



100 YEARS OF TENNIS ACT

TENNIS ACT CENTENARY

1923-2023



Southwell & Read families - Tennis party, adjacent to Canberra Inn c. 1900. Source: National Library of Australia

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

Dr Colin Adrian

Dedication & Acknowledgement

To all the clubs, players, administrators, volunteers, coaches, officials, sponsors, families and lovers of tennis who have contributed to the game in Canberra and Region over the past 100 years.

Many have assisted directly and indirectly, and their input is gratefully acknowledged.

A special mention must be made of the invaluable work of Roy Smalley OAM 'Anyone for Tennis? A chronological history of the Australian Capital Territory Tennis Association and tennis in the territory', covering the first 70 years of the Association and published privately in 2012.

My appreciation also to the Walk of Fame Committee, to the Board of Tennis ACT, CEO Kim Kachel and his dedicated staff, notably Rochelle Kahlefeldt, Claire Dunn and Fraser Robertson - design, who have contributed immensely to the production of this compilation and to the celebration of a wonderful Centenary of Tennis.

Introduction



Tennis ACT Centenary Gala Dinner, March 2023. Source: Tennis ACT

In March 2023, Tennis ACT, and its predecessors, celebrated 100 years of organised tennis in Canberra and Region. Tennis is a sport which is integrally linked to the growth of the national capital, from infancy to a modern, cosmopolitan city of more than 460,000 people.

Tennis, like Canberra, has had its highs and lows, controversies and challenges. Most significantly it has demonstrated a resilience to achieve competitive success at the highest levels of the sport nationally and internationally. There is no doubt that tennis in Canberra and the Region can justifi-

ably be said to have ‘punched well above its weight’ as a sport.

Equally tennis has provided a healthy outlet, as a strong community-based sport for all Canberrans. Young and old, male and female, regardless of ability and from ‘all walks of life’ Canberrans have from the very start of club tennis been able to enjoy a social sporting experience. Fun, friendships and a shared community spirit have been hallmarks of the sport.

May the next 100 years be as productive and enjoyable for all.

This document represents a compilation of major events, achievements and milestones over the last 100 years. Sins of omission and errors are solely the responsibility of the author. By necessity the document focuses on a whole of Territory and Region perspective; the ambit of Tennis ACT’s responsibility.

Each Club and Affiliated body will have their own history; equally individuals will have their own personal experiences and treasured memories of the sport. I hope this document encourages these to be shared with others and for the benefit of generations to come.

The compilation is set out chronologically, by decades, with photos and text to place events in the context of Canberra at the time and to highlight changes over the century. I hope readers enjoy the trip down memory lane – I certainly did in undertaking the research and compilation.

Dr Colin Adrian

Tennis ACT Board Member 2010-2020
Chair, Tennis ACT Walk of Fame Committee
2015-Present

Pre-1923

FROM RURAL BEGINNINGS TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL



De Salis family at Cuppacumbalong, c.1898. Source: National Library of Australia

The early settler families, many of whose descendants are still involved with tennis in the ACT, settled in what can be broadly described as the Ginnindera area – the centre of which was the Cricketers Arms Hotel, forced to close in 1918 due to prohibition in the Territory.

Tennis courts were first constructed on properties and used for recreational and social purposes. As the game gained popularity as a competitive sport tennis clubs were established in villages and towns.

In the late 1890s 'The Wizards Ginnindera Notes of the Goulburn Evening Penny Post' reported that Hall tennis members were practicing assiduously in order to wipe out two defeats they had suffered at the hands of Sutton players!

Roy Smalley 'Anyone for tennis: The Early Days in the Region'

- Tennis courts established on early settler properties, at bush schools (eg Gibraltar) and villages in the Region from late 1800s, including Hall, Wallaroo, Jeir, Fern Hill, Weetangera, Ginnindera, The Pines, Mulligans Flat, Tharwa, Cuppacumbalong, Naas Station and Tuggeranong Station
- Villages further afield such as Gunning, Gundaroo, Sutton, Michelago, Yass and Bungendore also had courts
- Queanbeyan was the dominant tennis centre in the Region, with courts established in the 1880s
- Famous settler names such as Southwell, Reid, Curran, Ridley, Buckmaster, Sullivan and Maloney

- were prominent with self-built pounded earth courts
- Tennis was predominantly a recreational pastime for families – males, females, young and old alike
- The first recorded club in what is now the ACT was Hall Tennis Club in 1898; others formed in the early 1900s but most lapsed during WW1
- With Federal Parliament and staff based temporarily in Melbourne, a Permanent Heads Shield tennis competition commenced in 1910 (later to move to Canberra)
- In 1911 the Yass – Canberra District was settled by a non-indigenous population of 1714 (116 in what is now Canberra) with 224,764 sheep!
- On 12 March 1913 Lady Denman, a keen tennis player and wife of the Governor-General, stood on Capital Hill and declared "I name the Capital of Australia, Canberra"
- The first recorded club 'championship' in the new Capital was at Duntroon on 25 September 1915, the club having been established in 1911
- As infrastructure was begun for the new Capital, tennis courts of varying quality were constructed at a variety of locations eg the Power House, the 'emerging construction' camps and at the centre of 'Administration' at Acton



Alan Pooley 'The Pines', (Lyneham) with Fred Southwell on court c.1900. Source: National Library of Australia.



