8	3	3	2	115.27	44.5
6	● Briagolong	1	9	2	6	1	78.97	33.5
7	● Stratford Prince	1	9	1	5	3	74.55	31.5

Quote:

Luck is preparation meeting opportunity.



Emma Coleman



Ruby Running



Ari Garg



Camille Japhary



Finn McDonald



Oscar Callanan



Pearl O'Connor



Jonah Ingram



Billy Bertino



Maddi Nicholas



Aaron Donaldson



Aden Best



Rachel Page

Saturday Summer Pennant – Seniors

Sale Central Storage return for season 2021 / 22 as the sponsor of the **Sale Tennis Club Player and Team of the Year**. Everyone who plays Saturday Pennant has a chance to win the Sale Tennis Club Player of the Year and the Team of the Year will be the best performed team for the season.

Sale Central Storage are joined by **Graze Family Bistro** who have generously provided our 3 set winners vouchers for the past 3 years.



Team of the Year Standings

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Section 3 – Sale Central Storage | 146.8% |
| 2. Section 1 – Findex | 138.5% |
| 3. Section 2 – John Elliman Real Estate | 112.4% |
| 4. Section 2 – Gippsland Custom Pools | 107.8% |
| 5. Section 2 – Glencoe Lime | 98.7% |

Rating	Player	Team	Section	Percentage
1	Mia Goold	Findex	1	60.9%
2	Masami Goold	Findex	1	60.5%
3	Jo Rule	Findex	1	57.8%
4	Di Arnot	John Elliman Real Estate	2	56.2%
5	Debbie Iseppi	Sale Central Storage	3	56.0%
6	Haylee Wrigglesworth	Gippsland Custom Pools	2	55.8%
7	Nok Pate	John Elliman Real Estate	2	54.0%
8	Kelly Hudson	Dahlsens	1	53.4%
9	Jo Mactier	Gippsland Custom Pools	2	52.1%
10	Lauren Conn	Sale Central Storage	3	51.3%

Rating	Player	Team	Section	Percentage
1	Scott Pearce	Sale Central Storage	3	67.1%
2	Sen Goold	Findex	1	62.7%
3	Marrien Van Den Heuvel	John Elliman Real Estate	2	60.2%
4	Tim Dunnett	Findex	1	60.1%
5	Robin Lowe	John Elliman Real Estate	2	58.5%
6	Tim Bull	Sale Central Storage	3	58.4%
7	Franky Japhary	Sale Central Storage	3	58.3%
8	Josh Barbetti	John Elliman Real Estate	2	55.9%
9	Ian Wrigglesworth	Gippsland Custom Pools	2	52.6%
10	DamienTheobald	John Elliman Real Estate	2	50.3%

Ladders

Section 1

POS	TEAM	BYE	P	W	L	D	G%	POINTS
1	▲ Maffra Weirs Flooring	2	8	6	1	1	119.45	71.5
2	▼ Sale Findex	2	8	5	2	1	138.51	69.5
3	▲ Sale Dahlsens	2	8	3	4	1	84	45.5
4	▼ Bairnsdale	2	7	2	4	1	100.32	42.5
5	● Maffra Community Sports Club	2	7	1	6	0	70.14	32

Section 2

POS	TEAM	P	W	L	D	G%	POINTS
1	● Stratford	10	7	2	1	144.23	75.5
2	● Longford	10	5	4	1	112.15	65.5
3	● Maffra Pund	10	5	4	1	110.53	65.5
4	● Sale Gippsland Custom Pools	10	7	2	1	107.78	65.5
5	● Sale John Elliman Real Estate	10	6	3	1	112.42	60
6	● Sale Glencoe Lime	10	5	4	1	98.67	53
7	● Maffra All Round Landscapes	10	4	5	1	109.25	51.5
8	● Heyfield Bendigo Bank	10	4	5	1	90.39	46
9	● Heyfield Vern Graham	10	2	7	1	87.34	43
10	● Bairnsdale	10	0	9	1	50.41	16.5

Section 3

POS	TEAM	BYE	P	W	L	D	G%	POINTS
1	● Stratford	2	8	6	1	1	141.67	75.5
2	● Briagolong	1	9	6	2	1	133.15	71.5
3	● Sale Central Storage	1	9	5	3	1	146.76	69.5
4	▲ Heyfield Aldersea & Higgins	1	9	6	2	1	128.16	69.5
5	▼ Heyfield Railway Hotel	1	9	5	3	1	129.94	68.5
6	▲ Maffra Removalists	1	9	3	6	0	78.92	39
7	▼ Maffra Gippsland Real Estate	1	9	2	6	1	70.9	35.5
8	▲ Maffra Stobies	1	9	1	7	1	64.73	33.5
9	▼ Maffra Adam Accounting	1	9	2	6	1	62.52	29.5



