

Over the Net

All the up to date information you need on
The Australian Tennis Museum straight
from the Curator's Desk

With 2013 comes a very momentous occasion... the museum's 30th birthday! To celebrate, the museum's new exhibition 'Anyone for Tennis?' displays a wide variety of items from the museum's collection to celebrate tennis as a sport for everyone.

The Apia International was a great success once again with record-breaking numbers and fantastic sales of Ken Rosewall's new book which was released in late November. The museum has also received government funding for the conservation of our clothing collection as part of the Community Heritage Grant scheme.

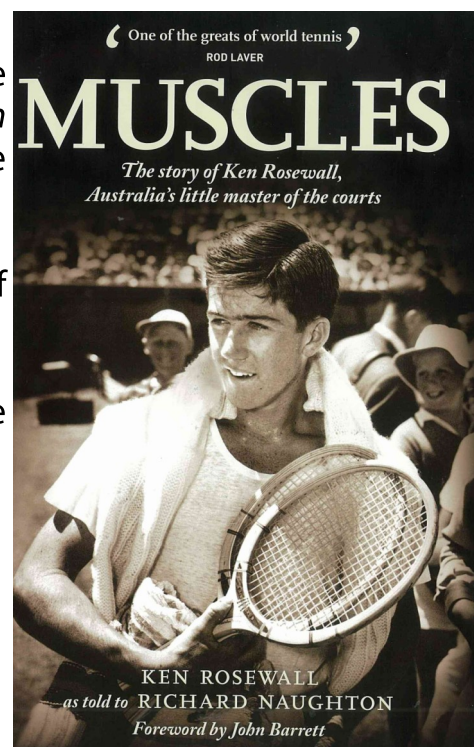
"Muscles—the story of Ken Rosewall"

A little over a year ago Ken Rosewall was approached by author Richard Naughton, wanting to write a book about his life and career. He had just finished a book on Australia's great Norman Brooks and was looking for a new challenge. Ken's response to this was: "are you sure you are up to it?". Well he most definitely was, and a year later *Muscles: the story of Ken Rosewall, Australia's little master of the courts* was published. The book launch was held at the end of November and three of Australia's past greats were there—John Newcombe, Wally Masur and Tony Roche. With Alan Jones as MC and a video of Ken's great moments voiced-over by Kerryn Pratt, it was an excellent way to launch the book.

The Australian Tennis Museum has copies of *Muscles* for sale so please contact us if you would like to purchase one.



**Friends of the Australian
Tennis Museum
Newsletter
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Apia International Sydney 2013

The Australian Tennis Museum had an incredibly successful week at the Apia this year. We had a record-breaking 4468 visitors, around 1500 more than last year. The sweltering heat definitely helped improve our numbers as many tennis-goers flocked to the museum's air-conditioned space. Kids Day was again our most successful day with just over 1900 people through the door (an increase of 1000 visitors above last year).

Ken Rosewall was in the museum on 3 occasions this year to sign copies of his new book, with the museum selling over 150 copies during the week. This really boosted the merchandise sales and led the museum to earn almost \$9000 in both merchandise

sales and donations.

One especially popular part of the Apia this year was the 'memorable moments wall'. Here visitors were encouraged to write their most memorable tennis moment on a post-it note and stick it on the wall at the end of the exhibition. Moments ranged from seeing their first live tennis match, meeting players like Sam Stosur and Ken Rosewall, and one boy who thought his best ever tennis moment was beating his sister.

A big thank you goes to all the Apia volunteers who monitored the museum, directed guests and answered all kinds of tennis-related questions.



A: Visitors enjoy the new exhibition

B: A boy writes down his most memorable tennis moment

C: Kelly Wren poses in front of her trophies

D: A father and son have their copy of "Muscles" signed by the man himself.

Anyone for Tennis? - Celebrating the Museum's 30th Year



A young John Newcombe practices his serve

'Anyone for Tennis?' celebrates tennis for everyone. No matter who you are—a professional, a kid, a senior or disabled, you can play tennis. This new exhibition shows the changes that have been made within the game to incorporate all these different styles of play. There is also a special section covering the birth of the 'Open Era'.

On display are a wide variety of items from the museum collected over the course of its 30 years. You will find items like David Hall's wheelchair, Lleyton Hewitt's shoes, Col Sipple's Country Week blazer and a selection of Bob McCarthy's Veteran medals.

Some comments made about the exhibition during the Apia International 2013:

"Inspirational"

"Really cool museum. Shows how much we've changed"

"So interesting, beautiful displays"



Thank you to all from Curator Ada

It is with great sadness that I am leaving the Australian Tennis Museum. I am furthering my studies by undertaking an Honours year at university. In the time that I have been working as Curator of the Australian Tennis Museum I have had the most fantastic experience. My understanding of the history of tennis has increased ten-fold and I am delighted to have been able to contribute to the preservation and promotion of tennis history.

A huge thank you must go to the core volunteers at the museum who come in every week. They have been invaluable during my time at the museum and I will miss them all so very much. Thank you also to the Apia International volunteers who devote a week each year to supporting the museum during its busiest period. Thank you to the Friends and all at Tennis NSW for their ongoing commitment to the museum. A final thank you needs to go to museum Patron Ken Rosewall who is the driving force behind many of the museum's activities. His enthusiasm for the museum and tennis history is contagious and his contribution, time and support of the museum is incomparable.

Best of luck to the museum, it is an inspiring place and I will miss it.



National Library of Australia awards \$5,500 to the Australian Tennis Museum

The museum is very happy to announce that it has received \$5,500 in funding from the National Library of Australia's Community Heritage Grant scheme. This grant is the third step in a 3-step process. The first step involved obtaining outside consultation to assess the significance of the museum's collection. The second step required a conservator to make recommendations on items in the collection that needed conservation treatment and suggest changes that could be made to improve the museum's storage conditions. The third step

involved applying for funding to put these recommendations into practice. The \$5,500 will go towards two things. The first being the rehousing of the t-shirt and hat collection, moving them from tightly packed plastic boxes to larger archival boxes. This will prevent creasing and mould growth, both of which could be very damaging in the future. The second part is treatment of seven clothing items by a professional conservator. These items consist of shoes, dresses and blazers worn by players like John Newcombe, Steffi Graff, Lew Hoad and Margaret Court.



Conserving Steffi Graff's shoes



Rehousing the t-shirt collection

An Introduction to 'Real Tennis'

On Thursday 13th December the Tennis Heritage Australia (NSW) group were lucky enough to be joined by the President of the Sydney Real Tennis Club: David Pinsent.



Real Tennis Court in England

David gave us a very enlightening presentation on the sport of Real Tennis. Described as a cross between tennis, squash and chess, he explained that the game is played much like lawn tennis except for a few odd rules. The most confusing of which is probably the rule of 'chases' - I think everyone in the group is still scratching their heads about this one. He also brought his real tennis racquet and a ball for the group to inspect.



Real tennis racquets

Sydney does not have a Real Tennis court at the moment but the Club is currently looking for a venue to build one. If you are interested in watching a game or even picking it up as a sport there are a few courts spread around Australia, the closest being in Melbourne. There are only about 10,000 people playing Real Tennis worldwide. A number of Australian's have made their mark playing competitively, but none more so than Rob Fahey, the current World Champion. Rob has been at the top of Real Tennis since the late 1990's, even picking up three Real Tennis 'Grand Slams'.

AUSTRALIAN TENNIS MUSEUM

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