



Over the Net

We are halfway through 2009 and the Australian Tennis Museum has had many successes.

The Medibank International Sydney was a tournament enjoyed by all and saw two new champions, Elena Dementieva and David Nalbandian. Our museum volunteers were kept busy throughout the tournament by visitors enjoying the “Heroes of Tennis” exhibition.

The annual Ken Rosewall luncheon had its first ever female special guest, Evonne Goolagong Cawley, helping raise much needed funds for the museum.

Australian Tennis history is thriving here at the Australian Tennis Museum.

The Australian Tennis Museum Succeeds at the Medibank International Sydney 2009

The museum was a busy place during the Medibank International this year. The museum was open from Sunday 11th January 2009 until Saturday 17th January 2009.

There was a lot of interest towards the new exhibition “Heroes of Tennis” with some of the tennis stars featured even coming into the museum during the tournament for a visit.

The museum had over 3200 visitors throughout the tournament with our busiest day being Monday 12th January 2009. Monday was Kid’s Day which saw children competing in challenges to win a free showbag. Their challenge at the museum was to solve a variety of puzzles relating to the current exhibition, “Heroes of Tennis.” Children were very enthusiastic and enjoyed learning information about the (continues page 2...)



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David Hall enjoys the exhibit devoted to his tennis achievements at the Medibank International 2009.

The Australian Tennis Museum Succeeds at the Medibank International Sydney 2009 Continued...



Thelma Long visits the exhibit retelling stories of her tennis career and the wartime.

great tennis players from the past with some children coming back multiple times.

This year the museum did not charge an entry fee. This meant the museum relied completely on donations. The museum did extremely well raising over \$1500. These funds will go towards valuable museum resources to help improve the museum for the future.



The museum full of visitors on the last day of the Medibank International 2009.



The museum's Patron, Ken Rosewall, enjoys a quiet moment in the museum to reminisce his old tennis days.

Medibank International Museum Raffle

Congratulations to Marianne O'Donnell who won the beautiful jewelley set including a necklace, earrings and charm bracelet donated by Nerida Grewal of Tennis Accessories.

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for the raffle which helped raised over \$300 for the museum.

Thank you Medibank Museum Volunteers!



The Museum Volunteers enjoyed the Kid's Craft activity so much they joined in!
(L-R, Denise Deaves, Kylie Johnson, June Lovett, Beryl Eagar, Bruce Ryan).



Hard at work in the Museum reception
(L-R, Kylie Johnson, Denise Deaves, Alison Sakurovs).

This year the museum was lucky enough to have a group of volunteers that helped contribute to the success of the museum at the Medibank International 2009. The volunteers helped keep the museum clean and get visitors through the door. The museum cannot function without its volunteers so once again to everyone who helped during the Medibank International a big thank you for all you help and dedication to the museum!



Joan Roach tidying up the museum shop.



Some of the Museum Volunteers from the Medibank International 2009 with Museum Patron, Ken Rosewall
(L-R, Bottom: Bobbie Chidgey, June Lovett, Ken Rosewall, Beryl Eagar, Denise Deaves.
Top: Kelly Wright, Karen McKay, Bruce Ryan, Ken Ryan, Warren Cope, Aimee Deaves).

Annual Ken Rosewall Luncheon

On Monday 18th May 2009 216 people joined Ken Rosewall to welcome Evonne Goolagong Cawley to the Australian Tennis Museum.

This year the Ken Rosewall Luncheon was moved to Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre so that guests could experience the museum before the luncheon began. Guests were invited to view the current exhibition “Heroes of Tennis” and enjoy champagne courtesy of Tennis New South Wales. Many of the guests enjoyed socializing before the event and for some, viewing the museum for the first time.



Guests enjoying the museum before the luncheon.



Guests being greeted in the museum foyer by Ken Rosewall and Sandon Stolle.

Evonne reminisced about her tennis career when she walked through the museum and viewed the current exhibition. In the exhibition were items on loan from the National Museum in Canberra. These items included an old tennis racquet used by Evonne and trophies won by Evonne.

