

A collation of notes from information found in club archives and additional research. Rod is also a member of Tennis Heritage Australia and runs a website www.tennishistory.com.au

HAWKSBURN TENNIS CLUB

1913-2013

Compiled by Rod Lack

In the scheme of tennis history, the Hawksburn Tennis Club has been fairly unremarkable, yet to the many local members who love the game, having this wonderfully secluded club with three courts and a quaint little club house is truly treasured.

Of course the question regarding how Hawksburn Tennis Club began introduces one aspect of the history and on the other is the numerous members who not only played at the club, but took up roles to administer the club through various stages of clubhouse development, court upgrades, maintenance and membership management. If wasn't for these people there wouldn't be a club.

The history of the Hawksburn Tennis Club may not just be of interest to current members, it may also serve to create awareness of a club that many people in Stonnington don't even know exists. Only this year Hawksburn Tennis Club was listed on the Stonnington Council local sporting club web page and only a couple of years back we weren't on Tennis Australia's club web site either. It is perhaps not surprising that the club has operated with little fanfare.

Hawksburn Tennis Club's history is largely untold and much of the history doesn't exist or lays hidden elsewhere to be uncovered another day. Nevertheless, we have found an array of interesting stories and facts and it is a pleasure to present the origins of the club for the benefit of all members past, present and future.

Ironically, our club also celebrated a 100th anniversary in 2001 which involved an event to mark the occasion and a story in the local paper, yet the basis on which the date was selected appears to have been made on anecdotal recounts by some of the older members. Back in a 1997 club newsletter mentions the 1913 start date. Extensive research is also possible online courtesy of the National Library's TROVE newspaper search engine which brings up all manner of valuable articles and photos.

The earliest mention on Trove is just one article that Hawksburn fielded a 1912 tennis team in the South Suburban Association and quite possibly the courts were constructed over the summer of 1911 in time for winter competition. This is most likely to be the accurate birth of the club, however, the committee has selected 2013 to mark the 100th year anniversary since it was in 1913 that Hawksburn Tennis Club became affiliated with the LTAV as an official club and was legally assigned the land title on which the club exists today. The certificate of title was dated the 5th of August 1913.

The development of tennis from its beginnings brings some perspective into the story about how clubs like Hawksburn all around the country were established.

Tennis was one of those sports that captured societies attention and the evolution of the game is fascinating in its own right given the remarkable speed and acceptance the sport was adopted throughout the World.

The game was only “invented” 39 years earlier than Hawkswburn commenced in 1874, in England, by Major Walter Wingfield. It was originally called “Sphairistike” and was packaged as a patented, complete game in boxed sets. At the time, croquet and archery were the principal outdoor sports conducted on weekend afternoons and so tennis became the new novelty. There was also Real Tennis and other racquet sports but nothing quite like the garden setting of this “new” form of entertainment. The original net height was over 5 feet and the court was an hour glass shape. The M.C.C (UK) committee became involved in 1876 and the rules changed, scoring was changed, as did court dimensions and net height. As the game quickly settled, in 1877 the first Wimbledon National (World) Championship was conducted. Lawn tennis became known as just tennis and the historic indoor tennis having owned the name for over 250 years had to change its name to Royal, or Real tennis.

Initially it was considered a ladies game and was often referred to as “Pat Ball”. Needless to say that men soon joined in and found the game to be both fun and strategic, with of course the added benefit of mixing with the fairer sex.

The “new game” was adopted by British Royalty and high society quite rapidly and as people travelled to Australia and other British colonies on business or with the colonial armed forces, so did the tennis sets.

To the largely UK based population in Melbourne that soaked up all things in vogue from the UK, Lawn tennis suited our climate perfectly and it's adoption around the country was equally rapid. The MCC (Melbourne Cricket Club) was instrumental in adding lawn tennis to its member activities in 1879 which were soon followed by inter club matches between Geelong and Williamstown.

In 1882, a meeting between Melbourne clubs at the Bridge hotel took place to help standardise the match play formats for inter club competitions. In 1884 the first pennant season began.

The clubs back then comprised those connected to bowling clubs, cricket clubs, private courts and exclusive tennis clubs.