Tim Bull



Ben Elliott



Andy Pate



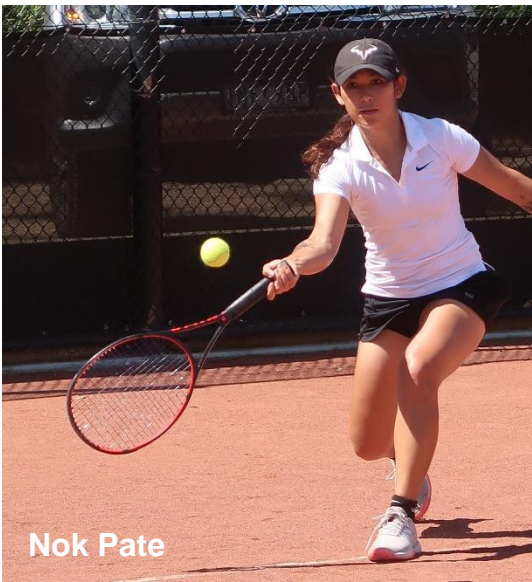
Prue McNaughton



Kaz Egan



Damien Theobald



Nok Pate



Michelle Eustace



Lisa Harrison



Masami Goold



Sen Goold



Simon Kemp



Matt Conn



Jason Page



Debbie Iseppi



Lisa Fuessel



Ian Wigglesworth



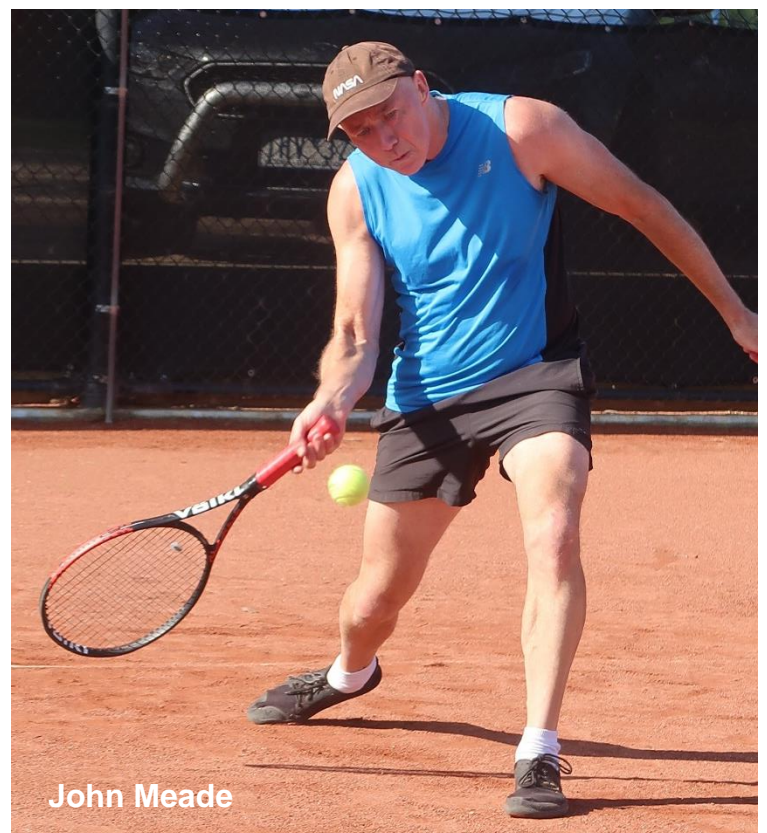
Hunter Pearce



Merrien Van Den Heuvel



Franky Japhary



John Meade





UTR Rating System Adopted by Tennis Australia

From 1 January 2022, Tennis Australia will adopt the Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) rating across all forms of Competitive Play Events to determine entry and seeding / grading. UTR Rating Bands will also be used to define Event draws.



The UTR Rating will be incrementally introduced into League Competitive Play opportunities throughout 2022 as the National Player Rating System is phased out.

What is a UTR Rating and why should you get one?

A UTR Rating is a number that is designed to provide a real and accurate measurement of skill level. A player's UTR rating is a number between 1.00 and 16.50. One match result is all it takes to receive a projected UTR rating. After approximately five matches, the rating becomes fully reliable. As matches are played and entered into the system, a player's UTR Rating will increase or decrease over time to reflect their current skill level.

How is the UTR Rating calculated?

For each match, the algorithm calculates a match rating and a match weight for each player. A player's UTR rating is the weighted average of up to 30 of their most recent match ratings. Only matches within the last 12 months count toward a player's UTR Rating.

