



HUNTERS HILL TENNIS CLUB

Lawn since 1889

January to July 2020 Newsletter

Vale Yvonne Mack



It was with great sadness that we learnt of Yvonne's passing on the 10th July. Yvonne (or Pon, as she was known to many of us) was a dedicated member of the Club for over 50 years and we would like to take this opportunity to recognise her invaluable contributions, not only to this Club, but also to the wider tennis community.

Yvonne initially joined the Club as a weekday player but it was not long before she changed to full playing membership to take advantage of weekend play. It was at this time, in the early 1970's, that she joined the Committee, on which she served for over 20 years, the last seven as a Vice President.

Over such an extended period of time, Pon was of course always involved in numerous facets of the Club's operation. This included organising and helping at innumerable social functions, including prawn nights, crazy whist and other card evenings, end of year Presentation nights, BBQ's with Dennis (husband and past member) as chief BBQ-er, jazz concerts on the courts, many a Melbourne Cup luncheon, innumerable Sunday afternoon teas and of course the annual working

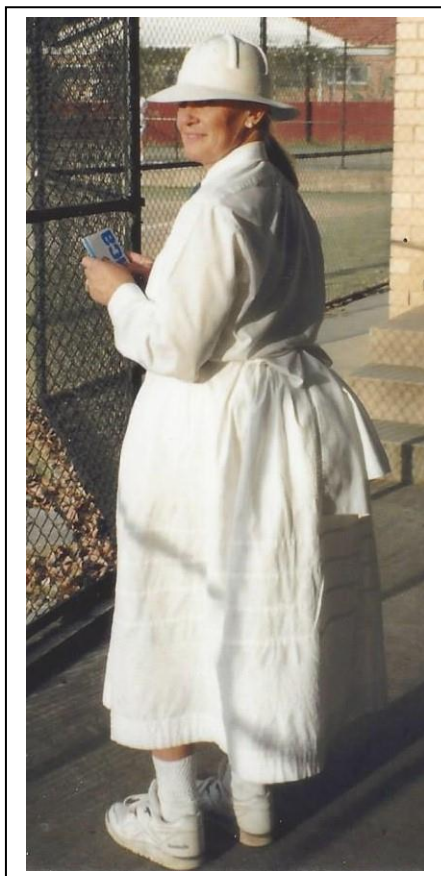
bees. A unique contribution was Yvonne's wallpapering of the entire clubhouse when it was refurbished in the seventies!!



Above – conclusion of a working bee with some of the workers. Gunnar K, Robert B, John W & Frank P; Nancy T, Barb A, Yvonne, Bill I and Jackie B.

Left – Sunday afternoon tea, Ken Ryan and Yvonne.

Below- ready for our Veteran's Day social event – the infamous BUSTLE.



Yvonne played in innumerable internal Club championships and social events as well as representing the Club at an extremely high level in Badge. It was during this time she also served on the "Ladies" grading committee of the Metropolitan Grass Courts Clubs Association (MGCCA), the organisation which used to co-ordinate Badge.

Yvonne was lightning fast at the net, and accurate. If she got her racquet to the ball, she invariably had a winner. This was complimented by a formidable forehand, in stark contrast to her backhand - but this did not really matter. There were always two things Pon was absolutely adamant about - serving from the northern end of courts and never ever playing on the backhand. That's just how it was.

Even though Pon was advised after her knee replacement a number of years ago to stop playing tennis, there was no keeping her off the courts. It was not going to happen and she just kept on keeping on.

Then, when the pain in her right thumb made it very difficult for her to hold the racquet, her solution was painkillers just before she headed to the courts. Perfect for her but not something we are recommending for other players!!

When Yvonne finally did stop playing, only in the last couple of years, her love of the game had not waned. She would frequently head down to the Club, particularly on a Saturday afternoon, to watch the Badge teams compete. Undoubtedly Pon would have continued to do that this year, except that Badge was postponed due to Covid. It restarted at the beginning of June and when Judy Smith visited Pon at the end of last month, her immediate question was “how are the teams going?”

Yvonne's talents were not restricted to the courts. For years the Club always staged a Revue Night. Written and produced by Jack Nicklaus, a member who was an actor, Yvonne was always front and centre doing something else she loved, singing and dancing.

Thankfully for the members, Yvonne's passion also extended to tending the Clubs' gardens. You would invariably turn up for a game or to drop something into the clubhouse and there was Yvonne - pruning, weeding, planting, watering - caring for the Club's garden just as she tendered her own.

