

# Sunshine Tennis Club

## President's Report 2019/20



Sunshine Tennis Club Members,

I have prepared this Report during the home lockdown due to the COVID – 19 pandemic which has ravaged the world and closed down your Tennis Club since March. Who knows when we will be in a position to open up the Club facilities again? Hopefully it will be before our AGM is planned for in early June. Thank you for the patience you have shown to the Club in not being able to play any form of tennis. Meanwhile, we await the formal approval to resume a game of tennis once again, however limited it might be, in the early transition stages of resumption of the game at Sunshine.

Thank you for having supported the Club and your hard working Committee along with the many very generous volunteers who supported a number of events and activities throughout the year.

Your Committee of **David Evans**, Secretary, **Glenn Hoppitt**, Treasurer, **Michael Geard**, Vice President, **John Gericke**, Maintenance Officer, **Toni Hawkes**, Membership Officer, **Raelene Sproule**, **Lenice Beard** and **Sarah Capes**, have all continued to offer their skill, expertise and time above and beyond the call of duty as volunteers.

They perform a wide range of functions such as financial advice, computer communications advice [website and Facebook], social and special events support, clubhouse operation, garden and courts maintenance, support to the various Organised Tennis Groups who play socially and in Pennants/Competitions, all with a cheery smile and happy words of encouragement. Of course the Committee representatives do change and we are always looking for new Committee members to volunteer their expertise, ideas and support. The Club needs people with new outlooks and fresh ideas on ways of progressing the Club, as such input is vital to the successful future of the Club.

My special thanks is due to **David Evans** who has expertly fulfilled the role of Secretary [along with a number of additional voluntary roles] during the year and who has continued to be been a tower of strength to me, the Committee, the Treasurer, the Tuesday and Friday mixed social Groups and Maintenance Officer during the year.

The Club Treasurer, **Glenn Hoppitt**, has ensured that the Club has finished the 2019-20 year in a very healthy operational and financial position even though we have had some significant costs during the year [e.g. new court 6] and will need to plan for improvements in courts fencing and the resurfacing of Court Two [2] are just a couple of matters requiring attention.

Glenn's management of the Club finances has kept us on our toes with the various items of expenditure being kept to a minimum to conform to the annual Budget.

However, none of us saw the impact of the **COVID – 19 pandemic** coming and the Club has developed a Membership Fees policy [see the details in the E News 29<sup>th</sup> March Issue No: 85] and in the Sunshine Tennis Club website <http://www.sunshinetennisclub.org.au>

to allow you to get the maximum from your annual subscription for the remainder of 2020-21. Your support on this matter has been outstanding, thank you so much.

The work involved in managing the computer for Applications for Membership to the Club and arranging the distribution of new FOB's for access to courts and lights, is a significant role. Thank to **Toni Hawkes** for this work, along with the valuable advice offered by **David Evans**.



David Evans, Alanna Rolph, Brian May & Rhonda Prokopiec - a happy group in the Clubhouse kitchen

The Club E News is produced and edited by **Michael Geard**. All members receive the e News by email on a regular basis. Our thanks is due to Michael for the time and effort involved in putting the various Issues together to keep you fully informed.

Our special thanks is also due to the work of our website webkeeper, **Conrad Thunig**. Conrad designs and updates the Club website on a regular basis to ensure the information is current and useful, on a totally voluntary basis. **Sarah Capes** has also been instrumental in updating much of the content of the website in association with Conrad.

Of course no Club survives without the determination of Members who ensure players use the facilities.

**Organised Groups:** Many thanks are due to those members who co-ordinate the various Organised Groups of players during the week and include:

**Lyn Rose** Ladies Monday group,

**Toni Hawkes and Bev Fitze** ladies on a Tuesday

**Brian May** mixed social Tuesday mornings

**Dawn Morris & Janet Eaton** Tuesday and Wednesday ladies

**Lenice Beard** Ladies Pennant on Wednesday

**John Beard** Wednesday night mixed Social

**Mike Palmer** very popular Thursday morning group,

**Sean Kelly** - Friday morning mixed social tennis group,

**Max Crowe** Co Ordinator of the AYC Pennant/s and

**Sarah Capes** CoOrdinator of ladies Saturday afternoon group

**John Beard** CoOrdinator of Sunday morning mixed social group.

Once again, quietly supportive in the background is **Kristina Casimaty** who has also been a loyal volunteer on the catering side offering us goodies at some of our social events.

Sincere thanks is also due also to our two Clubhouse fridge CoOrdinators, **John Foale** who restocks refreshments and snacks for a wide range of junior and senior players and **Steve Levis** for stocking the fridge supplies. Their restocking of indispensable materials has been a valuable and financial beneficial role for the Tennis Club.

Maintenance of the garden and lawns around the Clubhouse is always a requirement and the volunteers who include **David Evans, John Foale, Michael Geard, Glenn Hoppitt, John Gericke** all deserve the thanks of Members for the time and effort involved.



John Foale and David Evans are “always available” to help !

So too, our thanks is due to **John Foale and Michael Geard** for the repainting of the Clubhouse floor, the opportunity being taken during a quiet period recently.

The quite significant volume of rubbish placed in the various wheelie bins during the week, is put out for collection each Wednesday night by the volunteers from among the night time players, thank you also.

The “Entertainment Book” is a useful fundraiser for the Club and this year our thanks is due to **Alanna Rolph** who again took on the CoOrdination of the distribution and accounting / administration of the Book [albeit an on-line Subscription this year].

