

# Media Release

**Thursday 5 February 2026**

## **Australian Open 2026 by the numbers**

**Australian Open 2026** has established the tournament as a three-week summer spectacle of tennis, food, entertainment, innovation and family fun. For the first time, the entire precinct was activated for a full 21 days, transforming Melbourne Park into a vibrant tennis festival.

Once again record numbers of fans – more than **1.3 million** – flocked through the gates, eager to immerse themselves in everything the world's biggest annual sport and entertainment event in January has to offer.

**Carlos Alcaraz** won the Australian Open men's singles crown for the first time, becoming the youngest man in history to complete the career Grand Slam, while **Elena Rybakina** won her maiden Australian Open women's singles title.

AO26 broke all attendance records with **1,368,043** fans through the gates over three weeks (1,218,831 in 2025). Opening Week attracted **217,999** fans (up from 116,528 in 2025) and main draw **1,150,444** (1,102,303 in 2025).

Here is Australian Open 2026 by the numbers...

### **World-class performances ...**

#### **AO26 champions**

- [5] **Elena Rybakina** (KAZ) defeated [1] **Aryna Sabalenka** 6-4 4-6 6-4 to claim her first Australian Open women's singles title and second Grand Slam title. Former World No.1 and three-time Grand Slam champion, **Jennifer Capriati** presented Rybakina with the **Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup**.
- [1] **Carlos Alcaraz** (ESP) defeated [4] **Novak Djokovic** (SRB) 2-6 6-2 6-3 7-5 to win his seventh Grand Slam singles title and become the youngest man in history to complete the career Grand Slam at 22 years old. Australian Open 1976 champion **Mark Edmondson** presented Alcaraz with the **Norman Brookes Challenge Cup**.
- The sixth-seeded duo of **Christian Harrison** (USA) and partner **Neal Skupski** (GBR) captured the Australian Open men's doubles title, defeating Aussie wildcards **Marc Polmans** (AUS) and **Jason Kubler** (AUS) 7-6(7) 6-4.
- [4] **Elise Mertens** (BEL) and **Zhang Shuai** (CHN) won the women's doubles title 7-6(4) 6-4 over [7] **Anna Danilina** (KAZ) and **Aleksandra Krunic** (SRB).
- Aussie wildcards **Olivia Gadecki** (AUS) and **John Peers** (AUS) triumphed in the mixed doubles for the second consecutive year, beating French pair **Kristina Mladenovic** (FRA) and **Manuel Guinard** (FRA) to win 4-6 6-3 [10-8].
- [3] **Xiaohui Li** (CHN) secured the Grand Slam wheelchair singles title with a 6-1 6-2 victory over Dutch rival **Diede De Groot** (NED).
- The number two seed **Tokito Oda** (JPN) secured a second AO men's wheelchair singles title and eighth Grand Slam trophy with a 3-6 6-2 6-2 win over the number three seed **Martin De la Puente** (ESP).
- In an all-Dutch final for the second consecutive year, the tables turned as [1] **Niels Vink** (NED) defeated [2] **Sam Schroder** (NED) 6-3 7-6(5) to claim his maiden Australian Open quad wheelchair singles title.
- [1] **Xiaohui Li** (CHN) and **Wang Ziyang** (CHN), **Gustavo Fernandez** (ARG) and **Tokito Oda** (JPN), [1] **Guy Sasson** (ISR) and **Niels Vink** (NED) won their respective wheelchair doubles titles in the women's, men's and quad divisions.

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- Number one seed **Alexander Lantermann** (BEL) defeated **Matthew Knoesen** (GBR) 6-0 6-2 in the boys' wheelchair final while [1] **Luna Gryp** (BEL) claimed the girls' wheelchair title over [2] **Seira Matsuoka** (JPN) 6-4 6-4.
- [1] **Luna Gryp** (BEL) alongside **Lucy Heald** (USA) and **Lucas John De Gouveia** (GBR) and **Alexander Lantermann** (BEL) won the wheelchair girls' and boys' doubles titles respectively.
- 16-year-old [3] **Ksenia Efremova** (FRA) defeated 17-year-old **Ekaterina Tupitsyna** 6-3 7-5 to win the Australian Open Junior Championship girls' singles title.
- Ziga Sesko** from Slovenia defeated fellow 17-year-old [4] **Keaton Hance** (USA) 4-6 6-3 6-4 to claim the Australian Open Junior Championship boys' singles title.
- [1] **Alena Kovackova** (CZE) and sister **Jana Kovackova** (CZE), and **Connor Doig** (RSA) and **Dimitar Kisimov** (BUL) won the junior girls' and boys' doubles titles respectively, both for the second year in a row.

## Records broken

- For the first time in **31 years** all four women's semifinalists progressed to that stage of the Australian Open without dropping a set.
- It was the first time in the Open era that the top **six** seeds in both the men's and women's singles draws made the quarterfinals at the same Grand Slam tournament.
- It was also the first time in **14 years** that the top four men's seeds made the semifinals at the AO.
- Venus Williams** became the oldest player to compete in the women's singles draw at the AO at the age of **45**.
- Stan Wawrinka** became the oldest man to reach the third round of the AO, at **40 years old**, since **Ken Rosewall** in 1978 who was **43**.
- The **5h 27m** semifinal between **Carlos Alcaraz** and **Alexander Zverev** was the longest semifinal and third longest match in the AO's history.
- Australian Open 2026 set a new benchmark for prize money with a record-breaking \$111.5 million prize pool, representing a **16 per cent** increase on last year and the largest in the tournament's history.

## AO26 competitors

- A total of **833 players** from **75 nations** competed at the Australian Open across **27 draws**, including qualifying, singles, doubles, juniors, legends and wheelchair events.
- The **USA** had the highest representation with **92** players, followed by **Australia** with **79** and **France** with **56**.

## Aussies at AO26

- 79 Australian players** competed at Australian Open 2026.
- 21 Australians** contested the singles main draw, **11 men** and **10 women**.
- 11 Australians made the second round of the singles draw – the most since 2015.
- Storm Hunter, Maddison Inglis, Jason Kubler** and **Dane Sweeny** all won through qualifying, marking the first time since 1992 that **four** Australians qualified for the AO main draw.
- No.6 seed **Alex de Minaur** was the highest seeded Australian man to compete at the AO since **Lleyton Hewitt**, seeded No.3, in 2006. De Minaur reached the quarterfinals, tying his best AO result.
- Australians **John Peers** and **Olivia Gadecki** won the mixed doubles title going back-to-back, the first pair to do so since 1989 and the first Aussie pair to go back-to-back since **Margaret Court** and **Ken Fletcher** in 1964.
- Australian wildcards **Ymerali Ibraimi** and **Cooper Kose** made the final of the Junior Boys' Doubles.
- There has been **at least one Australian champion** every year dating back to 2012.