Tuggeranong Homestead Court c.1920 far court left Charles Bean, forecourt left Effie Young, wife. Source: Tuggeranong Homestead Archives

1923-1933

AN ASSOCIATION OF TENNIS CLUBS AND A COMPETITIVE SPORT



Opening of Ainslie Tennis Courts, 1928. Source: Keith Carnall Collection, Tennis ACT Archives

'The Association Annual Ball was held on 18 July 1930 as a gala affair with a theme of 'Romance of the Night'. Ticket prices were set at 10/-Double and 5/6 Single. A small price to pay for 'the full Ambassador's Orchestra and a delectable supper' and all this to 'ensure patrons had a night of undiluted joy'

- 21 March 1923 Federal Territory Tennis Association (FTTA) formed at Acton Hall, with Jack Esmond first President (1923 – 1926)
- Pennant competition commenced in 1923 amongst five affiliated clubs (Canberra, Eastlake, Northbourne, West Ridge and Queanbeyan) with Queanbeyan the first winner, dominating what became the Esmond A Grade Shield competition. Other competitions for B Grade, Mixed and Ladies competitions were then progressively added during the 1920s.
- 1924 first FTFA Open (Restricted) Championship for men – winner Matt Crowe from Gundaroo
- 1925 name change to Canberra Tennis Association (CTA)
- Gorman Cup Challenge Competition between club teams commenced 1925 – Eastlake first winner
- Associations first Ball held at Hotel Canberra on 18 September 1925 (the first of what became popular annual events)
- 1926 first District Junior Championships held at the Opening of Telopea Park School courts – Reg Bennett (Boys winner) and Marion Chave (Girls winner)
- 1926 Ivo Smith President (1926 – 1929)
- 1927 affiliation with NSWLTA enabled entry to Country Week Championships, with No 1 Canberra team (Jack and Norman Ridley, Bill Freebody and Matt Crowe all from Queanbeyan, winning the Championship Cup)
- 1927/28 move of Federal Parliament to a 'temporary' Parliament House with its own tennis courts, in Canberra, with houses built



Manuka Oval Aerial incl. Manuka Headquarter Tennis Courts, c. early 1930s. Source: 'That's Where I Meet My Wife: A Story of the First Swimming Pool in the National Capital' compiled by Huggins

at Ainslie, Reid, Forrest, Eastlake (Kingston) and Westridge (Yarralumla)

- 1928 Prohibition ends in Canberra
- 1 May 1928 six gravel court Manuka Complex opened as HQ of Canberra Tennis Association
- 1929 Les Marriott President (1929 – 1932)
- 25 August 1930 name change to Federal Capital Territory Lawn Tennis Association (FCTLTA)

- 1930 first ACT Open Championship – winners, Men, S Gee (J Ridley Cup) and Women, V Kemp (W Sandral Cup)
- 1931 dis-affiliation from NSWLTA and in 1932 Queanbeyan teams excluded from Canberra pennant competition
- 1932 Inter-town team visits and competitions commence
- 1932 JC Stephen President (1932 – 1937)
- 1932 Affiliated Clubs were: Westlake, Reid, Ainslie, The Pines, Forrest, Acton, Acton Park, Braddon, Kingston, Northbourne, Ginninderra, Duntroon, Weetangera and Canberra Grammar School (14)



Manuka Tennis Courts Official Opening, 1928. (L-R), John Latham, Sir Littleton Groom, Dr Earle Page and Sir John Butters. Source: Mildenhall Collection, National Archives of Australia



Country Week Champions, 1927 - No. 1 Canberra Team (Bill Freebody, Matt Crowe, Jack and Norman Ridley. Source: Tennis ACT Archives

1933-1942

GROWTH YEARS: ACT IS 'OFFICIALLY TENNIS MAD'



Exhibition at Hotel Canberra Bowling Green, 1935. Source: Keith Carnall Collection, Tennis ACT Archives

'.....We arrived [in Canberra] at 4 on Saturday afternoon. Tennis was being played here, there and everywhere. "We're tennis mad!" was the reply to a query. There were 37 teams in competition that afternoon in connection with the Association, in addition to private play'

Cootamundra Herald, 11 May 1934

- Manuka Pavilion opened 1933 in conjunction with first ACT Resident Championships – winners Men, S Bell (Johnson Cup) and Women, L Yates (Piggin Cup)
- 1933 formation of the Association's first Ladies Auxiliary (Mrs Marriott first President)
- 1934 two more courts added to Manuka Complex
- 1934 LTAA recognises FCTLTA as 'governing' body but no representation on national body
- 1934 First official Association Handbook
- 1934 – 1938 exhibition matches involving Viv McGrath, Jack Crawford, John Bromwich, Arthur Huxley, Bill Sidwell, Joan Hartigan, and Thelma Rice at Manuka and Hotel Canberra
- 1936 Player registrations peaked at 929, approximately 10% of Canberra's population – more than the number of those with a driver's licence!
- 1937 Dr JRA McMillan President (1937 – 1940)
- 1939 name change to Australian Capital Territory Lawn Tennis Association (ACTLTA)
- 1939 population of Canberra reaches 10,000
- 1939 – 1945 WW2
- 1940 Joan Shumack (later Le Nevez) wins the

- last of her 6 ACT Resident Singles titles and 3 ACT Open Singles titles, marries and leaves the ACT
- 1940 ACT Open discontinued
- 1940 President FA Piggin (1940 – 1942)
- 1941 Affiliated Clubs were: Ainslie, Barton, Braddon, Eastlake, Forrest, Griffith, Hall, Kingston, Northbourne, RAAF Canberra, Railway, Reid, RMC Cadets, RMC Staff, University and Weetangera (16)
- 1942 ACT Resident Championships and Pennant competitions discontinued
- 1942 Les Crawley President (1942 – 1947)
- 1942 Difficulty in Association forming Board, with most clubs unable to financially affiliate and Board meetings lacking a quorum
- 1942 Mrs G Fielding first woman on the Association Executive



White City B Grade Country Week Champions, 1941 (L-R) (Norma Southwell, Jean Bruce, Gwen Carnall and Ruby Lanham). Source: Crawley family and Queanbeyan Park Tennis Club



Northbourne No. 1 team (Charles Boag, Vera Treweek, Wilkinson, Mary Treweek) and Braddon team (Dick O'Sullivan, Joan Shumack, Dr McMillan, May O'Sullivan) - Manuka Courts, 1940. Source: 'Joan's Tennis Life' by Corale Le Nevez

1943-1952

DISRUPTED YEARS: WAR'S DRAMATIC IMPACT



Davis Cup 'visits' Canberra for first time, ACT Open, 1951. Source: Keith Carnall Collection, Tennis ACT Archives

The expansion of the War into the Pacific with the bombing of Pearl Harbour in December 1941, then the Japanese advance through Papua and New Guinea brought dramatic changes to the Canberra tennis scene in 1942.

