

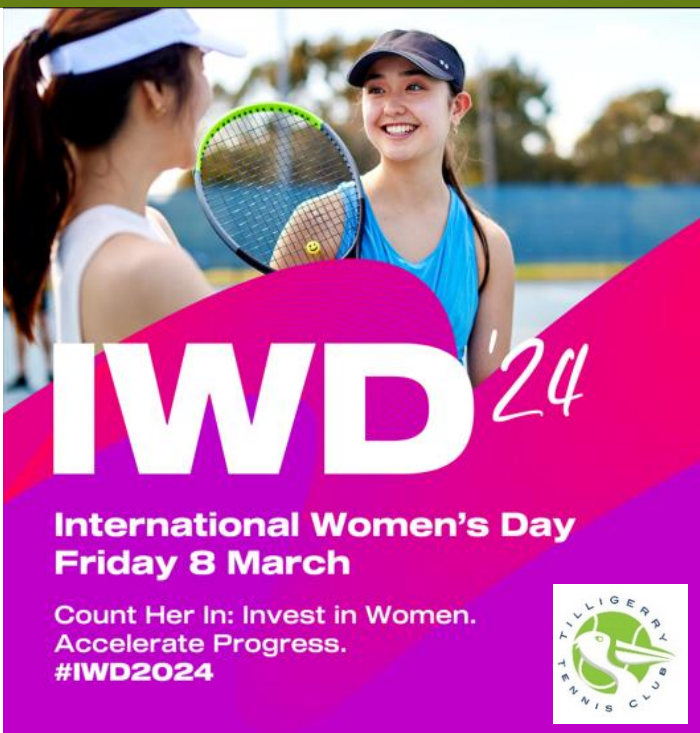
Welcome to our club!

Tilligerry Tennis Club



Strathmore Road, Mallabula


MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER



IWD '24

International Women's Day
Friday 8 March

Count Her In: Invest in Women.
Accelerate Progress.
#IWD2024



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

We'd like to wish all our female members and guests a happy International Women's Day for last Friday, 8th March 2024. A special note to our Committee members who work tirelessly to ensure the tennis club runs smoothly and who continue to invest in improvements for the club and its members and guests. The theme this year is #InspireInclusion, and we encourage you to celebrate women's achievements and drive gender parity!



PICKLEBALL CRAZE - FEATURE ARTICLE

While speaking with Aaron Matthews recently it was evident, he is very passionate about pickleball. This game is a paddleball sport combining elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis.

Aaron stated: "Pickleball is a unique and positive sport, and many people describe it as an addiction – always looking forward to the next time they're able to get on the court. It's no surprise to me how quickly the sport is gaining traction. The uniqueness of pickleball is best explained and experienced by trying it for yourself."

Written by: Kathleen Norman
Support: Aaron Matthews &
Helen Tucker

Aaron, and his wife Cass, started playing pickleball in Newcastle after the first COVID lockdown and became hooked. They moved to Lemon Tree Passage in March 2022 and wanted to bring pickleball to the Tilligerry Peninsula as they felt it was perfect for the local community. Through discussions with Tilligerry Tennis Club Committee in June 2022, some pickleball sessions were planned. Aaron obtained his pickleball coaching qualifications in August 2022 and started running the first pickleball sessions on Wednesday evenings the same month. For each of these sessions the pickleball courts needed to be marked with tape or chalk. A small and dedicated group of 'pickleballers' was formed. Aaron continued running these evening sessions at the tennis courts until the end of January 2023, and then moved to the Mallabula Community Centre in February 2023 where there was already a court marked up. "We're still there thirteen months later; it's been fantastic; indoors and under cover and we regularly have plenty of people playing. Only having the one court does restrict us at times however".

I asked Aaron if he was happy with the support he'd received from the Tilligerry Tennis Club Committee members and he responded with an overwhelmingly yes noting that "the dealings I've had with the club have been very positive, especially from Helen Tucker, the Treasurer on the committee. It's due to the huge commitment by the tennis club to mark these new courts that pickleball can grow further in this area. My aim is to continue to promote and introduce the sport of pickleball to the Tilligerry community, to get more people playing, and these new courts will certainly help achieve that."



Helen informed me "finally, our new hard court has become a multipurpose court with the addition of two pickleball courts, a project that has been in progress for a couple of years. The tennis club applied for a grant through the Local Sports Grants 2023-24, and supported by Port Stephens Council, to cover the costs of line marking and equipment. Participants can learn to play the game even if they have no previous experience. The other good thing is that all the necessary equipment is provided by the club, thanks also to the grant, and available for use. If any players want to try this infectious sport at another time, I recommend they hire Court 3 via the tennis club website: <https://play.tennis.com.au/tilligerrytennisclub>"



Since receiving the funding, the tennis club arranged to have the hard court marked at both ends, enabling Aaron to run **Sunday afternoon sessions from 4–6pm at the tennis courts** at a cost of \$6/person. He also runs a session on **Wednesday nights at the Mallabula Community Centre from 7:30-9:30pm**. “Numbers are growing with new players trying out pickleball. It’s a sport for all ages so everyone is welcome to come play”.

For more information, please contact Aaron via email: Aaron.Matthews@uon.edu.au or Mobile: 0467 037 987.

HARMONY WEEK

Celebrate Harmony Week with us! Monday 18th March – Sunday 24th March 2024. Through tennis, whether as a participant, volunteer or spectator, people of all ages and cultures come together by sharing a common goal.

We as a local tennis club are committed to embracing diversity all year round, by ensuring our venue is welcoming, safe and inclusive for all.

#EveryoneBelongs



EASTER 2024



The Tilligerry Tennis Club Committee would like to wish all its members and guests, a very Happy Easter for 2024:

- Good Friday: 29/3/24;
- Easter Saturday: 30/3/24;
- Easter Sunday: 31/3/24 &
- Easter Monday: 1/4/24.

Try not to eat too many Easter Eggs! We hope you enjoy this special time with family, loved ones and friends and if travelling away for a holiday, drive safely and take care on the roads.

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NEXT ISSUE: MAY 2024



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