

Senior Moments



The quarterly newsletter of Tennis Seniors NSW

February 2026

Dear Members,

Welcome to 2026! This is our first newsletter for 2026 and it seemed an ideal opportunity as the new President of TSNSW to say hello. The majority of our members would know me from our many tournaments and those that don't will hopefully catch up with me during a tournament this year.

This is a huge year for TSNSW. As you would be aware we are hosting the Australian Seniors National Teams Carnival and Individual Championships in January 2027 in Newcastle. These events will require a great deal of planning and effort but I am confident we can make these events to remember. We are always looking for people who can contribute some time and effort to assist us. Apart from the planning we are also going to need players! Its never too early to start planning your team. For those who have never played this event before please don't hesitate to reach out and ask for some details. We took 16 teams to Gold Coast in January this year, I think we should be able to double that at least as the home state.

Apart from those huge events we always needs players to support our tournaments. I am hoping to make 2026 the year of participation. Our membership is near 1000 members but we aren't seeing enough of those on court! We have some tournaments that are very successful every year, with Forster, Nelson Bay and Ulladulla all getting well over 200 players. But we have many smaller tournaments that are struggling for numbers so we need you out there and playing to keep these tournaments going. If players could all attend 1 or 2 more tournaments each then you might just be the difference in keeping the tournament running. There are a bunch of dedicated people who have been working for years in some tournaments and it would be a shame to see them fold due to a lack of participation. We have had at least 5 tournaments shut down in the past few years.

This year also represents the 20th anniversary of the Newcastle Mixed Teams event, now renamed the Robyn Castle Mixed teams. We are back in Newcastle this year in the June long weekend and very keen to get 3 divisions up and running again. If you have ever played this before please come back his year and celebrate the 20 years with us. Of course new players would be most welcome. Entries will be limited to the first 18 teams in.

I'd like to thank the people who put up their hands this year to stand on our TSNSW committee. None of this happens without people doing a lot of work behind the scenes and I hope all our members appreciate their time and effort.

I'll close off by wishing you all the best for 2026 and hoping to see you at many of our tournaments during the year. Feel free to come up and say hello.

Regards
Rod Clarkin
President - Tennis Seniors NSW

Annual General Meeting Brings On Board New Committee Members

The AGM of Tennis Seniors NSW was held at Strathfield Sports Club on Sunday, 7 December 2025. A number of changes to the Committee resulted from the retirement of President, Brett Haines as well as long serving Treasurer, Arthur Olsen and Committee members David King, Martin Jackson and Scott Eulenstein.

The following were elected to represent members for the forthcoming year:

President: Rod Clarkin
Vice President: Sharyn Eaton
Secretary: Di Cassel
Treasurer: Greg Scott

Committee Members: Steve Taylor, Leanne Swaysland, Graeme Sticka, Neale McDonald and Paul Barnes.

On behalf of Members, we thank those who are stepping down for all of their time and efforts in furthering the objectives of Tennis Seniors NSW. We also welcome the new Committee Members and wish them well in what will be a challenging year ahead.

Meet the New Tennis Seniors NSW Committee Member Paul Barnes

After a 33 year absence from tennis, Paul found that apart from being pretty rusty, he could still hit a decent tennis ball. Thus started his second love affair with the game. Paul was originally from Eastwood in Sydney where he was coached by his grandfather at the age of four. Paul recalled that his grandfather had a hedge in his yard that he trimmed to net height and painted lines on the grass with white paint. Certainly a creative start to Pauls tennis career.

As with many aspiring tennis players, life got in the way until he reached the age of 58. Now living in Port Macquarie, he returned to the court playing social tennis, until a friend suggested being involved in seniors competition. That was just on five years ago and Paul is now a familiar face on many of the tournaments held in the northern rivers and New England towns.

Paul is a genuine seniors tennis enthusiast and recently competed in the Country Week of tennis in Shepparton , Victoria as part of a NSW team.

His love of the game has convinced him to come on board with the Committee with a view to promoting country tournaments and participation. We welcome Paul to the Committee and we're sure that his enthusiasm will be contagious.