Calculating Match Rating

Two factors are considered when calculating the match rating. The first factor is the UTR rating difference between opponents. The second factor is the competitiveness of the match, as determined by the percent of total games won. Given the UTR rating difference, the algorithm expects a certain percentage of total games won. The player who performs better than the algorithm's expectation will see their match rating go up while the other player's match rating will go down. When one player's match rating increases, the other player's match rating decreases by the same amount.

Calculating Match Weight

The following factors are used in the match weight calculation:

Format – As the match format increases in length, more weight is given. A match with a three-set format receives more weight than a match with an eight-game pro set format.

Competitiveness – As the UTR rating difference between players increases, less weight is given. For example, imagine a player with a UTR Rating of 6.00. A match played against an opponent with UTR Rating of 5.00 or 7.00 receives more weight than a match played against an opponent with a UTR of 4.00 or 8.00.

Reliability – As the reliability of the opponent's UTR rating increases, more weight is given. A match played against an opponent who competes often and thus has a reliable UTR rating receives more weight.

Time Degradation – As prior matches get older, less weight is given. Since the algorithm is a representation of current form, it gives more credit to matches played within the last few months.

What's the best way to improve your UTR?

Play Well – Performing well in matches is the easiest way to improve your UTR Rating. If the match is out of hand, don't give up! It does not matter whether you play higher- or lower-rated opponents; you can improve your UTR Rating either way by winning more games than expected.

Play Often – The more matches you play, the quicker your UTR rating will reflect your current form. The algorithm is especially accurate for those who play often against a variety of opponents rated above and below you.

Be Patient – Since your UTR rating is a rolling weighted average, the effect of new results is slightly lagged. Your UTR rating may not fully reflect a recent outcome right away, but it will over time.

Tennis Seniors Victoria – Sale Tennis Club - May 13 – 15

Sale Tennis Club will host a Tennis Victoria Seniors National Ranking Tournament scheduled for 13 to 15 May, 2022. This is the first major tournament at the Sale facility since the completion of our \$2.8 million redevelopment.

Events cater for players 30 and over and include age based singles, doubles and mixed events. All events are “round robin” ensuring players get plenty of tennis.

NRT tournaments contribute to the newly adopted Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) with all players able to increase their worldwide ranking. Local support is essential to ensure a successful 2022 event and its scheduling in future years. Mark your diary and make sure to enter early.

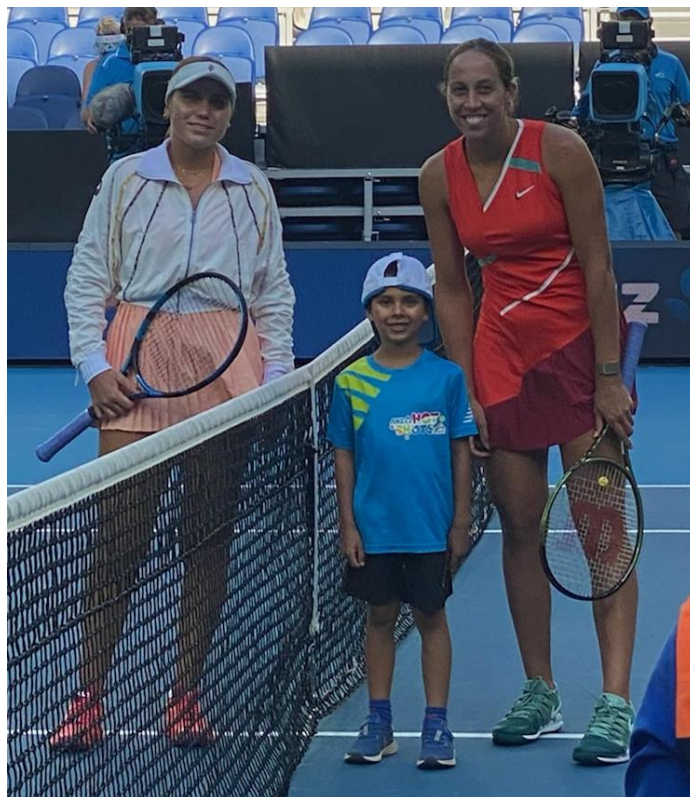
Online entries are now open at [NRT Round Robin — Tennis Seniors Victoria](https://www.tennisseniorsvic.org.au/)

For more information go to <https://www.tennisseniorsvic.org.au/>

Sale Hot Shots on John Cain Arena at the AO

Kai Garg and 9 of his Sale Tennis Club Hot Shots teammates, along with children from several other local clubs, had the opportunity to take to the court on the opening day of the Australian Open on January 17. The 10 Hot Shotters and future tennis stars joined Sale Tennis Club coach Jason Yap at the AO as part of the Hot Shots on Court program that returned in 2022 after a COVID induced recess last year. They can all now say they have played at Melbourne Park during the AO - a money can't buy experience for our young tennis enthusiasts.

