Over the Net

MONDAY 25TH MAY
KEN ROSEWALL LUNCHEON 2015

Join Ken Rosewall and his special guest Bill Sidwell to celebrate the rich history of tennis in Australia at our main fundraising event.

Oswald William Thomas Sidwell was born on the 16th April 1920 in Goulburn NSW. In 1938 he won the Australian Championships Boys Doubles with Dinny Pails and followed this up with an Australian Championships Boys Singles win in 1939.

In 1948, 1949 and 1950 reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open. He won the US Open Men's Doubles with John Bromwich in 1949. In total he reached 6 Grand Slam Doubles finals including 1 mixed doubles.

Bill Sidwell was also a member of the Australian Davis Cup team in 1948 and 1949 when Australia lost both times to the USA in the Final Challenge Round.

Australian Davis Cup Squad 1946.

He was one of the great Australian tennis players of the 1940s – playing alongside Adrian Quist, Geoff Brown, Dinny Pails, Colin Long, Lionel Brodie and John Bromwich, with team managers Gerald Patterson and Jack Crawford.

Described as one of the finest doubles artists of his time, Bill was a stylish player with perfect foot-work and timing. He hit all strokes with delightful crispness.

Bill left the game after 1950 and concentrated on his career in the Slazenger business—a career that lasted 47 years (1935-1982). Come along to hear a first-hand account of those great years of tennis, stories of the tennis circuit in the 1940s and the great Davis Cup finals.

In Memory of Thelma Coyne Long 1918-2015

Member NSW Hardcourt Team to Brisbane aged 15 years

It is with much sadness that we report Thelma Coyne Long has passed away at the age of 96. Thelma enjoyed an extraordinary career in tennis. She was a champion player, a trailblazer for Australian women's tennis, a dedicated coach and a great supporter of the Australian Tennis Museum.

Thelma won titles at the NSW Championships an incredible **19** times: 10 doubles titles and 5 singles titles and 4 mixed doubles titles. She also won **19** Grand Slam titles including 12 Australian doubles titles, 4 Australian mixed doubles titles, 2 Australian singles titles plus the French mixed doubles title in 1956.

Thelma at White City for induction celebration for Tennis NSW.

" I always admired Thelma for her love of the game and her incredible passion to play. Her contributions to the sport - both on and off the court - were invaluable. We were so fortunate to have someone like Thelma in our sport as she was always giving back to the game and to others. She will be greatly missed. "

Billie Jean King—New York

" I admired Thelma and who knows what other titles she would have won if her career had not been interrupted by WWII. Thelma loved her tennis and I enjoyed meeting up with her at the Aussie Open when she would share her opinions with me. She called a spade a spade. I have a note from Thelma in beautiful and perfect handwriting after she was FINALLY inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. It was a shame she was not well enough to attend that induction. Her speech would had been worth listening to. "   Wendy Turnbull—Brisbane

" As a player Thelma was a major force in Australian tennis for over twenty years from the mid 1930s to the late 1950s winning two Australian Singles, twelve doubles and four mixed. She also won the French Mixed and was a finalist in doubles and mixed doubles at the French and Wimbledon. For the next 50 years she was a coach and mentor to many young players and a driving force for women's tennis. Thelma was inducted into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame in 2002 and the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2013. Thelma served Australia during the War in the AWAS rising to the rank of Captain. Thelma was a trailblazer for women's tennis and was instrumental in the establishment of the Federation Cup. It was a pleasure to know her, work with her and finally see her inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Thank you Thelma for all you did for tennis, and women's tennis in particular. "

Geoff Pollard—Melbourne

Eastern Suburbs Hardcourt Tennis Association
"A" Grade Team, Brisbane, 1932

Front Row—Miss T. Coyne, Miss J. Warren, J. C. Welbourn (Manager), Mrs. L. Baker (Capt.), B. Moore (Capt.),
Miss F. Menzies, Miss A. Tosh
Second Row—R. R. Clark, L. N. Turner, D. Murray, J. Hendy, L. Todd, J. Myles
Back Row—Mrs. E. Welbourn

*Packing for the Australian Women's
Overseas Tour 1938*

*Nell Hopman, Thelma Coyne, Dorothy Stevenson and
Nancye Wynne - Kooyong 1941*

**Thelma at White City for Museum
volunteers luncheon, 1990s.**

*1942 February - enlisted Australian Women's Army Service
(AWAS) - seen here at recruit training school, Melbourne*