Of course someone who volunteered so much of their life to the Club, could not go unrecognised and in December 1996 the members unanimously bestowed Life Membership upon Yvonne. A truly deserved recognition.



In addition to her voluntary work at Hunters Hill, for a staggering 30 years, Pon volunteered at the NSW Tennis Open tournament held every January. She worked in the President's Reserve Function Room where she greeted hundreds and hundreds of guests and always looked after them with that infectious smile. She also seconded other Club members who volunteered here with her for a number of years.

Above – Yvonne with Laurie Gilmour (who was made a Life Member in 2004) and Helen Lange.

In the year 2000, Yvonne was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for Services to Tennis, for all her voluntary work. It could not have gone to a more deserving individual.



Above – Dennis and Yvonne, Barb Ashley, Jackie Bradshaw and Kay Philip at one of our Presentation Nights.

Yvonne made countless lifelong friends through her tennis, both within and outside the Club. All benefited from this friendship and all will greatly miss her.

Membership

We have been incredibly fortunate to have so many new players join the club this year and a number of past members re-join. Apologies for the delay in this recognition and crossing fingers we have not inadvertently omitted anyone.

New Members

Anjay Zazulak, Carla Schmidt, Heather Kitson, Lauren Dmytrenko, Sue Boorne, Winston Wong, Adrian Teh, Robert Hanbury-Brown, Stewart Wewege, Julie Yun, Brian Soh, Andrew Panyanouvong, Adrian Lai, Georgina Young, Ann Binet, Deborah, Alana, Andrew and Julia Camilleri, Benjamin Woods, John O'Grady, Paul Manoharan, Conor Soo and Matthew Paul.

Re-joining

Diana Brajuha, Rachel Jones, Sarah Fritsch, Ginette Nelson, Vanessa Bolzan, Yvonne Young, Leonie Smyth, Conor O'Toole and Pam Gillespie.

As is always the case, unfortunately we have had a number of members who for various reasons did not re-join this year – thankfully we are expecting some back next year though.

Farewells

Andrew Di Giovani, Andrew Guesry, Blade Fong, George Penney, Jill Polley, Maggie Meagher, Marious Zelba, Rita Di Giovani, Sadik Kadir, Sally Stobo (Past President), Ping Williams; and Sue Hoopmann after over 40 years of membership.

Badge

Tennis players have been very fortunate that within reason we have been able to continue playing throughout most of the Covid pandemic. Badge was rescheduled and it started at the beginning of June. We have seven teams competing and their current positions, about half way through the competition, are as follows.

Team	Captain	Currently
Thursday Ladies 1	Mary Zuber	Fourth
Thursday Ladies 2	Jane Cowley	Fifth
Saturday Ladies Division 2	Nicola Tiernan – now Diana Brajuha.	Fourth
Saturday Ladies Division 4	Kitty Dufficy	Fourth
Saturday Men's Division 1	Rod Hill	Sixth
Saturday Men's Division 5 Team 2	Graeme Sticka	First
Saturday Men's Division 5 Team 3	Ben Johnson	Second
Saturday Men's Division 7	Werner Jansen van Vuuren	Sixth
Saturday Men's Division 8	Graeme Lewis	Sixth

Good luck to everyone in their upcoming matches.

2020 Club Tennis Events

We have managed to sneak in a couple of Club events since the beginning of the year and all going well the remainder will be played following the conclusion of badge. Congratulations to the following winners:

Men's Barker Lloyd Special Singles – Ryen Pestonji

Ladies Special Doubles – Tricia Hannan and Nicola Tiernan

Shelley's Doubles - Ladies – Kitty Dufficy and Catherine Marshall

Shelley's Doubles - Men – Chris Jones and Ray Melograna

Keep safe everyone and hoping you are managing to get to the courts as often as possible.



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AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2020 Newsletter

EVE JENKINS TROPHY

A fabulous day was had by all when the Eve Jenkins Trophy was played on Tuesday 22nd September. With beautiful blue skies and the sun shining, the winners on the day were Wendy Dobis and Suzy Wallis. Wendy has been a long term member of the club but has not been able to play on Tuesdays for the last number of years and Suzy only joined at the end of last year, so a great win by them. A special thanks to Sue Bate for organising the event ably assisted by Cheryl Ierace.



