



# ROYAL PARK TENNIS CLUB (INC.)

## 2018/19 Annual Report

On behalf of the Management Committee I am pleased to present the following report regarding the operations of the Royal Park Tennis Club (Inc) during the 2018/19 year. The most significant of which are:-

### FINANCIAL

- Our sound financial position and continued efficient management of our facilities.

### MEMBERSHIP

- Membership dropped a little to 469 (2017/18 was 500). Recruitment was strong across social & junior categories, and we moved up to 5<sup>th</sup> spot in TVs TOP 50 clubs, with 1269 registered players, which includes members, hirers, social and special programs participants.

### MANAGEMENT

- Carole, Janice, Neil, Greg, Kevin and Natalie continued to be our very effective management team.

### MATCH AND TEAM, JUNIORS, TOURNAMENTS AND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 83 teams participated in 15 different Association competitions (incl. Spring and Autumn seasons).
- We conducted a Bronze Australian Money Tournament, supported the Tennis Victoria Platinum Clay Court Championships and continued to hold the Twilight Tournament, the Junior Classic tournament, Club Championships and Seniors Round Robin.

### FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE

The City of Melbourne replaced the decking of the northern pavilion, completed the painting of the main clubhouse and repaired rotting weather boards and some doors. The Club received a grant of \$8,800 and installed security lighting in the car park and at the front of the Clubhouse, and installed 7 security cameras. Victrack commenced the removal of the cyprus trees along our western boundary line. Our solar system saved us from buying 5.88 Mwh off the grid and reduced our electricity bills by \$1,890. A special thanks to Yannick Zapf for his help on this project.

### SOCIAL

- Junior End of Season, end of year Club gathering and Trophy presentation, Wednesday night, Sunday afternoon, midweek and several other one-off social tennis programs were held and reasonably well attended.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS

- We obtained grants and again participated in the Huddle program and the Mercy Aged Care facility in Parkville, continued the monthly Sunday afternoon social tennis session, and have reintroduced a womens social tennis program on Tuesday mornings.
- We received a total of \$15,020 grants during the financial year.

### COACHING

- We have continued to enjoy the successful coaching programs operated by Matt Gregory and Dan Donnelly and their teams.

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### RESPONSE TO OUR PLANS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE PAST YEAR

Last year we committed to undertake the following priority activities and set out below is our response to these:

#### Strategic Plan

We have continued to progress the initiatives as detailed in our three year Strategic Plan. They are:

- **Junior Development programs that provide a positive experience and connection to the RPTC community.**

Again we were able to involve a number of Junior players in senior competition and Pennant but it is an area of ongoing importance and focus for the Club. We have recently seen greater interest from some parents to be involved which is a positive sign. New Tops have been designed and are now available and a Junior Players Pathway banner developed for the information of parents, junior players, coaches and local schools.

- **Social tennis and competition structures including social tennis, Tennis Australia sanctioned tournament and the reintroduction of a Twilight tournament.**

We continued the monthly Sunday Social and Wednesday night social tennis programs and introduced a Monday night mixed, Tuesday morning women's and Thursday morning mixed social programs. We successfully conducted our TA sanctioned AMT Bronze tournament over the Melbourne Cup Weekend and a "Twilight" tournament in late November /early December. We also facilitated Tennis Victoria's Platinum Clay Court Championships in April.

- **Use of technology and communications to better engage our members, users and community.**

We continued to endeavour to enhance our use of technology and communications but this is an area for continued focus into the future.

- **Maintain our strong operations so that we remain a viable not-for-profit Club.**

We are in a strong financial position and have seen our monthly revenue continue to grow because of a strong increase in the use of Book-a-court.

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## **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st July 2018 TO 30th June 2019 – Kim Summerill, Treasurer**

TO BE TABLED

### **2019/2020 Budget**

The 2019/2020 budget has been approved by the Management Committee.

### **FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT and MAINTENANCE - Caryle Demarte:**

#### **Facility Development:**

It was a year of tidying up and improving the office, plus security and maintenance tasks.

The City of Melbourne replaced the deck and steps of the northern pavilion and rotting weather boards at the main clubhouse. They fixed the causeway doors, installed the bar glass dishwasher, completed numerous painting tasks and stained part of the southern side of the deck of the clubhouse.

We experienced some challenges with the solar system at the start of the year but over the 12 months it reduced our grid consumption by 5.88 Mwh and our electricity bills by \$1,890 over the previous year. The Hon. Adam Bandt and the CEO of Tennis Victoria attended the system's commissioning ceremony in August 2018. A special thanks to Yannick Zapf for all of his help and expertise with this project.

The Club upgraded the office with a new desk, blinds, storage units, the purchase of a second computer and a white board. We also installed 7 security cameras, both inside and outside, and security lighting at the front of our building and in the car park for which we received an \$8,800 grant.

