



Pictures, clockwise from top: Narraweena Tennis Club Committee Members host special guests at the club reopening; members take advantage of the club's new synthetic courts; early days at the club.

FORWARD PLANNING THE WINNING FORMULA FOR NARRAWEENA TENNIS CLUB

Narraweena Tennis Club on Sydney's Northern Beaches recently celebrated the completion of a five-year capital works program that has transformed the club for the benefit of members and casual players.

Founded in 1955, the community-orientated club is the legacy of a small cohort of committed individuals who financed the building of the courts using a bank loan that was secured against their family homes. Three of those committee members remain involved in the club to this day (pictured right).

Forward planning by a dynamic and proactive present-day committee

has ensured both club members and a new generation of players will have a thriving place to play tennis, well into the future.





THE PROGRAM

A \$220,000 capital works program instigated by the committee has resulted in the installation of lighting on two courts, the conversion of all lighting to LED, the construction of a pro shop, a new shade pergola, and within the last 12 months all new galvanised fencing and a complete resurfacing of all four courts.

The local playing community is now reaping the benefits of a club with a long-term vision.

“Committees need to understand the importance of looking to the future,” Club President, David Webb said. “You’ve got to have long-term goals”.

“Our committee sat down five years ago and drew up a plan that said this is where we want to be in five and 10 years from now,” he said.

“It’s a huge achievement. We’ve spent a lot of

money on the club and we’re proud of what we’ve done,” he said

Part of the club’s plan involved identifying and applying for funding which has resulted in grants of \$90,000 in the last five years.

Webb attributed the funding windfall to an astute approach and practical support from Tennis NSW.

“You’ve got to know what to say and what facts to put down on paper. I’ve been to a few grant writing courses with Tennis NSW which has been really helpful.”

The club is now set-up for the future and the committee is already discussing its next big project.

“We’re in this luxurious position where we have some extra money and we can look at different projects, like the club house,” he said.



OUTCOMES

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Narraweena Tennis Club celebrated the facility’s transformation with a barbecue attended by members old and new, and a host of special guests, including The Hon. Brad Hazzard, Member for Wakehurst, Michael Regan, Mayor Northern Beaches Council, Melissa Achten, President Tennis NSW and Ryan Henry, Managing Director Voyager Tennis.

A NEW OPERATOR

In 2020, the club appointed Voyager Tennis Academy as its new service provider. With clearly defined roles and responsibilities, the relationship between club and vendor is strong.

“The club has been focused on securing grants for facilities upgrades and Voyager is focused on creating an environment where there is thriving participation, getting lots of kids on court and lots of adults out here,” Managing Director of Voyager Tennis, Ryan Henry said.

“We’re really fortunate to be working at a club that has such great facilities,” he said.

WORKING WITH TENNIS NSW

As well as attending Tennis NSW grant writing courses, the club benefited from Tennis NSW strategic planning support. “It’s been invaluable for us because it made us focus on what we have to do as a club. All committee members are behind the plan and understand that their role is to make the club great, both financially and facilities-wise,” Webb said.



We needed to have a transformation. Nowadays, running a club is like running a business. It’s not just about having a club, turning up and paying council and lease fees. Committees must be financially responsible. We must have forward plans, long-term goals and we need to be fiscally responsible.

David Webb, President,
Narraweena Tennis Club



FIND OUT MORE

Is your club ready to embark on a major project and plan for the future, like Narraweena Tennis Club? Reaching out to your Tennis NSW Tennis Development Officer is an important first step. “We’re able to provide resources and talk you through the steps to obtaining funding. We can help you navigate the process to come out with a successful result, just like Narraweena Tennis Club,” Madeline Farac, Tennis NSW Tennis Development Officer said.