The year 1942 was the first year in the history of tennis in Canberra that no competition was held; due to the depletion of players because of enlistment, petrol rationing and other war work.

The situation worsened in 1943, with difficulties in obtaining quorums for Association meetings, the parlous state of Association and club finances, the non-availability of tennis balls and the lack of hoses caused by the shortage of rubber due to the War situation. The Manuka courts were 'in a deplorable state' with fencing down and the Pavilion windows broken by vandals.

Roy Smalley 'Anyone for Tennis – The War Years

- 1943 Association decision to hand lease of Manuka back to Department from 1 January 1944 due to dire financial situation (subsequently rescinded with 75% reduction in rental granted by Government)
- 1944 Program of social matches and club/court repairs instigated resulting in increased activity and viability as the year progressed
- 1945 Resident Championships resume
- 1946 Resumption of ACT Open Championship
- 1946 Commencement of Interdistrict (Regional Towns) Competition – Citizens Cup for men and Le Manfred Cup for women. In the 1950s



Canberra High School, Girl's Tennis Team, 1946. Source: CRICOS Reg No. 00643J Canberra High School Photo Archives

- the RH Carter Cup for juniors – against the Border (Albury) LTA - was initiated
- 1947 Recommencement of Pennant Competition and exhibition matches featuring John Bromwich, Jack Crawford, Dinny Pails and Geoff Brown on lawns at Hotel Canberra
- 1947 FA Piggins President (1947 – 1948)
- 1948 WJ Walker President (1948 – 1952)
- 1949 first Life Membership of Association awarded to Les Crawley, Keith Carnall, Charlie Gibbs and FA Piggins
- 20 December 1949 reaffiliation with NSWLTA
- 1949 Junior Branch established
- 1950 Lights and seating installed at Manuka for the Slazenger sponsored Exhibition match: Ken McGregor, W. Sidwell, D. Eldridge and Eric Sturgess (South Africa)
- 1951 Davis Cup displayed in Canberra, for the



First Junior ACT Tennis Team to Visit Sydney, 1947. Source: Keith Carnall Collection, Tennis ACT Archives

- first time, with Davis Cup and Wimbledon Films to sellout crowds at Albert Hall
- 1951 Exhibition matches at Manuka by International Professionals Budge, Parker, Gonzales and Dinny Pails followed by another Slazenger event featuring John Bromwich
- 1952 Charlie Gibbs President (1952 – 1954)
- 1952 Affiliated Clubs: Acton, Ainslie, Barton, Braddon, Flinders, Forrest, Fyshwick, Griffith, Kingston, Northbourne, Mulwala, Reid, RMC Cadets, RMC Staff, St Patricks, St Pauls, Turner and Yarralumla (18)



NSW and ACT Junior Tennis Teams visit the Cotter, January 1948 (Ken Rosewall - front row, 2nd from right) Source: Tennis ACT Archive.

1953-1962

REBOUND YEARS: A TASTE OF THE PROS



Resident Mens Doubles Final at Manuka, 1954 - (L-R) Reg Bennett, Peter Roberts, Cres Roberts and Rex Patterson. Source: Tennis ACT Archives

ROBERT BROS STOLE SHOW IN EASTER TOURNAMENT!

“In a thrilling Open Doubles final in the Eden-Monaro Open Peter and Cres Roberts of Canberra scored a big upset by defeating [Sydney Stars] and No. 1 seeded pair Max Anderson and Trevor Davis. All four players veritably ‘climbed the wire netting’ at the back of the court in their excellent retrieving work. The skilful play, exciting rallies and closeness of the scores, kept onlookers at ‘fever pitch’. The Robert Bros have stamped themselves as one of the finest doubles combinations playing in NSW country districts.” (the winning score after 2 hours 35 minutes, 12-10, 4-6,7-5)

The Queanbeyan News reported on 23 April 1954

- 1953 exhibition match at Manuka by Wimbledon Champion Maureen (Little Mo) Connolly
- 1953 Les Crawley awarded an MBE and his second Coronation Medal
- 1954 Canberra’s population 39,000
- 1954 Jean Boag (nee Crawley) wins the last of five Resident Doubles titles and one Open Singles title
- 1954 first of an annual Triangular Junior contest – later the Pat Pearce Memorial Trophy between Brighton District Vic (later Southern Districts), the ACT and South Australian Association, which continued until 1986
- 1954 President Charlie Boag (1954 – 1963)
- 1955 Exhibition staged at Manuka by winning Australian Davis Cup Team of Lew Hoad, Ken Rosewall, Rex Hartwig and Mervyn Rose, with PM Sir Robert Menzies attending.
- 1955 Roy Emerson ACT Mens Open Singles Champion (again in 1958) and Fred Stolle Junior Boys Champion
- 1957 Kramer Professional Troup Exhibition with Pancho Segura, Frank Sedgman, Ken Rosewall, and Lew Hoad, on Manuka Oval



Resident Junior Girls Singles Final at Manuka, 1954 - Judy Grangel (L) and Pat Bridgman (R). Source: Tennis ACT Archives

