

The Network

JULY 2025

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Upcoming events

- Winter Warmer - Sat 26th July
- Annual General Meeting - Tues 12th Aug

The Committee

- President:* Nathalie Smalberger
Vice President: Neil Croker
Treasurer: Scott van Heurck
Secretary: John Detwiler & Lucia Agnello
Club Captain: Peter & Liz Schmitt
Men's League Coordinator: Neil Croker
Ladies League Coordinator: Melanie Thew
General Committee: Michelle Smith, Suresh Sakar, Andrew Stanbury, Warren Vickers, Frank Sweeney, Direshni Bennett, Julian Goldsworthy

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President's Report

From Nathalie Smallberger

On behalf of our club with its long history, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new members as listed further along this Network.

Wine Tasting, Christmas Party and Championship Awards Night

Since our last November Network, as usual much has happened on the busy social calendar.

The **Wine Tasting** from our valuable sponsor Grand Cru, with the help of our Bar Fly Ken, was a great success and a rather noisy affair. The bell had to be rung a few times to restore order and give a chance to Randall of Grand Cru to eloquently describe his tastings on offer.

Not to be outdone for sheer enthusiastic support, the **Christmas Party** was also a joyous and festive affair with lovely food and French Champagne to boot on this occasion. On a perfect crisp and dry autumn evening, attendees to the **Annual Awards Cocktail Party** were greeted by the beautiful voice of live singer Chesca Hanlin, a glass of champagne and delicious cocktail bites from Concetti. As the night progressed after a lovely speech by our Club Champion Pat Prendiville and an entertaining duo speaking effort from long-time winning mixed doubles champions Richard Clarke and Siobhan Drake-Brockman closed off the formalities and it was then time to show off the dancing moves and to keep the beat with great DJ Glen and Millie Pananese. The cosy corner on the veranda would not have been possible without the invaluable help of Waldy Latz, who was gallantly perched up a flimsy ladder setting up for quite a while earlier in the day. Thank you Waldy, Direshni, Michelle and Ken for your fabulous help on the night. Thanks also need to extend to Ying and Thibault for their donation of Natura sample creams and to Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC for his kind donation of parliament wines and of course thank you to Michelle Kerr of DUET for sharing her sponsorship philosophy as being of support to the local community first and foremost, where DUET is most active. Last but not least, thanks and a nod to Mel English who put on a big effort at the start of the year with researching to help get the occasion off the ground.



President's report cont.

Competitions

Dalkeith hosted this year's **Tri Tournament** in February. The format was again a mingling of players from Nedlands, Dalkeith and Claremont and no winning club as such. We thanked Annette Livesey for hosting this year's edition and as usual it was a collegial and pleasant day of tennis all round. Next year will be Claremont Tennis Club's turn to host it.



The **Open Round Robin** and the **Open Mixed Round Robin** were well attended, and thanks go to Michelle Smith and Diresni Bennett as well as Andrew Stanbury for running those events respectively. Results listed further below.

The **Club Championships** saw increased participation in the Men's singles event but again sorely lacking in the Ladies. Thanks to Neil Croker and his signature modus operandi for actively encouraging participation in this event. Congratulations to Chloe Tyers and Pat Prendiville who took out the Championships awards in their respective fields.

Bravo to Siobhan Drake-Brockman and Helen Morgan and (again) Siobhan Drake Brockman and Richard Clarke who took out the trophies in their respective doubles' events. All results listed further down on page 8.

The **Summer League Grand Finals** this year featured two Ladies winning teams. Congratulations to Ying Mortier for leading her team of Kate Barblett, Meg Joyce, Yuxia Hu and Amanda Thomas over the line in the Monday Night Div 2 Grand Final against Peppermint Grove. An Epic Win starting the Finals play-offs fourth on the ladder. Their win was followed by a no-less epic win in the Saturday Open Div 3 final and congratulations for that go to Indu Jacob for leading her team of Jenny Cooke, Caroline Clugston, Susan Tay, Kate Barblett (again) and Jodi Power over the line against the till then undefeated Dalkeith in the Grand Final.



Happenings around the Club

As you may have noticed, the second bout of fencing has been completed on Courts 1- 3, and the resurfacing of courts 15 and 16 has also been completed. These close off the capital works maintenance program for this financial year. Thank you, Suresh Sakar, for all your efforts in this domain. Verti mowing is well on its way and a final round will be done in August to get all our courts ready for the new summer season in October and thanks to Frank Sweeney for keeping a vigilant eye on these proceeding.

