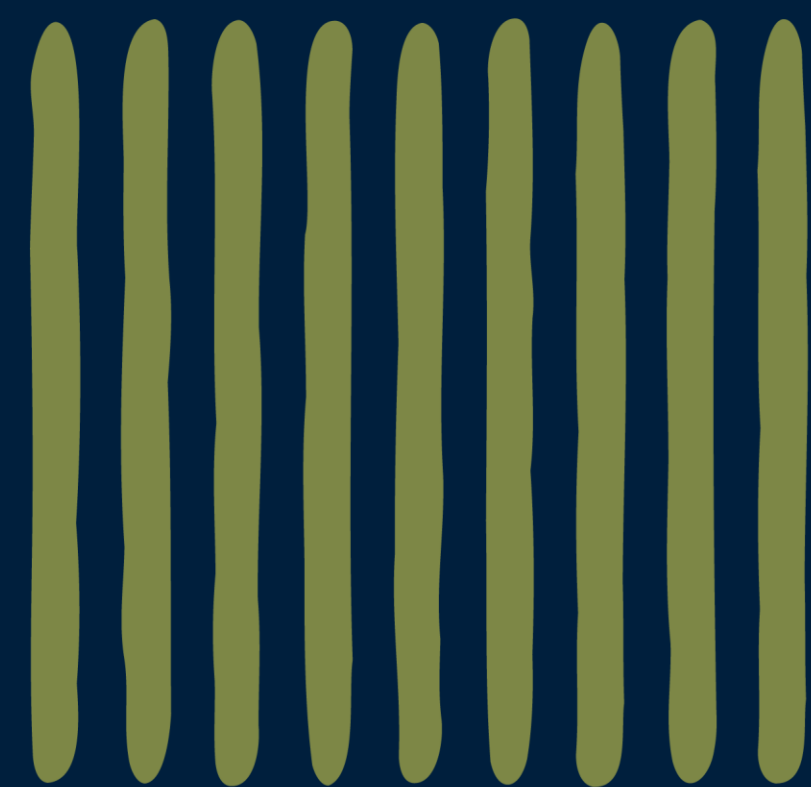


NATIONAL INDIGENOUS TENNIS CARNIVAL

HONOURING
COUNTRY

Wednesday 5th – Saturday 8th August 2026



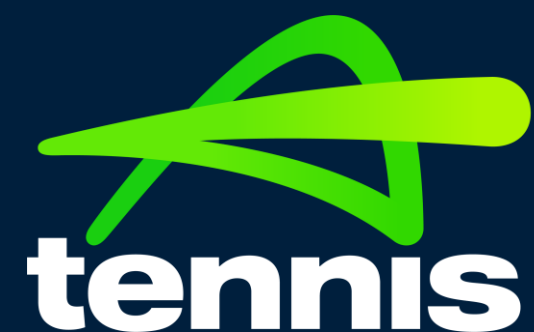


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About the Event

OVERVIEW

The National Indigenous Tennis Carnival is the main event of the Indigenous tennis pathway in Australia - celebrating First Nations cultures through tennis both on and off the court and held annually in Darwin on Larrakia Country.

The event is more than tennis, it brings together Indigenous kids from every state and territory across Australia to connect with each other through tennis, cultural activities, career and health workshops; ultimately getting to know each other and sharing stories about themselves and their own communities back home.

The National Indigenous Tennis Carnival is called NITC for short, so you will see NITC throughout this document.

HISTORY

The National Indigenous Tennis Carnival was created in collaboration between the Evonne Goolagong Foundation, Tennis Australia, and Tennis NT. The first event was in 2019. It is delivered with the continued support from all State and Territory Tennis Member Associations around Australia.



Where and When?

Larrakia Country 

Darwin International Tennis Centre

9 Abala Rd, Marrara NT

Starts: Wednesday 5th of August at 10:30am

Finishes: Saturday 8th of August at 2pm



Closed Event



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The 2026 NITC is a CLOSED EVENT

There are a few key reasons for this, including:

- Allowing participants to fully immerse themselves in the experience, connect with peers, and build independence in a culturally safe space
- The involvement of vulnerable and remote communities, which often comes with additional sensitivities
- Tennis Australia and Tennis NT have a strong focus on child safeguarding and our duty of care for the kids during NITC.