Meet the New Tennis Seniors NSW Committee Member Neale McDonald

Like many children of keen tennis players, Neale McDonald's introduction to tennis did not begin all that well. The son of Malcolm McDonald, one of Canterbury Bankstown's leading men players of the 1950's and early 60's, Neale was dragged along as a spectator to weekend Saturday competition games and country tournaments by his Dad, much to his chagrin. In fact, Neale's dad was so in love with the game that Neale was named after one of Australia's greatest tennis players of that era, Neale Fraser. After going through the traditional class coaching system as a youngster, where he was in a large squad and only got to hit every tenth ball, Neale turned his sporting attention away from tennis and towards Rugby.

Realizing that he was not big enough to make it to the top level on the Rugby field, Neale ultimately returned to the court. After prompting from his father, he joined a Saturday afternoon competition team. It was from this point that his love of the game blossomed.

Moving to the Southern Districts of Sydney at the age of eight, Neale has since competed in Tennis Macarthur events on a regular basis and commenced playing Senior's tennis when he turned 35, just as the minimum age was lowered from 40 to 35 years.

Now retired from work in the Public Service, Neale contributes to the furtherance of tennis as a Committee member of Tennis Macarthur, a position that he has held for over 25 years, including a stint as Night Comp Secretary for about 12 years.

Neale brings to the Committee of Tennis Seniors NSW a wealth of experience in tennis administration as well as great organisational skills from his working life. Apart from that, Neale loves spending as much time on the court as family commitments will permit and competes in tournaments close to Campbelltown and Picton, as well as the annual Forster tournament. He also tries to make an annual commitment to being a NSW member in the Teams carnival held in January each year.

With a tennis pedigree like Neale's, there is no doubt that he is a great acquisition to the Committee of our Association.



He's "Way-too-Good"

Having been given this handle by his mates at Northbridge Tennis Club in Sydney, the modest Gordon Waygood has taken all before him in his 'late starting' tennis career. A career that now has him ranked World No. 1 in the Over 85 Men's Age group.

Gordon was born in Bondi and after only a few years moved with his mother to Penrith where he completed his early education. Excelling at school in both swimming and athletics, Gordon was school champion in both sports before he went on to graduate from University in Bio Chemistry and Micro Biology. His working career revolved around these two areas of expertise as well as setting up commercial laboratories for Industry and for the Department of Customs and Excise.

Tennis was nowhere on the horizon for Gordon, until at the age of 40 he was invited by a friend, Tony Reading to 'have a hit'. One hit led to another, until Gordon became a member of a C Grade team in the Sydney Northern Suburbs Saturday afternoon competition. Progressing up the grades, he continued to play on average once per week until he retired at the age of 60, whereupon he became much more serious about his tennis involvement.

In 1990 Gordon was introduced to 'Veteran's Tennis' as it was then known and he recalls that in one of his first singles tournaments in Canberra he was beaten 6/0, 6/0 by the wylie Bob Howes. Not to be deterred, Gordon set himself a five year plan to improve his game. Included in his strategy was to ask experienced players what he was doing wrong with his technique. Also by watching good players as well as videos and experimenting with different methods of stroke production. By his own admission, Gordon never took a formal lesson, but his observations and persistence started to pay dividends and his results started to improve.

Gordon first participated in the national Teams carnival with Bob Gorman and Doug Kessell when it was held in Queensland in 1992 and this experience gave him the bug to compete more on the national and international stage.

Notwithstanding several applications to be part of Australian Seniors teams, Gordon wasn't able to crack it into selection. He decided to take a trip to Pennsylvania in the US where the World Championships were being played that year, just to have a look at how everything operated, including the Individual events that followed the Teams competition. Being further inspired by the experience, Gordon won the Australian Seniors the following year, gained selection to the Australian team and has remained a permanent fixture ever since, when seeking to compete.