The Saturday Social players have experienced a new set making software, Setsy. Change is disruptive at best and, in this instance, dynamic and involving as we fine tune the new software each week. A big thank you to Direshni Bennett for all the research she did and time she took visiting other clubs to find out what is being used and listing the pros and cons of a number of softwares she came across. You can read about Setsy in Direshni's article further down.

With Setsy being on web, the club needed to keep up with the times and we now have a mobile wi-fi, hooray! This came at a very opportune time as David Rees has generously donated a magnificent intelligent TV. Being too large to fit in the old space David installed it, patched and painted the area where the old TV was and it was nothing short of a labour of love as David is busy inventing all kinds of apps and programs to run off this TV. Watch the space for this interesting ride in innovation at the club.

Farewells with a Heartfelt Thank You

We say good-bye to Rachel Palmer as she embarks on other projects and bids NTC farewell. Rachel was our IT and Website manager for many years, and it was a great peace of mind knowing that she had of all the back-end website tasks covered. Rachel was also a key organising pillar during the last three tournaments run at NTC.



A naturally organised brain coupled with high efficiency and no-nonsense attitude was the perfect recipe for the successful delivery of her portfolio at those tournaments. More than that though, Rachel was a great tennis player until she got injured and is still a friend to many of us. She was never shy of a party or a celebration, especially if it involved some French Rosé! Go well Rachel and we hope that you will come and visit from time to time to share a glass. Taleena Watts (who looks after Tennis HQ's website), with the help of Scott van Heurck, will take over the website duties for the club.

Dave Mofflin retired from the committee in December after almost 8 years when he filled the all-important Treasurer position for most of that time. Now that his time on the committee has come to an end, we would like to express our gratitude for all his efforts and the hard work he did for the club during his tenure on the committee. Besides keeping the club's ledger in the black and ensuring provisions in the budget to maintain the club's infrastructure to standard over the years, his legacy will be his significant contribution in the Court 17 & 18 and Court 10 & 11 redevelopment works and the lighting and rain drainage works for Court 4 & 5.

Farewells with a Heartfelt Thank You continue

Dave project managed the redevelopments and provided engineering services. So much so, when the completed works came under budget, the DSR allowed the Club to keep the savings as a contribution toward the donated professional efforts of David and other Club members. Effectively, a DSR donation to the Club of around \$10,000. Thank you to Scott van Heuck who takes over the position of Treasurer after joining the committee in December.

We also bid a fond farewell to our Club Manager and Committee Secretary, John Detwiler. John announced that he will be stepping down from these duties effective July 2025. John joined the committee in 2018 and took on the onerous role of Club Manager in 2020. He has earned a well-deserved break from his commitment to serve the club in his five years as manager. John is and has been a cornerstone of our club for so long that words are few to adequately thank him for his behind-the-scenes work running the club. His assistance in his capacity as accountant to reduce our outsourcing fees, not to forget his volunteering outside of his mandate was of great benefit to the club. Not much went about the place without John's knowledge and involvement. His frugality is very much ahead of times: he has painted, repaired and re-used many things rather than outsource or replace them unnecessarily and the club is much better off for it, both in kind and in spirit, as we are more cognisant than ever of being environmental aware. Thank you, John. We will miss you, the man of a few words with the very dry sense of humour and a great contributor to our club. The committee is working on the appointment of a new club manager and will advise in due time.

Court Resurfacing & Fences

From Suresh Sakar

The past few months have brought significant improvements to our club's facilities!

Court Resurfacing

In March, courts 15 and 16 underwent a complete resurfacing, addressing cracks and ensuring a smooth playing surface. With this upgrade, members can enjoy up to 7 years of maintenance-free use.



Fence Replacement

In May, the fences and gates around courts 1-3 were replaced, following last year's fence renewal around courts 24-26. The improvements include reinforced fence posts with concrete foundations, a sturdy bottom rail, and shorter spans between posts, all designed to extend the lifespan of our fencing and enhance the playing environment.



New Software for Saturday

From Direshni Benett

Nedlands Tennis Club provides multiple opportunities to play social tennis and our most popular is the Saturday afternoon session, with many players attending, enjoying a delicious afternoon tea provided by members which is usually followed by some enjoyable socialising.



We are excited to announce the implementation of Setsy – a new program to assist the set coordinators in planning the sets for the afternoon. Setsy is a local business run by Martin Freer, a social tennis player himself. The program can be used for any sport, including tennis and pickleball. Martin visited us prior to the commencement and is providing us with ongoing support.

