



MCC Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club



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Good evening and welcome all to the MCC Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club this evening at High Street Road Mt Waverley this evening.

In doing so,

"The MCC Glen Iris Valley Tennis Club acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrang and Bunurong Peoples, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."

Thank you all very much for coming and supporting the Centenary of the legacy Glen Iris Valley Recreation Club. That is very much appreciated. In welcoming you all, I extend a warm welcome to:

Jacqui Pirone.
President
Tennis Victoria.

Fred Oldfield.
President.
Melbourne Cricket Club.
Congratulations to Fred on his recent elevation to the Presidency.

Adam Crameri
Chief Executive Officer.
Tennis Victoria.

Adrian Anderson
Vice-President.
Melbourne Cricket Club.

The Cumbrae-Stewart Family, Helene, Kerryn Aikman & Scott.

Life Members-GIVRC.

John Semmens and Hayden Rees.

We have apologies from:

- Angie Arthurs. Angie has kindly provided her thoughts on the legacy Club.
- Gwen Ryan. Gwen, who is in her 102nd year, was particularly keen to join us as our Special Guest of Honour but advised that she does not go out these days.

Ray Elliott.

Ray is the grandson of an esteemed Club President John Elliott (from 1936-1953) and after whom the Memorial Gates are named.

John Richards

From the family business ET Richards & Sons with whom the Club has had an ongoing relationship for decades.

My fellow Directors, Amelia Charlton, Jordana Dymond, Ross Johnson, Lizzie Kalyvas, Mark Karpinski, David Rowler. We have apologies from Chiro Mukerjea.

Centenary Sub-Committee, Lyn Carter, Amelia Charlton, Hayden Rees, Dennis Rowler, Geoff Shallue & John Semmens.

We have received many apologies from past and current members. I also record the apology of Dr John Fraser, former President of Tennis Victoria who opened our High Street Road facility in 1991 and is acknowledged on the plaque of the fireplace together with Graeme Cumbrae-Stewart for his project management in constructing the new facility.

We have also been reminded of our past with loss of Beverley Rae this year and Pat Anderson (Life Member 1997). Bev won the Club Championship 17 times between 1948 and 1971. Pat passed away 2020 and left a generous bequest to the Club that we used to construct the Rotunda in 2023 commemorating Pat's legacy.

Tonight is not about living in the past but recognising & respecting the past and the opportunities it has given for the future.

The symbolism of the Centenary from 1923 to 2023 cannot be lost. The formation of the Club in August 1923 as a company limited by guarantee was accompanied by search for an appropriate location for the Recreation Club. The Club had two choices at the time:

- Some land in Hedgely Dene which the then Malvern City Council offered on a permissive occupancy only.
- Land at Brixton Rise Glen Iris that could be purchased on a freehold basis.

The Club made the right decision and purchased the land at Brixton Rise for 1,200 pounds. It subsequently developed the site for its tennis, bowls and croquet sections. A forerunner indeed with the MCC Cricket Club in 2016, and its multiple sporting sections.

Little would the Club have known in 1923 that its decision to purchase the freehold interest led to the Club being recompensed for the loss of the Brixton Rise site in 1987, the upheaval that followed, the financing and construction of the new facility at High Street Road Mount Waverley in 1991, the merging with the then MCC Tennis Section in 2016. This has now led to the wonderful news just some weeks ago that the MCC Foundation has a Heads of Agreement with our good friends at Riversdale Golf Club to purchase the freehold interest of the site on which we're gathered here this evening. It will secure tennis here at High Street Road in perpetuity or at least for the next hundred years.

This evening is informal and for catching up with friends of the Club.

We will hear later on from Jacqui Pirone, President-Tennis Victoria and from Fred Oldfield-President Melbourne Cricket Club.

I thank them both for contributing to tonight's formalities.

We will also hear from two of our Life Members, John Semmens and Hayden Rees with an “*on the couch*” session facilitated by Sean Munaweera. We look forward to others here this evening to share their experiences. Thanks to Sean for again for supporting the Club this evening as you did at the Club’s Annual Dinner/Presentation Night last year. It’s very much appreciated.

Finally, we’ll hear from Club Historian Hayden Rees on how we’ve collated the history and journey of the legacy Club, and how you can access that at your own leisure.

The Centenary Celebrations will conclude next Sunday 22 October with a social round-robin and spit roast barb-que.

Please enjoy the evening and each other’s company, and we’ll hear from Jacqui and Fred very soon



Peter Gillieron
Chair.
14 October 2023.

GIVRC Centenary reflections from Angie Arthurs

Please accept my sincere apologies for not being there in person tonight to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of our great club. I'm actually very happy to be in Uluru with my 18 year old granddaughter visiting from Switzerland on her first ever visit to Australia and hopefully we have both survived our camel riding excursion!

We joined Glen Iris Valley Recreation Club at the original Brixton Rise venue as family members in 1981 when we moved to Melbourne from Adelaide. Kerry was 15, Mike 13 and Wayne 11 and we all loved playing tennis. Many hours were spent either playing in teams or practising for future achievements. Wayne did eventually reap the benefit of practice at both the old and the new clubs going on to play Davis Cup for Australia on many occasions and representing Australia in the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

The social side of match day afternoon teas in the old days is a very vivid memory! **We didn't have to bring our own** as these were served by an on duty kitchen lady (from the bowls club, I think) and always consisted of a variety of sandwiches and slices of yummy sponge cake. The atmosphere was great with tennis players, bowls players and croquet players all together but in separate areas of the same clubhouse room.