By 1885, Victorian and Inter-colonial championships were attracting crowds into the thousands as matches were played on sports grounds such as the MCG and Sydney Cricket Ground.

Growth in clubs and the need for an expanded pennant competition saw the addition of a second class in 1887, a third in 1888 and fourth in 1891. Women's pennant began in 1894.

The LTAV was formed in 1892 however the MCC was still the main administrative body until 1908.

Remembering that Prahran and particularly Toorak, Malvern, Armadale and St Kilda were quite wealthy suburbs featuring grand mansions and extensive grounds the ability to construct a tennis court was straight forward. It is estimated that about 150 home courts existed in 1898. While grass courts could be laid out in summer, many players opted to lay asphalt courts to enable year round play.

For those without land on which to construct a private court, there was a selection of clubs. Churches often incorporated tennis within their grounds and indeed ran very strong associations which featured many teams. Only in the last 20 years have these associations started to disappear as church going numbers dwindle and tennis popularity has suffered.

One of the first local tennis clubs was the Melbourne Bowling and Recreation Club (off Chapel

Street, Windsor) constructed two lawn and asphalt courts and was playing pennant from the 1880's and of course South Yarra Tennis Club which attracted many a leading player of the day into pennant when it commenced in 1884. The original location of the South Yarra courts was Portland Place, opposite South Yarra railway station, nestled between the Frankston and Cranbourne lines. They moved to Verdant avenue, their current location in 1926.

While tennis was popular, events in the early 1900's helped lead to an explosion in tennis participation and in turn a higher demand for club facilities.

In 1905 Australasia sent its first team abroad in an attempt to win the Davis Cup which had only commenced in 1900. In the team were prominent South Yarra and Grace Park players Norman Brookes, Alf Dunlop and Anthony Wilding (NZ). Although we lost to the USA 5-0 our players did put up a creditable performance. Again in 1906 without Norman Brookes we were defeated by the USA in the second round. In 1907 the Brookes Wilding combination went back to the UK. This time they were successful winning the Davis Cup by beating the British Isles and the USA. It was the first time that a team other than UK / USA had won and it meant that the following year the Davis Cup would be played in Australia. In addition, Brookes won Wimbledon and with Wilding the doubles and also the mixed. A complete Australasian victory. The Davis Cup did come to Australia and was played in Melbourne in 1908 and Australasia won this, again in 1909, 1910 (no contest), 1911, lost 1912 & 1913 and won again in 1914. At the same time Wilding won Wimbledon four times straight 1910-1913.

Australians were now excited by the game and the success that local hero players had enjoyed on the international stage.

In 1913, there were 46,500 people living in the Prahran area and housing density and construction was growing quickly in the fast developing suburb of Hawksburn bounded by Toorak Rd, Williams Rd., Malvern Rd, Chapel Street. A land boom in the 1860's and early 1890's saw quite major land sales and sub divisions.

Remembering that at around this time there may have been only 20-40 cars only in the entire suburb, people simply had to walk, ride a bike or catch a horse drawn buggy to get around. Local activities and venues, like Hotels and theatres often appeared within short distances from pockets of housing in order to be conveniently located.

The Hawksburn tennis club no doubt grew from local demand for a centrally located club at this end of the municipality.

The land on which the Hawksburn courts were constructed originally was part of the extensive estate of "Bunalbo" a stately 12 room house with large gardens and paddock areas on Cromwell Road through to Hawksburn Rd.

Through the middle of the property ran a creek that eventually was replaced by a large drainage pipe system that runs under Cromwell Road, Surrey Rd North and joins with a second large pipe running down Surrey Rd. Needless to say prior to the drainage system the area was somewhat swampy and prone to flooding.

The owner of "Bunalbo" in 1888 was Francis Wellington Were, son of the founder of Melbourne stock broking firm J.B.Were. He himself was a successful businessman becoming Chairman of the Melbourne Stock exchange and Consul General for Denmark. His family was born and raised at "Bunalbo". In 1904 as part of the continuing subdivision within the area, 13 blocks along May Grove were offered by Were and indeed so was the main house fronting Cromwell Road including 3

acres of land.