We have used Setsy for the last month with our set makers Tommy and Lexi both learning how to maximise its potential quickly. We thank all the players for your patience during this time. We are becoming aware of the advantages of the system as each week passes and will see even more advancements in the running of the Saturday Social program in the near future. Martin and his team have made adjustments on our request and we are grateful for this.

Setsy have just introduced a wonderful new feature: Broadcasting. The planned sets are now able to be viewed on your phone/device via a QR code that will be shared at the beginning of each Saturday social session. This allows players to go directly to their next set without needing to view the printouts around the club. Please note that Tommy and Lexi will still be providing printouts for those that prefer them.

We have received many positive comments since starting Setsy and value your feedback, please reach out to the Committee if you have any questions.

2025 PRESIDENTS AWARD

The 2025 President's Award went to Pat Joonklass for his long service as the de-facto club photographer during our numerous functions and events over the years. Except this time when he won this award, being overseas on R&R, Pat rarely missed any club's events. He never needs to be asked and simply presents himself, with his keen photographer's eye, ready to click and capture the times past and our friendships at this great club.



Christmas Play and Stay



Round Robin Results



RESULTS OF THE OPEN ROUND ROBINS

- Winners: Ruhi & Susan Tay
 - Winners: Annie Bull & Marina Greenshields
 - Winners: Mehmet & (visiting) Ali
 - Winners: Stjephan & Tony Morgan
 - Winners: Vivek & Warren Vickers
- Runners Up: Nat & Helen Morgan
Runners Up: Anne Love & Deb Lord
Runners Up: Stewart Wharton & Julian Goldsworthy
Runners Up: Mark Lawrence & Gordon Royle
Runners Up: Scott Van Heurck & Neil Croker

RESULTS OF THE MIXED OPEN ROUND ROBINS

- Winners: Simon High & Marina Greenshield
 - Winners: Waldie Latz & Tina Choos
 - Winners: Duncan McLellan & Yasuko Nagai
 - Winners: Richard Clarke & Siobhan
- Runners Up: Julian Goldsworthy & Deb Lord
Runners Up: Ian Love & Mairead Dawson-O'Donnell
Runners Up: Tom and Julia
Runners Up: Stjepan and Barb Nowak



Coaches Corner

From Warren Vickers

Has anybody seen winter this year? Certainly hasn't visited Perth yet*. As I do say often, term 2 is often the best weather for tennis. Mild (to warm!) days and cool nights, summer winds have been left with the hot days gone. Whilst we revel in the glorious tennis conditions, we do hope for rain for the non tennis times of the day!

Junior League

We had another successful summer season with 14 junior teams competing from first time orange ball players to our boys 18s division one team. Thanks to all the parents and managers who allow the kids to have this experience, giving up their Sunday mornings.



We had two winning teams for the summer, Green Ball – Gohil and 13s Mixed – Vyhunthan, great job for a successful season!

We did also have a number of MVP awards for our Junior League players. Many congratulations to: Kayla Tucknott, Jasper O'Donnell, Suryadev Ramanathan and Jay Jiang for their Incredible achievement to be the best player in their respective divisions.

For our winter season we have thirteen teams, which is the most teams ever for a winter season for NTC. This is fantastic to see the commitment of players to keep playing through-out the year. We must mention the hard work the groundsman does to ensure we have playable grass courts in winter to allow us to have enough courts for all teams.

Adult Coaching

We spend a lot of our time encouraging the youth of today to learn our wonderful sport, but its not just for the kids! We love coaching our members, regardless of their tennis goals we want to help out. There are mixed adult drills, mens competitive night drills, cardio tennis for all ages and abilities. We do team training sessions, hitting sessions and of course private lessons.

There are adult beginner and adult fundamental classes for those at the most basic level and those progressing with their tennis. If you have a partner or friend who has always wanted to give it a go but never taken the next step, send them our way!

We are currently running adult lessons for beginners, early intermediates and intermediates, these sessions are all at night and will cater for all players from new to the sport to mastering the fundamentals. These classes have options of term enrolment or casual drop in sessions. Contact us for more details.

**at the time of writing, winter has officially now arrived*

Very Social Tennis

To accompany our coaching programs we have now also launched our very social tennis program, this is an entry level social tennis run by Tennis HQ coaches. We may bend the rules a little and play and teach a variety of formats to give everyone a chance to spend more time on court.

This is a casual drop in session, all players are welcome, you don't have to be doing a coaching program with us. If you are looking to get more game play in but don't have playing partners, this is a great opportunity to join with like-minded and similar level skilled players.

