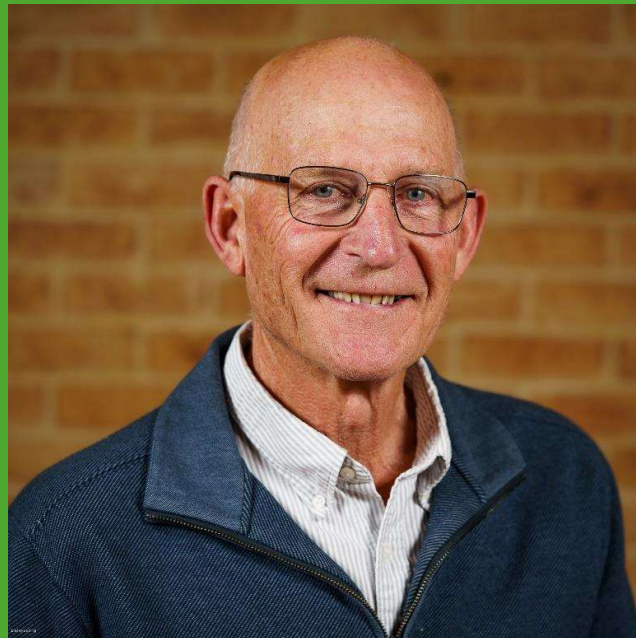




PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The Tennis West Gala Awards night was held recently to acknowledge competition winners and outstanding performances over the 23/24 season, and also to honour significant contributions to tennis and achievements by volunteers in clubland. The Blue Gum Board put forward a nomination for Colin Lorrimar in the significant category of Service to Tennis. As such, it was thrilling to see Colin win this award, and receive due recognition for his enormous contribution to tennis in general and Blue Gum in particular. I'm sure all members will join in congratulating Colin on winning this well-deserved award.



Yours in tennis

Jim Sewell

WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Hi everyone,

Welcome to edition 2 of Racquet Talk. We have really appreciated your feedback and thank you very much for the photos and great ideas for future editions. Please continue to email us with your photos and information – your input is very helpful and will ensure that we capture all the activities happening around our club.



We know how busy life can be and so we will be publishing shorter newsletters on a regular basis with more lengthy ones at the start of each season - Summer, Autumn, Winter & Spring.

Please send your photos and news to vicepresident@bluegumtennis.org

GOOD LUCK TO OUR STARS OF TOMORROW



Brendan Jayaprakash and **Danny Neleman** have both represented our club at State League level this season, will be leaving for America to start their new studies later in the year. Brendan will be going to a division 2 college, Lander University in Greenwood, South Carolina. He will commence his 4-year long Business degree while playing tennis for the college from August 2024. Danny is also intending to play tennis in America but is still in the process of making his arrangements.



Brendan



Danny

On behalf of all members at Blue Gum Park Tennis Club, we wish Brendan and Danny the best of luck and happiness in their new lives in America.

COMPETITION TENNIS

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Club Championships were played over 2 weekends in early April. We were fortunate to have fine weather for both weekends (not always the case) and the events over the 4 days ran very smoothly. Special mention to Sue Redmond who gave up hours of her time to run the championships and sincere thanks to the volunteers and helpers in the bar and kitchen. Sue mentioned that the sportsmanship of members was excellent with no reported episodes of scratching or biting throughout the events.

There was some great tennis and some very close matches – well done to everyone who participated.

A big thank you to everyone who attended the afternoon's finals. Having plenty of spectators certainly helped to create an exciting atmosphere around the club. Congratulations to:

EVENT	WINNERS	RUNNER-UP
Ladies Open Singles	Elena Manoj	Jacqui Lombardi
Men's Open Singles	Danny Neleman	Kuni Mase
Ladies Open Doubles	Elena Manoj & Mayla Manoj	Kirsten Hoad & Pam Formby
Men's Open Doubles	Brendan Jayaprakash & Archie Brown	James Hardy & Danny Neleman
Mixed Open Doubles	Elena Manoj & Kuni Mase	Mayla Manoj & Brendan Jayaprakash
Ladies Doubles 35/O	Fiona Greenshields & Clare Howells	Kirsten Hoad & Pam Formby
Men's Doubles 35/O	Andres Arevalo & Kieran Trim	Mick Moulin & Chris Spooner
Mixed Doubles 35/O	Stuart Tucker & Lee Gray	Bruce Stubbs & Pam Formby
Ladies Social Doubles	Claire Hitchens & Deb Leece	Tricia McWilliam & Beth Stubbs
Men's Social Doubles	John Urbaniak & Nanda Varatharajaloo	Bruce Stubbs & Bill Thomas
Mixed Social Doubles	Bev Marshall & Ole Hammer	Claire Hitchens & Jay Aouf

Some of you would be aware that Tennis West has recommenced the Champion of Champions event, which requires clubs to enter their club champions (open singles & doubles) to play against other clubs. The event was held at Cottesloe tennis club across 2 weekends.