Kai is pictured during the coin toss on John Cain Arena with Sofia Kenin, the 2020 Australian Open Singles Champion, along with 2017 US Open Finalist Madison Keys.



Night Pennants – Grand Final Results

Tuesday Night

The names for Tuesday Night's teams were selected during another period of COVID-19 lockdown so it was no surprise that pandemics and pestilence was the theme. We had Ebola, Mad Cow, Spanish Flu, SARS Virus, Black Plague, Bird Flu and that ever present scourge for the modern male, Man Flu.

In terms of the finals Bird Flu, Black Plague, SARS Virus and Man Flu made up the final 4. (Perhaps the final ladder should have reflected the impact that each has had on humans throughout history. Any volunteers to rank them?)



And the winners are -
SARS Virus – Paul Johnson, Sue Pickett, Luke Drummond & Joshy John

Runners-up Man Flu – Phil Todd, Claire Howson, Lindsay MacKay & Sam Chapman.



Thursday Night

Thursday Night had 13 teams this season and in a very even competition only 6% separated the first and the fourth teams at the end of the season with Payless Promotions finishing on top, followed by Lazzaro Bros. Fruit and Vegetables, Maffra LTC and Mansi on Raymond.

The semi-finals were very close with top team Payless Promotions getting up against Mansi on Raymond in the final set tiebreak to win by 2 games. Lazzaro Bros. and Maffra LTC were even closer, being all tied up at 27 games each and having to go back out to play tiebreakers before Lazzaro Bros managed to win through to the grand final.

In the grand final Payless Promotions got off to a flying start with David Auld and Simon Kemp giving Lazzaro Bros. Robin Lowe and Nathan Wallace a tennis lesson and coming off court 8 - 1 up. Fortunately number 2 pair for Lazzaro Bros. Herman Kemp and Cordell Vollemaere fared much better, winning 5-4 against Andy Pate and Tim Bull. The next 2 sets were very even, both coming in 5-4, leaving Lazzaro Bros. with 4 games to make up in the final 2 sets. A strong showing in the final sets saw Lazzaro Bros. shake off their poor start and pull ahead to take home the coveted Sale Tennis Club towel.

Thanks as always to Thursday night coordinator Robin Lowe for getting through a difficult season dominated by COVID restrictions and washouts.



L to R: Simon Kemp, Nathan Wallace, Herman Kemp, Robin Lowe, Cordell Vollemaere, Andy Pate, David Auld & Tim Bull

If you require any further details about night pennants, or to get your name on the future permanent player lists or the current fill-in list, please email theelms82@outlook.com or contact:

Tuesday Night - Karen Deschepper 0408 517 000

Thursday Night - Robin Lowe 0418 514 788

Volunteer Feature – Sonya Stephenson

Our volunteer feature for this newsletter is our remarkable Club Secretary, Sonya Stephenson. Sonya has been our Club Secretary since 2016 and does a great job of recording our minutes and dealing with day to day Club administration. Her 6 years' service makes Sonya one of our longest serving Club Secretaries. But that is not the remarkable bit.

Sonya is always on hand when we have events helping with the catering and ensuring everything is sorted in the kitchen. Her preparation starts well in advance and usually finishes with her serving in the kitchen on the day. In addition to helping our catering to go smoothly her donations to our Life Members Day raffles have to be seen to be believed as she has consistently donated the most remarkable and popular range of "yard games" imaginable. These are the prizes everyone is delighted to win!

Prior to the commencement of our clubhouse renovation it was Sonya that organised for the contents to be moved into storage on only a days' notice, a huge task. She then assisted the Club to sell all the old furniture, raising valuable funds that went toward the modern furniture and fitout we now have. During the clubhouse redevelopment Sonya used her considerable skills to assist fix the lighting that our design consultants had gotten terribly wrong, to upgrade the bar to compliment the rest of the clubhouse, sourced the new notice board and stand and a dozen other small and large "fixes" that brought the whole design together successfully.

Sonya is also in charge of clubhouse bookings, organising the hire of our clubhouse for functions that raise valuable funds that contribute significantly toward our annual budget. This is a task that has required the patience of a saint during COVID but Sonya has dealt with all of the comings and goings in her usual calm and efficient manner.

In addition to all of this Sonya has been on our last 2 Coach Recruitment Sub-committees, devoting countless hours of her time to the advertising, shortlisting, review, interview and reference checking process to ensure we got the best possible outcomes for the Club.