Gordon's record in international competition is enviable, more so in recent years where he has dominated his age group in both singles and doubles. In the 2025 World Championships held in Croatia, a surprising 28 players competed in the Over 85 Men's Singles age group, coming from many countries around the globe. Gordon won both Singles and Doubles, achieving a rare double after not dropping a set in Singles play. His overall win/loss record on both clay and grass at international level is fantastic, being 124/52 and 45/24 respectively over his total ITF events. In 2025, his record was even more amazing, being 16/2 on clay and 3/0 on grass.

Apart from his involvement in World championships, Gordon now spends approximately six months each year in Europe, where he divides his time between tournament play and competing for the Palmengarten Club in Frankfurt, Germany as part of the Masters League held annually in that country. He has competed in the league for nine years after being scouted upon reaching the Quarter Finals of the World Champs in Croatia in 2017. According to Gordon, it has been a tremendous experience and introduced him to many friends across the miles who he maintains contact with on a regular basis.

When in Australia, Gordon only competes in a few selected tournaments as part of his preparation for the European season, these being the Australian Championships and the Oceania Tournament held annually at Kooyong in Victoria.

In Australia, some of Gordon's wins include:

2020, 2022 and 2023 Over 80 Men's Singles— Australian Championships

2020 and 2023 Over 80 Men's Singles— Oceania Championships

2017 Over 75 Men's Doubles— Australian Championships

2020 Over 80 Men's Doubles— Oceania Championships

2022 Over 75 Men's Doubles—Oceania Championships

At the time of writing, Gordon is about to again compete in the Oceania Championships prior to his departure for another six months stint in Europe.

When asked what advice he has for those who are aspiring to greater heights in the Tennis Seniors movement, Gordon suggested that *"if you put your mind and your energy into trying to achieve what you want to achieve, you will enjoy the experience of trying to achieve that goal, even if you don't achieve it. It is important that you try and keep your mind and body in peak condition after you have retired, otherwise you won't have a reason to get out of bed in the morning. Life can turn on a dime, so it is important to enjoy every day and make the most of every day."*

In conclusion he noted that being part of the tennis fraternity is something to be enjoyed and embraced. Long may it be the case.



Gordon at the presentation ceremony for his 85+ Men's Singles World No.1 Title in Croatia, 2025.



Right— Gordon and his doubles partner Bernd Mueller following their win in the 85+ Men's World Doubles title in Croatia, 2025.

“Rookie” Lyn Hanna Shines in her Inaugural ITF World Tennis Masters Appearance



Bol, on the beautiful Brac Island in Croatia was the venue for the 75 to 90 Years World Tennis Masters in 2025. Lyn Hanna from Port Macquarie was excited to be selected as a member of the Queens Cup team for Women 75 years and over. It was Lyn’s first appearance in a representative team after qualifying by competing in the NSW ITF State Champs, the



ITF Victorian Grass Court Champs at Yarrowonga and the ITF Gold Coast Champs in Qld.

Lyn’s inclusion in the Australian team highlights the opportunities available to tennis players of all ages, if you are willing to get out and have a go.

After a long layoff from tennis, Lyn competed at the annual Forster Seniors Tournament in 2024 whereby her performance prompted fellow competitor Leonie Ainsworth to suggest that she consider seeking selection for the national team. After careful consideration and planning, Lyn decided to set her sights on selection for the Croatia tournament.

With solid determination and good performances in the aforementioned tournaments, Lyn was duly selected in the team, along with Helen Worland (Captain), Sheryl Kerwick and Judith Rodins.

The team got off to a flying start, winning Group C, and in the process defeating France, Sweden and Canada. Lyn got the thrill of progressing through the playoffs, facing strong teams from the USA and Finland. After defeating Finland 3/0, the Aussies unfortunately lost against the USA (2/1), but managed to achieve a Silver medal.

Remaining on for the individual events, Lyn played Singles, Women’s Doubles and Mixed Doubles, partnering with Herbie Chee for a Bronze medal after losing the semi-finals to a USA pair.

As Lyn noted, “competing against players from other countries in the World was a massive experience for me. I had never met or played against anyone other than local and interstate players so it was a huge learning curve. The whole experience I will always remember and treasure. The entire Australian teams contingent were all very friendly and were great supporters. We brought home 22 medals.”