The Prahran council in 1906 was evaluating the procurement of land for public parkland in Toorak and this was met with strong protestations owing to the vast estates and gardens already there. It was suggested that target land should be acquired within densely populated areas within the city and "Bunalbo" was offered as one option. The council decided instead to buy land bounded by Malvern Rd and Essex St.

Subsequent divisions of the land by WERE through to 1911 resulted in the tennis club property being somewhat land locked and potentially unsaleable owing to the drainage easements which limited major housing development.

Additionally, there may well have been the intent from some earlier days by a local network of interested players and parents of players to find suitable land for a local club since the council passed up the opportunity.

On May 23rd 1911, three separate titles affecting the club land were assigned to local real estate agent Albert Armytage Holdsworth and this included the right of way access paths from May Grove (also known as Rupert Avenue) which was the nominated entry point for the club in the 1913 LTAV pennant book.

Specifically for our new combined club title, Holdsworth transferred the entire parcel with a new volume and folio number to three nominated club trustees. They were Arnold Robert Kelsey, Leslie Harcourt MacGowan and William George Milroy. It would appear that this was done with some form of money transaction due to a discharged mortgage noted on the title against two ladies Frances and Harriet Cunnington. It seems most likely that these two spinsters who lived together may well have been inspired through community benevolence to donate the land in order for the club to commence and may have also funded the construction of the tennis courts. At St. Martins they donated an elaborate carved wood, full width partition that divides the church. Maybe Holdsworth as the knowledgeable real estate agent was given the task to consolidate the three titles into one through his daily contact with the land and titles management authorities.

Holdsworth was also a councillor of Prahran in 1910 and eventually went on to become mayor in 1923 so he clearly had visions for projects offering community benefit.

In these early days people with money frequently funded projects to assist the poor and general community. Certainly, Hawksburn contained some lovely mid size estates and also a lot of worker cottages.

Of the three men listed on the title, Arnold Kelsey was an accountant of some standing and was represented on company boards such as the Metropolitan Gas Company so he would have made an ideal treasurer/administrator as you would expect. Lelsie MacGowan of "Lotus" appears to have been an accommodation manager. Lotus was an apartment house in Domain Rd. As for Milroy, nothing has been uncovered except he is listed as a grazier on the title.

Not only were all of the above named living locally, they were also parishioners of St Martin's Anglican Church on the corner of Wilson St and Cromwell Road.

St Martin's church opened its doors in 1883 and in 1907 had set up two separate clubs for young Men and Women.. Also in the area was another youth programme facility, the Try Society around the corner on the site of the now Cromwell Apartments (Cromwell Rd / Surrey Rd roundabout). Given the need to support young men particularly, tennis was probably on the agenda as an

admirable pursuit instead of creating mischief on the street. One can also imagine the unmarried Cunnington sisters perhaps thinking that tennis for young girls was a cause worthy of investment. The church itself was in considerable debt in relation to the repayment of building and funding of the elaborate church organ and from church minutes the subject of tennis is not mentioned and therefore it is unlikely that any direct involvement with setting up the club could be considered.

As noted earlier, it is likely that the Hawksburn Tennis Club did start in 1912 having entered a team in the South Suburban Districts Association but beyond this snippet, we have little additional information about the exact date the courts were constructed and when the club commenced. There is also the unsubstantiated possibility that the club may have commenced at some private house court prior to moving to May Grove.

In the late 1890's news paper articles mention a Hawksburn tennis club, however this was attributed to the Presbyterian Church in Cromwell Rd which by reports of the time had some fine courts. The church was located on the corner of Motherwell and Cromwell Roads which today is the Uniting Church and support offices. St Martins church never had courts on their site. A thought was that this club may have evolved into our Hawksburn club but this seems unlikely at an official level, although the original players and members of that club may well have become members of the Hawksburn club when it began.

There was also another Hawksburn Club which related to the Cricket Club in Orrong Road which commenced in 1879. While this club we very well known and successful, in 1907 they adopted the new name of Prahran Cricket Club. Any relation between Hawksburn LTC and Prahran CC has not been established however it enabled the eventual Hawksburn Tennis Club to more freely adopt the name without conflict.

In April 1913, Hawksburn applied to the LTAV to become affiliated and upon acceptance submitted two winter pennant teams. One was a C grade boys team playing Saturdays, the other a ladies B pennant team playing on Thursdays. May Grove was the nominated street address in the Winter pennant book. L.MacGowan was the club secretary.

