

Over the Net

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

Apia International Sydney 2016

During the Apia International Sydney tournament, the Museum was open for the first 4 days and welcomed 1500 visitors through its doors to view the exhibition: Tennis in Literature and Art. Feedback about the display was very positive and 3 new display cases allowed more of the Museum's collection to be on view.

Visitors were interested to view some of the more unusual items in the collection such as the silver toast rack, knife holder, candlestick and ceramics decorated with tennis motifs.



Visitors also liked our champions display using tennis presses for photo frames and the reproduction postcards from the early 20th century that show a whimsical, romantic and humorous view of tennis as the sport where you could meet your perfect match.

For the first time, the stringers for the tournament were at work in the museum, so that visitors could see them in action stringing racquets for competitors and occasionally catching a glimpse of players when they dropped off their equipment. It created a lot of interest and interaction for young and old visitors alike.

The exhibition tracks the history of tennis from its early beginnings as an amateur pastime for the wealthy to the professional power game it is today and has been very popular with our visiting Probus clubs and other tour groups.



**Friends of the Australian
Tennis Museum
Newsletter
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APIA INTERNATIONAL 2016 RESULTS

KEN ROSEWALL ARENA				
V. Troicki (SRB)	✓	2	6	7
G. Dimitrov (BUL)		6	1	6
S. Kuznetsova(RUS)	✓	6	6	
M. Puig (PUR)		0	2	
J. Murray (GBR)	✓	6	7	
B. Soares (BRA)				
R. Bopanna (IND)		3	6	
F. Mergea (ROU)				
M. Hingis (SUI)	✓	1	7	10
S. Mirza (IND)				
C. Garcia (FRA)		6	5	5
K. Mladenovic (FRA)				

Interesting facts Apia International Sydney

The NSW Championship, now known as the Apia International Sydney, has been running the men's and women's singles competition since 1885. The only other state to start male and female singles competition at the same time was Tasmania, in 1893. All other states lagged behind by several years when introducing female competition.

Today, the men's competition is run by the ATP and the women's competition by the WTA. The events are ranked differently so that the women's tournament is a higher graded event, at 470 points, whereas the men's event is a 250 point event.

As a consequence, the women winners receive more prize money than the men. This year the Women's singles winner received \$128,800 while the Men's singles winner received \$72,000: Women's doubles winners receive \$40,200 and Men's doubles winners \$21,850.

First round losers in the women's singles received \$5,750 and in the men's singles received \$4,085; in women's doubles they received \$3,230 and men's doubles received \$2,090.



Singles runner-up Grigor Dimitrov (BUL) and winner Victor Troicki (SRB).



Singles runner-up Monica Puig (PUR) and winner Svetlana Kuznetsova (RUS).



Winners of the Men's Doubles title, Jamie Murray (GBR) and Bruno Soares (BRA).



2 Winners of the Women's Doubles title, Martina Hingis (SUI) and Sania Mirza (IND).

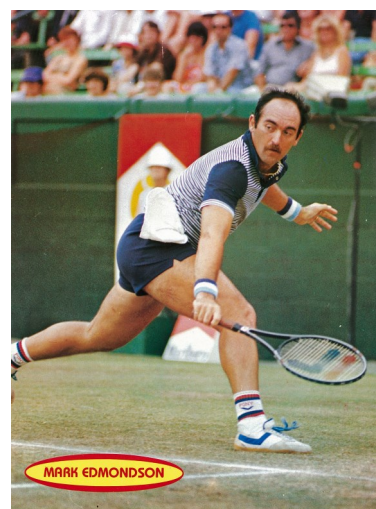
Successful Ken Rosewall Luncheon with Mark Edmondson

The Ken Rosewall Luncheon on May 16th was an enjoyable event with guest speaker Mark Edmondson providing interesting insight into life on the tour and his Grand Slam win at the Australian Open singles in 1976, a highlight of his career. Mark is the last Australian to date to win the men's singles at the Australian Open. Mark also reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open in 1981 and Wimbledon in 1982, which took him to a career high singles ranking of #15.