- 1959 Neale Fraser Mens Open Singles winner (again in 1960)
- 1959 Kramer Professional Troupe Exhibition on Manuka Oval – Pancho Gonzales, Lew Hoad, Ashley Cooper and Mal Anderson, despite strong opposition from the NSWLTA
- 1960 Lesley Turner wins Womens Open Singles
- 1960 50th Anniversary of Commonwealth Public Service Championships (Permanent Heads Shield) on grass at Majura Sports Ground, Ainslie won by Jim Jorgenson, Cres Roberts, Leo Lonergan and Harry Manning (Dept of Interior). Jim Jorgenson won the Mens Singles (Broinowski Cup) and Miss P. Robinson from Treasury the Tilly Archer Trophy
- 1960 Registered Clubs: Ainslie, Barton, Bradon, Flinders, Forrest, Narrabundah, O’Connor, Reid, St Johns, St Patricks, Throsby, Turner and Yarralumla (13)
- 1961 John Southwell banned from tournaments and pennants because he was deemed a professional for accepting payments for coaching
- 1961 Reg “Blackie” Bennett wins the last of a record 22 Resident titles and nine ACT Open titles
- 1962 Margaret Smith wins ACT Open Singles, Doubles and Mixed titles



Childers St Tennis Courts, late 1950s, Source: National Archives of Australia



Len Osmond, ACT Representative and Division 1 Player, 1959. Source: Tennis ACT Archives

1963-1972

'GOLDEN YEARS': PRESIDENT, COACHES & EMERGING JUNIORS



(L-R) Laurie Manning, Bruce Larkham, Cres Roberts and Eric Bycroft, Manuka, 1960s. Source: Tennis ACT Archives

Ken Willis in his Foundation Dinner address in 1980, celebrating 50 years of the ACT Open, wrote 'his [Charlie Hollis's] juniors and those of the other coaches are now in Australian and World Class. Young Wally Masur made the Quarter Finals at the Wimbledon Junior Event this year and he has always been an Australian Champion for his age.

Peter Hawkins, Stephen Maloney, Peter Lloyd, Brett Edwards are also playing in America and girls such as Linda Kral, Rebecca Bryant and Narelle Rafferty are following suit. Charlie Hollis must be given the major credit for the lifting of tennis playing standards in Canberra in the last decade'.

- 1963 Ken Willis President (1963 -1977) and Charles Boag Association Life Member
- John Newcombe wins 1963 ACT Open Singles and Doubles titles
- 1963 Peter Roberts wins the last of nine Resident Doubles titles in a career also including 7 Resident Singles and one Mixed title
- Helen Gourlay wins 1964 ACT Open Womens Singles, Doubles and Mixed titles (again in 1965 Mixed with Bill Bowrey who also won the Mens Singles; his future wife Lesley Turner winning the Womens Singles)
- 1965 Norma Crawley (nee Southwell) wins the last of 10 Resident Doubles titles, also winning four Ladies Singles and six Open doubles titles
- 1965 Establishment of Diplomatic – Australian Tennis Association, with first President Ferdie Robeiro, and inaugural tournament winner American Ted Schroeder
- 1966 Bruce Larkham NSW Country Singles Champion and in 1968 NSW Hardcourt Doubles Champion (with Dick Crealy) becoming the first ACT player to win a NSW title
- 1967 Canberra's population reaches 100,000



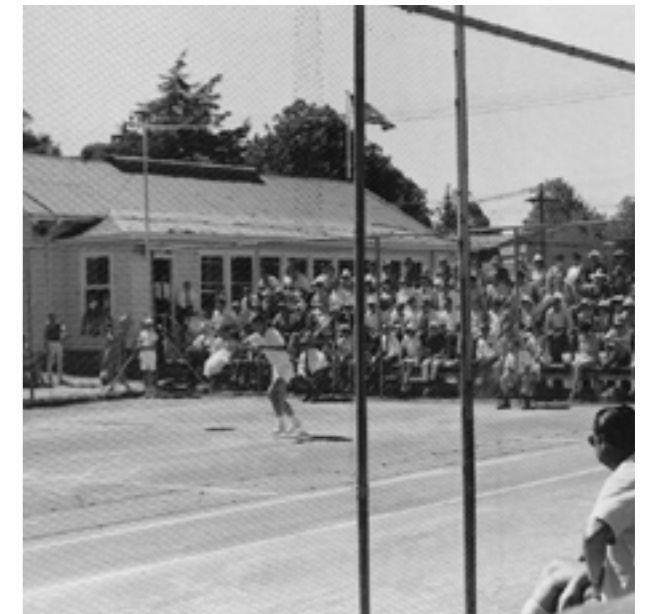
Evonne Goolagong, winner ACT Open Womens Singles, Manuka, 1969. Source: Tennis ACT Archives

- 1967 Exhibition at Manuka Oval with Roy Emerson, John Newcombe, Rosemary Casals, Lesley Turner and Margaret Smith – fundraising for proposed new National Tennis Centre
- 1968 new ACTLTA Constitution and agreement to establish National Tennis and Squash Centre at Lyneham with first meeting held in 1969
- Exhibition at Manuka, January 1969 by USA Davis Cup team, including Arthur Ashe
- 1969 last Open Championship to be held at Manuka with winners John Alexander and



Opening of National Tennis and Squash Centre, Lyneham, 1970. Sir John Overall (L) and Ken Willis (R). Source: Tennis ACT Archives

- Evonne Goolagong (John Greenup and Evonne winning the Mixed title)
- Move of ACTLTA to Lyneham, with the National Tennis and Squash Centre (NTSC) officially opened by Patron, Sir John Overall on 12 November 1970
- 1970 appointment of first Secretary/Manager of



Visiting US Davis Cup team, Manuka, January 1969. Source: Bycroft Collection, Tennis ACT Archives