## AO Legends Cup presented by Marriott Bonvoy

- In the AO Legends Cup presented by Marriott Bonvoy, Australia took on the rest of the world. Team Australia comprised **Casey Dellacqua, Lleyton Hewitt, Alicia Molik, Mark Philippoussis, Pat Rafter** and **Sam Stosur**, while the rest of the world was represented by **Marcos Baghdatis** (CYP), **Marat Safin**, **Tommy Haas** (GER), **Daniela Hantuchova** (SVK), **Angelique Kerber** (GER) and **Andrea Petkovic** (GER).
- Team Australia triumphed in the end, taking home the AO Legends Cup.

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## Player statistics

### Aces

- 97 – Alexander Zverev (GER)
- 47 – Elena Rybakina (KAZ)

### Fastest serve

- 232 km/h – Ben Shelton (USA)
- 196 km/h – Alycia Parks (USA)

### Double faults

- 29 – Jakub Mensik (CZE)
- 26 – Amanda Anisimova (USA)

### First serve percentage in

- 75% – Grigor Dimitrov (BUL)
- 85% – Renata Zarazua (MEX)

### First serve percentage won

- 85% – Tommy Paul (USA)
- 78% – Dalma Galfi (HUN) and Peyton Stearns (USA)

### Second serve percentage won

- 66% – Felix Auger-Aliassime (CAN)
- 82% – Renata Zarazua (MEX)

## Grand Slam of Asia-Pacific

- The **Asia-Pacific Elite 14 and-under Trophy** included **16 players** from **12 countries** competing in **40 matches** over **three days**.
- **Tommy Camus** (AUS) won the boys' singles title and **Jensi Dipakbhai Kanabar** (IND) won the girls' singles.

## A three-week extravaganza of tennis, entertainment and family fun ...

### Attendance

- Across three weeks from Monday 12 January to Sunday 1 February, **1,368,043 people** visited Melbourne Park, compared to 1,218,831 over three weeks in 2025, representing an increase of **12 per cent** year on year.
- For the third consecutive year, the Australian Open started on Sunday, extending the main draw to **15 days**.
- AO26 broke the main draw attendance record with **1,150,444 fans** through the gates over 15 days, compared with the previous record of **1,102,303** set in 2025.
- Records were broken for **11 individual sessions** and **15 day/night totals**.
- Thursday 22 January was the highest attended day/night in the history of the Australian Open with **103,956 fans** through the gates.
- **359,059** people attended Summer of Tennis events held in **Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Perth and Sydney** in the lead-in to AO26.
- More than **1.7 million** people attended events across the entire Australian Summer of Tennis.

### AO Opening Week presented by Herald Sun

- AO Opening Week saw incredible growth with **217,999 fans** through the gates in 2026 to watch qualifying matches, enjoy open practice, explore the precinct and experience Kids Tennis Day, representing an **87 per cent** increase compared to 2025.
- Four evenings of star-studded Opening Week Showdowns in Rod Laver Arena featuring top players raised money for a range of charities through the **Australian Tennis Foundation**.
- **5000** Hot Shots Tennis racquets given out to kids throughout the week.
- **Jordan Smith**, an amateur from Castle Hill in NSW claimed the **AO 1 Point Slam Driven by Kia** defeating pro player **Joanna Garland** (TPE) in the final.
- **Kids Tennis Day presented by Emirates** attracted **28,208 fans**.

### Ceremonies

- **Roger Federer** was celebrated at the AO's inaugural **Opening Ceremony** which included an exhibition match with former world No.1s **Andre Agassi, Pat Rafter, Lleyton Hewitt** and **Ash Barty**. The evening commenced with a performance from Australian rock royalty **Crowded House**.
- **William (Bill) Bowrey**, winner of the Australian Championships in 1968, was inducted into the **Australian Tennis Hall of Fame**. His bronze bust, sculpted by artist **Barbara McLean**, was unveiled on Rod Laver Arena and joins the greats of Australian tennis in Garden Square.

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- Australian tennis greats **John Fitzgerald, Mark Woodforde, Bill Bowrey, Lesley Bowrey, Ken Rosewall AM MBE, Mark Edmondson, Margaret Court AC MBE, Darren Cahill, Wally Masur, Paul Kilderry, John Alexander** and **Pat Rafter** took to RLA to pay tribute to the late **Fred Stolle**.
- **Jennifer Capriati** and **Mark Edmondson** were joined by **Louis Vuitton Ambassadors**, actress **Chloe Grace Moretz** and acclaimed Thai singer and rapper **Bambam**, to deliver the **Daphne Akhurst Memorial Trophy** and the **Norman Brookes Challenge Cup** to **Rod Laver Arena** prior to the women's and men's finals respectively.
- The **Ballkid Excellence Awards** were presented to **Jackson Chaponnel** and **Elisabeth O'Connor** at a ceremony on Rod Laver Arena. As the AO 'top guns' they will join the ballkid squad at Roland Garros in Paris this year.

## **Australian tennis legends, sporting figures and celebrities**

- Australian tennis legends including **Margaret Court AC MBE, Judy Dalton AM, Ken Rosewall AM MBE, Bill and Lesley Bowrey, Pat Cash, Mark Edmondson and Mark Woodforde** all attended the AO.
- **Abbey Gelmi, Adam Hills, Adam Yze, Adut Akech, Aisha Dee, Alicia Loxley, Alycia Debnam-Carey, Angus Sampson, Ariarne Titmus, Courtney Zheng, Bambi Northwood-Blyth, Bella Heathcote, Billy Brownless, Blainey North, Brendan Fevola, Brooke Upton, Brooke Warne, Cadel Evans, Carrie Bickmore, Casey Dellacqua, Cathy Freeman, Cate Campbell, Chloe Matters, Chris Scott, Christiane Amanpour, Christine Centenera, Christopher Lucas, Cody Weightman, Craig McRae, Dacre Montgomery, Danika Mason, Daniel Webber, Darcy Moore, Dave Berry, Dave Lawson, Daria Saville, Delta Goodrem, Duckie Thot, Dylan Alcott, Eddie McGuire, Elliot Garnaout, Eric Bana, Evelyn Ellis, Evan Handler, Emelia Rusciano, Fifi Box, Geoffrey Rush, Guillaume Brahimi, Hannah Dal Sasso, Harry Garside, Ian Thorpe, Isabella Elordi, Isabella Procida, Jack Charles, Jackson Warne, Jacinta Stapleton, Jacotene, Jade Yarbrough, Jacqui Felgate, Jayne Hrdlicka, Jennifer Atilémile, Jessica Dover, Joel Creasey, Joel Edgerton, John Eales, Joseph Zada, Josh Daicos, Joey Scandizzo, Kane Lambert, Kathy Lette, Kate Ceberano, Kate Waterhouse, Keegan Palmer, Kerri-Anne Kennerley, Khanh Ong, Kirralee Thompson, Kirsten Stanisich, Kylah Day, Lakota Johnson, Lana Wilkinson, Lauren Burns, Lauren Phillips, Leigh McKeown, Leigh Sales, Lexi Lobb, Liam Hemsworth, Lila McGuire, Lincoln Younes, Liz Hayes, Lulu Wood, Maia Mitchell, Marc Murphy, Marie Thatill, Mark Webber, Mary Vitinaros, Matthew Zukowski, Max Gawn, Michelle Payne, Michael Drescher, Michael Voss, Mia Morrissey, Montana Cox, Morgan Riddle, Nadia Bartel, Nasim Koerting, Nick Daicos, Nick Russian, Nicky Whelan, Nicole Livingstone, Nicole Warne, Omari Hardwick, Olympia Valance, Paris Bishop, Pat Cash, Paul Ben-Victor, Peggy Gou, Peter Bol, Peter Thurnwald, Phoebe Go, Rachel Griffiths, Rebecca Harding, Rebecca Judd, Rebecca Maddern, Rennae Stubbs, Ricky Ponting, Rob Tripolino, Ross Stevenson, Rozalia Russian, Rudi Ellis, Sage Sivan, Sam Durham, Sam Stosur, Samantha Armytage, Sarah Lucas, Sarah Snook, Scott O'Halloran, Shaynna Blaze, Simon Baker, Sigrid Thornton, Stevie Payne, Steve Hooker, Tai Hara, Tamsyn Lewis, Tania Buckley, Thomas Cocqueral, Thomas Weatherall, Tim English, Tina Arena, The Veronicas, Tyde Levi, Victoria Burns, Waleed Aly, William McDonald, Wendy Turnbull, Yan Yan Chan** were among the famous faces in the crowd.