Our representatives were:

Open Singles: Danny Neleman & Elena Manoj

Open Doubles: Brendan Jayaprakash & Archie Brown

Elena Manoj & Mayla Manoj

There were many top players participating in this event and some tough draws. Well done to all our players who played very well and particularly Danny Neleman who won the Tier 2 Singles event.





BRIDGETOWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The Bridgetown Tennis Tournament was held over the Easter long-weekend and once again, Blue Gum Park Tennis Club was very well represented. Altogether we had 27 players who participated in the event. Our club also excelled in having more campers at the showgrounds' campground than any other club and to top it off, Andres (senior) took off the first prize raffle! Everyone who played in the tournament experienced a fun weekend playing enjoyable tennis, socialising with other tennis players, and taking in the beautiful scenery that Bridgetown has to offer. (Also, a bit of retail therapy exploring the local shops and markets went on as well.) Thank you to Ciaran Stewart for making us Blue Gummers so welcome.



The campsite at the showgrounds



Andres with his winnings

SOCIAL NEWS

MID-WEEK LADIES

The Blue Gum Park midweek ladies enjoyed a group coaching session with coaches Jeremy and Dan-a great session enjoyed by all.



LAWN BOWLS AT MT. PLEASANT BOWLING CLUB

Recently a group of 18 members participated in a very relaxing fun-filled afternoon of lawn bowls at Mount Pleasant Bowling Club. Donna Blackwell who once coached and played State Level tennis for our club, taught us some basic skills of the game, and organised some of her members to assist us throughout the afternoon. Everyone appeared to have an enjoyable time and seemed keen to play again in August. Much to Donna's disappointment, no one was willing to defect across to her new sport of lawn bowls. (Not yet!)



Donna Blackwell thanking us for attending.



Kirsten in action.



Joanna and Beth demonstrating their bowling styles.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOCIAL TENNIS

Happy Birthday Jim!

Our happy band of players love to have a social catch up from time to time.

Recently we took the opportunity when “young Jim Wansbrough” so generously offered to buy the drinks to celebrate his 80th Birthday. What? 80 – I can’t believe it! Nevertheless, our somewhat younger cohort were happy to take him up on the offer.

Not only did he excel on the court that day with some well-executed cross-court back hands, but also Jim's enthusiasm for a chat knew no bounds at the bar where he was joined by his two sons Mark and Craig. It was all we could do to shut him up whilst we got out the obligatory happy birthday wish and a raucous rendition of the traditional song.



A delicious cake and colourful decorations added the perfect touches to honour the occasion for our most senior Wednesday night player. We're all looking forward to our next excuse for a celebration!

ANZAC DAY CELEBRATIONS



The mid-week men and women players joined forces to hold a simple ANZAC CEREMONY to celebrate the heroics and pay respect to our ANZACS. Afterwards they enjoyed a sausage sizzle and an array of delicious sweets for the occasion. *Lest we forget.*



Mid-week members' Anzac ceremony



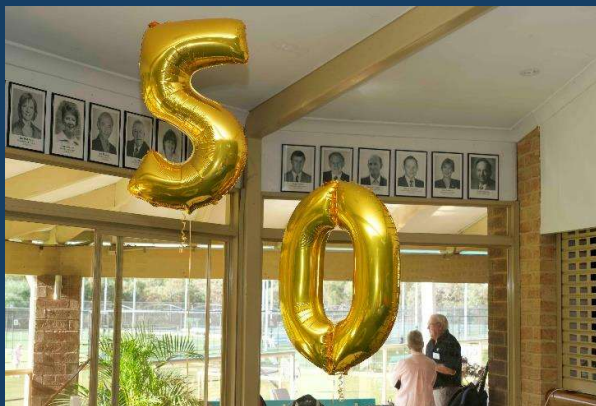
The club's annual Anzac Day tournament was held on Anzac Day. The afternoon was well attended with 8 courts being filled. The club was again very fortunate to have in attendance long standing member Demir Bukey who kindly provided the winners with wonderful Turkish artifacts. Clem Gannon who was once President of the club and long-term friend of Demir's, provided an entertaining story about Demir's previous life as a famous racing car driver in Turkey. After drinks and delicious nibbles, many members attended the dinner which everyone enjoyed. Special thanks to our captains Kirsten and Trevor for organising the sets and to all the other hard-working members who helped in the kitchen, provided food, or served drinks in the bar - you all helped contribute to the success of the day.