MEMBERSHIP

Just after we sent out our July newsletter Kate Piggott joined as a Full Playing member. We would like to welcome Kate and hope she has many years of wonderful tennis at the club. Please make her very welcome.

BADGE

Badge has now concluded and there have been some exciting results for some of our teams.

Team	Captain	Result
Thursday Ladies 1	Mary Zuber	Fourth
Thursday Ladies 2	Jane Cowley	Fifth
Saturday Ladies 1 Division 2	Diana Brajuha (Nicola Tiernan)	Fifth
Saturday Ladies 2 Division 4	Kitty Dufficy	Third
Saturday Men's Division 1	Rod Hill	Seventh
Saturday Men's Division 5 Team 2	Graeme Sticka	Joint Winners
Saturday Men's Division 5 Team 3	Ben Johnson	Semi finalists
Saturday Men's Division 7	Werner Jansen van Vuuren	Fifth
Saturday Men's Division 8	Graeme Lewis	Sixth

Firstly a big thankyou to the Captains of each team for all their work during the season and of course to all the players who represented the Club. It really has been a credit to the members that we were able to form so many teams in the topsy turvy times of Covid and this of course would not have been possible without the commitment of our past and especially our new members. A good lead into the 2021 season.

Congratulations to our two Division 5 Men's teams. This was an incredibly close competition which literally the top four teams could have won. At the conclusion of the rounds, HH3 came in first with HH2 in second position. Unfortunately HH3 lost their semi-final by only 2 games, tied on sets to Chatswood1; HH2 winning their semi-final against Western Suburbs by 4 games, also tied on sets.

The final between HH2 and Chatswood1 was played at home and of course went down to the wire. Four sets all and tied 35 games each.

The teams were announced Joint Winners. Congratulations to all the players.



Photo L to R – some of HH2's team members - Seamus Lynch, Peter Calloway, Graeme Sticka, Jonathan Sherlock and Robert Hanbury-Brown. Absent: Mark Haet and Stephen Clarke.

Our Saturday Ladies 2 team played off for 3rd position. Cool, calm and collected before the big match.



And the winners were -



Photo L to R: Kitty Dufficy, Caroline Swan, Tracy Clifford and Sally Quinn.

Not only an incredibly great day of tennis, but a resounding victory in their playoff match coming in in third position and beating Chatswood3, six sets to one. Thanks of course to all the other team members. Could not have done it without everyone's contribution.

We would also like to give a very special thanks to Caroline Swan and Graeme Sticka for all their work during the year overseeing badge on behalf of the Club. A huge effort on their part, especially as it is not always the easiest of jobs. All your time and effort has been greatly appreciated.

NSTA

Matt Paul and Ryen Pestonji have also just finished representing the Club in a Sunday morning Northern Suburbs competition. A formidable pair in the making who played a great competition finishing in third place. Well done guys.

2020 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

For those eligible you will have recently received an email from Andrew Chilcott in regards to the remainder of the outstanding Club Championships.

Please contact Andrew directly on - a.chilcott@hotmail.com - if you have any queries. Good luck everyone and enjoy your matches.

Vale John Watt and Conrad Oppen

Two gentlemen in every meaning of the word

JOHN WATT AM

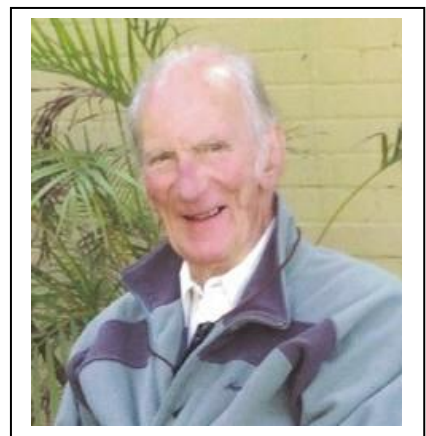
John passed away on the 30th July. A truly wonderful man who loved his tennis and especially our lawn courts. John served on the Committee for a number of years and was always a willing and keen worker – politeness exemplified.

John probably had the best volley that this club has ever seen. Totally effortless, magnificent to watch and of course accurate. Highly likely that he picked up a few pointers from his Wimbledon competing father.