## **In-stadium production**

- The **AO Sonic Light and Sound show** staged on Rod Laver Arena prior to every session featured more than **240 moving lights** installed around the arena and 360-degree video elements across the digital walls. The soundtrack is based on the Sound of the AO.
- In-stadium production was showcased on **6055 LED Panels** across the precinct, totalling **2184 square metres** and **151,634,454 pixels**.
- The LEDs featured more than **1200** bespoke digital wall content pieces.
- There were more than **26,000 production cues** over 15 days in four arenas, and over **720 hours** of sports presentation.

## **Music and entertainment**

- **47,800 fans** filled John Cain Arena for AO LIVE Presents featuring headline shows from **The Kid LAROI, Spacey Jane, The Veronicas** and **SOFI TUKKER, Peggy Gou and Renee Rapp**.

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- More than **11,000 fans** gathered at TOPCOURT during Opening Week for AO LIVE performances from **Hot Chip, Cassian, Elderbrook and The Presets**
- There were more than **60 hours** of live content on the Grand Slam Oval Fan Stage during AO Opening Week including performances from **Aminé, Cosmo's Midnight and Mia Wray**.
- 20 Australian bands and musicians** played live at TOPCOURT over 21 days including **Rum Jungle, Boy Soda, Ally Row, and Pania**.
- 16 live performances** from First Nations artists including **Budjerah** on the MCA steps on Evonne Goolagong Cawley Day and **Velvet Trip** at TOPCOURT.
- Cody Simpson** kicked off **15 evenings** of pre-match entertainment in Rod Laver Arena with a high-energy performance of Robbie William's class 'Let Me Entertain You'.
- British pop icon **Leo Sayer** followed, delighting the crowd with his classic hits. **Casey Donovan** brought her powerful vocals to the pre-match stage, while **Olivia Coe-Fox**, accompanied by didgeridoo player **Neenan**, were the highlight of Evonne Goolagong Cawley Day.
- Gabriiel Thomas**, lead of *Cats the Musical*, set the scene for one of the evening sessions, while **Jude York** and **Rob Mills** also kept the arena entertained ahead of play.
- The 10 Tenors** delivered a show-stopping performance on the second Sunday, and **Daniel Makunike from MJ the Musical** performed the national anthem on Australia Day.
- An ensemble from the **Melbourne Symphony Orchestra** performed *The Sound of the AO*, and **Ovation**, featuring **Marina Prior, Sylvie Paladino, David Hobson and Michael Cormick**, brought their celebrated voices to the stage.
- Melbourne's **Pitchface** choir and **Anastasia** lead **Georgina Hopson** performed the national anthem, and **Sophie Ellis-Bextor** closed out the show-stopping line-up with her hit *Murder On The Dance Floor*, while **Paulini** performed the national anthem.

## **Watched and engaged with around the world ...**

### **Domestic broadcast highlights**

- Australian Open 2026 saw a **22 per cent** year on year increase in hours viewed (metro TV and streaming) with **108.3 million domestic hours** viewed.
- Audiences on streaming platforms continue to grow, with **31.5 per cent** of domestic hours viewed coming through 9Now and Stan – up **9.1 percent** year on year.
- AO26 reached **14.3 million viewers** – a **9.7 per cent** year on year increase, and the highest since 2022 when Ash Barty and the 'Special Ks' lifted trophies.
- Average audiences climbed **25 per cent** year on year to **696,000** across national total TV. Traditional linear TV enjoyed **13 per cent** growth, while digital streaming had a record-breaking **101 per cent** surge
- The historic 2026 men's singles final was the highest-rating men's final since 2017. Hours viewed were up **77 per cent** year on year, with a national TV reach of **6.3 million**, national total TV average audience of **3.4 million** (up **67 per cent** year on year), and a BVOD audience of **905,000** (up **136 per cent** year on year).
- Elena Rybakina's victory in the 2026 women's singles final was the highest-rating women's final since Ash Barty's triumph in 2022. Hours viewed were up **26 per cent** year on year, with a national total TV reach of **3.82 million**, a national total TV average audience of **2.14 million** (up **30 per cent** year on year), and a BVOD audience of 500,000 (up **95 per cent** year on year).
- Outside of finals weekend, **Alex de Minaur's** quarterfinal match against eventual champion **Carlos Alcaraz** was the highest-rating match of the tournament, with a national total TV reach of **3.55 million** and a national total TV average audience of **1.99 million**.

### **International broadcast**

- The top three countries by TV hours viewed were **China, Australia and USA** (as per the last four editions of the AO).
- Carlos Alcaraz's victory helped increase TV hours viewed in Spain by **119 per cent** year on year.

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- Up to the quarterfinals, TV hours viewed in the USA were up **18 per cent** year on year and viewership for the round of 16 on ESPN2 was up **34 per cent** year on year.
- Canada enjoyed strong audience growth, with TV hours viewed up **24 per cent** year on year.
- Iga Swiatek's run to the quarterfinals saw TV hours viewed in Poland increase **12 per cent** year on year.