The Hawksburn clubs first year of pennant was a stellar start. The boys won the C Pennant final against MCC played at Glenferrie Hill. The team comprised A.H Merrie with Sutherland & F.Merrie and Schoknecht. The former had not lost a doubles match up to the final and the scores were 2 rubbers, 5 sets, 49 games to MCC 2 rubbers, 4 sets, 38 games. The two Merrie (brothers) also won the South Suburban Men's Championship and Handicap Singles events. They lived at "Scotia" in Hawksburn Rd. Sutherland and Merrie also played in the 1913 South Yarra Tournament lending weight that some of the Hawksburn club members may have been inducted from existing South Yarra Tennis Club and nearby homes with courts. A.H. Merrie went on to play some seasons for South Yarra and in 1920 played in the Interstate Lawn Tennis tournament with the very best Australian players.

The ladies played, not only in the LTAV B Pennant. But also in the South Suburban Association. The pennant team comprised Misses Luff, Foster, Kent & Nixon. The south suburban team, Misses Allen, Kent, Richardson and Brown.

Teams were submitted in 1914 into both the South Suburban Association and the LTAV pennant fixture. By 1915 however, World War 1 had focussed the population on serving and servicing the war effort and very little happened over the 1915-1917 period.

The first courts at Hawksburn were asphalt as they were at Windsor and South Yarra Clubs. The desire was to submit teams for winter and summer competitions and of course permit year round

social play which grass courts could not offer.

Court construction you would expect would have been quite finely tuned. Asphalt was widely used in road and pavement construction so the expertise was there. The same could not be said for laying out the courts to regulation dimensions.

In 1915, the LTAV conducted a survey report into all the affiliated club courts. The Hawksburn report was: 3 courts, surface and light good, runback of 10' only, posts are in the wrong position, courts 2 1/2" to wide, south service line 4" to close to the net.

That sounds serious, but the overall story is that many of the clubs had errors in conformity. East Malvern has some stand out errors with their East and West courts being 5 1/2" to narrow and 11" to short. Another club had only 2 1/2' between two courts and shared a central net post.

In 1917, Hawksburn was unable to field a team in the re commenced LTAV season owing to low member numbers resulting from service in World War 1 and did not re-affiliate again until 1925. The club did continue with teams in the South Suburban Association from 1919 and had a Ladies A Grade Team with Miss Montford-Parret and Mrs Smith-Merrie.

Throughout the 1920's into the 1930's the club seems to have maintained a fairly unremarkable steady presence in the LTAV and SSTA.

A tragedy struck the club in the Grand Final of the 1935 C Grade Pennant against Yarraville. The 26 year old Hawksburn captain, Percy Trewin had just won his singles match 6-4, 7-5 being played at South Yarra and upon coming to the net to shake hands collapsed and died. The match was immediately abandoned and re-continued a week later at University Courts and the Hawksburn team lost 6-12-100 to 2-7-76. Percy was mentioned as being the Hawksburn club champion for several years and had routinely made the semi finals of the MCC Autumn tournament and had won numerous country tournaments. He had also been undefeated in the previous two C pennant seasons. A condolence message was placed in the local paper by the club which was gratefully acknowledged by Percy's family. This very rare on court occurrence was widely published around Australia at the time.

Although records of the club prior to 1934 have been lost, we are indeed fortunate to have found the cash book from this period through to the mid 1950's and from 1968- to current.

The early records provide some insights into the operations of the club and we also have a list of members determined by incoming payment of dues.

From 1934, we know the club was repaying a small mortgage.

In 1935, they also re-paid a debenture to Sir George Fairbairn (he was also connected to St Martins Church and was socially engaged with A.A. Holdsworth.)

It is not known what the borrowed funds were used for. Fairbairn was a very prominent sporting identity having commenced the Henley on the Yarra rowing competition. At the time of our club formation he had been a Victorian member of Parliament and went onto become a Federal member of the Australian House of Representatives and then a Senator. He also knew Holdsworth via St Martins and may well have shared some political ambitions also. In 1924 he was appointed Agent-General for Victoria in London, and, filled that post successfully until his term ended in 1927. In recognition of his public services he was created a Knight Bachelor in 1926.