We have two options:

Monday evening 7-8.30pm & Wednesday morning 9-10.30am

Clay Court Nationals

A special mention needs to go out to Vivek Raja and Chloe Tyers who both qualified and competed in the Australian Junior Claycourt National event last month. The top 32 players from Australia in 14 & 12 year old sections competed over a week of high class competition. To have two representatives from our club is an amazing achievement.

Vivek and partner Trey Phillips managed to come runners up in the Boys 12s Doubles, losing in three sets to the number one seeds. Having not played as a team together this was an even more remarkable achievement.

We are proud to have them at our club and as a coaching team played a small part in their development as elite players.



HAPPY HITTING
Warren & Staff at TENNIS HQ

A very warm welcome to our new members

Emma Sheng

Ella Zhao

Dave & Yvette Fowler

Peter Crossman

Kylie Passage

Shayan Saebi

Karen Jackson (returning)



Isaac Pang

William Xie

Helen McCready

Juliette Coffey

Logan Ramachandran

Jackson Marshal

NTC - 100 years

From Pip Micalizzi

More history for you and a few member's insights

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, there was no clubhouse when the club first started on the current land, when there were just the six courts.

In early 1931 the Road Board floated a special loan to finance a clubhouse. A timber framed, tiled roof weatherboard clubhouse was built and in that year on 19 December it was officially opened.

In 1934, the club dropped the word Park from its name and became 'The Nedlands Tennis Club Inc'

In the late 1930's one of the club members, an architect by the name of Harold Krantz designed a new clubhouse. Tenders were advertised in January 1938 and the contract was awarded to a local contractor for a price of nearly £1,600.

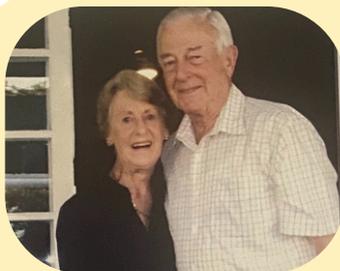
On Saturday 11 June 1938 the NTC Clubhouse and two new grass courts (now courts 17 and 18) were officially opened by the Lieutenant Governor Sir James Mitchell. At the time of the Opening, NTC was thought to be one of the largest metropolitan clubs.

(In case you were wondering, the 1931 clubhouse was relocated to be used by the Allen Park TC in Swanbourne.)

It is easy to write about the growth of the club in terms of buildings and courts. However, our growth, durability and sustainability, I think, is measured by our members. I have been a member for more than twenty years and I have met so many wonderful people and made friendships which have been important to me and my family.

I first came to NTC to have lessons with Judy Kozak, and with her support and from the friends I made in that group, I have continued to enjoy all the benefits the club offers. Obviously, I am not the only one and so I thought you might like to read how some of our current and a special life member have to say about NTC and what it means to them.

I am so grateful that Judy Kozak was able to talk to her father Howard Lange before he passed away. It is good to know that he had such happy memories of the Nedlands Tennis Club. Please read on.



Howard Lange written by Judy Kozak (Howard's daughter)

Bev and Howard joined NTC in 1967 and Howard later became a Life member.

We will have to check when he was last a member but I remember him being on the verandah when John Rogers turned 80. Dad remembers being at the club for a photo with John Clapin and Alan Barblett.

The benefits for Howard were: his own physical and mental health; he enjoyed giving back to the Community - he was Club President, including during the club's 50th year celebrations; it was a whole family activity and was lots of fun; lifelong friendships were made that still exist today.

Bev loved her Wednesday tennis ladies and Saturday afternoon social tennis.

Highlights for Howard included: becoming a Life member; the Champagne Breakfasts and being in the Dad's Army Wednesday afternoon group; being part of the Thursday Aces group. *

Alan Barblett and Howard used to donate wine or champagne each Saturday for raffle prizes which was a good fundraiser for the Club.

Howard dressed as Father Christmas for many years arriving at the club in Graeme Reynold's decorated Jag. Even his own young grandson Tom saw him and said "he is the real Father Christmas"!!

**addendum by H Morgan - Half of those on the Thursday Aces list were not NTC members. Thursday Aces was a group of veterans (a number of whom were distinguished players) that played on Thursday afternoons sometimes at Nedlands and sometimes at RKPTC.*

Trish Heath



I joined the club with my family 30 years ago in 1995. My children all attended coaching and enjoyed coming on Saturday afternoons to play with the many other kids who came down with their parents in those days. They all went on to work at the club, my daughter as the babysitter and my boys as computer operators. This gave me insight and empathy for our current computer kids - and their parents!