Keeping the event closed ensures a consistent, supportive and safe environment for all children attending.

We understand this may be disappointing and apologize to families and communities who may be upset regarding this call, however, please remember that the kids, their experience and child protection is and must be our top priority. We hope you can understand.

Policies & Guidelines

Having a safe event for all players, supervisors and other staff is a top priority.

PARTICIPANT POLICIES & CONDITIONS

All Guardians on behalf of all Participants must read, accept and sign the following:

- *2026 NITC Participant Consent Form*
- *2026 NITC Participant Behaviour Guidelines*

PARTICIPANT POLICIES & CONDITIONS

All Supervisors must read, accept and sign the following:

- *2026 NITC Supervising Personnel Behavioural Guidelines*
- *2026 NITC Supervising Personnel Screening Requirements & Other Matters*
- *Member Protection Declaration*

State Team Supervisors should send these guidelines out to all participants and supervisors for signing and return.

For a copy of these, please go to: [National Indigenous Tennis Carnival "NITC" | Competitive Play Calendar - NT | Compete | Tennis NT](#)

The full list of **Tennis Australia National Policies** can be found here:

[National Policies | Reports, Publications and National Policies | About Tennis Australia | Tennis Australia](#)



Event Conditions

NO SPECTATORS

Spectators are not permitted at the 2026 National Indigenous Tennis Carnival

SECURITY

The event will have security at the gate. Only participants, supervisors and staff members with accreditation will be permitted entry.

UNIFORMS

All event participants must wear their uniform throughout the event.

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation (access passes) will be distributed again this year. All supervisors and staff will be easy to identify through their uniform and accreditation.

PHOTOS

Photos and videos will be taken throughout the event. Please inform your team manager if you do not consent to photography and videography.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Terms & conditions of entry for Darwin International Tennis Centre

This can be found at: <https://www.tennis.com.au/nt/news-and-events/nitc>



What's Included?

Supervision throughout the event (including during travel periods).

All food will be provided by the event. Breakfast will be available at the accommodation, and packed lunches and buffet-style dinner will be at the venue.

All equipment including racquets. *If a participant has their own racquet, then they are welcome to bring it along.*

Accommodation (see page 12 for more information)

Travel to the event and daily transport to and from venue.

Participant gift-pack with a drink bottle, small bag and a hat.

Uniforms – participants and supervisors will receive **two team shirts** (in their State/Territory colours) when they arrive at the event. **The event shirt must be worn throughout the event.**



Getting Ready – Participants Must Bring!

PACKING CHECKLIST

Playing gear:

- Shoes (runners)
- Shorts,
- Socks (enough for the whole event)

Underwear (enough for the whole event)

A Towel for the pool

Pyjamas / Sleeping Clothes

Hat (one will also be provided in the gift pack)

Casual clothes for Darwin

Check the weather [HERE](#)

Toiletries:

- Toothpaste,
- Toothbrush,
- Soap,
- Hairbrush,
- Deodorant,
- Sunscreen (there will also be plenty at the event)

Bathers / Swimwear

Sunglasses if you have them

A bag to carry gear in

Water bottle (one will also be provided in the gift pack)

Spending money is optional, not required

Cultural Exchange

This involves each team getting up and taking a few minutes to share some of their culture with the group (max. 5 minutes)

Before teams arrive at the NITC, please think about and plan what you would like to share about your team's culture, country and background. This can be presented in any format your group feels comfortable with. We recognize that feelings of shame can sometimes be present, so we encourage supervisors to work closely with their teams to ensure all children participate at a level that feels right for them.

Groups may choose to have one representative, or everyone might like to be involved, both options are equally welcome. Teams are encouraged to share in ways that suit them best, whether through speaking, singing, artwork, or dance. We understand that some children may feel shy or hesitant (and that's completely okay!). Our hope is that all participants feel proud to be part of a culturally safe, inclusive, and welcoming experience.

Please ensure to practice with your group ahead of arriving to NITC.

We will set time on Day 1 for teams to practice their culture share to help ease nerves and ensure all participants feel safe and encouraged to be involved.



KEY AIM OF THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Have a culturally safe experience for young First Nations participants to proudly showcase their cultural background in a way they've chosen and in the spirit of self-determination. We find this activity sparks curiosity amongst participants to learn even more about their own culture in a safe and respectful environment.