The asphalt courts were being maintained by Sun Paving Company and nets supplied by Oxley Brothers.

Fund raising in addition to borrowings and annual membership fees involved a number of social events. In the 1913 -1915 period, quite impressive sounding dance balls were organised at appropriate local venues. The Ladies Pennant Ball was a feature of the 1938-1941 period along with regular card nights and picture nights.

In 1937, our courts were still listed as Asphalt in an LTAV fixture list, however, it was during this period that the L.T.A.V were introducing porous court sections into the pennant season and many clubs were starting to switch to the very popular en-tous-cas surface.

The Australian Red Lawn Tennis Company (ARLTC) was appointed to re surface the courts in 1938 via an interest bearing loan and the first instalment payment was some 250 pounds. There were also some bills for maintaining the asphalt so quite possibly courts one and two may have been done first leaving one court for play. The en-tous-cas was supplied by the Gamble Brick Company. In 1939 a final payment was made to ARLTC.

World War II put a halt once more to club activities with the focus on more important issues. During the war years shortages in rubber meant that clubs might have to re-cover tennis balls and the leading Australian racquet makers were diverting skills to aircraft and boat manufacture.

In 1950 as the post war life started to return to normal, the world economy was gripped by a new wave of consumerism. The club at this point upgraded the windows with new glass, stove and hot water system. In 1951 expenditure included protective wire screens for the windows.

In 1953 they spent 209 pounds with McPherson & Lawrie which appears to be a project such as plumbing either the court watering system of upgrading the sewerage system.

The next major event apart from buying 2 tons of brick dust in 1955 appears to be in 1972 when the club once more underwent some refurbishment. Jack McKinnar who joined in 1950 apparently contributed greatly to the major renovation which included a new stove, toilets, glass and roofing iron. Funding was undertaken by mortgage. Another loan was also taken in 1974 to re concrete some floors in the change room, reline the shower rooms and connect the hot water services.

Jack was also a handy player being the club champion late in the 1950's & 1960's and he was a pivotal member of the C & D winning pennant teams of that era which included players such as Len Murphy, a three time Collingwood Premiership Player, Neil DeBorg, Ranald McKillop, Trevor Read and Jack Pappas.

Ranald McKillop started playing at Hawksburn in the mid 1940's and was coached by Mrs Powell who lived in Cromwell Road. In the 1960's Ranald explained that he won all three club championship events and that the Mixed event was keenly played for. His family owned the McKillop Pastry shop in Williams Rd, opposite the Bush Inn Hotel. As a treat he used to bake up some party pies to eat for afternoon tea. Somewhere in the club folklore, was a saying attributed to Jack McKinnar that a duffed shot "wasn't worth a McKillops pie".

Up into the 1970's Trevor Read, who is still teaching at St Kevins college and Ranald used to play Jack McKinnar and Jack Pappas in a "beer set" on social days where pride of place was hotly contested.

You may wonder if the club house has even been burgled being relatively secluded. In the 1960's

police apprehended 4 boys aged 12-14 who broke in and smashed the clubhouse quite severely to the tune of \$4,000 in damage. The boys ended up in juvenile court but being so young they were given a warning.

The old clubhouse or “lean to” had a similar sort of layout as today. The glass wall was angled inwards and inside the kitchen is the same spot. There used to be a bar at the TV end thanks to Ranald scrounging one that was ear marked for the tip. Also accompanying the bar was a three piece lounge suite. Another item Ranald purchased on behalf of the club was the old, decorated metal roller.

In 1982 the clubhouse again required some work and Keats Constructions were paid \$7,500 for unspecified repairs.

The old club house which had been well maintained all these years was finally promoted onto the agenda in the mid 1980's for replacement. Given the absence of funding it remained as an agenda item over the next four years. A sub committee was formed and by 1990 the two options were presented being a rebuild including a second storey (\$51k) or a renovation (\$18k) More about that later.

In the late 1980's club membership fluctuated at around 80 members when at this stage there were Full members paying \$30 per year (41) and Mid Week only members paying \$20 (40). The mid week ladies competition was well attended and playing in Southern Districts and Bayside, a majority of club pennants belong to these teams which played up to the mid 1990's when there was up to 5 teams playing.