The benefits of being a member at NTC are so much more than just hitting a ball over a net on a sunny Saturday afternoon. I have made many lifelong friends during my time as a member. It is also a safe space to come to when life throws you a curveball. To say that the Nedlands Tennis Club is so much greater than the sum of its parts would not be an exaggeration.

I would love to say that my favourite moment at the club was the day I was crowned Ladies' Singles Champion but sadly that would simply not be true! I have so many special moments though, that it is hard to narrow them down to a few. Saturday afternoons playing social tennis with friends and enjoying egg sandwiches at afternoon teatime would certainly be one. Team road trips during my pennant days where we laughed all the way there and back regardless of the result - we usually lost! Even the innumerable hours spent in the kitchen washing dishes after club dinners (before the installation of the dishwasher) are fond memories for me.

Pat Jonklaas



We joined as a family in late 2007.

Being a part of any community is important, and NTC provides an opportunity to both support the Club, support other individuals as well as be supported in our lives. This relates not only to our lives at the Club & on the court, but also, in a more general sense outside the immediate Club environment.

It's great to have a regular routine of tennis and social events that we can look forward to .

A few hours on the court followed by (sometimes) a few hours socialising afterwards is a highlight of the week. 😊

I also feel that as many of us are gradually getting older, this sense of community is all the more important.

One of my favourite memories is playing in the Winter Intra Club event for a couple of seasons and I was struck by how generous other players were in accommodating different standards of players and how any good play was warmly acknowledged and encouraged by players from all teams, even when playing in opposition.

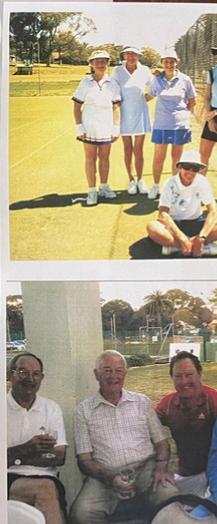
Seeing people playing with a smile on their faces regardless of what happens in the point. Taking photos at the Opening Day (Junior or Senior) you really get a sense of people enjoying themselves, and at the end of the day that's what it's all about. 😊

Dr John Taylor's research has the first meeting to form a club (NTC) take place on the 25th June 1925 and the club did not officially commence until October 1925, which makes this year's Open Day in October our 100th. For the record, John was a loyal NTC member prior to moving to the south west and is one of the very few architects in Australia to possess formal training and qualifications for heritage work. In addition, to many other awards during his career, John was made a member of the Order of Australia in January 2024 for significant service to architecture, to heritage conservation and to professional organisations.

Member Focus

Vale Howard Langhe 25.12.29 - 30.03.25

Howard Langhe, a life member and past president of the Nedlands Tennis Club passed away on the 30th March. He was president when the club turned 50 and he also wrote a history of the club. A few days before passing, Pip Micalizzi was able to get Judy Kozak, his daughter to ask him the questions about the club which you can read in the article about the club. Howard was described as a gentle giant and a true gentleman. The committee, on behalf of the club, sent flowers and our condolences to Judy and his family.



Michaela Collingwood, who has a legacy bench named after her at the club following her generous donation to the club, was also a long-term volunteer at Capital Community Radio where she made her mark presenting, amongst others, the Golden Years of Radio & Evensong' program. It is lovely to hear that Capital Community Radio have named their number 3 studio The Michaela Collingwood Studio.

Australia Day 2025





SATURDAY SOCIAL ETIQUETTE

- Sign in – Please sign in on arrival or text message via the club phone 0411 181 096. DO NOT call
- Punctuality – Please arrive 10 mins prior to sign in or make sure to arrive on time when messaging in
- Requests – Will NOT be accepted at social tennis
- Set Coordinators – Perform their job based on the players attending. Please be kind. Concerns should be addressed to the Duty Captain
- Respect – Please show respect to fellow Club members and visiting players

REMINDER : Social Tennis is an opportunity to play with members of variable skill levels and about having fun!

Thank you to all our Club Captains, Duty Captains and Club members for their organisation and for providing afternoon tea

Awards Night



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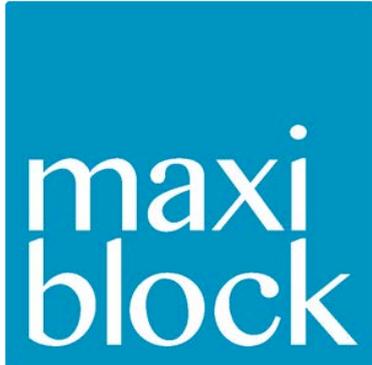


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