## Host broadcast

- AO26 marked the **110th broadcast** production delivered by the Tennis Australia broadcast team.
- All courts across the site were covered with live vision and audio, resulting in the production of more than **1,265** individual matches including Opening Week Showdowns, the AO 1 Point Slam presented by Kia and Opening Ceremony, as well as AO qualifying, juniors, wheelchair, pickleball, and all other tournaments played across the three weeks of the Australian Open.
- For the first time, the host broadcast team also covered **AO Live Presents** music performances in John Cain Arena for release on the **AO YouTube channel**.
- The **AO World Feed #1** program was broadcast for **24 hours** a day across the **15 days** of main draw, providing broadcasters with an extra **180 hours** of plug and play content for their channels.
- World Feed #2** took a new editorial direction to become **AONOW!**, broadcasting across the first nine days of main draw, showing only the most suspense filled moments including match points, set points, break points, press conferences, player interviews and hosting out of the World Feed studio.
- The host broadcast consisted of **16 host court feeds**, coverage off all practice courts, **two** press conference feeds, a fully produced behind the scenes feed, beauty coverage and a remote interview studio which facilitated over **100 interviews** and increased player access for broadcasters around the world.
- There were more than **210 host broadcast cameras** across the site with the addition of the mojo camera system on RLA, more than **22 portable RF cameras systems** including the **Dream Chip** and **Fx6 cinecams**, **40** behind the scenes cameras, **eight beauty cameras** across the city and around the grounds and several specialty camera systems including the **Drone**, **Spidercam**, **Netcams**, **Comet Cameras**, **Flycam** and the **4DReplay** system in **Rod Laver Arena**.
- At AO26 the host broadcast coverage included **eight coaches' boxes** across the top **four courts** with cameras and audio bringing fans closer to the action and the relationship between coaches and athletes.
- The **Walk of Champions** entrance to **Rod Laver Arena** was elevated in collaboration with **Es Devlin's** design studio resulting in the use of **61 million pixels**, **364 light fixtures**, **24 speakers** and **38 mirrored archways**. The content development for this space was also significantly expanded to enhance storytelling across the entire event. A series of looks was developed, including the stunning 'sky and sea' which brought to life the original inspiration for the iconic AO blue courts; artistic installations for special events (including 1 Point Slam, Opening Ceremony and Evonne Goolagong Cawley Day), and the trophies for the finals.
- The broadcast graphics package was integrated with **four** sources of data including level one and two data provided by **SMT**, level three player and ball tracking data from **Bolt 6**, game insights from **Tennis Australia's Game Insights Group team** and editorial match facts from **OPTA/Stats Perform**.
- The **AO host broadcast** also included augmented replays, **AR graphics over Spidercam**, the **Drone**, **G-Cam** and camera 1's on the top three courts, and for the first time meta human Avatars were used for world feed analysis.
- More than **55** experts provided commentary across the top **seven** match courts as well as on screen for the daily **30-minute** world feed preview show, new daily review show, overnight replays and live court and world feed coverage.
- AO World Feed** talent included **Mark Petchey**, **Chanda Rubin**, **Andrea Petkovic**, **Ryan Harrison**, **Daniela Hantuchova**, **Sam Querrey**, **Laura Robson**, **Tim Henman**, **Robbie Koenig**, **John Fitzgerald**, **Colin Fleming**, **Brad Stine** and **Coco Vandeweghe**.
- The Tennis Australia Host Broadcast** engaged more than **420** freelance broadcast crew at a return rate of **87** per cent from AO 2025 and were supported by more than **170** contractors delivering over **59,000** hours of work.
- Tennis Australia welcomed **24** broadcast partners to site with **700** of their own broadcast personnel including the **Nine Network**, **Eurosport**, **ESPN**, **Tennis Channel**, **TNT** and **WOWOW** who all had on-site studio facilities

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- Tennis Australia distributed over **80 unique broadcast signals** for rightsholders around the world including **five** regionalised versions of Rod Laver Arena, Margaret Court Arena, John Cain Arena, World Feed 1 and World Feed 2 in support of dedicated brand placements.

## AO Originals

- **1421** content pieces were edited.
- **1671** camera cards were ingested.
- **90** player headshots were captured in an immersive LED studio.
- Global premiere of the AO Originals film '*Ambition: Next Gen Now*' was held on site during Opening Week.

## AO YouTube and AO Radio (preliminary figures)

- Australian Open YouTube passed **3 million** subscribers, making it the most subscribed tennis channel on YouTube.
- On Saturday 24 January, AO YouTube recorded its single biggest day ever with **32 million views** in just 24 hours – smashing the previous record from 2022 by more than 4 million.
- **1800** videos were uploaded to AO YouTube.
- **2,068,275** listeners tuned in to AO Radio in 2026, spending a total of **60,689,698** minutes listening across the AO app, [ausopen.com](https://ausopen.com), and on YouTube.
- AO Radio video stream reached more than **1 million** unique viewers/listeners.

## AO Social Media (preliminary figures)

- More than **11,226** pieces of content were created and published to AO social channels including Instagram, Facebook, X and TikTok during AO26 (up **60 per cent** year on year), resulting in more than **3.22 billion** impressions (up **89 per cent** year on year), more than **2.4 billion** video views (up **118 per cent** year on year) and **94 million** engagements (up **109 per cent** year on year).
- The Australian Open's Instagram account surpassed **4.2 million** followers while its TikTok account surpassed **3 million** followers.
- **Six** individual posts on Instagram and TikTok drew more than **20 million** impressions each
- AO social media followers in China surpassed **6 million** (up **16 per cent** year on year).
- Content generated by AO official accounts in China resulted in **436 million** impressions (up **28 per cent** year on year). Total impression and discussions across China for AO26 official handles was **2.15 billion** while content relating to the AO 1 Point Slam and Taiwanese singer and actor **Jay Chou** generated **1.4 billion** impressions.
- More than **500** influencers, content creators and celebrities attended the Australian Open.

## AO app and website

- More than **42.5 million visits** to ausopen.com and the Australian Open app during the tournament.
- The AO's digital platforms were most popular in **Australia, USA, Canada, UK and India**.
- Video views increased **four per cent** year on across the AO app and website.
- More than **3.8 million article views** on ausopen.com with 'Australian Open announces record \$111.5 million prize pool' the most read.

## AO Media Hub

- The AO Media Hub is the 'one stop shop' to assist accredited media and broadcasters – both onsite and working remotely - to report on the Australian Open. The AO Media Hub provides access to tournament information, press conferences, transcripts, history and statistics, broadcast vision and photography.
- **2132** media conferences and interviews were conducted during the tournament, taking place within interview rooms, studios, mixed zones and remote broadcast studios.
- **850** journalists and photographers from **36** countries reported on AO26.
- **794** media covered the event on-site, including **290** international media, with a further **56** international media accessing coverage and information through the digital and online services

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- **19 new media outlets**, reporting primarily on social channels, were accredited as media for the first time, bringing tennis reporting to new audiences.