- the NTSC, Gill Hall
- 1970 Bruce Larkham wins ACT Open Mens Singles, defeating Geoff Pollard (himself a winner in 1962 and 1964)
- 1970 arrival of new Association Coach Charlie Hollis
- 1970 Cres Roberts wins last of 11 Resident Doubles titles, also winning one Singles title
- 6 May 1970 establishment of Seniors Branch (a first in Australia) with Bob Thornton as first President
- Ladies Auxiliary established as a Branch in December 1971 with Anne Parkinson as first President
- Ted Tudor Life Member 1971 and Bill Quealy Life Member 1972
- 1972 Affiliated Clubs: Ainslie, ANU, Barton, Belconnen, Braddon, CCAE, Campbell, Flinders, Forrest, Majura, North Woden, O'Connor, Queanbeyan, Red Hill, Reid, St Patricks, Turner, Throsby and Yarralumla (19)

1973-1982

PROGRESSIVE YEARS: THE ARCHITECT OF MODERN WOMEN'S TENNIS IN THE ACT



ACT Residents Singles Winners, Lyneham Tennis Centre - Brett Edwards and Helen Holcombe and Runner-Up Wally Masur (15), with May O'Sullivan and Wally Morphett, 1979. Source: Tennis ACT Archives

'In his book on the tennis history of Canberra, Roy Smalley wrote, "she [Alison Ide] can rightly be described as the architect of modernising womens tennis in the ACT". A full womens tennis program was developed, and the Ladies Auxiliary elevated from its historical connotation as 'tea ladies' to Branch status, with its President becoming a full Tennis Association Vice-President, Board member and member of the Grading Committee'

- 1973 heralded the Golden Jubilee of the Association – from the initial five affiliated clubs in 1923 to 20 in 1973
- 1974 Cres Roberts wins Australian Seniors Grasscourt Championship
- 1975 Graham Bartlett Life Member
- 1975 Bruce Larkham wins a record eighth Resident Singles title and Barbra Winder (nee Walsh) wins the last of six Resident Womens Singles titles
- 1975 Anne Parkinson becomes the ACTLTA's first paid office worker
- 1976 Brian Hynes Life Member
- 1977 President George Scott (1977 – 1980)
- 1977 Peter Lloyd wins Australian Under 16 Boys title
- 1977 Ken Willis Life Member
- 1978 Simpson Satellite first LTAA Professional tournament in Canberra
- 1978 Arthur Ide Life Member and Ken Willis OAM for services to tennis
- 1978 First Foundation Dinner - 22 Awards to officials and players giving outstanding services to ACT tennis over 55 years
- April 1978 first issue of ACTLTA Newsletter "Set Point" – including Wardens Waffle – edited by Isobel Watson
- 1979 Pat McNicol (nee Bridgman) wins the ACT Open Singles – a career of Resident Singles five times, Doubles seven times, Mixed



ACTLTA Tennis Coach (1970 – 1982) Charlie Hollis with Charlie Holcombe, Gosford, 1966. Source: Tennis ACT Archives

seven times and Open Singles three times and one Open Mixed

- 1979 name change to Australian Capital Territory Tennis Association
- 1979 Queanbeyan withdraw from ACT Pennant Competition
- 1979 first Interstate Cup Competition between NSW, Victorian and ACT teams
- 1980 direct affiliation of ACT with LTAA, but with no voting rights
- 1980 Graham Gordon President (1980 – 1984)
- 1980 Opening of AIS with tennis, under Ray Ruffles as National Coach, one of the eight inaugural sports
- 1980 Helen Holcombe, Pat McNicol, Kay Schiavinato, Narelle Raftery - Div 1 Winners Country Week
- 12 October 1980 opening of Charlie Hollis Bar at Lyneham
- 1980 Isobel Watson Life Member
- 1980 Wally Masur first ACT Junior to represent NSW in Linton Cup
- 1981 Phil Martin, Mike Kenny, Greg Holcombe, Ashley Hogan and Russell Tickner win Div 1 Country Week title
- 1981 Opening of National Indoor Sports Centre at Bruce with Exhibition by John Newcombe, Tony Roche, Ken Rosewall and Ray Ruffles
- 1981 ACT able to compete for first time in Australian Junior Development Program team event, including Linton, Wilson, Wayne Reid and Bruce Cups

- 1981 initiation of Custom Credit/McDonalds 'Operation Tennis Program' mentored by Tony Roche and John Newcombe
- 1981 Wally Masur ranked No 1 18 & Under Junior in the world
- 1981 Alison Ide Life Member
- 1982 Departure of Charlie Hollis, with Rod Kilderry taking over as NTSC Coach
- 1982 ACT Open lapses
- Charles Boag first ACT Veteran selected in Australian Veterans team competing in an international event (1982 Britannia Cup 60+)
- 1982 Affiliated Clubs: Ainslie, ANU, Barton, Belvests, Braddon, Campbell, Flinders, Forrest, Hawker, Kaleen, Kambah, Kippax, Majura, Marist, Melba, North Woden, O'Connor, Red Hill, Reid, ST Patricks, Southlands, Torrens, Turner, Weston Creek and Yarralumla (25)



(L-R) Division 1 Winners Country Week, White City, 1980 - Helen Holcombe, Pat McNicol, Kay Schiavinato and Narelle Raftery. Source: Tennis ACT Archives

1983-1992

EXPANSION YEARS: OPENING UP BORDERS AND BREAKING DOWN BOUNDARIES



Lyneham Centre Court, 1983. Source: Tennis ACT Archives

'It is not so long ago that the idea that the top woman player in the ACT should be allowed to play in the sacred mens singles competition was greeted with shock, horror and derision.