LEARNING OTHERS CULTURE

Learn through cross-cultural experiential education from one another: everyone involved can learn about the different cultural aspects shared at the NITC with the whole player and staffing group.

CREATING, SAFE, INCLUSIVE & RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENTS FOR EACH OTHER

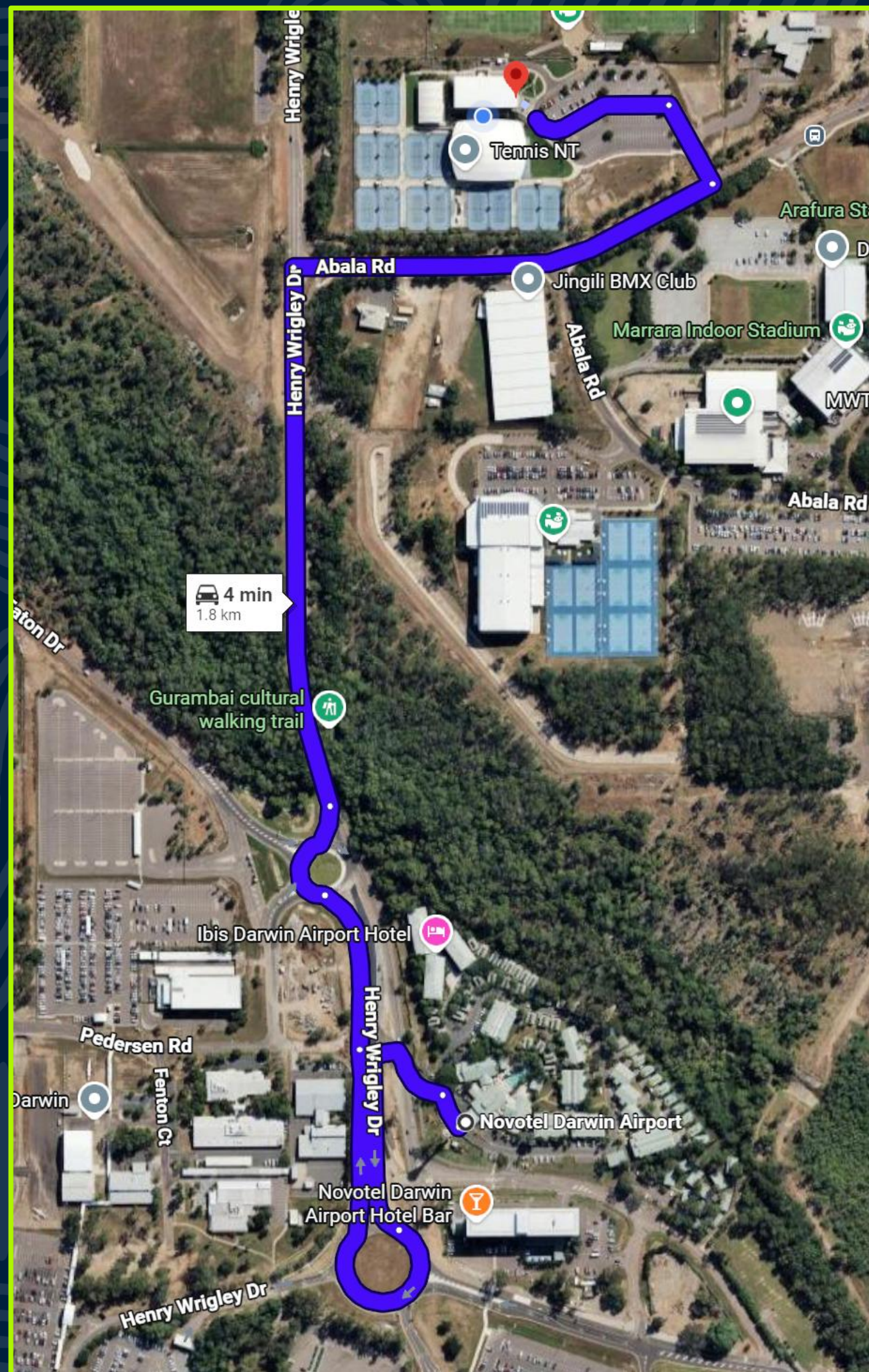
Facilitate a space for fun and pride in culture that is meaningful for the participants, focused on celebration and raising-up of respectful cultural differences in a supportive, joyful space.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Learning together increases inclusivity, breaks down cultural barriers to understanding and creates life-long memories and friendships by bringing participants together.