## **AO Content Concierge service**

- AO Content Concierge distributed **25,300** pieces of photo and video content to players and their teams.
- **7750** pieces of content were downloaded and shared
- The service had **1409** registered users and **276** new users.

## **Summer of Tennis photography**

- During January, the Tennis Australia photography team uploaded **89,401** photos. **85,422** photos were downloaded, **26,789** searches were done on the TA Photo Hub and **1379** photo requests were completed.
- The team consists of **three** photo managers, **seven** photo editors and **30** photographers nationwide.

## **Providing a platform for growing Australian tennis ...**

### **The amateurs take on the pros**

- The **AO 1 Point Slam Driven by Kia** saw more than **235** community events held nationwide from October to December 2025, with more than **4000** entrants battling for a coveted spot in the final.
- Community event winners went on to play State Championships with **eight** players earning direct acceptance into the final, along with a **\$5000 tennis grant** for the club they were representing.
- Additional qualifying opportunities were held at Summer of Tennis events and the AO from 12-14 January.
- The main draw for the AO 1 Point Slam driven by Kia was held at Rod Laver Arena on Wednesday 14 January as part of Opening Week presented by Herald Sun.
- **48** players competed in the main draw including a star-studded line-up of global tennis icons including **Carlos Alcaraz, Jannik Sinner, Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff, Alexander Zverev and Naomi Osaka**, as well as celebrity wildcards such as **Andy Lee, Jay Chou, Bailey Smith, Karl Stefanovic and Damien Oliver**.
- NSW state champion **Jordan Smith** stunned fans by knocking out world No.2 **Jannik Sinner** and dual Grand Slam finalist **Amanda Anisimova** on his way to the final, where he defeated World No.117 **Joanna Garland** to secure the **\$1 million prize**.
- Smith represented Castle Hill Tennis Academy in the final, with his win securing the club a **\$50,000** tennis grant.
- Queensland State Champion **Alec Reverente** claimed a brand-new Kia EV3, with thanks to Kia.

### **Giving kids a taste of tennis**

- **Five lucky kids** from across Australia attended a clinic with Weet-Bix kid **Alex de Minaur** thanks to Weet-Bix and AO Holiday Programs (AOHP). Alex de Minaur featured on the Weet-Bix box for the second year in a row.
- **250 Hot Shots Crew participants** and their families enjoyed the fun of Opening Week, coming onsite to represent their club and complete the Adventure Pass.
- **5000 Hot Shots Tennis racquets** were given out during the tournament.
- **120 Cardio Tennis presented by Chemist Warehouse participants and coaches** from clubs across Melbourne watched world-class tennis as part of Opening Week.
- **28,000 kids and families** attended Kids Tennis Day presented by Emirates. **16 Hot Shots Crew** participants set the stage by playing Hot Shots Tennis on John Cain Arena prior to the Arena Spectacular featuring Hot Shots Tennis ambassador Alex de Minaur.
- **62,359** kids picked up a racquet and participated in Hot Shots Tennis at **Hot Shots HQ** in the **AO Ballpark presented by Emirates** and a further **16,072 kids** visited the Coloured Ball activation.
- **125,000** people picked up a racquet throughout the AO in activation spaces across **AO Ballpark presented by Emirates, TOPCOURT, Rally Alley, The Village** and the **POP up court** in Opening Week.
- More than **180 kids**, members of the **Hot Shots Tennis Coin Crew**, tossed the coin prior to the start of play. **Mark Edmondson** featured on the coin, celebrating **50 years** since his historic AO win in **1976**.
- More than **1450 Hot Shots Tennis Crew participants** from over **140 tennis clubs** participated in the Kids on Court showcases prior to the start of play across the tournament.

# Media Release

- **1200 kids and families** were on site to celebrate **Hot Shots Tennis Day** on Thursday 22 January. **800 Hot Shots Crew participants and their families** attended the exclusive AO Ballpark experience and a further **400 Crew participants and families** joined Kids on Court Showcases.
- Hot Shots Tennis Day welcomed VIP Hot Shots Crew members Zara and Emily - the Hot Shots Junior Reporters from Kerang, and Grace – winner of the Hot Shots Win a Trip to the AO competition from Sunshine Coast Queensland.
- Hot Shots kids **Ben Valdes-Rosas and Gladys Jarry** were selected to interview the men's and women's champions at the trophy shoots.
- **160 participants** from **20 tennis clubs** participated in Cardio Tennis presented by Chemist Warehouse Showcases prior to the start of play.

## More ways to play

- The Summer of Tennis showcased professional **Padel, Pickleball, Beach Tennis and POP tennis**. International athletes across all disciplines descended on Melbourne to compete for their share of prize money, while fans were also provided the opportunity to pick up a paddle.
- **Two international Padel tournaments** were hosted during January. Top ranked players from around the world competed, with **\$55,000** prize money on offer.
- The **AO Pickleball Slam** returned for its second year. An international player field of **24 players** competed over **three days** on **ANZ Arena** for their share of **\$100,000**. **Team Hardware** defeated **Team Hosier** in the final.
- The first Beach Tennis Invitational tournament was held at St Kilda beach during the Australian Open. **24 representatives** from around Australia, including players from the national team, competed at St Kilda Beach, showcasing the sport like never before.
- A new initiative, **AO Live with Channel 9**, was launched in Brisbane and Sydney, giving fans the opportunity to watch the AO live on big screens while sampling **POP Tennis** and **Pickleball**. The live sites attracted over **10,000 visitors** with more than **2000** of them trying Pickleball and POP Tennis.
- Over **three weeks** at the AO, **9073 fans** trialled **POP Tennis**, and **6610** tried **Pickleball** at NETclub powered by YOPRO at TOPCOURT.
- The **Pickleball Celebrity Smash** took place at **The Village** during finals weekend. In partnership with REA and JOOLA, Court 16 was converted to a unique Pickleball arena, and hosted celebrities including tennis legends **Marcos Baghdatis** and **Mark Philippoussis**, **Zac Nuns** from Love Island, **Marty Fox**, **Em Shanahan** and **Ben Cox** from The Block.

## Coaches

- **3794 coaches** from **22 countries** participated in the virtual Grand Slam Coaches Conference, featuring **38 world-class presenters**.
- **338 coaches** attended the **AO Coach Member breakfast**, held on day one AO main draw. The event was opened by Australian Open Tournament Director **Craig Tiley** and hosted by special guest **Paul Annacone**, former coach of **Roger Federer**, **Pete Sampras** and **Sloane Stephens**.
- **286 coaches** from **11 countries** attended the **AO Global Coaches Conference** held in week one at **John Cain Arena** and **255 coaches** attended networking dinners hosted on site
- **18 coaches** attended National Programs Coach Coalition workshop, discussing topics that will help support the coaching and tennis industry to drive participation and the game.