*Thelma Long, George Worthington and Joyce Fitch on board
Dominion Monarch en route to South Africa 1949*

*1948/49 Australian Season - Doris Hart USA (on her first
trip to Australia) Nell Hopman, Thelma Long, Joyce Fitch,
Nancye Bolton and Marie Toomey*

*1949 January - on the River Torrens Adelaide - taking time
out from the Australian Championships at Memorial Drive*

*A visit to Acapulco during the 1952 Pan American
Championships, Mexico City - Baba Lewis, Shirley Fry,
Nell Hopman and Thelma Long*

For more information on her incredible career visit:
http://www.tennis.com.au/player-profiles/thelma-coyne-long **and**
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thelma_Coyne_Long

A Funeral Service was held at Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park Crematorium, on Monday
April 20, 2015. If you would like to send your condolences to the family you can do so
via the on-line guest book which will remain on-line until 15/05/2015
http://www.legacy.com/…/…/thelma-long-condolences/174630648…

AUSTRALIAN TENNIS MUSEUM
SYDNEY

Museum Tours A Hit!

Our new advertising has worked really well to increase our tour bookings with approximately 15 booked so far this year and one even scheduled for January 2016. The groups so far have thoroughly enjoyed their tour experience and the catered morning tea. The current exhibition "Remembering White City" is proving very popular as many remember playing there or watching great matches held there over its 77 year reign as the centre for NSW tennis. Help spread the word about Museum tours and mention us to local clubs and organisations who are looking for a fun day out.   We had great feedback from recent tours:

"Memorabilia, displays, photos & old White City bar doors were a favourite."

"Well presented tour & morning tea with delightful pastries. Much appreciated."
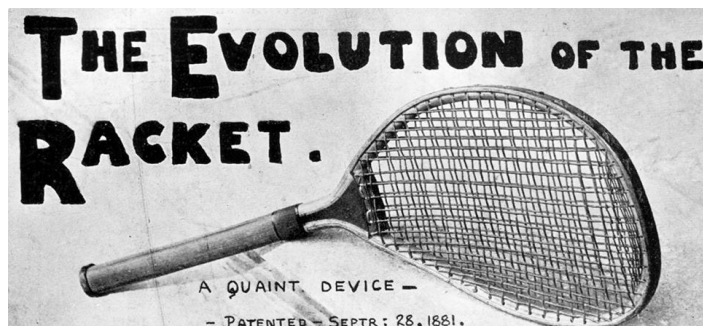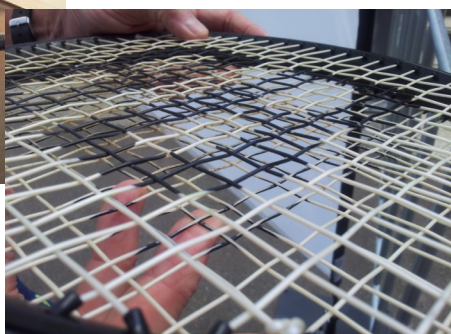
Grandviews Probus group

Let your local clubs know about our tours. Bookings 9024 7607.

Recent donations

The Museum has accepted some special donations during the Apia tournament and we thank all those who donate to the Museum collection. An unusual 'double strung' Blackburne racquet was donated by Adam Jones.

Beryl Eagar showed off the unusual racquet during the tournament and we thought it was a fairly recent invention until Rodney Lack, of the Tennis History Group, pointed out it has all been tried before—see the 1881 version! Robin Blackburne of Blackburne Advanced Racquet Systems Ltd. (Bermuda) produced this version in the 1990s. "The **Blackburne Double Strung Tennis Racquet**, with its innovative form of two independent string beds, delivers a number of important benefits that will improve the game of tennis players of all ability levels. Our tennis racquet virtually eliminates the frustrating "frame shot" of all conventional racquets.

The Blackburne Racquet incorporates a unique double-strung design where two sets of strings, or string beds lie on each side of the frame, thereby presenting a perfect plane of strings to the ball. It is now approved, after being outlawed for nearly ten years, by the International Tennis Federation and United States Tennis Association for play by amateurs and professionals in all tournaments and championships worldwide." (visit **http://www.blackburneds.com/html/overview.html** for the lowdown on the double strung advantages).

THE EVOLUTION OF THE RACKET.
A QUAINT DEVICE —
— PATENTED — SEPTR: 28, 1881.