Now in a quiet revolution, the principle seems to have accepted..... some days ago there were matches going on simultaneously on adjoining courts. No one called the police and God did not send a hailstorm to put an end to this sinful and perverse activity'

Warden's Waffle, Set Point November 1987

- Centre Court built at Lyneham, with a memorial chair and plaque to Sam Truesdale, former caretaker/curator at Manuka, opened by Ros Kelly on 15 May 1983
- 1983 Pat McNicol first ACT Senior Woman to represent Australia (Young Cup 40+)
- 1983 Kevin Chapman and Roy Smalley first ACT Umpires to officiate at a Davis Cup tie and at Australian Open
- 1984 Women refused entry to Mens Pennant Competition (after a number of years Uni-Sex Pennants were not only allowed but encouraged)
- 1984 Roy Smalley President (1984 - 1993) with Graham Gordon and Ken Randall Life Members



Neale Fraser and Wally Masur, Australian Davis Cup Team, 1980s. Source: Tennis ACT Archives

- 1984 2nd Rio Challenge held in Canberra (AIS Bruce) – Ivan Lendl, Mats Wilander, Joachim Nystrom and Pat Cash
- 1985 Resurrection of ACT Open Pro Kennex
- 1985 Wally Masur first ACT player selected in a Davis Cup team, and later Rebecca Bryant selected in Federation Cup Squad (1987)
- 1986 Canberra's population 250,000
- 1986 Expansion of McDonalds Junior Tennis Australia program in ACT to include Primary School ages
- 1986 Charlie Boag OAM for public service and services to tennis
- 1986 Opening of National Indoor Cricket Centre at Lyneham
- 1987 Queanbeyan accepted back into ACT Pennant Competition as a non-affiliate but paying a "player fee", having withdrawn in 1979
- 1987 ACTTA adopts Tennis Canberra as trading name (changed in 1993 to Tennis ACT)
- 1987 NTSC becomes the National Sports Club with tennis, squash, indoor cricket, netball and hockey
- 1988 John McRedmond appointed first General Manager
- July 1988 Alison Scott reaches career World Singles Ranking of No. 178
- 1988 Bicentennial Sports Awards to Jean Boag, Anne Haycock, Barbara Huddey, Bruce Larkham, Clem Maloney, George Scott and Roy Smalley
- 1989 First sitting of ACT Assembly under

Self-Government

- 1989 Clem Maloney Life Member
- 1990 Kay Schiavinato member of first Australian Seniors team to win International Cup (Bueno Cup) and then ACT's first individual World Veteran Champion, winning World Doubles (W50+) and Singles Runner-Up
- 1990 the ACT hosts the International Britannia (M65) and Crawford (M70) Seniors World Cups
- 1991 Brian Robertson appointed General Manager
- 1992 Affiliated Clubs: Ainslie, Barton, BelWests, Braddon, Campbell, Flinders, Forrest, Hawker, Kippax, Majura, Melba, North Woden, O'Connor, Red Hill, Reid, Southlands, The Pines, Tuggeranong, Turner, Weston Creek, Yarralumla and Hawker and Tuggeranong Tennis Centres (23)
- 1992 Leon Braslin appointed General Manager



Bicentennial ACT Open, 1988 (L-R) Jason Stoltenberg, Todd Woodbridge with Paul Donoghue (Pauls Homeware). Source: Tennis ACT Archives

1993-2002

LOCAL TALENT SHINES AT HOME AND ON THE WORLD STAGE



Annabel Ellwood and Pat Rafter representing Australia in Hopman Cup, 1998. Source: Ellwood family

Prior to her clean sweep in the Helsinki World Seniors Championships in 2017 noted sports journalist Jeff Kavanagh, in describing Ros Balodis as a master of her art wrote “Ros Balodis probably doesn’t conform to most people’s mental picture of a top flight tennis player. There’s no gold chain dangling from her neck, branded headwear or flamboyant flourishes of her racquet. Instead, behind the façade, a precise approach to shot-making and the heart and mind of a fine practitioner of her sport”.

- 1993 Kingsley Barker President (1993 – 2001) and Roy Smalley and John Heinemann Life Member
- 1993 Wally Masur reaches career high World Singles ranking of No. 15 and in Doubles No. 8
- 1993 Annabel Ellwood, Jodi Richardson and Jenny Popovic win Wilson Cup. Annabel and Jodi members of Australian Junior team which won World Youth Cup (Helen Gourlay, the coach of both Cup teams)
- 1993/4 Significant expansion of McDonalds ACT Player Development activities through

- ACE Tennis, McACT Fun Primary School Tennis, Development/Talent/State Squads and links to the AIS Scholarship Program
- 1994 ACT (& NT) gain voting rights on LTAA
- 1994 Ben Ellwood wins Boys Doubles and Singles at Australian Open and Boys Doubles at Wimbledon and US Open. Ranked No. 1 Junior Male in the World
- September 1994 Brent Larkham reaches career high world ranking of No. 108 in Singles
- 1995 Richard Millar appointed General Manager
- 1995 Brian Hurley wins the first of two World



Justine Henin, winner of Canberra International, Lyneham, 2001. Source: Tennis ACT Archives

- Seniors Doubles (75+) titles
- 1996 Kingsley Barker combines President and General Manager role
- 1996 Ros Balodis wins a record 8th Womens Resident Singles title
- 1996 Roy Smalley OAM for services to tennis
- 1996 Keith Carnall enters ACT Sports Hall of Fame for all-round sporting achievements
- 1996 Ben Ellwood reaches career high World Singles ranking of No. 140
- 1997 Annabel Ellwood reaches career high World Singles ranking of No. 57; in 1997/98 representing Australia in three Federation Cup ties and in the Hopman Cup
- 1997 Alison Ide OAM for services to tennis
- The ACT hosts the International Austria (M55) and Connolly (W55) Seniors World Cups in 1997
- 1997 Announcement of proposed Canberra Lodge International Tennis Resort at Lyneham
- 1998 Wally Masur enters ACT Sports Hall of Fame
- 1998 Federation Cup tie Australia (led by Jelena Dokic and Nicole Pratt) defeat Argentina 5-0 at AIS Indoor Arena
- 1998 Ros Balodis wins her first World Seniors Singles (W40+) and Doubles titles
- 1998 75th Anniversary Association Dinner (Awards for Outstanding: Male Player (Wally Masur), Female Player (Ros Balodis), Coach (John Southwell), Umpire (Roy Smalley), Con-