We have commenced plans to update the two toilets and the City of Melbourne is looking to update the disability toilet.

Finally, Victrack and the City of Melbourne have determined that the cyprus trees along our west fence are no longer safe and are a risk to falling on the railway power lines and/or into our property. They have commenced their removal. We are yet to be advised when the work will be completed. The Council will be straightening the bike path and planting new lower growing trees along our fence line.

#### **Facility Maintenance:**

Two Working Bees were held during the year with approximately 30 people attending plus a couple of days spent cleaning out the maintenance sheds.

#### **Maintenance Contractor and Caretaker**

Neil and Greg continued to keep our facilities looking clean, tidy, safe and well maintained. As usual, we received positive comments regarding the standard of maintenance and cleanliness of our facilities which is a credit to all involved.

My personal thanks to Kevin Walsh for his ideas, enthusiasm and support in progressing maintenance and new initiatives and all of those members who attended working bees throughout the year.

**COACHING - Caryle Demarte** Our experienced coaches, Matt Gregory and Dan Donnelly and their teams, have provided excellent opportunities for club members and non-members to get involved in tennis.

**Matt Gregory** and his team undertook the following programs in the year:

Community Programs supported with grants:

- The Huddle - Tennis Victoria supported the Club to provide coaching, equipment and a Club visit as part of the ACE program. This program attracted up to 70 children this year,
- Tennis Victoria: this enabled a "Girls in Tennis Program" to be run at the Club. It ran for two terms and involved up to 12 girls aged between 12 and 17 years of age,
- Danni Skiba coached Andrew Negrelli to a silver medal at the Australian Disability Games (intellectual category) via a grant of \$1,500 from Sport and Recreation / Disability),
- The Club received a grant from Active Sports to provide a program to the Parkville Mercy Centre for Elderly citizens.

Club Programs: Matt Gregory and coaches provided :

- Private and group lessons
- Cardio Tennis and Hot Shots
- Juniors and Adults, ladies programs, and
- Continues to promote new juniors and adults to RP teams.

Professional Programs:

- Australian Open - Coached L Kumkhum to 3rd round main draw,
- Australian Open - Coached M Sawanagkew to 3rd round junior singles, and
- Several local juniors transitioned to pro tour events and highly national ranked.

Coach Development:

- Danni Skiba received a scholarship to undertake the Tennis Australia Junior development qualification, and
- Curtis Noble received his Club Professional qualification.

Jihee Lee and Varatchaya Wongteanchai former female touring professionals are also on Matt's staff. He has more qualified female professional coaches on his coaching team than any Club in our area.

**Dan Donnelly** offered the following programs over the past year:

- Pee Wee tennis 5-7 yr olds
- Adult group and private lessons
- Junior group and private lessons
- Junior squads
- School holiday tennis clinics
- Coaching offered Monday - Saturday

Both Dan and Matt's programs are for all ages and capability levels and have had flow on effects of new members as well as new players for competition (both junior and adult). Some 23 transitioned to membership this year.

We are looking forward to continuing our partnership with Matt and Dan so that we can give the community the best tennis experience Royal Park can offer.

**SOCIAL - Maria Keys**

**The major social events held during the year were:**

**Super Sunday**

This was a triple treat – our Junior's presentation (Season 2 teams), End of Year festive gathering, and Twilight Tournament finals. Melbourne's amazing weather co-operated and it was a very enjoyable afternoon/evening get-together!! Some 70 members, friends & players enjoyed the BBQ and were entertained by great matches on court.

**Trophy Presentation**

This was another twilight gathering to celebrate and reminisce about the wins and challenges from the Club Championships! Wine, tennis balls and chocolates were the preferred trophies, but the Perpetual Trophies awarded for the Singles Championships took centre stage on the display table.

### ***NSNTA Golf Day***

Our team went out to defend their title from last year in this annual charity day. It was a close contest, with 80 golfers playing in great weather, but a different club won the trophy. Our team featured Paul White, Michael Furey, Barry Davis and Rob McRae. Well played!!

### ***All-in-4 Celebration***

This was a “Thank You” gathering to recognise the completion of significant facility improvements, assisted by several supportive organisations including Melbourne City Council, Tennis Australia, Tennis Victoria, Federal Government and suppliers. Official guests joined members and friends to celebrate our fencing, clubhouse renovations, Solar and battery installation, plus LED court lighting!!

### ***Wednesday Night Social Tennis***

This weekly event has been going since February 2015, and continues to be popular, with between 12 and 24 players of intermediate and above standard each week. Another 86 participants joined in with some of the regulars, and enjoyed the round-robin format organised by Kevin Walsh. The Club gained \$8,810 in net revenue, and the total player list from February 2015 moved up to 281. A few players each week come from the Club’s Meet-up group which had 1284 members listed as at end of June.