## Tennis digital

- **1.2 million users** visited the new tennis.com.au website during January.
- Expressions of interest into key participation programs including Hot Shots Tennis, Cardio Tennis presented by Chemist Warehouse and AO Holiday Programs presented by Weet-Bix increased by **72 per cent** year on year in January.
- More than **126,000 court hire bookings** of 160,000 hours of tennis were booked in January, setting a record for monthly court bookings made through ClubSpark.

# Media Release

- Court hire searches were up **68 per cent** year on year and bookings were **16 per cent** higher than during the Summer of Tennis last year.
- Users visiting the Padel Australia website increased **34 per cent** from January 2025 and Padel Australia's Instagram content received **2.5 million** views during January.
- Pickleball content exceeded **1 million** cumulative views since launching on Instagram in 2025 with almost a quarter of the content viewed in January 2026 alone.
- POP Tennis saw a **158 per cent** month on month uplift in accounts reached on Instagram in January 2026.
- More than **15,000 fans** at Summer of Tennis events and the AO registered for tennis prize competitions via promotional activity at participation activations. **150 per cent** more fans signing up to participation communications compared to AO 2025.

## Delivered by a **16,000-strong workforce** ...

### **Tournament Operations**

- 360 drivers** transported players and officials in **130 Kia vehicles** during the tournament, including **55** all electric vehicles and **80** hybrid vehicles. They were supported by **50** transport operations and dispatch staff.
- More than **50,000 people** were transported during **29,953 transport trips** booked through the AO Transport app.
- 22 buggy drivers** transported players and their teams around the AO precinct in **two** electric 17-seater people-movers and **five** electric eight-seater buggies.
- Chief Umpire Cheryl Jenkins** led a total of **250 officials** across all AO events with **112 female officials** and **138 males**, representing a total of **38 countries**.
- For the first time in **25 years**, **two** Australian Chair Umpires, **Tom Sweeney** and **John Blom**, umpired both main draw singles finals.
- AO26 had the largest AO Ballkid Squad in the history of the tournament with **435 ballkids** aged between 12 and 15 taking part, including **seven** First Nations ballkids, **20** from Korea, **six** from China and **two** from France as part of the Roland Garros exchange program.
- Jackson Chaponnel** and **Elisabeth O'Connor** were named Top Gun Ballkids of AO26 and had the honour of being involved in the women's and men's champion trophy presentations. **Talon McKenzie**, **Will Cartwright**, **Annabelle Raven** and **Maddy Sekias** earned the opportunity to be ballkids at the China Open later this year as part of the ballkid exchange program between Australia and China.
- More than **86,400 Dunlop tennis balls** were used across the tournament.
- 8350 racquets** were strung by the Yonex Stringing Team, equating to approximately **100.2km** of string.
- More than **60,000 towels** were washed throughout the tournament.

### **Workforce**

- More than **16,000** team members from Tennis Australia, Melbourne and Olympic Parks and Levy helped deliver AO26.
- The team ranged in age from **12 years old** to **87 years old**.
- Those celebrating milestones of **15+ years** were invited to take part in a Lap of Honour on Rod Laver Arena before the day session on the first Thursday.
- 70 per cent** of the workforce was retained from the 2025 tournament.
- Every AO Team member** was trained and enabled to do their best work with the SafetyCulture Platform.

## Showcasing world-class Australian hospitality and shopping ...

### **Food and Hospitality**

- More than **50,000 guests** dined at AO Reserve restaurants across the tournament.
- AO Reserve's offering included some of Australia's biggest names in hospitality including culinary luminary **Shimpei Raikuni** from Brisbane's renowned **Sushi Room**, celebrated Melbourne chef **Alejandro Saravia**

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(Morena, Victoria and Farmer's Daughters), alongside international and national heavyweights **Simon Rogan** (L'Enclume and Umbel), **Peter Gilmore** (Bennelong and Quay), **Rodney Dunn** and **Séverine Demanet** (Tasmania's Agrarian Kitchen), and the Brisbane acclaimed **SK Steak & Oyster**. Melbourne cocktail institution **Caretaker's Cottage** also made its tournament debut, delighting guests with bespoke creations.

- A brand new fast-service concept was coined **AO Convenience**, curated with Japanese eatery **Suupaa**, offering sandos, noodles and fried chicken to the Western Courts.
- Many Melbourne icons made their AO debut, including **Hector's Deli**, Middle Eastern-inspired **Layla**, and the ultimate Aussie snag in bread — Butcher's Bangers by **Vic's Meat**. They were joined by returning fan favourite French bistro **Entrecôte** in Garden Square.
- **Grand Slam Oval** was a global food mecca, offering a wide variety of international flavours. AO debuts included **Season** with Vietnamese fried chicken, **Ho Jiak's** playful take on Malaysian classics, **JollyGood's** iconic Melbourne burgers, and the new Greek dining collaboration **Stalactites x Taverna**. Fans also enjoyed Italian-style pizza slices from **D.O.C**, fresh poke bowls from **Fishbowl**, and Mexican favourites from **Frankies Tacos and Tortas**.
- **Courtside Bar by Grey Goose** featured **Nik Hill** and **Porcine**, serving a delicious menu of French-inspired snack boxes.
- The AO's signature soft serve **Peach Melbourne** returned for a fourth year in three locations – **ANZ Arena, Kia Arena** and **TOPCOURT**.
- Also located at **TOPCOURT**, the global burger phenomenon **Shake Shack**, made its first Australian appearance, serving serving made-to-order Australian Angus beef burgers and exclusive AO Shake.
- Two fan favourite AO signature drinks returned to the tournament this year, the **Grey Goose Lemon Ace cocktail** and **AO frappe** with a new formula created in collaboration with **a2 Milk®**.
- Kids and families at AO Ballpark presented by Emirates were refuelled by **Wonder Pies**.

## Food fast facts

- AO26 was staffed by more than **3000** hospitality workers and over **40,000** individual shifts were organised.
- **160,000** serves of Peach Melbourne were sold (up **40 per cent** year on year), equating to **one in nine** fans enjoying one at AO26.
- **47,250** AO Frappe® - served up by a2 Milk® were sold, more than doubling year on year.
- More than **78,000** Shake Shack burgers were sold.
- **239,000** serves of hot chips were sold.
- Sales for **Grey Goose Lemon Ace** ready to drinks cans were up **28 per cent** year on year in the first two weeks and sold out completely after two weeks.
- **3000** serves of **Mindy Wood Popcorn** were sold, with salt and vinegar being fans' favourite flavour.
- AO On The Go outlets sold 43,000 drinks and snacks (four times as many compared to AO 2025), providing much needed coffee, water, ice cream and snacks to fans and workers.

## Retail fast facts

- More than **750,000** fans visited one of the **14 AO retail stores** while onsite.
- More than **400** people worked across all AO retail stores.
- More than **110,000** headwear items, **45,000** t-shirts, **35,000** tennis balls, and **30** diamond bracelets were purchased by enthusiastic fans.