Travel & Accommodation



ARRIVALS: Teams start to arrive on **Tuesday 4th August** and **Wednesday 5th August**.

DEPARTURES: Teams start to leave once the event is finished, on **Saturday 8th August**.

Any teams with Saturday evening flights or Sunday flights will have their rooms at Novotel Darwin Airport for Saturday night too.

YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE SPECIFIC TO YOUR TEAM

Your team manager will provide you your exact details.

TRAVEL FOR PARTICIPANTS & SUPERVISORS IS FULLY COORDINATED

INCLUDING:

- All airport pick up and drop offs in Darwin
- To and from the accommodation daily
- To and from any off-site activities

ACCOMMODATION: Novotel Darwin Airport Resort

BREAKFAST: From 6am each morning at the hotel.

LUNCH AND DINNER: On-site at the Darwin International Tennis Centre during the event.



HONOURING COUNTRY

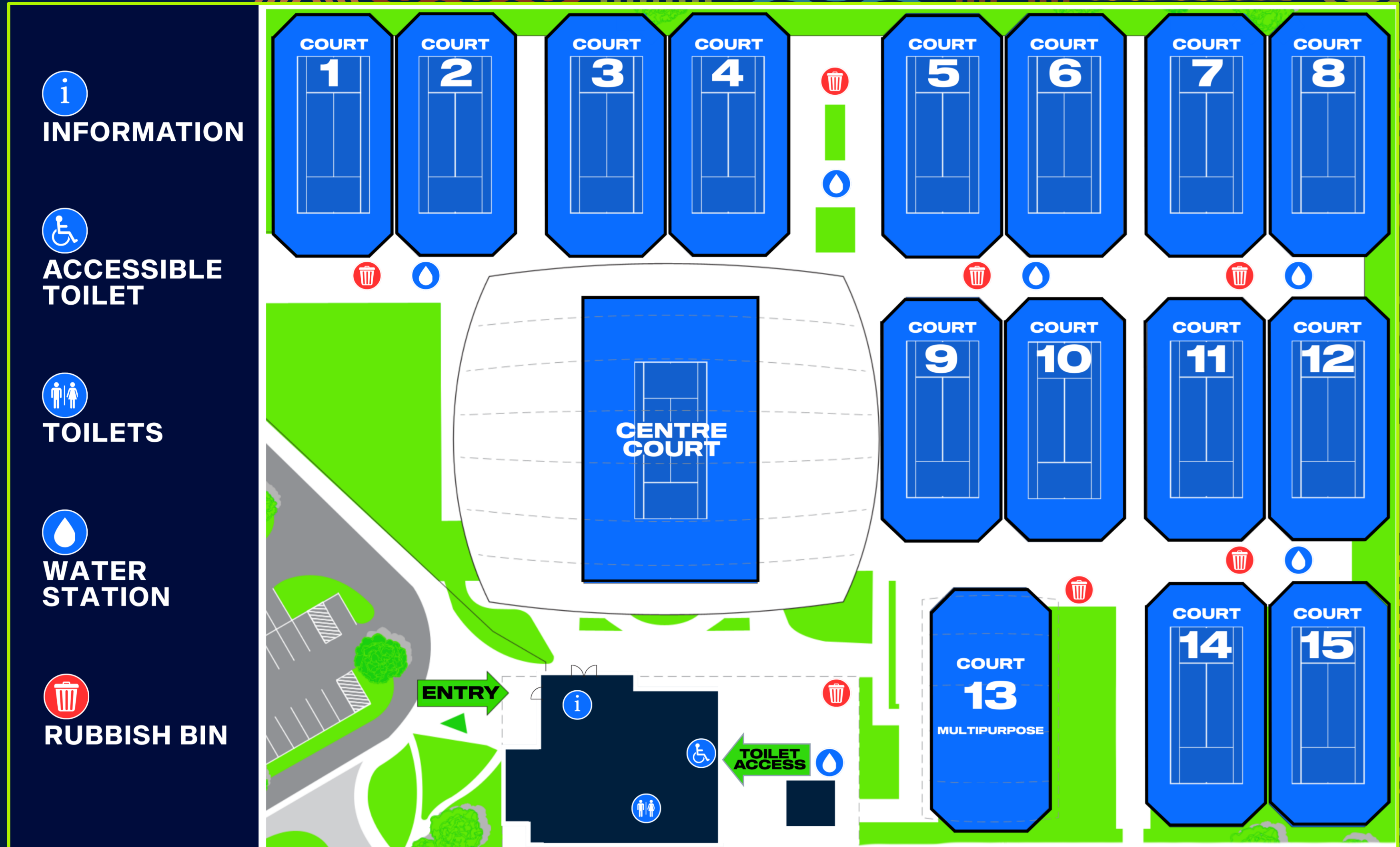
Venue Map

The 2026 National Indigenous Tennis Carnival is located at the Darwin International Tennis Centre (DITC)

DITC is located at 9 Abala Road, Marrara

The facility will have security at the gate to ensure that participants come and leave the event only with their supervisors.

The Darwin International Tennis Centre is a world-class 16 court tennis facility with a covered Centre Court and many shaded areas.



Culture

**The NITC is more than just a tennis carnival.
It's a celebration of culture.**

The NITC will turn into a cultural hub for participating players with a talented range of artists, talent and teachers taking the kids through various creative activities throughout the event.

These activities aim to encourage kids from around Australia to open-up about their own culture and be curious about others.

It really is a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn and share.

Cultural Activities are a Major Part of the event!

Participants will be invited to participate in a range of cultural and off-court activities at the carnival, which are likely to include things such as:

- Dance
- Music Performances
- Health Education
- Connecting with country & grounding practices
- Arts / Craft Creation
- Performances by Indigenous Music Artists
- Yarning Sessions
- Language Sessions



Pathways

BALLKIDS

The NITC also provides the start of a pathway for aspiring ballkids – from their State/Territory straight to the Australian Open! Ballkids is a unique pathway where indigenous youth can broadcast their skills on the big stage, developing leadership and teamwork skills, as well as make friends for life at the Australian Open.