He also enjoyed great success as a doubles player winning five Grand Slam titles: Four at the Australian Open in 1980 and 1981 with Kim Warwick, in 1983 with Paul McNamee and in 1984 with Sherwood Stewart from the USA, plus he won the French Open doubles in 1985 with Kim Warwick. He was also twice runner-up in the mixed doubles at Wimbledon 1980 with Dianne Fromholtz-Balestrat and at the French Open 1986 with Rosalyn Fairbank.

Mark's game was built around his powerful serve and grass courts suited his game. He was known for his serious on-court demeanor and his straight forward manner. Mark amassed 40 career titles including his 6 Grand Slam titles. A regular representative for his country in Davis Cup, he finished with a 19-10 win-loss record and was in the Australian Davis Cup team when Australia defeated Sweden in the final, held at Kooyong Stadium in Melbourne, Australia, on 26-28 December, 1983.

In 2007 Mark Edmondson was inducted into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame with a bust placed at Melbourne Park, current home of the Australian Open.



Mark Edmondson in action.



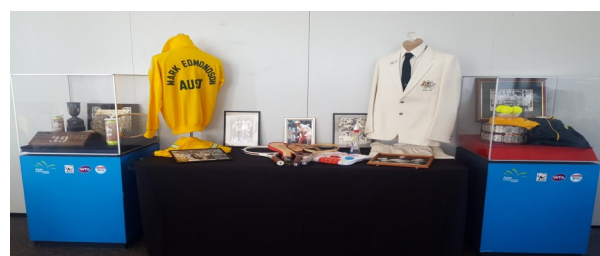
Garry Wilkinson interviews Mark Edmondson on stage.

Once again the interviewer, Garry Wilkinson, asked great questions and provided some timely commentary on the current state of Australian tennis and its rising stars. He used a great quote to describe 'Edo' as having a "woodchopper's build, with strong gluteal muscles and a generous sweep of the thigh suggesting he could hack into fallen trees for days on end." (*Paul Daffey, The Age, January 28, 2006 - Mark Edmondson's 1976 Open Odyssey.*)

Many other tennis champions were in attendance such as Beryl Collier, Bob Giltinan, David Hall, John Marks, Wally Masur, Jan O'Neill, Tony Roche, Kim Warwick, and of course Ken Rosewall, Patron of the Australian Tennis Museum. It was a great day celebrating Australian tennis.



Ken Rosewall joined by other champions, Beryl Collier, Tony Roche, Jan O'Neill, John Marks, Mark Edmondson, Bob Giltinan and David Hall.



Mark Edmondson memorabilia on display at the Luncheon, from Museum collection and Mark's personal items.

POPULAR TOURS

The Museum started advertising tours in the Probus magazine in September 2014 and our annual group tour numbers have increased from 65 in 2013, to 134 in 2014, to 651 in 2015. Up until July 2016 we have catered to a total number of 424 people in tour groups.

We are open 3 days per week and are now catering to about one tour of 15-20 people one day every week. This year we have catered for Probus Clubs, as well as Retirement Village residents, Car Club members and a Men's Shed group.

The 1.5-2 hour tour is \$20 per person and includes a light lunch. The groups always seem to enjoy the walk down the player tunnel onto Centre Court and are very interested in a closer look at the racquet and clothing collections held by the Museum. Occasionally the group is treated to a visit from our Patron Ken Rosewall who talks about his career and changes in the equipment and the game itself.



Riverwood Probus on the Ken Rosewall Arena, Centre Court, 8/6/2016.

Recent donations

This year we have had donations of an original artwork of Andre Agassi, which is currently hanging in the exhibition 'Tennis in Literature and Art'.



Also donated was a set of 1930s tennis scrap books meticulously collected by Roy Pitches that document Australian and overseas results and a collection of over 100 racquets donated by Bernie Benson, whose late partner, Bert Pippet, collected the racquets, most of which are in very good condition.



Breakfast Point Men's Shed group tour, 23/6/2016.



Ken Rosewall talking about increased racquet size to a tour group. Head sizes of racquets have increased from about 420cm² to 645cm². The ITF now limits the head size to 15.5" length x 11.5" width.



Residents of Jean Paul Village, Heathcote, meeting Ken Rosewall during their tour, 6/6/2016.



Membership Renewals for 2016/2017

Your 2016/2017 membership form is enclosed with this newsletter. We hope you can join us for another great year of tennis history.