Overall winner: Nihal Yatawara, Runner up: Pam Formby and Ray Bennett who received the 'encouragement' trophy.



CLUB 50th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

A fabulous turn-out of members past and present celebrating the Club's 50th anniversary was had on the 11th of May. Jim gave an interesting account of the Club's history and welcomed dignitaries from Federal, State and Local governments as well as representatives from Tennis West.





UPCOMING EVENTS

May

Sat.25th May

Presentation Night at 6pm



June

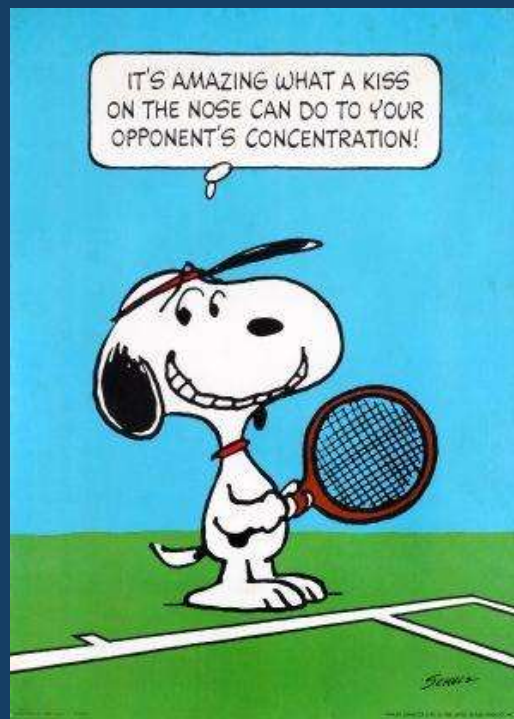
Mon. 20th May-Sun. 9th
June

French Open (Paris, France)

July

Mon. 1st - Sun 14th July

Wimbledon (London UK)



FACILITIES

TIME FOR BED FOR THE SHADE SAILS

Winter is approaching and the walkway shade sails that have served us so well over another long hot summer are heading for their winter hideaway.

Facilities Director Ole Hammer with volunteers Colin Griffin, Peter Hille, Mark Wansbrough, Colin Lorrimar and Ian Gordan were out bright and early to get the job done. Like a well-disciplined team of troopers, they took just two hours to untie, drop, fold and get them stored in the shed.

By doing this each year we can ensure the sails are kept in good condition by protecting from the wet and windy conditions of winter. Come October, they'll be back up, looking great and keeping us sun-safe for another bright and busy summer season.



GET TO KNOW OUR SPONSORS



The Good Grocer is the Club's Major Sponsor

The Good Grocer specialises in stocking both everyday grocery items and gourmet goodies, so you can cook your traditional family favourites or discover something new.

Our friendly and knowledgeable staff are always ready to help you find what you're looking for.

Among our gourmet selections, you will find delicious cheeses, artisan breads, and mouth-watering antipasto. With such an array

of choices, the only problem you'll have is deciding on just what to put on your next platter!

Please support all our club sponsors:



GET TO KNOW OUR COACHES



KUNI MASE

Enthusiastic and passionate coach who enjoys seeing his students develop their skills.



Head Coach

BLUE GUM

Nicknames

K Dog

Where are you from?

Nagoya, Japan

What sort of coach are you?

An enthusiastic and passionate coach who enjoys seeing his student develop their skills and teaching tennis etiquette on the court, through Japanese manners.

Why do you coach?

I love teaching and seeing my students improve their skills and pursuing a higher level.

Most memorable moment/s from your coaching so far

One of my students in Japan won the National Junior Tournament. When I started coaching him he was an intermediate level 8-year-old, and after seven years of hard work and training he became a top junior player. I was very proud to see him improve his skills every day.

Favourite tennis player/s?

Novak Djokovic, the King of tennis, No 1 player of all time.