Sonya's two boys, Taylor and Finn, have long since finished playing tennis at Sale Tennis Club and Sonya has not played actively since the time she became Club Secretary. Yet every meeting and every year she works tirelessly for our Club and that is definitely remarkable.

"Thank you" Sonya, we appreciate your sensational commitment and everything you do for our Club.



Sonya, with Masami Goold, in the kitchen as usual, at the recent WGTA Championships.

Sale Tennis Club Apparel Range – *Last Call*



Our last newsletter elicited an underwhelming response from members for uniform items, so much so that we didn't have enough to make the minimum order quantity. With this in mind it seems likely that we will need to close off our online uniform shop at Payless Promotions.

This is therefore the last call for uniform orders before we close the order book for 2022

To place your order please complete the Sale Tennis Club Apparel Order Form, hand it in at the Club and deposit the funds into the Club bank account. Once all orders are in and completed the garments will be delivered to the Club for collection. 31 March is the final cut-off date.

An apparel order form is attached to the newsletter email or available for download from the STC website.

If you would like to try on any of the items before you order just drop down to Payless Promotions at 1/11 Foster Street, Sale where they have sizing samples that you can try on before you order.

The Dahlsens Challenge



The next match in the Dahlsens Challenge is scheduled at Bairnsdale Tennis Club on Sunday, April 3 from 10 am. All Junior and Senior Players are welcome. A 25 seat Turnbull's Hire Drive bus will run from Sale at 8:45 am.

To make the day work we will be looking for a minimum of 16 juniors and 12 seniors but the more the merrier. The whole day is free, lunch is provided and there will be a Macca's visit for the bus trip home.

More details are available on TeamApp and from Coach Jason on 0403 082 388 who will be taking names and will be our "Davis Cup Captain" on the day.



TA Community Coaching Course

Sale Tennis Club hosted a Community Coaching course on the weekend of February 26 and 27. The Community Coaching course is aimed at those that would like to begin coaching tennis, or who are currently coaching, under the guidance of a qualified tennis coach. The course trains coaches to develop the skills of junior tennis players with a focus on the Tennis Hot Shots program.

There were 6 participants in the course, 5 from Sale Tennis Club and 1 from Bairnsdale Tennis Club. The course was delivered by Tennis Victoria Coaching Leader, Jon Watson. Jon is a very experienced coach leader having worked in the coaching field for over 35 years, predominantly in the UK and Australia. Current roles within Tennis Victoria is as Coach Leader mentoring and supporting coaching in the region and Tennis Australia Coach Development facilitating and presenting courses and workshops. Jon is particularly interested in developing and delivering fun and inclusive programs for preschool aged children and athletes with a disability.

The participants spent the majority of the time during the course on-court actively learning to deliver coaching sessions where players serve, rally and score using modified balls, racquets, nets and courts appropriate to the developmental needs of junior players.

The aim of the course is to prepare coaches to conduct Tennis Hot Shots activities, introduce the role and responsibilities of a tennis coach and introduce basic coaching methods.

The participants will now have an opportunity to return to their clubs and apply their new skills with the Hot Shots children under the watchful eyes of their supervising coach.

Sale Tennis Club is hopeful of hosting a further course later in the year if there is sufficient demand.



The community coaching participants: Aaron Donaldson, Rachel Page, Sage Haussegger, Tennis Vic Coaching Leader Jon Watson, Jo Rule, Alex Boxall and Sam Bertino.

2021/22 Wellington Gippsland TA Championships

The 2021/22 Wellington Gippsland Tennis Association Championships were completed on Sunday February 27. A field of over 80 junior and senior players competed in perfect tennis conditions at Sale Tennis Club. This was a great turnout and marks a continuation of the revival of the WGTA Championships as players and organisers strive to make the Association Championships the prestigious event that it was for so many years.

The highlight of the morning's junior events was the 12 & Under Singles with Josiah Levchenko and Dylan Board playing another epic final with Josiah finally coming out winner 6-4. Both players have developed their tennis and a long rivalry will surely push them to continue the improvement. Josiah also won the 16 & Under Singles, playing against players up to 4 years older.

In the 10 & Under Boys Judah Levchenko won an entertaining match against Henry Seeber, finally coming out on top 6-4 as well as taking out the 12 & Under Doubles with his brother, Josiah.

Louis Lazzaro had a successful championships taking out the 14 & Under Singles and then paired with Dylan Board to take out the 14 & Under Doubles..

