

# ESPERANCE TENNIS CLUB

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

## NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Alysha Castelli- President

What a great start to the new year at the Esperance Tennis Club. I would like to take this opportunity to say a special welcome to our new coach Bastien Henrotin. He is making the move to our amazing town in the next few weeks and will begin his coaching from the 7th of March. We were lucky enough to have Jarron and Maranda Kretschmann from Sun City Tennis Academy travel down on Friday the 4th of Feb alongside Bastien, for a meet and greet with the club. It was a mammoth 2600km round trip for them. Huge effort and we really appreciate it. I am excited to watch our courts slowly fill up with coaching throughout the week as I have had many parents show their interest in joining. Coaching is a great way to build players confidence in the game which will then encourage both Seniors and Juniors to become involved in future club events. How spoilt we are to play a sport with a year long season. So much outdoor opportunity for our members.

The Igloo lock access on the front gate is working smoothly for our members. All players that sign up, now have access to the top courts for the season. Remember that our season runs from September to August, so it is important to pay your membership when it is due to get the maximum out of your membership. A pink mini bin is now located on the bench outside the club rooms for members to borrow used tennis balls when they come down for a hit. Please ensure these balls aren't left on the court and are put back in the bin when you have finished.

Thank you to all the volunteers that keep our club a float. We have had some special people volunteering their time for the club for a long period and it is time to lighten their load. I know they will always be a part of the club but I would like to encourage new faces to take on some small roles at the club, and if you think you could spare an hour here or there, please contact myself on 0407 192 768.

The start of the year is always busy and has kicked off with a bang. Senior fixtures have begun, and Junior Pennants is cranking. Let's keep the tennis momentum.



# JUNIORS

Junior Pennants began on Saturday the 5th of Feb and the following week brought more faces down. We now have 21 Juniors playing fixtured games from 8.30-10.30am. Oz Tennis for ages 5-8 year old's is being run by Patrick McCarthy from 9.00-10.00am where we are seeing 10-15 children show up for a run around. Coach Bastien will be taking over the Oz Tennis once he has settled in town.

I am excited to announce our new Junior Committee. Thank you to Jeff and Joan Sortberg and Susie Balsdon for putting their names down to assist with the running of Junior Pennants. A few more helpers would be appreciated. If you are interested, please let me know.

Junior Pennants is formally held in Term One and Term Four and informally players can have a social hit in Term Two and Three if they wish. Plus, with a membership the whole family has access to the courts all season.

# SENIORS

## Advanced Player Competition

Thanks to Shane Spengler our Vice President for wrangling the advanced players together for our Advanced Player Competition on a Monday night from 6pm. Shane is organising the fixtures for the next 3 weeks until Coach Bastien arrives. If you are interested in joining this competition give Shane a call on 0407778267. Non-members are welcome to play but pay a \$50 term fee or \$25 half term fee. These exclude ball fees. Please refer to the membership flyer which explains the various membership options. This provides further detail on what memberships require members to pay balls fees or not. Remember Full memberships don't pay ball fees and basic memberships pay ball fees.

## Thursday Ladies Pennants

Thursday fixtured pennants is our largest member competition at the club. Julie Kirkup is a super star getting 24 ladies together to run her pennant morning. It is great to see the smiles on the court and everyone having a good hit with their friends.

## Friday Social

Friday Social has its ups and downs with numbers, although it is a great opportunity to get the family down after school for an afternoon/evening hit of tennis. Music is playing, sausage sizzle is available, and drinks can be purchased over the bar. It would be great to see this take off, to encourage more of a social atmosphere at the club with all ages.

## Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday Social Doubles

Noel Wilson runs Social Doubles. Both non-members and members are welcome to come down. Non-members can pay \$10 casual fee for 3 sessions until they are required to pay a membership. Please refer to our club timetable for regular club sessions, or the calendar on the website for specific times and contacts.