Some men's teams were also playing pennant. Hawksburn minutes over the 1970's reveal a couple of formal complaints laid against our players G. Bell and Maurie Keating. In 1974, M. Keating was suspended for one month for abuse during a match against Box Hill North. In 1977, G. Bell playing with M.Keating had to be suspended from the competition for an entire season having admitted unacceptable on court behaviour against Burden Park. The best results for the men came in the late 1980's with Section Two win in 1987, Runners up in 1990 section 4 summer doubles and the Southern Districts section one Summer doubles in 1991.

In 1992 a special member meeting was called at which the motion to construct a new club house building entirely was defeated 11/13 and in favour of renovating / extending the current was carried 12/8. The vote was less about design and more about conserving funds in case membership dropped and revenues were incapable of covering debt.

The decision led to the construction over 1993 of what was a hybrid, given the original club house was partially retained and a new shower / bathroom / store room extension was created. The eventual cost was \$49,115 which included other works.

The ability of the club to complete this major task was due to the drive of the long term President David Cran (1979-1996) Throughout this period a sinking fund was created that slowly built up to a level where the new clubhouse project could be entirely funded from their special investment account. It is a credit to both David and the various Committees that such a program was managed so well.

Sadly, in 1996 David Cran passed away after a 10 month battle with cancer. He was only 50. David was an architect by trade and also joined the local council in 1977 eventually being elected as major of Prahran in 1981. So once again the club had benefited from a highly motivated and skilful manager.

Our club connection with the local council and people with an interest in community development potentially goes back Mayor John Cunnington in 1860 (who may well be father to Harriet and Frances although the ladies were born in 1856 & 1858 making John a very youngish Mayor) and A.A.Holdsworth who became the Mayor of Prahran in 1923.

In David's honour in 1999, the committee unanimously agreed to name the extension the "David Cran Pavilion" and wonderful presentation ceremony was conducted at the courts with Robyn and Hugo Cran (son) and sister present for the unveiling of a plaque mounted to the clubhouse.

Also, in 1996, the club received legal advice to transfer the land certificate of title from individual trustees as was the case since 1913, to the newly created (1994) incorporated Hawksburn Tennis Club and this was completed in 1997.

As you would be aware the court layout at Hawksburn is fairly tight. This became cause for concern in 1996 when a player from Aspendale fell at the back of one of the courts and broke her wrist. Her letter advising that many telephone calls to her agreed that the Hawksburn courts were dangerous and that owing to the injury she had suffered considerably in terms of pain, suffering and lost job opportunities. This incident led to a reassessment of the courts and some exposed bricks along the fence line were re-mediated and the committee also sought clarification of the courts from Tennis Victoria. An assessment declared that while there is no set rule "competition play" requires 16 feet between base line and fence and 12 feet between courts. With 11 feet at the southern end and 14 feet at the Northern end and 6 feet between the courts, court 1 & 2 were deemed acceptable for competition play but that this would need to be rechecked with the Pennant Committee and Court 3 due to the 4 foot distance to the bluestone wall was deemed unsuitable for competition play. The club had last played pennant back in 1983 so it was presumed that the courts must have been deemed as suitable. The public liability issue was covered by insurance and managed through Tennis Victoria's insurance policy.

Removal of the embankment along the southern boundary was reviewed but no action was taken. Indeed, it still remains today.

In all the Hawksburn has had 7 life members. Jack McKinnar (1950), Jack Pappas (1953), Len Murphy (1951), John Keating (1956 & honorary club solicitor), Andy Andrews (1993), Maria Frangos (Club secretary for 15 years 1992) and Bob Willis (1972)

Bob is the only member still active at the club. Maria has retired from tennis but appreciates being included in correspondence. The two Jacks have passed away in the last few years yet they often came down to watch the club championships and reminisce with members about their days at the club. Andy Andrews contributed greatly to the upkeep of the clubhouse and courts as well as being a regular weekend and weekday player. Andy still pops in to catch up for a coffee every now and then. John Keating remains the club's legal counsel and has provided excellent advice and service over the last 40 years, including participating in the construction of the blue stone wall which long developed a considerable bow.