Many other volunteers too numerous to mention by name, on events and activities have assisted throughout the year including **Richard Easther, with support from Debbie Easther** who drafted and presented the latest Submission to the Department of Sport and Recreation for the funding of the reconstruction of Court two [2]. Unfortunately the Submission to the State Department was unsuccessful and the Club will have to reconsider a strategy for its replacement in future. The completion of the work on Court six [6] just prior to Christmas has added to the quality and appearance of the courts and they should last the Club for many years to come.

Social Interclub tennis is alive and well and the 35 + event held at Sunshine during the year was well attended with visitors from a number of other Tennis Clubs enjoying the tennis and lunch on the viewing / sundeck afterwards.

However Competition tennis needs an injection of enthusiasm at Sunshine. Do you want to add your name to players who might wish to join a competitive Group? Just email us.

A very successful Tennis Club Christmas Party was held last year and thanks are due to **Raelene Sproule** and her band of merry volunteers.





Jennifer and Michael Palmer, Lillian Hay & Raelene Sproule



Lenka Jankovocova & Grace



Chris Ikin and Paul O'Rourke take a break from Christmas tennis

The Tennis Australia/Tennis Tasmania National Event [to which Sunshine Tennis Club agreed to host] was conducted early in 2020-titled **“Get Your Racquet On” – Open Court Tennis**. I note the major commitment of Club Members who prepared food for the players on eight [8] different evenings from January to March, 7.00pm to approx. 9.00pm and received and welcomed players, their contribution was amazing to experience. My sincere thanks is due to **Clubhouse Hosts Toni Hawkes, Raelene Sproule, Sarah Capes, Lenice Beard and John Foale**.



On the courts, during the Event, the wonderful assistance offered to me by On Court Hosts **Kyran Stanton, John Foale, David Evans and Neil Hurling** [Commonly known as “The Fly on the Wall”] made for a most enjoyable, happy experience for the players [both young and old], who engaged in a range of fun filled tennis exercises and games each evening. Some eighty [80] players attended the Event, with a number of players joining the Tennis Club as Members.



Our appreciation is also due to the valuable support the Club has received from Tennis Tasmania during the year and throughout the GYRO Open Court Event, from **Simonne Allwright** and the Domain Tennis staff including Southern Regional CoOrdinator, Michael Bulis and Administrative Support from Nicky Ristrom.

The help and assistance from the Clarence City Council via **Tracy Sparks**, Property Officer is also been most appreciated.

Again the Clarence Lions held their annual Event “Run the Beaches” at the Bellerive Beach and play/exercise area on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Sunshine Tennis Club participated again. Volunteers, **Raelene Sproule, Toni Hawkes, John Foale and David Evans** set up the Club tent and GYRO tennis nets, racquets etc and joined many children play grass tennis in between them running the Bellerive Beach. We only experienced the one injured Sunshine member viz David Evans who with his suspect knee should have known grass tennis against very young agile players is a challenge ! New Club members have resulted from such Events.



Sunshine Fun Run volunteers – David Evans, Raelene Sproule, Toni Hawkes, John Foale

It was lovely to see the results of a Raffle conducted towards the expenses of George McNees, who was very sick. A joint effort suggested by Tennis Tasmania and a great number of donations promoted by Dickson Tennis and David Evans through the Tennis Club members families and friends, was an outstanding effort.



Pictured with the results of the Raffle for George are: David Dickson, Darren Sturgess, Kylie [George's Auntie], Katherine Kelly, David Evans & Seth [George's Cousin]

As usual, maintenance is always just around the corner – it took some time to replace court lights during the year at significant cost. As noted, many thanks are due to John



Foale and Michael Geard for recently painting the Clubhouse floor – a mighty effort during a quiet time.



It's a long way up to change one light globe

The newly painted Clubhouse floor

Bunnings at Morningside is the place to shop and conduct a fund raising BBQ. Our Club volunteers ran a Friday BBQ in shifts during the day in August. It's a very good Club fund raising activity and the local customers, tradies etc. are a loyal group of people during the day. We now wait to be advised by Bunnings of a date on which to run a weekend BBQ this year!



Michael Geard, Vicki Atkinson & Lenice Beard

An early customer orders from Glenn Hoppitt and Marilyn Marshall

Marilyn Marshall, Brian May and Toni Hawkes take a photo break.



Appreciation is also due to the Coaching Team **Dickson Tennis (David Dickson and Katherine Kelly)** who conduct their Business from the Sunshine Tennis Club.



The students and parents appreciate the services of the coaching Team. Their coaching advice to older and Representative players during the year has also been valuable. Thanks are also due to the Tennis Club members, **John Foale and Ross McKenzie** who have volunteered and operated the BBQ on the Friday Match Play afternoon/evenings.



Gabs and John Foale on the BBQ for a Friday Match Play

The Coaches are now Party to an Agreement for the fourth year with the Sunshine Tennis Club and will soon be renegotiated. The Tennis Club looks forward to continuing a happy and successful relationship with them.

Many thanks was also due to Committee Members **David Evans, Raelene Sproule, Toni Hawkes and John Gericke** for their advice and encouragement in the discussions leading up to the signing of the current Agreement with the Coaches.



Michael Geard and David Dickson install one of the new court screens

## Future Committee membership:

Both David Evans and I will be standing down from the positions of President and Secretary at this Annual General Meeting. I have served the Club for the last eight [8] years as Secretary and President and it is time for me to hand over the reins to another younger person. Thank you for the unconditional support you have given both of us.



Sean Kelly & David Evans look to the sky for inspiration about their next phase of activity!

We have a great list of loyal **Sponsors** and I would like to thank them for their ongoing support of the club.

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