In the Open Women's Singles Jess Board from Sale was looking to return to the Honour Board after being edged out last year by Stephanie Barnett from Bairnsdale. Her opponent in the final was another Bairnsdale player, Jamye Waites who played great tennis to win through to the final. The final was a high quality match with Jess finally overcoming Jamye in straight sets.

In the Open Men's Singles Mitchell Allman was looking to defend the title he has held continuously since 2017. 2022 would prove to be his most difficult defence yet as he took on Daniel Storman from Bairnsdale. Playing before an enthralled crowd the tennis was the best played on Showcourt 1 since the last Pro-circuit event in 2008. Mitchell took the first set 7 - 5 but Daniel hit back taking the second set 6 – 4. The third set was decided by a super tiebreak which Mitchell eventually took out 10 -8, giving him 5 titles in a row.

In the 18 & Under Girls Singles Jess Board was looking for her second double title after winning both Open and Girls singles titles in 2019. Her opponent in the final was Mia Goold, who has been playing some outstanding tennis at senior level. However despite Mia putting up a very determined fight Jess prevailed in straight sets.

The event was most fortunate to have Wellington Gippsland Tennis Association Life Member Gregor McNaughton on hand to present the trophies. Gregor has over 40 years involvement with the Association and he is still passionate about tennis within the region. It was a treat, especially for the younger players, to have him on hand for the presentations.

Organisers thanked the dedicated volunteers who made the tournament possible and attended to the organisation, draws and the canteen. It is hoped for even more support from the member clubs next year.

Tournaments such as the Association Championships are an essential part of the player development pathway for juniors and provides an opportunity for match play and experience for the next level of play such as Open Junior Tournaments.

Full results were:

	Winner	Runner Up
Open Women's Singles	Jess Board	Jayme Waites
Open Men's Singles	Mitch Allman	Daniel Storman
Open Women's Doubles	Sarah Luke Jayme Waites	Mia Goold Masami Goold
Open Men's Doubles	Mitch Allman Daniel Storman	Josh Kennedy Mark Kennedy
Graded Women's Singles	Emma Best	Debbie Iseppi
Graded Men's Singles	Mark Kennedy	Cordell Vollemaere
Graded Men's Doubles	Damien Theoblad Lachlan Coleman	Robin Lowe Peter Nissen
Family Doubles	Dylan Board Nick Board	Riley Nicholas Andrew Nicholas
18 & Under Girls Singles	Jess Board	Mia Goold
18 & Under Doubles	Jack Dennis Ava Kuch	Eve Morecombe Colby Dennis
16 & Under Singles	Josiah Levchenko	Finn McDonald
16 & Under Doubles	Abby Board Jess Board	Jack Dennis Colby Dennis
14 & Under Girls Singles	Emma Best	Krista Walpole
14 & Under Boys Singles	Louis Lazzaro	Riley Nicholas
14 & Under Doubles	Dylan Board Louis Lazzaro	Emma Best Charlotte Board
12 & Under Singles	Josiah Levchenko	Dylan Board
12 & Under Doubles	Josiah Levchenko Judah Levchenko	Dylan Morriss Roger Sears
10 & Under Singles	Judah Levchenko	Henry Seeber
10 & Under Doubles	Judah Levchenko Henry Seeber	Jack Bartlett Bruce Sears

A big "Thank you" goes to Kurt Best and Robin Lowe for the pre-tournament work. The many hours of pre-tournament planning then a full day in the tournament box is a huge time commitment and the players and spectators really appreciated their efforts.

A big thanks also goes to all of the Sale Tennis Club volunteers and many others who assisted with catering, administration, publicity and all of the other tasks that it takes to deliver a multi-event tournament. These were the ever helpful Masami and Chris Goold, the Levchenko family, the Lowe family, the Pate family, Sonya Stephenson, Lisa Baker, Andrew Nicholas, Rob Tatterson, Damien Theobald, Katrina Jones, Nick Board and Lisa Harrison.



Clockwise – from top left:

Open Men's Champion Mitch Allman with WGTA Life Member Gregor McNaughton; Open Ladies Champion Jess Board and Jayme Waites; Jess Board; 18 & Under Girls Champion Jess Board and Mia Goold; Family Doubles Andrew & Riley Nicholas and Dylan & Nick Board; Open Women's Doubles Jayme Waites & Sarah Luke and Mia & Masami Goold; Mitch Allman; Daniel Storman.



Out & About

Working Bee – Friday March 25 from 4.00 pm



We have a working bee scheduled for Friday March 25 from 4.00 pm. If you have a chance to come down to the Club after work and make a contribution that would be greatly appreciated. The work should be finished by 6.30 to 7.00 pm. We realise that not everyone can attend at this time but we hope that as many people as possible will make the effort. There are a lot of things that need to be done around the Club. Unfortunately our fees do not cover anywhere near the full cost to maintain our facility and what we don't get done ourselves we have to pay someone else to do for us. Arrive at any time between 4.00 and 7.00 pm, on Friday March 25. We hope to see you there.