Today, South Yarra is still a most affluent suburb yet with the amount of high rise construction both complete and in planning, the suburb will soon have a huge influx of apartment dwellers. This usually means young people and it will be one of the challenges of the club to maintain the input of good young players.

Hawksburn today remains a great little club. Under President David Gorrie, in 2010 the committee undertook a resurfacing programme and the courts are in the best shape for a number of years. In

2011 the clubhouse was freshened with a new paint job, new gutters and this year a toilet and a new hot water service were replaced.

Although the club today is not involved with the LTAV or other tennis association competition, the last being in the mid 1990's, social tennis at the club through the week and on weekends is well attended. Social weekend tennis in Melbourne has not endured into these days of 7 day retail trading and dual income families working odd and weekend hours. So, to play a few sets without having to organise a personal four and just rolling up is a reality of what a social tennis club should be. We are indeed lucky that the club still maintains the old social club tradition.

Right now the current projects being considered by your committee are the replacement of fencing behind Court one at the northern end and the re construction of the blue stone wall on court three which has for years looked like collapsing.

To all of our forbears, the people who started the club, the players that came to the area to enjoy the game and particularly those who joined the committees and taken on roles as Secretary, Treasurer and of course Presidents and Vice Presidents which have helped the club continue along the enduring path it was intended, a massive thank you.

May Hawksburn Tennis Club remain this wonderful hidden gem in South Yarra. The population explosion in the area will continue as large scale apartment blocks and transformed old factories into units create high density living. Backyards are a thing of the past, so all these people will need outdoor sporting facilities and social surrounds offered by Hawksburn Tennis Club. I have no doubt the club will enjoy another 100 years.



Mens Singles Champions Hawksburn Tennis Club

1972 Colin Grace
1973 Don Biddle
1974 Don Biddle
1975 Robert Willis
1976 Robert Willis
1977 Robert Willis
1978 Robert Willis
1979 Robert Willis
1980/81 Robert Willis
1982 Not sure
1983 /84 Joe Marino
1985/86 Robert Willis
1987 David Kenley
1988 Not sure
1989 Not sure
1990 Not sure
1991 Not sure
1992 Not sure
1993 Not finished
1994 Robert Willis
1995 David Kenley
1996 David Kenley
1997 Chris Pieta
1998 Chris Pieta
1999 Neil Cameron
2000 Brad McMillan

2001 Brendan Ryan
2002 David Kenley
2003 David Pieta
2004 David Pieta
2005 Chris Pieta
2006 David Pieta
2007 David Pieta
2008 Justin Cohen
2009 David Peita
2010 Not held
2011 Henry Fried
2012 Not held

Ladies Singles Champions Hawksburn Tennis Club

1972 Not sure
1973 Not sure
1974 Maria Frangos
1975 Not sure
1976 Nancy Wilson
1977 G. Block
1978 Ruth Pirie
1979 A. Moodig
1980/81 Not Sure
1982 Not sure
1983 /84 Sandra Jiques
1985/86 Kay Johnston
1987 Ruth Thompson
1988 Not sure
1989 Not sure
1990 Not sure
1991 Not sure
1992 Not sure
1993 Not finished
1994 Not sure
1995 Ann Latrielle
1996 Ann Latrielle *

Flags Won (source actual pennants)