## Innovating like never before ...

### AO Labs

- The AO Labs CoachesBox Analytics intuitive dashboards were provided free to all singles and doubles players to help inform coaches about their players' performance.
- More than **580,000 metres** or **580km** was covered by players in the men's singles draw including **5895 sprints** where a player covers at least half the length of the baseline in a high-speed effort.
- Players in the women's draw covered **328km** including **3732 sprints**.

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- The boys covered a distance of **189,610 metres** with **1450 sprints** during the junior singles competition, while the girls covered **174,144 metres** with **1404 sprints**.
- During the **208 hours** of women's singles match play, **17,393 points** were won from the **67,439 shots** played. In the men's draw, **27,990 points** were won from the **109,547 shots** played during **341 hours** of match play.

## **AO Startups**

- AO Startups is part of Tennis Australia's innovation and venture capital strategy which helps startup companies pilot their cutting-edge technology at the AO and other areas of Tennis Australia's business. Nine new companies joined AO Startups, strengthening the program's commitment to AI-enabled innovation across sport and major events. AO Startups' 2026 cohort of companies included **truefuels** (Spain), **CRED** (US), **Bronco** (Ireland), **Bettercup** (Australia), **National Pickleball League** (Australia), **Aircast** (Australia), **RootNote** (US), **VueMotion** (Australia) and **Outcoach** (Australia).

## **Celebrating Tennis Plays for Good ...**

### **Showcasing inclusive pathways**

- Australian Open 2026 became the first Grand Slam to integrate a Blind and Low Vision invitational event as part of its official tournament program, with the **Blind and Low Vision Showdown** bringing together **sixteen** of the top blind and low vision players from Australia and around the world. **Team Australia** was victorious over Team World.
- Returning to the calendar was the **fourth annual Intellectual Disability and Deaf Tennis Slam**, reinforcing the Australian Open's commitment to providing international opportunities for athletes of all abilities.
- Across the blind, intellectual disability and deaf tournaments, **33 international competitors** from **19 different countries** came together to compete at Melbourne Park over the final three days.
- The **AO Glam Slam** attracted more than **200 players** from around the world in the largest LGBTQIA+ tennis tournament on the playing calendar. Following the finals were the inaugural **AO 1 Point Glam Slam**, featuring **32 players** including celebrities, Glam Slam players and community members.

### **AO Inspirational Series and Women & Girls initiatives**

- The inaugural **AO Inspirational Series – Next Gen** was hosted by **Casey Dellacqua** on Thursday 15 January, bringing together more than **90 teenage girls** currently playing tennis, along with their coaches and parents.
- Women and Girls Day on Thursday 29 January was a celebration of women and girls in tennis. It included a range of on-court activations including Hot Shots girls playing tennis as part of Kids on Court and a Cardio Tennis showcase presented by Chemist Warehouse on Margaret Court Arena featuring **Jelena Dokic**.
- The **tenth anniversary** of the AO Inspirational Series took place at Zinc, with CNN Chief international anchor **Christiane Amanpour** headlining the event.
- Guests at the AO Inspirational Series included Australian Open Champions **Margaret Court**, **Chris O'Neil**, **Jennifer Capriati**, **Angelique Kerber**, award winning journalist **Liz Hayes**, esteemed broadcaster **Leigh Sales**, bestselling author **Kathy Lette**, actors **Jacinta Stapleton** and **Nicky Whelan**, chef and author **Alice Zaslavsky** and many more.
- 14 female sports medicine and sport science practitioners from the AIS Talent (STEMM) program participated in a Q&A with members of the AO sports medicine team including **Dr Carolyn Broderick**, nutritionist **Joanna Shinewell** and physiotherapist **Victoria Shelley**.
- **120 women** from across Victoria attended the **Women Leaders in Tennis** networking event on Friday 23 January, featuring former professional tennis player and commentator **Casey Dellacqua** as a guest speaker. **461 women** attended Women Leaders in Tennis networking events held during the Summer of Tennis events in Perth, Canberra, Brisbane, Sydney and Adelaide.
- **56 women coaches** attended the **Coach Connect** networking session, led by **Kylie Moulds** with guest speaker **Emma Wells** from the UK.
- **59 women coaches** attended Coach Connect sessions held in Adelaide, Sydney and Brisbane during Summer of Tennis events.

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- **32 Super 10s girls**, selected for the AO National Camp participated in a workshop on 30 January – with Australia's Billie Jean King Cup coach **Nicole Pratt** as guest speaker.
- **12 women leaders from eight Pacific nations** visited the AO as part of the PacificAus Sports Women and Girls in Tennis program. They participated in coach mentoring, tennis camps and the Pacific Women Leaders in Tennis Graduation workshop.
- An all-girl ball kid squad was rostered on for the women's semifinals, with a Super 10 girl doing the coin toss.

## ***Evonne Goolagong Cawley Day***

- On Wednesday 21 January, the Australian Open celebrated the world's longest continuous living culture on **Evonne Goolagong Cawley Day**, with a packed program of art and entertainment.
- Tennis Australia partnered with **Deadly Choices** for a **fourth year**, bridging the gap between sport and health with community members encouraged to complete a 715 Health Check to receive a specially designed AO x Deadly Choices shirt and chance to win an ultimate AO First Nations Day Experience.
- Senior **Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Joy Murphy AO** performed a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony on the MCA steps, followed by a moving performance by Australian singer **Budjerah**.
- First Nations artist **Tom Croft** from the Barngarla clan infused the event with a distinct celebration of Indigenous culture. His paintings interpret stories passed down by Elders, blending cultural heritage with his unique perspective across the Australian Open precinct.
- **Seven Indigenous ballkids** were selected through the National Indigenous Tennis Carnival, providing a direct pathway into the **First Nations Ballkid squad**. The furthest member travelled from the Gangan community in East Arnhem Land, NT, covering approximately **4000 Kilometres** to join as a ballkid for the first time.
- The City Entrance was renamed to **Birrarung Marr Entrance** honouring the Woiwurrung language of the Wurundjeri people — Birrarung Marr, meaning “river of mists”, reflecting the Australian Open's commitment to First Nations culture, history and connection to Country.