TENNIS CAREERS

Careers in tennis start at any time, from any skill level. At the event, kids are also shown the range of career opportunities that are unlocked through tennis, whether it be through coaching, officiating, administration and more.



Key Contacts

Event Team

ROLE	NAME	CONTACT
Event Managers	Kyah Jones Sam Giess	0428 086 828 0421 411 664
Tennis NT CEO	Tania Tandora	0466 580 369
On-Court Programs Manager	Emily Ooms-Webb	0488 451 222
Off-Court Programs Manager	Grace Henderson	0473 526 172
Cultural Mentor	Ian Goolagong	0425 782 082

State & Territory Contacts

The below people are the main contact for each state or territory group.

Many teams will also have additional contacts, for example those travelling from NT communities will have a local supervisor with their team.

There will also be over thirty staff from around the country helping support and manage participants and their carnival needs.

TEAM	NAME	CONTACT
ACT	Sunny Singh	0422 141 455
NSW	Lauren Major	0479 153 167
NT	Ben Cunningham	0406 376 501
QLD	Aunty Roma Pregarc	0422 647 508
SA	Jack Crispin	0466 526 618
TAS	Alyssa Hibberd	0468 538 618
VIC	Adam Watson	0414 701 038
WA	Lisa Weston	0403 361 246

Awards



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The trophies for the event hold a great cultural significance, hand crafted by Indigenous artists from Tiwi Designs and presented at the closing ceremony of the event.

ASH BARTY CUP

All the tennis being played across the event contributes points towards a state or territory's total. The winning state/territory are awarded the coveted Ash Barty Cup.

EVONNE GOOLAGONG CAWLEY MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

Individuals play off against the best-of-the-best in the Showdown division and one person will also be hand-picked by Evonne Goolagong Cawley herself to receive the Evonne Goolagong Cawley Medal of Excellence.

ROGER CAWLEY OUTSTANDING SUPPORT AWARD

In 2023, the first Roger Cawley Outstanding Support Award was given, to recognise the efforts of our amazing team of supervisors who take care of the kids during the event.

DEADLY AWARDS

The staff of the event keep a look out for participants who display great qualities such as leadership, sportsmanship and other attributes from each state or territory. A player is then nominated for the Deadly Awards from their own state or territory and get to go to their state/territory's Summer of Tennis event for a 'money-can't-buy' player experience.