- tribution to Club (Graham Barlett) and Contribution to Association (Ken Willis)
- 2000 Canberra population 311,000
- 2001 Commencement of ACT Academy of Sport tennis program under Helen Gourlay
- 2001 Heather McKay OBE, a Legend in the Australian Sports Hall of Fame, wins World Seniors Singles (W60+) and teams title
- 2001 first year of Canberra International WTA event in Canberra, won by Justine Henin. Despite the success of the tournament and significant redevelopment at Lyneham, the “resort development” backed by a private developer fails to proceed
- 2001 Colin Mason President (2001 – 2006)
- 2001/2002 Gerard Corradini appointed General Manager and subsequently first Chief Executive Officer
- 2002 – 2006 lower tier WTA Canberra International proceeds with backing by ACT Government, Tennis Australia and Richard Luton Properties



Ben Ellwood, Jodi Richardson and Annabel Ellwood, AIS Scholarship Holders, 1993. Source: Tennis ACT Archives

- Amanda Grahame reaches a career high World Singles ranking of No. 159
- 2002 Affiliated Clubs: Ainslie, Belwests, Bradon, Campbell, Flinders, Forrest, Kaleen, Kambah, Kippax, Majura, Melba, North Woden, O'Connor, Red Hill, Reid, Tharwa, The Pines, Turner, Tuggeranong, Weston Creek, Yarralumla and Canberra Boys Grammar, Hawker, National Sports Club and Jerrabombera (25)

2003-2012

PERFORMANCE YEARS: ELITE COACHING AND ORGANISATIONAL GROWTH



Ros Balodis, World Seniors Championships, Perth, 2005. Source: Tennis Seniors ACT

In 2006 the ANU Great Hall was packed for a special tribute dinner to honour Alison Ide. Alison spent the evening reminiscing about her tennis memories in Canberra; a fitting acknowledgement for the woman known as the “Headmistress”

– a born organiser, high achiever and genuine Canberra sporting legend.

- September 2003 Todd Larkham reaches career high World Singles ranking of No. 136
- 2004 Jean Boag (nee Crawley) OAM for services to tennis
- 2006 Tony Lane President (2006)
- 2006 Graham Bartlett OAM for services to tennis and Colin Mason Life Member
- 2006 establishment of ACT High Performance Coach, with Todd Larkham as inaugural full-time coach
- 2006 Alison Ide wins World Seniors Doubles title (70+)
- 2006 Bruce Lilburn President (2006 – 2010)
- 2007 Alun Jones reaches career high World Singles ranking of No. 123
- 2007 New Constitution with transition from Association to Company ‘limited by guarantee’ and registered under the Companies Act
- 2008 New Board structure – Tennis ACT Ltd and end of separate National Sports Club
- March 2009 Ross Triffet appointed CEO
- 2009 Alison Ide enters ACT Sports Hall of Fame as an Associate Member
- 2009 Phil Higgs wins World Veterans Singles (65+) title
- 2009 Anne Haycock Life Member
- 2010 John Cattle President (2010 – 2015)
- 2011 the ACT wins ‘State’ teams title for the first time at Australian Seniors Championships

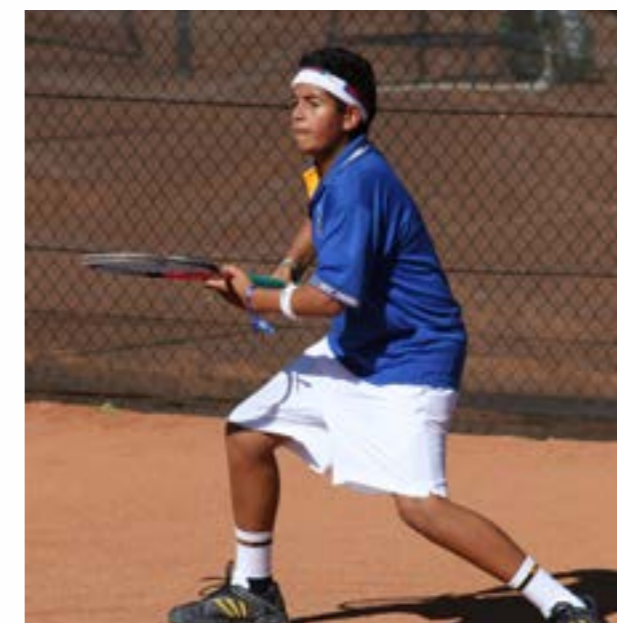


Alison Ide, Australian Seniors Tennis Championships, Perth, 2007. Source: Tennis Seniors ACT



John Blom with Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, Exhibition Match, Bangkok. Source: Unknown

- 2012 AGM Presentation of ‘Anyone for Tennis: a Chronological History of the ACT Tennis Association and tennis in the Territory’ by author Roy Smalley
- 2012 John Blom achieves world Gold Badge Umpire status
- 2012 Magnet Mart, with founder and Chairman Paul Donoghue, completes over thirty years sponsorship of Canberra tennis
- 2012 Affiliated Clubs: ADFA, Ainslie, ANU, Barton, Belconnen Wests, Braddon, Campbell, Canberra Grammar School, Eastlake, Forrest, Hawker, Jerrabomberra, Kaleen, Kambah, Kippax, Majura, Melba, Mpowderdome, National Sports Club, North Woden, O’Connor, Old Parliament House Gardens, Queanbeyan Park, Radford College, Red Hill, Reid, Tharwa, Torrens, Turner, Weston Creek, Yarralumla plus Tennis Seniors ACT and Tennis Officials Australia ACT Branch (33)



Nick Kyrgios, 2009. Source: Tennis ACT Archives

2013-2023

THRIVING YEARS: MATURITY AND RESILIENCE



Federation Cup, Ukraine vs Australia, Canberra, 2018. Source: Tennis Australia

“I’m just a kid from Canberra. I’m not supposed to be a Wimbledon finalist... I’m honoured to go there and battle with the best... anything’s possible really”

-Nick Kyrgios, Wimbledon finalist 2022, Canberra Times.