## ***AO All Abilities Day supported by Bupa***

- Coinciding with the start of main draw for the Wheelchair Championships, **All Abilities Day supported by Bupa** recognised the many inclusive formats of tennis and invited people who have vision, hearing, mobility, sensory and/or intellectual disabilities to enjoy all that the AO has to offer in a safe and inclusive environment.
- A special showcase on Margaret Court Arena demonstrated the best of all **five disability pathways** – Wheelchair, Para-Standing, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Intellectual Disability and Blind/Low Vision – with world No.1 female B4 tennis player **Grace Hobbs** (blind and low vision), world No.1 male B3 BLV player **Mick Leigh** (blind and low vision) and world No.1 PST4 player **Luke Missen** (para-standing) taking part.
- More than **3200 participants** from **85 disability community groups** were invited to enjoy both on and off court activities throughout the day, as well as the disability tournaments across the final weekend.
- **850 children with disabilities** were invited to attend the **AO Ballpark presented by Emirates** through the All Abilities Day Kids and Families session supported by Bupa prior to gates opening. This allowed them to experience AO26 in a sensory-friendly environment.
- The AO26 Wheelchair Championships featured **five Australians** in the main draw, including 14-year-old **Arlo Shawcross** in the junior championships, 16-year-old **Jin Woodman** and 18-year-old **Ben Wenzel**.

## ***AO Pride Day and GLAM Slam presented by Ralph Lauren***

- The annual AO Pride Day took place on Friday 30 January 2026.
- The day kicked off with an inspiring panel at the **AO Pride Breakfast presented by Ralph Lauren**, hosted by **Casey Dellacqua** with former AFL footballer **Mitch Brown**, Olympic rugby 7's gold medallist **Ellia Green** and former Australian soccer player **Lydia Williams**.
- More than **200 LGBTQIA+ players** from around the world competed in the Glam Slam, with the final played on Court 6 on **Sunday 1 February**.
- For the first year, Melbourne Park also hosted an **AO 1 Point Glam Slam**, featuring **32 players** including celebrities, Glam Slam Players and community members.

# Media Release

## Australian Tennis Foundation

- **More than 40,000 fans** purchased tickets to charity matches during AO Opening Week.
- **\$1 million** was donated to the Australian Tennis Foundation after an amateur toppled tennis greats to win the AO 1 Point Slam driven by Kia.
- **Six kids** experiencing illness or hardship made once-in-a-lifetime memories participating in the coin toss at charity matches.
- **970 children and families** were given the opportunity to attend the AO through the **ATF Brighter Days** program, including kids from **My Room, Ronald McDonald House, Sony Foundation, Camp Quality, MacKillop Foundation, The Huddle, Little Dreamers, Southern Cross Kids Camp and Alacrity Health**.
- **25 families** from around Australia were hosted by ATF and Emirates over Kids Tennis Day and Opening Sunday as part of the ATF Emirates Force for Good program.
- **\$270,000** raised through the sold-out Australian Tennis Foundation Lottery, delivering three prize packages including the Ultimate AO Men's Finals experience. The ATF Lottery Winner had a hit with **Wally Masur**, as part of the 'hit with a legend' component of the prize.
- More than **\$130,000** was raised at the ATF Philanthropy Night in week one.
- **80 donated AO prize packages** (valued at more than \$100,000) generated over **\$530,000** for community charities.
- More than **500** pieces of clothing, footwear and equipment were donated by players for distribution to disadvantaged families through a partnership with Sport for All.

## Climate Action

- AO26 was powered by SEC, with **100 per cent** renewable electricity products. Approximately **3.7 million KwH** of electricity usage was matched by SEC's Victorian generated renewable energy certificates, including from Berrybank Wind Farm, Dun Donnell Wind Farm, Winton Solar Farm, Glenrowan Solar Farm and Bulgana Green Power Hub.
- **31 EV chargers** (including **three 40 Kw Fast Chargers** courtesy of RACV) were installed temporarily to power the **55 fully electric vehicles** in the AO Kia Fleet. **One Windrose all-electric semi-trailer** was used during bump in and bump out.
- **80,900 reusable items** were collected by GreenMyPlate and washed off-site by AO Startups company, Bettercup.
- **420,423 aluminium cans, 284,680 PET bottles** and **67.62 tonnes of crushed glass** were separated and sent to the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme. Rebates from AO's CDS containers will be donated to support the Australian Tennis Foundation.
- Based at **five** onsite Recycling Hubs, **29 'Trash Talkers'** guided fans through front-of-house source separation of event waste. Trash Talkers also helped lead the way in the back-of-house source separation of over **400** tonnes of event waste in Melbourne Park's **six** waste management compounds.
- Approximately **16,000 used Dunlop ball cannisters** were separated and processed for recycling. The refabricated material will be used by B-Corp supplier, Valiant, in AO 2027 installations.
- String offcuts from over **8000 racquets** were separated at AO Stringing and shredded down by Circular Blue for processing into sample circular products such as sunglass frames.
- In place of the more than **96,000 single use water bottles** once consumed in the Player spaces as recently as AO23, players and their coaches received **approximately 10,000 Waterdrop refill bottles** for hydration using fresh, clean Melbourne tap water.
- The Salvation Army attended the AO every evening of main draw to collect viable unused food products for donation to those facing financial difficulties or without stable housing.

# Media Release

## ***The culmination of a massive Australian Summer of Tennis ...***

### ***Lead-in to AO26***

- 359,059 fans attended lead-in events to the Australian Open including the **United Cup** in Sydney and Perth, **Brisbane International**, **Adelaide International**, **Hobart International** and **Canberra International**.
- **Team Poland** led by **Hubert Hurkacz** and **Iga Swiatek** won their first United Cup after losing in the final the previous two years.
- World No.1 **Aryna Sabalenka** won the women's singles title and **Daniil Medvedev** won the men's singles title at the **Brisbane International**.
- **Mirra Andreeva** won the women's singles title and **Tomas Machac** (CZE) won the men's singles title at the **Adelaide International**.
- **Elisabetta Coccialetto** (ITA) won the **Hobart International**.
- **Joanna Garland** (TPE) and **Alexander Blockx** (BEL) won the **Canberra International** women's and men's singles titles respectively.

## ***Thanks to a dedicated Partner Family ...***

### ***AO26 Partners***

- Celebrating **25 years** of partnership with the Australia Open, **Kia** provided **130 vehicles** for the AO26 fleet, including **55 EVs**.
- The new **ANZ Arena** (formerly Court 3) was unveiled including murals celebrating the success of Australian tennis players.
- **47,250 AO Frappe® - served up by a2 Milk®** sold.
- **90 per cent** growth in **Grey Goose Lemon Ace** sales in the first two weeks.
- Players and their teams stayed at **16 Marriott Hotels** across the AO and Summer of Tennis.
- **57 Emirates** cabin crew player walk-ons at Rod Laver Arena.
- More than **86,400 Dunlop tennis balls** were used.
- **8350 racquets** were strung by the **Yonex** Stringing Team.
- **Eight tonnes** of **M&Ms** sold of which 1.3 tonnes were the Crunchy Cookie flavour in its Australian debut.
- More than **27,186** AO inductions and **2,405** inspection and audits completed on **SafetyCulture** platform.
- **29 Rolex clocks** keeping the time.

-ends-

Australian Open 2026, supported by major partner Kia in association with ANZ, Emirates, Luzhou Laojiao and Rolex, took place at Melbourne Park from 12 January -1 February 2026.

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