There are many many happy memories of those days and hours spent playing and practising until the very sad day came in 1987 when the club was demolished to make way for the freeway to be built by Vic Roads. I know my boys were amongst the last to hit on the courts before the bulldozers arrived. We all resisted the temptation to have a hit on the wonderful smooth grass bowling greens! The Elliott Memorial Gates (1955) were saved and renovated and now stand in the garden here. The barometer from the clubhouse mysteriously vanished turning up years later in an antique shop in Sydney, before being returned to Melbourne where it was bought and donated to the club by Wayne! It now sits in the trophy display cabinet here. Between the demolition in 1987 and the three long years until the opening of the new club in August 1991 on the Mt Waverley site, other club courts were hired for weekend match play. It was never easy to play all matches on "foreign" courts and using different facilities but we managed!

In 1992 I joined the committee and together with Robyn Crozier we started the Night Tennis competition on Mondays with only 4 courts floodlit. This competition is one of my best memories. Night tennis has flourished since and grown to 3 nights a week with an external competition and all 12 courts floodlit with LED lights.

Craig Tyzzer - we all know him as Ash Barty's coach - was the coach at this venue from 1992 to 1997 and I spent many hours with him in the tournament box helping with the running of the Glen Iris Annual Junior Tournament. Every year we had a tremendous band of lady members in the kitchen upstairs busy providing food for all the hungry competitors. **This event ran in July this year for the 90th time!**

Many prestige events have been hosted by the club, the first being the Victorian Men's Satellite tournament run soon after opening in 1991. I was very involved with Seniors' (Veterans' tennis), and played in several senior events held here including

the Australian Championships and Teams Carnival in 1998 (run by Victorian Veterans Association) and the Tennis Seniors Labour Day Tournament in 2009. The most prestigious event of them all was the Federation Cup with Australia versus Ukraine on the weekend of 16-17 April 2011.

I was appointed Secretary in 2000 and, after 15 years on the committee, I stood down in 2007 for personal reasons. In 2009 I was very honoured to be awarded Honorary Life Membership and felt at the time that the award should have been shared between my late husband Derek and me as he was so involved with all aspects of the club and a tremendous help to me.

I apologise again for not being there in person tonight to celebrate this Centenary event with you all. I feel certain, and very relieved, that now with the tremendous input from the MCC Foundation this great club will flourish for at least another 100 years!

Notes for Centenary Celebration – John Semmens

Acknowledgements

Steering Committee : Graeme Cumbrae-Stewart (Hon. Sec.) Ian Occleshaw (Pres.) John Semmens (Hon.Treas.)

Robyn Crozier & Robert McNab. They both helped with the legal matters and obtained a very good QC to appeal the payout from the Road Construction Authority and improve the payout from \$1.6m to \$2.1m.

Colin Grenfell for his Actuarial skills in determining the allocation of the payment to each section of the club. The Bowls and Croquet sections monies were also calculated on per head basis and held in a Trust Account. When the members settled on their new club they then were required to get their new club to make an application to the Trustees stating what item of Capital Expenditure they were purchasing.

Hayden Rees, Derek Arthurs and ? Cleaning up the Brixton Rise site prior to handing over the keys to the R. C. A in March 1987 and arranging for storage of some items.

Riversdale Golf Club – Pres. Tony Bardsley, Vice Pres. Peter Jorgenson. They suggested the current site of our Tennis Courts. The Riversdale Golf Committee described the land as “the old Horse Paddock” and there could be an old Club House or anything underneath the ground. Unfortunately for us we found some underground springs.

M.C.C merging with us a few years ago and helping the Club with 2nd lease and keep us functioning.

Peter Gillieron for his tireless efforts over a long period – especially since becoming Pres. In 1993.

Other

Will Coghlan – Joined the Tennis Section Committee in 1958 for a short time as he was often away travelling to many tournaments. 1964 he was part of our first Premiership winning LTAV Mens A Pennant team with Tony Ryan, John Stewart and ? (*need to check photo in the Club's Trophy Cabinet*)

My Comments

Very pleased that the Tennis Section has managed to get to 100 years. We have gone from Bowls, Tennis and Croquet Club to the possibility of a Country Club with Riversdale Golf Club and now a Tennis Club with MCC.

60th Anniversary was the time we started to get concerned about the future of the Club. At that time there was a possibility that the Arterial Road link would be built on the other side of Gardiners Creek. However it was not long before we received the notice of acquisition.

Our first option was for re-instatement but the Malvern Council made it a bit difficult. They were very pleased with their re-instatement effort for the remainder of our property and some acquired from behind us - but it was designed by a very “Vista” conscious official who planned a public shared pathway meandering around three groups of 4 courts all facing varying directions – none of

which were anywhere near North and South. Also, we were to use Green European Clay, as the normal red clay did not suit the 'Vista'.

MY Comments continued

We looked at many different locations and tried to stress our value to the community with our “cradle to grave” sporting activities.

The Tennis section was about 5 years without their own courts – hiring a few courts from many clubs including Camberwell Tennis Centre.

Working Bees should always be well supervised.

At the old club we had a couple of non supervised working bees by our good intentioned Bowlers:

Repaired our Umpires stands with “singles sticks” (we had to borrow some from the LTAV at Kooyong for a Tounament being held the next week)

During a drought we pumped water from the creek – Our good intentioned Bowlers accidentally spiked the plastic pipe.

Additional Notes for Centenary Celebrations

Acknowledgements (continued)

Rod Paterson(Geologist) for his persistent querying (over many years) source of the frequent wet section of the service court area of court 3. Eventually, it was agreed to investigate and fortunately for us it was found to be drainage pipes not connected.

The reluctance to investigate earlier was due to the fear it was an underground spring and if we dug down in or near that area we would get a" huge high spurt of water" which would flood the top level of courts.

John Richards was willing to give it a go – so we arranged for the perimeter of courts 3 & 4 to be sand- bagged.