With the staging of the 100th men’s singles championships it was only fitting to finish with the longest men’s Grand Slam final in history.

Novak Djokovic was crowned the men’s singles champion for the second consecutive year after defeating Rafael Nadal in the final 5-7 6-4 6-2 6-7(5) 7-5. Djokovic came from 4-2 down in the fifth set to win in five hours and 53 minutes and was presented with the trophy by two-time Grand Slam champion Rod Laver.

In the women’s final, Victoria Azarenka defeated Maria Sharapova 6-3 6-0 to win her first Grand Slam title and claim the No.1 ranking. Also the 2005 winner of the Australian Open girls’ singles championship, Azarenka is only the second woman in the Open era to win both titles since Chris O’Neil in 1978.

Australia’s Bernard Tomic won his way into the fourth round with five-set wins over world No.22 Fernando Verdasco and No.13 Alexandr Dolgopolov before going down to childhood hero Roger Federer.

Australia’s Luke Saville, the world No.1 junior, won the boys’ singles championship defeating Canada’s Filip Peliwo, 6-3 5-7 6-4 to claim his second major junior title.

Fifteen-year-old American Taylor Townsend won her first junior Grand Slam title with a 6-1 3-6 6-3 win over Yulia Putintseva.

Three-time Australian Open champion Martina Hingis made a welcome return to Melbourne Park, this time for the new women’s legends event.

With increased patronage on site and a record online audience, the Australian Open continued to showcase its growing appeal in Australia and around the world.
The $363 million transformation ensures Melbourne Park will remain the home of the Australian Open until at least 2036.

Upgrades and improvements already made include a new timber deck adjacent to the Rod Laver Arena western concourse, landscaping upgrades to the Oval, including a new underground 4.5 megalitre stormwater retention tank, new entry stairs to Rod Laver Arena and improvements to the taxi rank on Olympic Boulevard.

The first stage of the redevelopment also includes the new Eastern Plaza and upgrades to the Western Precinct.

Works on the exciting new public space – Eastern Plaza – are well under way. When complete it will comprise eight new indoor tennis courts and 13 new outdoor courts, warm-up and warm-down facilities, an elevated plaza providing new public space and a new eastern entry to Hisense Arena, a new entrance to Melbourne Park on Olympic Boulevard, multilevel parking, an upgraded western entry to Hisense Arena and a pedestrian bridge over Olympic Boulevard.

The Western Precinct will include the addition of a roof, enclosing Margaret Court Arena and creating an indoor concourse area with patron facilities, an additional 1500 seats in Margaret Court Arena, the extension and refurbishment of the external public concourse around Margaret Court Arena and Rod Laver Arena and upgrades to the undercroft areas of Margaret Court Arena, including new player and performer facilities.

Construction on Stage 1 of the Melbourne Park redevelopment is expected to be completed in time for Australian Open 2015.
There were 16 Grand Slam champions with a collective 62 Grand Slam singles titles between them in action, including Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Lleyton Hewitt, Andy Roddick, Juan Carlos Ferrero, Juan Martin del Potro, Serena Williams, Kim Clijsters, Maria Sharapova, Svetlana Kuznetsova, Sam Stosur, Ana Ivanovic, Petra Kvitova, Li Na and Francesca Schiavone.

More than 700 journalists, photographers and videographers provided detailed coverage including 295 international media from 41 different countries. Asia represented 21 per cent of the international accredited media.

On-court action

Australian Open 2012 created a host of numbers and each one tells a story. Here’s a look at some of the numbers behind the biggest sports story in January 2012.

- 697 players competed at Australian Open 2012
- 92 number of aces John Isner served
- 100th men’s singles championship winner Novak Djokovic
- 131 juniors competed
- 48% of matches went beyond three sets in the men’s draw
- 5:53 hrs mins longest men’s Grand Slam final in history
- 47 nations were represented in the main draw singles
- Canada’s Milos Raonic clocked the fastest serve of the tournament

Victoria Azarenka won her first Grand Slam title and the No.1 ranking

20 wheelchair players competed
32 matches went to three sets in the women’s draw

BY THE NUMBERS
Fans couldn’t get enough of Australian Open 2012, with an incredible 686,006 fans flocking to Melbourne Park. This smashed the previous record attendance of 653,860 achieved in 2010.

Traffic on the core platform, australianopen.com, was at an all-time high with the newly integrated AOTV a phenomenal success. The Australian Open’s key social media channels also experienced growth and the Australian Open 2012 Official Program for iPad was downloaded 64,791 times.

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MAIN DRAW

MEN’S SINGLES
[1] Novak Djokovic (SRB)
d [2] Rafael Nadal (ESP) 5-7 6-4 6-2 6-7(6) 7-5

WOMEN’S SINGLES
[3] Victoria Azarenka (BLR)
d [4] Maria Sharapova (RUS) 6-3 6-0

MEN’S DOUBLES
Leander Paes/Radek Stepanek (IND/CZE)
d [1] Bob Bryan/Mike Bryan (USA) 7-6(1) 6-2

WOMEN’S DOUBLES
Svetlana Kuznetsova/Vera Zvonareva (RUS)
d [11] Sara Errani/Roberta Vinci (ITA) 5-7 6-4 6-3

MIXED DOUBLES
[8] Bethanie Mattek-Sands/Horia Tecau (USA/ROU)
d [5] Elena Vesnina/Leander Paes (RUS/IND) 6-3 5-7 10-3

JUNIORS

JUNIOR BOYS’ SINGLES
d Filip Peliwo (CAN) 6-3 5-7 6-4

JUNIOR GIRLS’ SINGLES
[14] Taylor Townsend (USA)
d [4] Yulia Putintseva (RUS) 6-1 3-6 6-3

JUNIOR BOYS’ DOUBLES
d Adam Pavlasek/Filip Veger (CZE/CRO) 6-3 6-2

JUNIOR GIRLS’ DOUBLES
Gabrielle Andrews/Taylor Townsend (USA)
d [1] Irina Khromacheva/Danka Kovinic (RUS/MNE) 5-7 7-5 10-6

WHEELCHAIR

MEN’S WHEELCHAIR SINGLES
[1] Maikel Scheffers (NED)
d Nicolas Peifer (FRA) 3-6 7-6(2) 6-0

WOMEN’S WHEELCHAIR SINGLES
[1] Esther Vergeer (NED)
d [2] Aniek Van Koot (NED) 6-0 6-0

MEN’S WHEELCHAIR DOUBLES
[2] Ronald Vink/Robin Ammerlaan (NED)
d [1] Stephane Houdet/Nicolas Peifer (FRA) 6-2 4-6 6-1

WOMEN’S WHEELCHAIR DOUBLES
[1] Esther Vergeer/Sharon Walraven (NED)
d [2] Aniek Van Koot/Marjolein Buis (NED) 4-6 6-2 6-4

QUAD WHEELCHAIR SINGLES
[2] Peter Norfolk (GBR)
d [1] David Wagner (USA) 4-6 6-4 6-2

QUAD WHEELCHAIR DOUBLES
[7] Andrew Lapthorne/Peter Norfolk (GBR)
d [2] David Wagner/Noam Gershony (USA/ISR) 6-4 6-2