- 2013 Nick Kyrgios wins Australian Open Junior Singles, makes Davis Cup debut, and is the Newcombe Australian Male Junior Athlete of the Year
- 2014 Nick Kyrgios wins Newcombe Medal for most outstanding elite player
- 2013, 2014, 2017 Ros Balodis Most Outstanding 35+ Senior Player Newcombe Awards
- July 2015 Opening of new Lyneham Tennis Centre by Chief Minister Andrew Barr, a partnership between Tennis ACT, Tennis Australia, the ACT Government and Next Generation
- 2015 Wally Masur captain of Australian Davis Cup team
- 2015 Dan Bisa President (2015 – 2019)
- 2015/16 return of Professional tennis to Canberra with Canberra International, Canberra ATP Challenger and ACT Claycourt International
- 2015 Newcombe Awards Most Outstanding Professional Tournament, Canberra International and Excellence in Officiating, John Blom
- October 2016 Nick Kyrgios reaches a career high World ranking of No. 13, becoming the highest ever ranked ACT player
- 2016 Establishment of Tennis ACT Walk of Fame with inaugural inductees, Wally Masur, Ken Willis and Keith Carnall
- 2017 Kim Kachel commences as CEO
- 2017 Newcombe Medal, Excellence in Officiating, Emma Walter and Most Outstanding Professional Tournament, APIS Canberra International
- 2017 Ros Balodis and Alison Ide inducted into



Australian Open Doubles Champions, Nick Kyrgios and Thanasi Kokkinakis, 2022. Source: Tennis Australia

Walk of Fame

- 2017 Peter Breugelmanns Life Member
- February 2018 Australia, lead by Ash Barty, wins Federation Cup tie 3 – 2 over Ukraine at Lyneham
- 2018 Helen Holcombe wins World Seniors Doubles (65+) title
- 2018 Bruce Larkham and Charlie Boag inducted into Walk of Fame
- 2019 Ben Fuller President (2019 -) and Dan Bisa appointed to Tennis Australia Board
- 2019 Ken Willis becomes an Associate Member of the ACT Sport Hall of Fame
- 2019 Peter Roberts and Graham Bartlett inducted into Walk of Fame
- 2019 Newcombe Medal, Most Outstanding Club, Queanbeyan Park Tennis Club and 35+ Tennis Senior of the Year, Pat Maloney
- January 2020 forced transfer of APIS Canberra International to Bendigo due to bushfire smoke haze
- 2020 Tennis ACT takes on an expanded role in delivering tennis services to Canberra Region clubs
- March 2020 all tournaments, pennants and court play cancelled under health regulations due to Covid-19
- 2020 50th Anniversary of Tennis Seniors ACT
- 2020 Ros Balodis achieves Legend status in Australian Tennis Seniors Hall of Fame
- 2020 Brent Larkham appointed Head Coach of the National Tennis Academy, Brisbane and

Milo Bradley appointed National Development Squad Coach for the ACT

- 2021 Canberra population 462,000
- 2021 Annabel Ellwood inducted into Walk of Fame
- 2021 Newcombe Awards, Sue Willis 30+ Tennis Senior of the Year
- 2022 Nick Kyrgios wins Australian Open Mens Doubles with Thanasi Kokkinakis, first Canberra to win a Grand Slam title, and later in year reaches Wimbledon Mens Singles final
- 2022 Anne Haycock OAM for service to Canberra tennis
- 2022 Emma Walter awarded Life Membership of Tennis Officials Australia having officiated at 33 Grand Slams
- 2022 Reg ‘Blackie’ Bennett inducted into Walk of Fame
- 2022 Nick Kyrgios becomes highest ever world ranked Australian male simultaneously in Singles (No. 20) and Doubles (No. 13)



Wimbledon Mens Singles Finalist, Nick Kyrgios, 2022. Source: Tennis Australia

- 2022 Charlie Camus selected in Australian Junior Davis Cup team
- 2022 Affiliated Clubs: Ainslie, ANU, Barton, Belconnen, Braddon, Bungendore Park, Canberra Grammar, Campbell, Erindale Active Leisure Centre, Forrest, Gold Creek, Jerrabomberra, Kaleen, Kambah, Kippax, Majura, Manuka, Melba, Murrumbateman, North Woden, O’Connor, Old Parliament House Gar-

dens, Queanbeyan Park, Radford College, Red Hill, Reid, Southlands, Tennis World, The Pines, Torrens, Turner, Wesley, Weston Creek, Yarralumla and Tennis Seniors ACT (35)

- 2023 January P2 Advisory Canberra International won by Katie Boulter (Women's Singles) and Martin Fucsovics (Men's Singles)
- 2023 March Tennis ACT Centenary Gala Dinner at the National Arboretum attended by some 360 guests
- 2023 March Les Crawley MBE and Anne Haycock OAM inducted into Walk of Fame
- 21 March 2023 Centenary of Tennis ACT celebrated with the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, hosting a 'hit' at the historic Lodge tennis court, involving ACT MPs, Tennis ACT Board members, and ACT Claycourt International World Top 150 players, Priscilla Hon, Jaime Fourlis and Olivia Gadecki



(L-R) Kim Kachel, Prime Minister Albanese, Ben Fuller, Dan Bisa. Prime Minister's Lodge, 21 March 2023.



John Fitzgerald interviewing tennis legend Neale Fraser - Tennis ACT Centenary Gala Dinner - National Arboretum, Canberra, March 2023