Having proven that age is no barrier to competing at an elite level, Lyn has the following advice for senior players thinking about stepping up to Masters tennis—“to all those who would like to compete at an international level, then it’s not really that hard. If I can do it, so can you! It’s all a bit scary to start with but tennis is such a social sport, you meet lots of wonderful people and you get to play at some lovely tennis centres.”

Well done Lyn and we hope that others will be inspired by your story and plan ahead to fulfil their dream of representing in the great green and gold.



Lyn Hanna and Herbie Chee at the Bronze Medal presentation ceremony after the 2025 Over 80 Tennis Masters Mixed Doubles in Croatia.

Cheerio Corner

Mick Bruton, long standing Committeeman and former President of Tennis Seniors NSW has not been in the best of health in recent months. In speaking with Mick, he advises that he is buoyed by the calls and good wishes he has been receiving from his many friends in the Seniors tennis movement. We continue to have Mick in our thoughts and prayers and admire his tenacity in dealing with his illness.

Mick was a familiar face at many of our country tournaments and has always been available to listen to the concerns of the Membership.

Although now choosing to stay at home for much of the time, Mick is being well care for by his loving wife Elaine and their family. He continues to maintain his interest in what's going on around the State, a caring trait typical of the man's love of the game.

2027 Australian Seniors Tennis Teams Carnival & Australian Seniors Individual Championships— Newcastle, NSW.

Tennis Seniors NSW will host the above events to be held between 3 & 8 January 2027 (Teams) and 10 & 15 January 2027 (Individual).

Several venues will host play across the Newcastle and surrounding area, including District Park (Cnr Lambton Rd and Curley Rd Broadmeadow) and Lake Macquarie Tennis Centre, Mt Hutton and Raymond Terrace all locked in. Other venues will be confirmed shortly.

As noted in the President's message earlier in the Newsletter, NSW is hoping for a large team representation, so it's never too early to start getting your team together to participate in one of Australia's feature competitions for Senior tennis players. More than 1000 players and spectators are expected throughout the period of play, so being part of this experience will be sensational.

Accommodation venues will be at a premium in January, so it is important to start thinking about where you and your team mates would like to be domiciled during the tournament. Players from all other states will also be competing and will be looking to reserve accommodation during this period, so get in early.

For further information, contact [Tennis Seniors NSW—Over 30s Tennis](#)

Save The Date— The Robyn Castle Mixed Teams Event

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Mixed Teams competition and will be held at District Park, Newcastle between 6 & 8 June 2026.

Teams consisting of a minimum of two men and two women will compete over the long weekend. Start planning now for your team to participate in this time honoured event. A great opportunity to gather friends for a very social and fun mixed tennis competition at the venue of our Australian Seniors Tennis Teams and Individual Carnival in 2027.

Enquiries can be made to Rod Clarkin on 0411 446 338, to Di Cassel on 0426 227 946 (or by email to play@tsnsw.com.au). Details also available on the website— [Tennis Seniors NSW—Over 30s Tennis](#)

2026 Australian Seniors Carnival – Gold Coast, Qld

Tennis Seniors NSW was represented by 20 Teams in the first week of play of the two week carnival, held between 4 and 9 January 2026, namely 6 Mens and 14 Women's teams.

Congratulations to the following **winning** teams which did our state proud in the competition:

Men's 70-75 Age Group, Division 2 — Issi Aaron, Bob Bow, Paul Goodrick, Brian Loader, Grant Logan & John Visser.

Women's 45+ Age Group, Division 2 — Shamila Kumar, Tania Murphy, Rebecca O'Dea, Elizabeth Rees, Bonnita Shirley & Anita Thornhill.

Women's 55+ Age Group — Mary Baker, Narelle Follington, Yvonne Stanton, Karen Thompson, Raeleen Thompson & Stefani Warwick.

NSW teams also featured as **runners-up** in several categories as listed below:

Men's 65+ Age Group, Division 1— Greg Langlands, Bob Lemon, Sebastian Lonappan, Neale McDonald, Roch Mooney & Tim Niccol.