CONRAD OPPEN

Conrad passed away on the 26th August. He spent a number of years on the general Committee, two years as Secretary and was then Club President for six years. Very quietly spoken, always courteous and amenable. Conrad had many skills but one in particular was repairing the nets as and when needed. Probably something to do with this original career as a Merchant Mariner, Master Mariner and then Officer. Eventually Conrad realised life would be better on land – much more access to tennis!!!



MELBOURNE CUP

Due to current restrictions limiting the number of people we can have in the clubhouse at any one time, sadly we will not be holding our usual Melbourne Cup luncheon. *The clubhouse will be restricted to the Tuesday morning players only.*

Wherever you may end up on the day we hope you have a great time and a few wins !!! If there are any changes in restrictions between now and Cup Day we will notify members accordingly.

BALL MACHINE & ZIP HOT WATER SYSTEM

Not related but we wanted to keep everyone in the loop.

Robert Bradshaw has recently spent a lot of time pulling the broken ball machine apart and fixing a few bits and pieces along the way. However, it seems it needs some new replacement parts as well. It is currently with the supplier/service centre for repair. We are hoping to have it back in tip top shape in a few weeks.

If you have been down at the Club recently you will also have seen that we have had a new Zip hot water system installed in the kitchen. So nice to have this back after a number of year's absence and it will be even more appreciated when we can all sit down together for a lovely cuppa.

DRINKS FRIDGE

As you all know, we operate the drinks fridge on an honesty basis. We have had a number of significant short falls in money and would appreciate those who still owe for these drinks, if they could please leave their money in the fridge now. We use the money in the fridge to stock up so please make sure you pay when you take a drink. Thanking you in advance.

COURT CLOSURE

At this stage our last day of play will be *Sunday 29th November*; with the annual court maintenance being the next day, *Monday 30th November*. If this changes we will obviously keep everyone notified.

Please keep safe everyone and hoping you are managing to get to the courts as often as possible.



HUNTERS HILL TENNIS CLUB

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October - December 2020 Newsletter

NEW MEMBERS

What a great month October was with three new Full Playing members joining – **Bradley Pfeifer, Philip McLeod and Steve Willis**. It's wonderful to have the three of you on board and we wish you many years of tennis at the club.

MONICA SHEEHAN TROPHY

The Monica Sheehan Trophy was played on Tuesday 17th November. It was another fabulous day on the courts, with the event being won by Wendy Dobis and Suzy Wallis.

This is a bit of déjà vu as these two actually won the Eve Jenkins Trophy a few weeks ago. However the



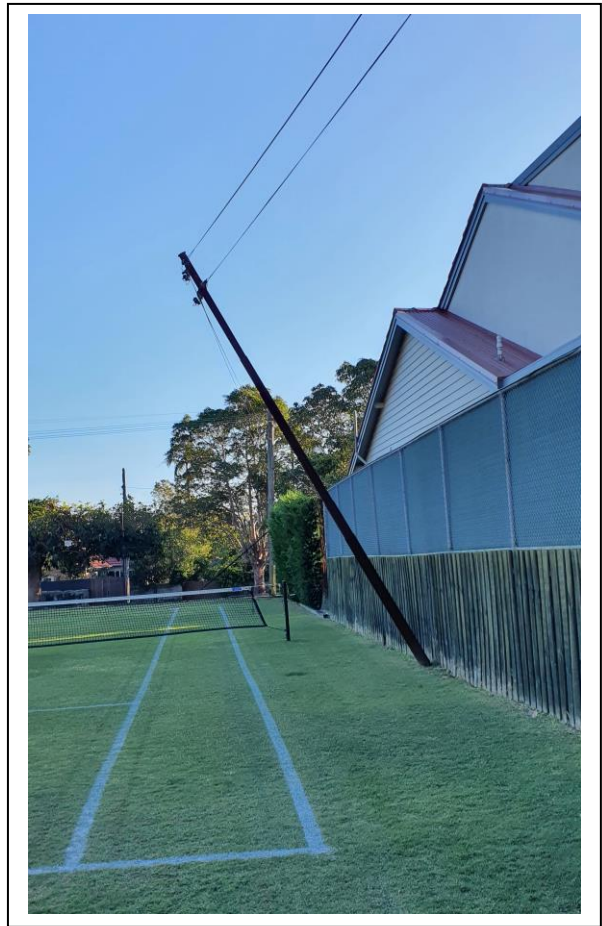
events have totally different formats and for this one you are not playing with the same partner all day. So, the gauntlet has been thrown down for next year.