M mens W womens

Mixed Southern Districts 7 Special 1978-1979 Premiers
Mixed Southern Districts Winter Sect 5 1979 Premiers
Mixed Southern Districts Summer Sect 6 Special 1979-80 Premiers
W Southern Districts July-Dec Sect 4 1979-80 Runners Up
W Southern Districts 1980 Runners Up
W Southern Districts Sect 2 1981 Premiers
W Southern Districts July Nov Sect 5 1986 Premiers & Runners Up
M Southern Districts Winter Sect 3 1986 Premiers
W Southern Districts July- Dec Sect B3 1987 Premiers
W Southern Districts July- Dec Sect B3 1987 Runners Up
W Southern Districts 1987 B4 Doubles Premiers
W Southern Districts 1987 B4 Doubles Runners Up
W Southern Districts Feb-June Section 17 1987 Premiers
M Southern Districts Winter Sect 2 1987 Runners Up
W Southern Districts July -Dec Sect A.8 1988 Premiers
W Southern Districts Feb June Sect B1 Doubles 1988 Runners Up
W Southern Districts Feb-June Section B 2 1988 Premiers
M Southern Districts Singles Doubles Section 1 1988 Runners Up
W Southern Districts Section A 7 1989 Premiers
W Southern Districts Feb-June Doubles 1989 Runners Up
W Caulfield Carrum Mid Week July-Dec Sect 8 1989 Premiers
M Southern Districts Winter Section 2 1989 Runners Up
M Southern Districts Winter Section 5 1989 Runners Up
W Southern Districts Feb-June Sect 6 1990 Premiers
W Southern Districts July -Dec Sect 5 1990 Runners Up
W Caulfield Carrum Section 7 Midweek 1990 Premiers
M Southern Districts Summer Section 4 1990 Runners Up
M Southern Districts Summer Section 6 1990 Runners Up
W Southern Districts Feb-June Section A 7 1990 Premiers
W Southern Districts Feb-June Sect A 3 1991 Premiers
W Southern Districts July-Dec Sect 6 S/D 1991 Runners Up
Mixed Southern Districts Winter Sect 5 1991 Runners Up
W Southern Districts Feb-June 1991 Premiers
M Southern Districts Summer Doubles 1991 Premiers
W Caulfield Carrum July-Dec Sect 7 1991 Premiers
W Southern Districts July- Dec Doubles 1991 Runners Up

W Caulfield Carrum Section 10 Midweek 1991 Runners Up
W Southern Districts Feb-June Sect A 7 1992 Runners Up
W Caulfield Carrum July-Dec 1992 Premiers
W Caulfield Carrum Section 5 Midweek 1992 Premiers
W Caulfield Carrum Section 9 Midweek 1992 Runners Up
W Southern Districts 1993 Sect 4 Runners Up
W Southern Districts Summer Sect 4 1993 Premiers
W Caulfield Carrum Section 4 Midweek 1993 Runners Up
W Southern Districts Feb-June Sect A 6 1994 Runners Up
W Caulfield Carrum Section 4 Midweek 1994 Premiers
M Southern Districts Summer Singles/Doubles 1994 Premiers
M Southern Districts Winter Section 2 1994 Premiers
W MEMRLTA Summer A.8 1994/1995 Runners Up
W MEMRLTA Winter A.7 1995 Runners Up
M Southern Districts Winter Section 1 1995 Runners Up
W Southern Districts Feb-June Sect 4 S/D 1995 Runners up
Girls MCTA A Grade Winter 1996 Runners Up
W Caulfield Carrum Section 2 Midweek 1998 Premiers
W Southern Districts Feb-June Sect 2 10 game sets 1999 Runners
Up
W Southern Districts Feb-June Sect 3 10 game sets 1999 Premiers
W Caulfield Carrum July-Dec Sect 6 1999 Runners Up
W Caulfield Carrum 2000 Runners Up
W Bayside Feb-June Doubles Sect 2 2001 Runners Up
W Bayside Section 4 Thursday Doubles 2004 Runners Up

Past Presidents Hawksburn Tennis Club

1972 Phillip Wright
1973 Phillip Wright
1974 Phillip Wright
1975 Phillip Wright
1976 Phillip Wright
1977 Phillip Wright
1978 Phillip Wright
1979 David Cran
1980 David Cran

1981 David Cran
1982 David Cran
1983 David Cran
1984 David Cran
1985 David Cran
1986 David Cran
1987 David Cran
1988 David Cran
1989 David Cran
1990 David Cran
1991 David Cran
1992 David Cran
1993 David Cran
1994 David Cran
1995 David Cran
1996 David Cran
1997 Dawne Wallace
1998 Dawne Wallace
1999 Barry Gaudion
2000 Barry Gaudion
2001 Barry Gaudion
2002 Christopher Pieta
2003 Christopher Pieta
2004 Christopher Pieta
2005 Christopher Pieta
2006 Christopher Pieta
2007 Christopher Pieta
2008 Christopher Pieta
2009 David Gorrie
2010 David Gorrie
2011 David Gorrie
2012 David Gorrie