

Over the Net



This year the museum has achieved a lot through grants and the hard work of the volunteers. With the Medibank International Sydney coming up in early January the museum is gearing up to another busy year.

Merry Christmas to all the Friends of the Australian Tennis Museum and thank you for your ongoing support!

Community Heritage Grant Awarded to Museum

In November 2008 a Community Heritage Grant was awarded to the Australian Tennis Museum to complete a Significance Assessment of the clothing collection held at the museum. The significance assessment is an extremely valuable tool as it assesses the museum's collection against national and

international collections and assigns it significance. The significance assessment was completed in September 2009 and it was ascertained that the clothing collection housed by the museum was nationally significant. This assessment will now assist in applying for future grants for the museum.

Australian Open Fast Facts

With the Australian Open coming up from the 18th to 31st January 2010 here are some interesting facts from the 2009 tournament:

- Serena Williams served the most aces for women with 42 while Andy Roddick led the men with 87.
- Over 3400 racquets were strung throughout the tournament.
- Sam Groth from Australia served the fastest for men at the tournament (230km/h) while Sabine Lisicki had the fastest women's serve (196km/h)
- A total of \$23.14 million (AUD) prize money was awarded.
- Throughout the tournament spectators consumed:
 - 19 085 hot dogs
 - 12 807 meat pies
 - 216 325 ice creams
 - 179 970 bottles of Evian water
 - 233 793 draught cups
 - 85 285 bottles of Heineken



Friends of the Australian
Tennis Museum
Newsletter
Issue 4, 2009

“Heroes of Tennis”

Tennis Superhero Short Story Competition Winner

“The New Tennis Star”

By Ptolemy Sofianidis

I was getting ready for my game against Rafael Nadal who was the first seed and I was the 367th seed so I'm a humungous underdog. I had a big pain in my guts. Probably because I was really nervous. Suddenly my name got called out over the loud speaker and I felt my legs start to shake. Could I do this? Probably not.

We started the match and I got broke first up so I was flogged 6-2 in the first set of the game. I reminded myself I had beaten Tsonga just two days ago and this made me determined. I didn't give up after the break and I came back and got a 5-0 lead. I felt excited to win my first set ever against Nadal. I remembered how he had flogged me at Wimbledon last year. I had been disgraced. Now I would smash him!



Nadal came back from the tiny break with a smirk on his face. I could tell he thought I was easy and he ended up beating me 7-5 in the second. The crowd wasn't behind me and a few left because it was so boring.

Soon I felt dead and numb all over but luckily I had a kick of adrenalin. The sweat was pouring down my face as if someone had tipped water over me. Nadal was winning 4-0 but I fought back and won 6-7. The next set I had full confidence so I pulled off a 5-7.

It was the last set. We had been playing for five hours. I wondered if I had the mental strength to carry on. My body told me I should have collapsed hours ago and my hands shook like I was freezing in Antarctica. There were no break points so it was 6-6 and we kept on playing. He won his own serve to make it 8-7. It was 40-0 to him with three match points. I remembered again the shameful defeat to Nadal and I found the urge to smash him. I focused on the ball and hit a fantastic forehand. I was back in the game at 8-8. Then I got my serve and I was winning 8-9. The crowd was cheering – for me!

The next game it was ninth deuce until Nadal got the advantage and aced me. I hung my head but couldn't believe it when I heard the umpire sat, “Fault two.” Nadal had no more challenges left so I got the advantage. The next ball I confidently hit a brilliant backhand to take the match.

I heard the announcer over the loud speaker say, “the winner of the French Open is Ptolemy Sofianidis of Australia.” And I watched as Nadal fell to the ground in defeat and I finally had my revenge.

Sydney 2009 World Masters Games

Success for the Museum at the World Masters Games!



Michelle Jaggard and Wally Masur during the doubles exhibition match.

The first World Masters Games was held in Toronto, Canada in 1985 and has continued to be held every four years. In previous years the Games have been hosted in Australia twice, in 1994 in Brisbane and 2002 in Melbourne. On the 10th to the 18th of October 2009 Sydney hosted the World Masters Games. Some 28 000 people from around 100 countries competed in 28 sports. Tennis was one of the sports contested and events were held at Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre and Cintra Park. The competition included a singles, doubles and mixed doubles event. During the event the museum was open to visitors to the Games, with over 500 visitors to the museum throughout the event.



Ken Rosewall, Sandon Stolle, Wally Masur, Michelle Jaggard and Nicole Arendt discuss Australian Tennis.

On Tuesday 13th October a "Legends of Australian Tennis BBQ" was held as a fundraiser for the museum. Over 200 people attended the BBQ with over \$3000 being raised for the museum. An exhibition doubles match was held between Wally Masur, Sandon Stolle, Michelle Jaggard and Nicole Arendt. The players along with Museum Patron, Ken Rosewall, participated in a question and answer forum with the attendees of the BBQ. The players gave some interesting insights into the past, present and future of Australian Tennis.

"Tevolution — Australian Tennis Adaptations"

In 2010 the museum will open its new exhibition, "Tevolution – Australian Tennis Adaptations." Ever wondered what it was like to play tennis back in the early 1900s? Explore the past, present and future of tennis in Australia in this new exhibition. Come look at the evolution of tennis equipment (racquets, balls, clothing and courts) and how these changes have influenced tennis in Australia. With interactive displays and activities, such as *Racquet Play* (feel the difference between modern day and older racquets) and *Virtual Tennis Game Play*, there is entertainment for all the family. The exhibition will be on display from January 2010 to late November 2010.

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Museum Shop Merchandise

Recently we have revamped the museum shop. New merchandise includes:

- Museum Racquet Keyrings
- Museum Pins
- Museum Cloth Badges
- Museum Tennis Ball Lip Balms
- Tennis Character Statues
- Aromatherapy Socks (new flavours include Tutti Fruitti, Peppermint, Sea Mist, Tropicana and Vanilla)
- Racquet Bottle Opener and Letter Opener
- A new range of tennis themed books
- Museum Tennis Stress Balls



Medibank International Sydney 2010

It won't be long until the Medibank International Sydney Tournament is hosted at the Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre (tickets are available from Ticketek). The museum will be open for the duration of the event and it is a perfect opportunity to come and visit the brand new exhibition, "Tevolution—Australian Tennis Adaptation," and the new and improved museum shop.

Museum Opening Hours:

Sunday 10th January 2010

10:00am to 5:30pm

Monday 11th/Tuesday 12th January 2010

10:00am to 7:00pm

Wednesday 13th/Thursday 14th/Friday 15th January 2010

10:00am to 8:00pm

Saturday 16th January 2010

3:00pm to 7:30pm

Come meet Tennis Legend Ken Rosewall at the Museum!

Ken Rosewall, the museum Patron, will be available to meet on Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th January 2010 between 11:00am and 1:00pm in the museum library. Ken will be signing autographs for visitors who purchase items from the museum gift shop.

Australian Tennis Museum Raffle

To celebrate all of the new additions to the museum shop the museum will be holding a raffle to raise money during the Medibank International Sydney Tournament. The prize will include a selection of the brand new stock now available in the museum shop. Come in and show your Friends Membership card to receive two raffle tickets for the price of one.



Tickets are 1 for \$1.00 or 5 for \$3.00. Come and show your support for the museum and you could win yourself a selection of goodies to enjoy.

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