

# A defined approach



**Name:** Scott Rawlins  
**Qualification:** Tennis Australia Club Professional coach, Tennis Australia Talent Development coach, Exercise Science Degree  
**Head coach at:** Queensland Tennis Centre  
**Other:** Tennis Australia MLC Tennis Hot Shots mentor coach, Tennis Australia Learning Facilitator and Queensland's Deaf and Hearing Impaired coach

The Queensland Tennis Centre may be known as the home of the Brisbane International, but it is also the home base for many juniors in the state.

Pat Rafter and a group of Australian tennis legends officially opened the Queensland Tennis Centre in 2009 and it first hosted the highly acclaimed combined men's and women's event, the Brisbane International.

After the closure of the Milton Tennis Centre in 1999 an international-standard tennis facility was a welcome return for Brisbane.

## Rebuilding

No one, though, could predict that Mother Nature would take a turn for the worse in January 2011 as floods ravaged the state. The Queensland Tennis Centre wasn't immune to the destruction and also succumbed to this unimaginable natural disaster.

Just days after some of the world's top tennis players had gathered to contest the Brisbane International images of the state-of-the-art facility showed it damaged beyond repair.

During this period the local community support, national fundraising efforts and assistance from Tennis Queensland and Tennis Australia helped the Queensland Tennis Centre to recover and rebuild.

Located on the banks of the iconic Brisbane River in Tennyson, the Queensland Tennis Centre has 23 International Tennis

Federation standard tennis courts, including Pat Rafter Arena and two showcase courts, representing all playing surfaces (hardcourt, clay and grass), providing world-class training facilities.

## Inspiration

There's nothing quite like the positive influence some of the world's best athletes can have on aspiring athletes and Tennis Australia Club Professional coach Scott Rawlins has this, and a National Academy, as an added advantage to inspire

his crop of athletes.

Inspiration is a key element with tennis and up and coming juniors from the state help even younger athletes to follow in their footsteps and make their own way through the tennis pathway.

"Goal setting and revisiting this quite often helps to build good work ethic," Rawlins says. "Also we are lucky enough to have the National Academy Queensland at the same center, so I often get my players to watch sessions of those players, to inspire them."

Rawlins also heads up the Active Tribes junior coaching program, which is based on the MLC Tennis Hot Shots philosophy of using modified courts and balls to give children the chance to serve, rally and score from the beginning stages of their tennis development.

## Future talent

As the head coach at the centre Rawlins brings with him a wealth of experience, having been a coach for 15 years.

"I enjoy the challenge of working with highly motivated and talented players, and also the friendships that come along the way with other coaches," Rawlins says.

Having started playing tennis at the age of four himself, Rawlins has an interest to develop the tennis skills of young children and is also a Tennis Australia Talent Development Coach for elite under 12 athletes.

Already he can see a number of athletes that are on the right path to further their careers with the sport.

"I have a good bunch of 10-12 year olds at the moment, Oscar Woods, Sara and Uma Nayar, Jordan Saba, Ivana Daskalovic, Josh Mackenzie and Moerani Bouzige to mention a few," Rawlins says.

At the inaugural National Talent Development Camp held at the Australian

Institute of Sport in Canberra last year, two of Rawlins' athletes were selected to attend. This camp provided a perfect insight into the sacrifices and dedication required to be an elite player.

## Recognition

Having coached nationally and internationally and also having worked with some ITF, ATP and WTA players, Rawlins has a flexible coaching style which allows him to successfully coach both children and adults of all ages and skill levels.

In 2011 Rawlins was nominated as a finalist in the Tennis Queensland Awards for the category of Coaching Excellence in MLC Tennis Hot Shots.

This nomination was a testament to the great work he and his team have put in at the Queensland Tennis Centre to grow participation and enjoyment in tennis, particularly at the grassroots level.

Rawlins has been instrumental in developing, running and growing the MLC Tennis Hot Shots events, which are run at both the Queensland Tennis Centre and the UQ Tennis Centre throughout the year.

"We have launched a new progression chart for our centre, which gives all the players a clearer and more defined pathway," Rawlins says.

With this in place Rawlins is hoping to provide his athletes with the necessary ingredients to make it on the big stage.

"It's all about honesty and setting the right example on and off the court," Rawlins says.

And who knows maybe one day he'll be the coach in the stands with his athlete striving for glory.

"I would love to be part of a Grand Slam player's development in one-way or another," he says. "Having said that I still enjoy working with my team both on court and off court, also with my players, and seeing them improve."

"Application has to equal expectations."



Scott Rawlins' athlete Oscar Woods (centre) had the chance to meet Ian Barclay at the National Talent Development Camp at the AIS in 2011.