“There’s a Chair in There”



We have noticed an increasing number of our outdoor chairs making their way onto the en-tout-cas courts for people to watch or possibly even umpire games.

Unfortunately the chair legs are not designed for our soft red porous surface and they dig straight in and disturb the layers that are so important to the longevity of our courts.

Please therefore resist the temptation to get comfortable in a chair on the court sides and remind those around you who might not have read this of the same thing.

While on the subject of chairs they are there for the comfort of everyone but if you take them out please return them to the BBQ area. We spend a lot of time retrieving chairs that have been left here, there and everywhere. Please bring them back and help by reminding others to do so as well.

Need a Tennis ID Number?

Most Tennis Australia sanctioned tournaments require a Tennis ID Number. As a member of Sale Tennis Club you may already have your number. If you don't know your number it is as simple as phoning Tennis Australia on 1800 752 983, give them your details, mention that you are a member of Sale Tennis Club and you will get the 12 digit number over the phone.



Bairnsdale Tennis Club 74th Labour Day Tournament

The Brooker Builders 74th Labour Day Tournament is on again this coming Labour Day long weekend 12th to 14th of March. There are 38 events covering Open Men's and Women's singles doubles and mixed, A, B and C Grade singles and doubles and mixed as well as Seniors events, family doubles and under age events for 14 and 16 year age groups.

The annual Labour Day tournament has been a fixture in Bairnsdale for 3 generations and has a well-earned reputation as a great family friendly event. Full catering is available on site and the Bairnsdale Tennis Club will do everything possible to make you welcome.

Paper entry forms are available in the Sale Tennis Club clubhouse or for online entry go to <http://www.tennis.com.au/bairnsdaletennisclub> Enquiries to Brian McKail on 0439 659 848.

Aussie World Rankings



Ranking	Name	Age	Ranking	Name	Age
32	Alex de Minaur	23	1	Ashleigh Barty	25
65	James Duckworth	30	38	Ajla Tomljanovic	28
66	Alexei Popyrin	22	84	Astra Sharma	26
80	John Millman	32	123	Madison Inglis	23
83	Jordan Thompson	27	163	Storm Sanders	27
96	Thanasi Kokkinakis	25	186	Lizette Cabrera	23
118	Aleksandar Vukic	25	192	Arina Rodionova	31
137	Nick Kyrgios	26	215	Ellen Perez	26
158	Christopher O'Connell	27	219	Seone Mendez	22
169	Max Purcell	23	233	Pricilla Hon	23

Mia inspires Rafa to record 21st Major



12 year old Mia Goold had the experience of her young life when she got to compete at the Rafa Nadal Tour Australian Masters event at Royal Park Tennis Club from January 11 to 15, 2022. The event is part of the programs delivered by the Rafa Nadal Academy. Mia came 5th out of 9 for 12/U girls from all states and territories in Australia, a very good effort!

Running from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm each day the event was a unique mixture of tournament play and values training. The days typically started with 30 minutes of on court training followed by off court activities then the Rafa Nadal Academy Series Tournament matches and then further of court time. The values training revolved around the 4 core values of:

- ❖ Fellowship
- ❖ Sportsmanship
- ❖ Effort
- ❖ Commitment

Participants got to watch Rafa training with Diego Schwartzman in the lead up to the AO and on the last day had a coaching clinic with Rafa's coach, former World Number 1 and 1998 French Open winner, Carlos Moya.

However the "best bit" was the chance to do a Question and Answer session with Rafa where the 9, 12 & Under players submitted a question to Rafa and he gave his answers. Mia's question was "Have you ever thought of giving up tennis?". Based on Rafa's recent results we are all glad that he has not.

Mia said "That the most important thing that I learned at the Masters event was that persistence is the key to improvement". So wise for her young years and right on point with the core values of the Academy.



Rafa Nadal Academy Masters players listen attentively during the question and answer session with Rafa. Mia's question was "Have you ever thought of giving up tennis?"

Sign Up to Team App

Want to be kept up to date with events at Sale Tennis Club? Download **Team App** on any iPhone or Android device and then search for Sale Tennis Club and request to join. Team App is a hub for our Club's information and communication needs, sending instant notifications to members' smartphone or tablet. Team App allows us to send news, create events, upload photos and videos, and publish newsletters and much more. All content is sent securely and privately to members and allows us to keep in touch in a non-invasive way. Sign up today and you will get confirmation of your membership and start being kept in touch.