Men's 80+ Age Group — Alan Walsh, Dennis Bindon, Ian Davis, Col Elliott, Peter Sheridan & John Williams.

Women's 45+ Age Group, Division 2 — Jodie Horley, Sara Goddard, Alison Huxtable, Louise Lund, Bronwyn Mifsud & Felicia Owers.

Women's 50+ Age Group — Kylie Frawley, Adrienne Gale, Sharon Killen, Natasha Melville & Sue Simpson.

Women's 50-60 Age Group - Heidi Fung, Rachel Huang, Xin Liu & Lucy Meng.



45+ Women's Division 2 Team Winners in Australian Seniors Carnival—Gold Coast, January 2026

Shamila Kumar, Tania Murphy, Rebecca O'Dea, Elizabeth Rees, Bonnita Shirley and Anita Thornhill.



Winners of the 50+ Women's Teams in the 2026 Australian Seniors Tennis Championships:

Mary Baker, Narelle Follington, Yvonne Stanton, Karen Thompson, Raeleen Thompson & Stefani Warwick.

Winners are Grinners! The winning Men's 70+ Division 2 NSW Team at the 2026 Australian Seniors Tennis Championships at the Gold Coast in January. From Left to Right—Brian Loader, Bob Bow, Grant Logan, Izzi Aaron, John Vizzer and Paul Goodrick.



The Individual events followed on and were held between 11 and 16 January 2026. The following Tennis Seniors NSW members featured in the events as mentioned and congratulations go out to those players, plus others who also participated.

Men's Singles

Jade Culph
Justin James
Greg Langlands
Alan Walsh

Runner Up 45+
Runner Up 50+
Runner Up 65+
Winner 80+

Women's Singles

Sanna Belford
Samantha Jo Ewert
Helen Worland

Winner 45+
Winner 55+
Winner 75+

Men's Doubles

Justin James
Manuel Radic & Greg Westwood
Wayne Pascoe
Alan Walsh

Winner 45+
Winners 60+
Winner 70+
Winner 80+

Women's Doubles

Stephanie Bowler

Sanna Bedford & Sami Jo Ewert

Sasha Hale & Kristen White

Leanne Swaysland

Runner Up 35+

Winners 50+

Runners Up 50+

Winner 65+

Mixed Doubles

Sanna Bedford

Leanne Swaysland & Manuel Radic

Winner 45+

Runners Up 60+

Election of Two New Life Members

At the 2025 AGM, two of Tennis Seniors' most popular ladies were elected to Life Membership of the organisation. Margaret Wayte and Peg Hoysted were unanimously awarded the honour for their long standing commitment to the ideals of Tennis Seniors and their continued participation as both players and administrators in our wonderful sport. Congratulations to both ladies who are great ambassadors for tennis.



Peg Hoysted, recipient of Life Membership. Pictured here with fellow Life Member Julie Pratt during the presentation of her award and badge.

Some of Peg's many Seniors Tennis achievements include the following:

Australian Representative in :-

1994 & 1995 — 60+ Women's Team

1998, 1999, 2000 & 2001 - 65 Women's Team

2003 & 2004 - 70+ Women's Team

2008, 2009 & 2012— 75+ Women's Team

2013— 80+ Women's Team

World Champs Winner:

1997— 60+ Women's Doubles

1998 - 65+ Women's Doubles

Australian Champs Winner

2010—75+ Women's Singles

1990—55+ Women's Doubles 1993, 1994 & 1997— 60+ Women's Doubles

2004 & 2006— 70+ Women's Doubles 2008, 2009, 2010 & 2011—75+ Women's Doubles

2013—80+ Women's Doubles 2020— 85+ Women's Doubles



Margaret Wayte pictured here with Past President of Tennis Seniors NSW, Mick Bruton.

A Seniors Tennis record unlikely to ever be beaten. Below is a list of events won by Margaret during her 39 years of competition in Tennis Seniors events (and remember, 40 was the minimum age in those days).

Margaret recently retired from tennis and is now an active croquet player in her home town of Forster on the mid-north coast of NSW.