## For your information...

# COACHING

Coach Bastien Henrotin will be arriving in Esperance in the next 2 weeks. Coaching formally starts on the 7th of March, however if the move down is smooth for him it may start earlier. Keep a lookout on Facebook for updated information. Coach Bastien's details are found on our website and Facebook page. All coaching requests are sent to Esperance Tennis Academy by contacting Jarron or Bastien. We look forward to coaching starting back up at the club and can't wait to see new faces on the courts.



# FENCING UPGRADE: CONCRETE FOOTINGS

How fantastic to have our fences completed around courts 1-9. Thank you to the Esperance Shire for grant funds to support this project, along with Southern Ports Authority and CBH Grass Roots Grants. We were lucky enough to secure these funds along with a small loan to help complete the works. Unfortunately, the concrete footings around the courts aren't quite complete. In the next few weeks I will be setting a date for a volunteer Busy Bee where we will fill in these footings and dome them off for water runoff. Once it is dry it will need to be painted blue to match the rest of the court. Please keep a look out on our Facebook Site and on the member white board in the clubrooms for the date for the Busy Bee. Many hands make light work.



# FRONT ENTRANCE:

## GROWING GRASS

You may have all noticed the sandy entrance to the Tennis Club. We are aiming to get grass growing at the entrance and to build this area up for the winter months. This becomes a puddle of water during the rainy season. I understand it is quite difficult to avoid but if you could try and walk around it as much as possible that would be great. Also, if you have a spare moment waiting for your next game, can you put some water on it. More water, More grass!!

# VOLUNTEER SPECIAL MENTION

It is a long time coming but a special mention needs to be made to our Tennis Fairies! These people have volunteered so much of their time behind the scenes for many years, and continue to do so without any complaints.

Thank you so much to Jill Wehr our treasurer for the past 10 years. If anyone needs to know anything about the club, Jill is your lady. The treasurer role is slowly being handed over to Holly Meiklejohn over the next 12 months. Thank you, Holly. You are going to do an awesome job and have an amazing lady like Jill to teach you. I am not sure what I will do without Jill but I know she will always remain a part of the club and I appreciate her always responding to my constant texts and calls over the last 4 years.

Mike Dallas and Neville Welke are the behind the scenes maintenance men. Mike has been cleaning the clubrooms, mowing the lawn and doing odd jobs for years. Neville keeps an eye on our lights to ensure they are working efficiently and knows just about everything there is to know about maintenance around the club. Thank you for your constant support and keeping the club at such a high standard over the years. Coral Barron has taken over the cleaning at the clubrooms and is doing an incredible job. If you see her on a Monday morning say hello. Thank you, Coral.

Julie Kirkup and Noel Wilson are our captains for Ladies and Social Tennis. Noel has run the Saturday competition for 13 years and Wednesday competition for 10 years, and after all this time he is still so consistent. Only stops for Christmas! Julie, as mentioned above, organises the largest fixtured competition at the club. What an amazing lady. The club wouldn't be the same without people like Julie and Noel who keep the tennis on. Thank you for your consistent efforts and for sharing your love of tennis with so many people in our community.

# MAINTENANCE

## SUB-COMMITTEE

We need a maintenance sub-committee. If you think this could be something you can help with, please let me know. I am hoping to create a system for us to work with in getting all the small tasks completed around the club. A maintenance booklet is located in the Club Office above the computer. Coral Barron our cleaner will be adding little details she notices around the clubrooms that need some attention and I encourage members to do the same. If you are to write it on the member board I can then add it to the maintenance booklet.

Once we have a maintenance sub-committee these people can take ownership of individual tasks and we can aim to keep on top of all the little jobs. There is no need for people to go out of their way but if they are at the club they can write their name next to a task in the book to say they will complete it. Please give me a call if you are happy to have your name down for this sub-committee.



# ESPERANCE LAWN AND

## MAINTENANCE

Rob Billig from Esperance Lawn and Maintenance will begin mowing the lawns at the tennis club starting on Wednesday the 16th February. If you are there at a time when he is, please say hello. He will be sorting the lawns out once a month and every 2-3 weeks in Autumn. Thanks Rob!