Ball Machine Hire



Our ball machine is available for hire for a small fee of \$5. The money collected will pay for its maintenance and eventual replacement. The most suitable times are between 3:00 and 7:00 pm weekdays as the Clubhouse will be open. Outside of these times you will need to arrange access to the Clubhouse through a committee member via our new key safe installed outside the pro-shop.

To avoid disappointment bookings can also be made via the link on TeamApp.

We would also prefer for the ball machine to be used on the **hard courts or Courts 5 – 7**, as these are the most settled. We have been getting some unfortunate baseline damage on our newest courts due to the repetitive nature of ball machine use.

Parking and Traffic Flow

Now that our upgrade is complete and our carpark has been graded it is time to properly understand our parking arrangements. The north side of Courts 8 to 12 is all angle parking. Please don't park along the adjacent wire fence as someone might accidentally back into you. In front of Courts 5 to 7 parking is parallel parking along the wire fence. Please avoid the drain area where the cones are.

Traffic flow is strictly one way - all east to west – no entry from the Seed Community Garden end please. Our carpark is an area that is shared with pedestrians, especially children, so please observe the 15 kph speed limit for this area.

Court Care Reminder

A reminder that en-tout-cas courts require some essential maintenance if we are all to enjoy playing on them at their best and preserve them for future generations.

- ❖ **Water** - It is vital that you water your court before the start of each set. (The only exception is if it has just been raining.) Please water the whole court all the way to the fence and avoid making large puddles. Many people only water the lined court area but you spend more time behind the baseline than on any other part of the court so be sure to water all areas. Take your time and ensure a thorough even cover. Nobody should commence any play on courts that are totally dry and dusty. This will gouge the courts resulting in potentially significant and expensive damage. All courts should have some moisture in them before play – just how much will depend on the prevailing climatic conditions.
- ❖ **Bagging** – Please bag the whole court after each set. Bag all the way to the baseline fence. Don't turn around as you reach the baseline, keep going until your nose touches the fence, then turn around.
- ❖ **Shoes** - All players should wear correct clay court tennis shoes – cross-trainers are unacceptable. Any player seen not wearing proper tennis shoes may be asked to leave the courts.
- ❖ **Nets** - If you arrive at the Club and see courts with the nets lowered, this is a sign that these courts are under repair so no play should occur on these courts. Please respect this and do not play on these courts.

With proper care our courts will last a lifetime. Please ensure you do your part.

Quote

*Tonight, I went out from the kitchen
Looked up at the stars from the yard
I was hoping to get some perspective
But sometimes, perspective is hard
I know my life is a blessing
And all blessings come with a curse
My enemies, I know I can handle
But friends, now, well, they can be worse*

Every Step of the Way - Paul Kelly

Calendar of Events

- March 8 International Women's Day
- March 12 – 14 74th Bairnsdale Labour Day Tournament – Bairnsdale TC
- March 25 Working Bee – Friday from 4.00 pm – Sale Tennis Club
- March 26 WGTA Qualifying Finals (Sunday March 27 is back up day)
- March 30 Junior Breakup from 5.00 pm – Sale Tennis Club
- April 2 WGTA Grand Finals (Sunday April 3 is back up day)
- April 3 Dahlsens Challenge – Bairnsdale Tennis Club
- April 15 -18 Maffra Easter Tournament – Maffra Lawn TC
- May 13 – 15 Tennis Seniors Victoria NRT – **Sale Tennis Club**
- May 18 STC Annual General Meeting – 7.00 pm – Sale Tennis Club
- June 11 – 13 Queens Birthday Junior Tournament – **Sale Tennis Club**
- August 19 – 21 Tennis Seniors Victoria NRT – Bairnsdale Tennis Club
- September 11 Life Members Day – Sale Tennis Club
- October 29 -30 Tennis Vic Regional Teams Judy Dalton Cup – **Sale Tennis Club**
- November 27 Sale Tennis Club Championships

Have You Heard the News?

Do you have any news that you would like to include in the next newsletter? Just let us know at theelms82@outlook.com or phone Robin on 0418 514 788 and remember a picture tells a thousand words so be sure to send in a photo.

Email Addresses

If you have not yet provided your email address, or have changed your email address, please advise us immediately at theelms82@outlook.com and please tell your friends to do the same. (If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter just reply with “Unsubscribe” as the topic.)

Look us up at: <https://playtennis.com.au/saletennisclub> or
<https://www.facebook.com/saletennisclub>

**Sale Tennis Club Inc, Stephenson Park, 51 Guthridge Parade,
(P.O. Box 659) Sale, 3850. ABN 61 525 038 097**