 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2014 Australian Women's 70+ Doubles

2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 & 2011 Australian Mixed 65+ Doubles

2016 & 2017 Australian Mixed 75+ Doubles

In addition to her wins, Margaret has represented NSW/Australia in the following:

1986 Young Cup

1990 Young Cup in Austria.

1991 Maria Bueno Cup in Perth

1995 Maureen Connolly Cup in Austria.

1997 Maureen Connolly Cup in Canberra.

2001 Alice Marble Cup in Perth, (part of the winning team)

2004 Alice Marble Cup

2009 65+ World Women's Doubles

2012 70+ World Women's Doubles

All this whilst raising five children and being an active volunteer for the Gloucester Tennis Club for over 20 years.

- 1986 Australian 45+ Women's Singles Winner
- 1986 Australian 40+ Women's Doubles Winner (with her sister Lyn)
- 1987 Australian 45+ Singles Runner Up.
- 1988 Australian 45+ Teams Winner
- 1988 Australian 45+ Mixed Doubles Winner
- 1989 Australian 45+ Women's Doubles Winner (with sister Betty)
- 1989 Australian 45+ Mixed Doubles Runner Up
- 1991 Australian 50+ Women's Singles Winner
- 1991 Australian 50+ Women's Doubles Winner
- 1991 Australian 50+ Mixed Doubles Winner
- 1992 Australian 50+ Mixed Doubles Runner Up
- 1991 Australian Women's 50+ Singles
- 1995 Australian Women's 50+ Doubles
- 1996 & 1997 Australian Women's 55+ Doubles
- 1997 World Women's Doubles 55+ - with her sister Lyn.
- 1997, 1998, 1999 & 2000 Australian Mixed 55+ Doubles
- 2003 Australian Women's 60+ Doubles
- 2005 Australian Women's 65+ Singles
- 2005, 2007 & 2008 Australian 65+ Women's Doubles
- 2002, 2003, 2004 & 2005 Australian Mixed 60+ Doubles

Achievement Awards for 2025

Congratulations to the following members who at the AGM in December 2025 were acknowledged for their contribution to the ideals of Tennis Seniors NSW:

Senior of the Year:	Leanne Swaysland
Administrator of the Year:	Steve Taylor (Nelson Bay Tennis Club)
Player Recognition:	Peg Hoysted

Forthcoming Seniors Tournaments

Members are reminded that there are a number of Senior's tournaments coming up before Winter sets in. The only way we can ensure that Senior's events can continue to be offered in NSW is if players support them by way of participation. Please consider playing in one or more of those listed below:

Dates	Venue	Contact Name for entries	Phone No.
March 6-8	Narooma (Round Robin)	David Harris	0417 051 391
March 13-15	Armidale (Round Robin)	Charles Hempel	0425 260 135
March 13-15	Tennis Macarthur NRT 6	Michael Jackson	0413 632 632
March 20-22	Central Coast (Round Robin)	Leoni Baldwin	0420 556 227
April 10-12	Pennant Hills NWST NRT 6	Kat Lees	0452 500 301
April 18-19	Singleton Tennis	Craig Miles	0417 265 066
May 1-3	Inverell NRT 7	Joshua Parker	0429 202 160
May 15-17	Gloucester NRT 6	Ruth Johnson	0418 763 041
May 22-24	Central Coast NRT 7	Leoni Baldwin	0420 556 227
May 30-31	West Tamworth (Round Robin)	Brian Brooking	0417 614 054
Jun 6-8	Robyn Castle Mixed Teams—Newcastle	Rod Clarkin	0411 446 338
Jun 13 –14	Lake Macquarie NRT 6	Matt Abbott	0476 681 639
Jun 27-28	Cowra Round Robin	Cindy Fuhlbohm	0414 702 502

A big “Thank You” to Strathfield Sports Club for sponsoring the NSW Teams Dinner held at Emerald Lakes Golf Club during the 2025 Australian Teams Carnival. Strathfield Sports Club has been tremendously supportive of Seniors’ Tennis and we are sincerely grateful.

A great venue for functions, family celebrations and of course, Tennis and Futsal. Please try to support the Club if you are looking for a centrally located venue for your special occasion.