

# Nurture and develop



**Name:** David Close  
**Club:** East Camberwell Tennis Club, Victoria  
**Qualifications:** Tennis Australia Club Professional Coach, European UK - LTA CCA Coach, European - RPT (Registered Tennis Professionals), Bachelor of Education in PE  
**Other:** Tennis Australia Talent Development Coach, Tennis Australia Touring Coach

**With more than 21 years experience as a coach, David Close is working hard to nurture and develop junior talent in Melbourne.**

**D**avid Close's business Avanti Tennis is the official coaching operation at the East Camberwell Tennis Club.

The club is located in the beautiful setting of Riversdale Park in Melbourne's east and actively supported by the surrounding Camberwell community and members since its initial founding in 1920.

It offers six spacious en tout cas tennis courts, and two Mod Grass tennis courts, all under lights, giving members the opportunity to participate both socially and in competitions.

Close's involvement in tennis began at the age of eight with his most vivid memory being rubbing shoulders with some of tennis' greats.

"My most memorable moment as a player would have been when I got to play alongside my childhood heroes including Bjorn Borg, Guillermo Vilas and Cash at a Honda Tennis Challenge at Queens Club in London," he says.

But he pursued education and completed a Bachelor of Education in PE degree, which ultimately led to his coaching career.

"Once I completed my Bachelor of Education in PE I was teaching full-time and coaching.

Within a short period of time I realised that I loved the coaching more," he says.

"Being outdoors, having a lot of variety in the ages and abilities of the students and the opportunities to travel were a lot more available. Meeting new people in the world of tennis and travelling have always been a passion of mine and tennis has enabled me to get to places that I may have never have gone to before."

He further expanded his knowledge by completing both Australian and European coaching qualifications - including LTA CCA Coach in the UK and is part of the Registered Tennis Professionals in Europe. He has also recently been recognised as a Talent Development Coach through his results in developing athletes.

Close has over 21 years of coaching experience gained at clubs in and around Melbourne as well as overseas in the UK. He's also been a Tennis Australia national touring coach.

During his coaching career so far he has worked with numerous top UK juniors and he was appointed the ITF coach for the 2007 tour to the Australian Open Junior Championships (with the team including Richard Berankis who currently has an ATP ranking of 74).

"As an [Australian] national touring coach I have taken teams to Young Stars, Orange Bowl and in 2010 a German Tour. Some of the players on these trips that I coached included James Duckworth, Maverick Banes, Jarryd Chaplin and Annabelle Andrinopolos," Close says.

He currently coaches a few players part of the Melbourne National Academy or the Tennis Victoria State Program and these include Isabella Beischer, Carla Georgescu, Caleb Boland, Chanel Dimos, Andjela Reljic, Zac Marshall, Jessica Brzozoskwa and Brittany Boys.

Learning more about his

students has helped Close to develop programs to suit individuals to help them all reach their full potential.

"I work hard on getting to know the personality of my players and what makes them tick and how to get the best out of them," Close says.

"I believe from a young age to instil in my players a love of the game, a strong sound technique with a wide range of shot capabilities so not to be just one dimensional but to have the ability to think out on court through situations and probably most importantly of all a strong self-belief," he says.

Having the ability to make an impact on someone's life in a sport that they enjoy is something that inspires Close with his coaching, especially being a witness to the improvement made by his students.

"This could be a four-year-old, an inspiring junior or an older adult player. To see a player progress from a beginner player to an elite level is always a buzz," he says.

Close is committed to his club and hopes to have a role in making a difference to the club's future.

"I will continue to develop and improve the programs and opportunities for members and coaching clients that have been put in place at East Camberwell Tennis Club. This club has seen large capital projects completed in the last two years, an increase in membership and participation in teams, so it's an enthused club with energy," he says.

With passion for his club and the willingness to learn more about tennis, Close has the drive and dedication to evolve with the game.



David explains the correct grip to one of his students.