Event Schedule



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WED 5 AUG	THU 6 AUG	FRI 7 AUG	SAT 8 AUG
From 6:00am Breakfast at hotel	From 6:00am Breakfast at hotel	From 6:00am Breakfast at hotel	From 6:00am Breakfast at hotel
10:30am Arrive at Darwin International Tennis Centre (DITC)	7:30am Travel to DITC	7:30am Travel to DITC	7:30am Travel to DITC
10:30 – 11:00am Team sign-in and uniform collection	8:00 – 9:00am Cultural Exchange	8:00 – 9:00am Cultural Exchange	8:00 – 11:00am Tennis and NITC One Point Slam
11:00 – 11:30am Lunch	9:00am – 7:00pm Tennis	9:00am – 6:00pm Tennis	11:00 – 11:30am Lunch
11:30 – 12:30pm Opening ceremony	11:30am Lunch packs delivered	11:30am Lunch packs delivered	11:30 – 12:30 Closing ceremony
12:30 – 1:00pm Cultural exchange prep time	9:00am – 7:00pm Tennis	9:00am – 6:00pm Tennis	
1:00 – 6:00pm Cultural activity rotations	7:00 – 8:00pm Dinner and yarn	6:00 – 7:00pm Dinner	2:00pm Teams depart – free time with Team Supervisors around Darwin
6:00 – 7:00pm Tennis (coaching and doubles)	8:00pm Depart for hotel	7:00 – 8:00pm Concert and dance	
7:00 – 8:00pm Dinner and yarn		8:00pm Depart for hotel	
8:00pm Depart for hotel			



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Showdown Acceptance List

14/u Girls

1	Tallara Noon	09/02/2014	QLD
2	Hazel Wright	31/01/2014	NSW
3	Alessandra Ostojic	08/05/2013	NSW
4	Emily Kenney	20/10/2014	NSW
5	Monica Bartsch	05/05/2012	QLD
6	Victoria Stanford-Lucas	26/04/2015	NSW
7	Lula Rawlings	21/11/2012	NSW
8	Elena Venetz	06/07/2012	WA
Reserve	Dakora Graham, Emily-Rose McMahan, Hannah Mitchell		

14/u Boys

1	Preston Shawcross	02/03/2012	QLD
2	Oakley Baylis	09/09/2011	NSW
3	Zachary Tozer	20/08/2013	SA
4	Zander Smith	15/05/2012	VIC
5	Jarel Jervis-McGuigan	08/03/2013	QLD
6	Nate Moloney	16/05/2012	VIC
7	Logan Hallworth	13/02/2013	VIC
8	Kenneth McIntosh	04/04/2012	QLD
Reserve	Maxwell Weatherby, William Walker		

18/u Girls

1	Lola Grigor	16/11/2009	VIC
2	Laylah Shawcross	08/07/2010	QLD
3	Iluka-Rose Taylor	16/03/2009	SA
4	Mahala Hitchings	11/03/2009	NSW
5	Sophia Kawane	23/10/2009	QLD
6	Namallarii McKenzie	07/12/2010	SA
7	Alifaye Gidgup	24/03/2010	WA
8	Alexis Holberton	18/11/2010	WA
Reserves	Bella Merrick-Reilly, Ayva Quigg, Mya Freeman		

18/u Boys

1	Lewis Murray	22/08/2009	VIC
2	Nate Swale	22/08/2011	VIC
3	Louis De Beger	25/06/2011	NSW
4	Zane Ryan	20/05/2011	VIC
5	Noah Austen	08/07/2009	WA
6	Jackson Phillips	24/08/2009	WA
7	Noah Baylis	09/08/2009	NSW
8	Lucca Toby	15/11/2009	QLD
Reserves	Aidan Lundberg, Billy Brickwood, Jacob Slade		

Darwin 'Downtime'



All these activities are free-of-charge or low-cost recommendations you can do in Darwin in your own time if you choose to do some sight-seeing.

GEORGE BROWN DARWIN BOTANICAL GARDENS

The new Visitor and Event Centre is a magnificent tropical structure where visitors can learn about the Gardens natural and cultural history, the plant collections, and Aboriginal plant uses. Unwind in the multimedia room with images of the Gardens changing through the wet and dry seasons.

MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Learn a piece of Darwin and the Territory throughout our museum's permanent and temporary exhibits. You can also take a photo with Darwin's local icon 'Sweetheart' with a big toothy smile.

EAST POINT RESERVE

East Point Reserve is a special place for the people of Darwin and is one of the most popular recreation areas for both locals and visitors. Rich in history and biodiversity, East Point is easy to access and has an abundance of facilities and attractions for everyone.

MINDIL BEACH SUNSET MARKETS

Hosting charity-based stalls and free community-led events that entertain, educate and raise funds for the benefit of all Territorians. It remains a place to gather, connect, engage and plays a vital role in nurturing local talent from all walks of life.

DARWIN WATERFRONT

Experience the best of Darwin's tropical lifestyle with lush parklands, a man-made beach along the saltwater recreation lagoon, and Darwin's most popular attraction, the Wave Lagoon.

DARWIN BEACHES

You are more than welcome to go for a stroll along our local beaches, though we do not recommend swimming due to our local wildlife. Some local beaches with a nice stroll path:

Darwin Ski Club (Venice Beach) – this beach is behind our local museum mentioned above

Foreshore Café (Nightcliff Beach) – you can walk along the beach or follow the footpath past our public pool and food-trucks in the evenings.



Where to Find Event Info

All documents such as this pack, and related policies, will be on [this webpage](https://www.tennis.com.au/nt/competitive-play/tournaments/national-indigenous-tennis-carnival-nitc).

<https://www.tennis.com.au/nt/competitive-play/tournaments/national-indigenous-tennis-carnival-nitc>



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Social Media

Follow your **LOCAL & NATIONAL** tennis organisation to see the event as it happens.

INSTAGRAM

[@Tennis Australia](#)

[@Tennis_NT](#)

[@TennisACT](#)

[@Tennis_NSW](#)

[@TennisSouthAus](#)

[@TennisTasmania](#)

[@TennisVic](#)

[@Tennis_WA](#)

FACEBOOK

[Tennis Australia](#)

[Tennis NT](#)

[Tennis ACT](#)

[Tennis NSW](#)

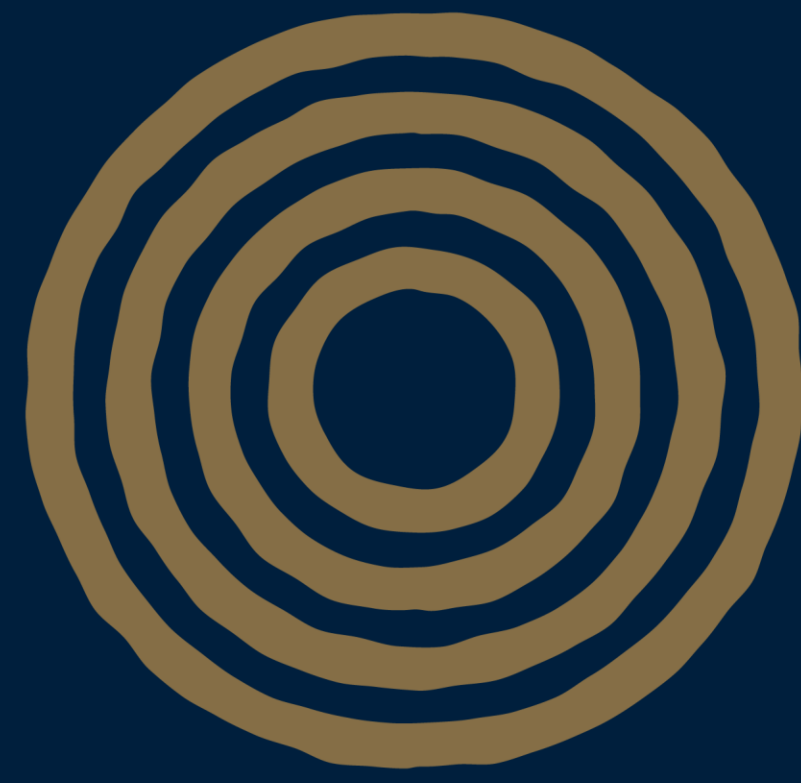
[Tennis SA](#)

[Tennis TAS](#)

[Tennis VIC](#)

[Tennis WEST](#)





Thank You

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