Once guests were finished in the museum they were invited upstairs to the function rooms. Guests were greeted by Ken Rosewall, the museum’s patron who introduced Garry Wilkinson, a well known sports commentator, as the Master of Ceremonies for the day.



Evonne Goolagong Cawley reminisced days gone by while viewing a section in the museum devoted to her tennis career.



Guests enjoyed a two course meal comprising of an entrée and main along with Lindt chocolates and tea and coffee to finish the day.

Evonne Goolagong Cawley participating in an interview with Channel Nine to promote the Museum.

Annual Ken Rosewall Luncheon Continued...

Evonne and Garry discussed the many highlights of Evonne's career. In 1980 she was the first mother, since 1914 to win Wimbledon. Evonne showed guests what she originally used as a young girl to train, a plank of wood.

It was an extremely successful day for the museum with over \$8500 being raised. This money will be used to continue the work at the museum and to preserve the history of Australian Tennis. A special thank you to all that contributed to the luncheon, it would not have been such a success without you.

Museum Raffle Winners

This year the museum was lucky enough to have seven prizes donated. The raffle was extremely popular with guests and raised over \$2000 for the museum. Thank you to all our sponsors (Tennis NSW, Medibank International, Harvey Norman, Lindt, SOPTC Pro Shop and of course Garnier for the fabulous lucky door prizes) and congratulations to the winners!

- 1st Two Finals Tickets to Medibank International January 2010
Won by Marjorie Smith
- 2nd Harvey Norman \$250 Gift Voucher
Won by Heather Gordon
- 3rd Overnight stay at the hotel used for the Medibank International 2010
Won by Karyn Andrew
- 4th HEAD Tour Series Microgel Racquet & HEAD ATP Tennis Balls from SOPTC Pro Shop
Won by Hazel Biely
- 5th Harvey Norman \$150 Gift Voucher
Won by Bruce & Trish Kellett
- 6th Lindt Chocolate basket
Won by M Chivers
- 7th Harvey Norman \$100 Gift Voucher
Won by Grant Sherman

Museum Silent Auction

This year the museum had it's very first Silent Auction at the Luncheon. The Men of League kindly donated a "Jim Beam Toughest 12 Men of League" Framed Print which was valued at \$5000. After many offers the highest bidder was Bill Gilmour with the top bid of \$1000. Well done Bill and thank you to the Men of League for donating this generous prize.



Garry Wilkinson interviewing Evonne Goolagong Cawley.



Ken Rosewall thanks the guests for their support.

Tennis Superhero Short Story Competition

To coincide with the “Heroes of Tennis Exhibition” the museum held a short story competition to encourage children between the ages of 5 and 18 years old to write about their favourite tennis stars. The museum had some interesting entries come in and it was a tough decision. After much deliberation a winner was decided.

Congratulations Ptolemy Sofianidis whose story “The New Tennis Star” about a match against Rafael Nadal has won him a Head Tennis Racquet kindly donated by the SOPTC Pro Shop valued at \$70.00.

(Keep your eye out in the next issue of “Over the Net” for Ptolemy’s story!)

Champions Walk is Complete!

After months of planning and research Champions Walk is finally finished! Before the renovations the tunnel was dark and plain, now it is colourful and vibrant with murals of the past champions of the NSW Open Championships. Tours can be booked of Champions Walk and the Ken Rosewall Arena.

If you are interested contact Aimee on 9024 7607 or adeaves@tennis.com.au.



Champions Walk — A stroll through memory lane of the past and present champions.

“Heroes of Tennis” Success Continues!

It is with great enthusiasm that the museum announces its successful exhibition “Heroes of Tennis” has been extended until the end of November 2009.

This exhibition considers what makes a player a hero. Is it what they do on the court or what they do for others once they retire from the game? Heroes profiled include Thelma Long, Margaret Smith Court, David Hall and Pat Rafter.

AUSTRALIAN TENNIS MUSEUM

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