Once again a very special thankyou to Sue Bate for organising this event. Some of the players are shown in the photo above.

For those newer members to the club, this event is named in honour of Monica Sheehan, who was made a Life Member in 1987. Monica had served on the club's Committee for 19 consecutive years in various positions, was a prolific fund raiser for the club and contributed an inordinate amount of her time to the club's benefit.

COURT FIVE ELECTRICITY POLE

Umm - not really the excitement that you are looking for on the tennis court. The picture on the right shows what happened to our electricity pole on court 5 after a strong storm came through at the end of September. Thankfully Alf was to hand. After organising Ausgrid to come and disconnect and cut down the pole and wires, followed by several more calls, Alf was able to locate an electrician who was able to come out with his team the following day. Thankfully they were able to rectify the situation pretty quickly - which included installing a second pole at the Woolwich Road end of the court as required by new standards. A very nice conclusion to this event was that we had the refund from our insurance company within a couple of days. Quite staggering but greatly appreciated.



WONDERFUL NEWS

Congratulations to Chris and Laura Jones who welcomed their first child, Alice, in November.

If Alice takes after her Dad, we have a budding tennis star in the making!



PRESIDENT'S TROPHY



The hotly contested President's Trophy was played on Sunday 22nd November. This is a mixed doubles competition playing 8 game sets. You start each set with the same partner, however the ladies swap after the first 4 games - each player keeping their individual score.

Congratulations to Diana Brajuha and Bill Ierace who were the winners on the day. Thanks also to everyone who made this such a great social event to end the year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Following the President's Trophy, the Club held its AGM. Definitely not your usual format with players socially distanced on the courts, but it worked perfectly. Considering the challenges that the Club faced during 2020, it has been a very successful year. Not only from a financial point of view but also because of all the new members who joined, as well as quite a few past members who re-joined. Hopefully 2021 will be equally successful with everyone's help.





OUR NEW COMMITTEE

The following Committee were elected at the AGM and we would like to thank each of them for putting up their hand. A very special welcome to *Sam* who is joining the Committee for the first time and a big welcome back to *Jane*.

President	Alf Cocco
Vice Presidents	Vacant
Secretary	Phil Smyth
Treasurer	Judy Smith
Club Captain	Andrew Chilcott
Committee	Jane Cowley, Sam Bruzzese, Nicola Tiernan, Graeme Lewis, Andrew Pavli and Ben Johnson.

Peter David has stepped down from Committee after moving back to Adelaide. A huge thanks to Pete for everything that he has done for the Club. Hopefully we will see both he and Christine back on the courts occasionally when they head north for a visit. A special thankyou also to *Werner Jansen Van Vuuren* who is also stepping down. Werner's brilliant job of looking after new membership is reflected in all the new members we have had this year. His contribution will be greatly missed. *Judy Smith* has stepped down as Treasurer so we are looking for someone else to put their hand up to take on this roll. *Judy is more than happy to help the next incumbent, so please contact Judy directly if you are able to take on this role.*

Last, but by no means least a huge thankyou to *Alf*. He has done an absolutely outstanding job in his first year as President. Never an easy job and certainly made significantly more challenging this year with Covid. His commitment has been amazing and no doubt our year would not have been such a success without his absolute dedication. We are extremely fortunate that he will be at the helm again through 2021.

2020 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS & SOCIAL EVENT WINNERS

Ladies Open Singles	Not contested
Ladies Open Doubles	Nicola Tiernan and Julie Cocco
Ladies Special Singles	Not contested
Ladies Fitzgerald Doubles	Tricia Hannan and Nicola Tiernan
Eve Jenkins Doubles	Suzy Wallis and Wendy Dobis
Monica Sheehan Trophy	Suzy Wallis and Wendy Dobis
Men's Open Singles	Sheriar Pestonji
Men's Open Doubles	Andrew Frankland and Ben Johnson
Men's Barker Lloyd Singles	Ryen Pestonji
Men's Special Doubles	Robert Bradshaw & Frank Quinn
Mixed Doubles	Nicola Tiernan and Phil Smyth
President's Trophy	Diana Brajuha and Bill Ierace
Shelley's Doubles – Ladies	Kitty Dufficy & Catherine Marshall
Shelley's Doubles – Men	Chris Jones and Ray Melograna
Meggitt Trophy	Robert Hanbury-Brown





Wishing all our members and your families a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year. Looking forward to seeing everyone back on the courts in 2021.