### ***Sunday Socials***

This monthly series, which is open to the general community, continued into 2019. In the four 2019 sessions to June, some 37 “casual” players have participated in the round robin format. Numbers vary from month to month, but all enjoy the opportunity to play, and socialise later with light refreshments.

### **MEMBERSHIP - Maria Keys**

We started well with a strong renewal rate (75% - 373), and a further 96 new recruits brought the year’s total (469) within 6% of 2018’s figure (500). The male/female ration remained at 64%/36%, though both groups’ numbers decreased slightly - a trend reflected also in all four membership categories.

New member interests were encouraging, with social (21), juniors (35), and adult competition (19) – showing that our range of playing options is maintaining popularity and adding to our activity levels. Other positive notes are that 14 family groups joined up, while 66 players have stayed with the club for some ten years – thus adding stability and experience to our teams and general operations.

Our social category is another highlight, with over 500 players now included, and adding to our profile as an inclusive Club, which welcomes all comers. With our strong combination of social, registered and community members, we have been recognised with a 5<sup>th</sup> ranking by Tennis Victoria in their TOP 50 clubs.

### **TOURNAMENTS/SPECIAL EVENTS - Maria Keys**

#### ***Club Championships:***

Participation declined further this year, with 88 entries from 58 players. However, with 14 events, there were many quality matches, especially in the Men’s Open and President’s categories. Unfortunately, no junior events and only two Women’s were held, but Round Robin formats added interest for others.

Two new champions took out the Club Singles titles – Yannick Zapf (Men’s) and Estelle Suys (Ladies), while Rob McRae won his 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive Singles title (2008 – 2019); plus previous. Multiple titles winners were Yannick Zapf, Estelle Suys, Danni Skiba, Sam Pound, and Peter Wood.

Both hot and rather cool weather challenged player fitness and resolve, but all matches were completed in the changeable conditions, supported by organisers Carole Houston & Maria Keys. Thank You both!

#### ***Junior Classic***

With just 30 local juniors contesting 6 events, this annual tournament was shortened to one day, with Round-robin format used in most events to encourage players to mix and test their skills. Star attraction again was the 10 & Under Boys “green ball” contest, and the winner medallions were very popular.

The low participation rate by both boys and girls was unexpected, and some research is being done so we can work on changing that trend. A regular band of court “managers” assisted organizers Carole Houston, Maria Keys and Danni Skiba, and their “maintenance fee” activity is now recorded.



### ***Twilight Tournament***

This attracted a stronger field than 2018, with 67 entries from 47 players, though very few females signed in. Most popular were Men's Singles (both Open and Graded) and Girls 10yo Round Robin. Club members won both Men's Doubles events (Open – N. Busuttill and S. McCurdy), (Graded – N. Christie and L. Pearson), and several sponsors supported the two-day series.

### ***AMT Tournament***

This quality Bronze category event was hosted over the Melbourne Cup weekend, and featured many competitive contests. Both main and consolation draws were required. Good results featured several club members/associates: Pias Wongteanchai; Jihee Lee, Eva Golembiovski, Sam Howe, Daniel Micewski, while other members assisted with canteen, court "supervision" and grounds work.

### ***Victorian Platinum Claycourt Championships***

We hosted this high profile event in April, with Tennis Victoria conducting a 5 day tournament involving local, interstate and international players. Both singles and doubles were contested, in Qualifying (singles) and Main draws. Several Club members participated, including Jihee Lee and Enzo Aguiard – both did well and posted several wins. The Club benefited both financially and reputation-wise from the opportunity with many favourable comments from visitors/participants.

### ***Seniors Social Round Robin***

A record 59 players booked in for this annual graded event run with partners Tennis Seniors Victoria. The intrepid group from Frankston joined others from across local suburbs, and kept 11 courts busy! Club members Anthony Malkoun and Kim Summerill were prominent in the winner's circle, and everyone enjoyed the tennis, the social interaction plus tasty afternoon tea.

### **MATCH AND TEAM – Jason Vochala**

Senior team tennis continued with strong participation in night competition, shown by a total of 40 teams nominated for the two Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday seasons. Players were challenged in most grades, but we did capture a flag in Spring 2018 (B Special 2 Mens) and another four in Autumn 2019 (A Reserve 2 Mixed, A Reserve 1 Mens, B Special 1 Mens, and C Special 1 Mens).

Winter Pennant attracted eight teams, with one in Masters (35+), two in Women's and five Men's grades. Steady results qualified three teams for the sectional play-offs and two teams made the grade finals. Masters (35+) Grade 3 won the Pennant. The Club also maintained involvement in Saturday afternoon competition with 5 teams, 1 being successful (OSD A Reserve). Teams also competed in Ladies mid-week (NSLTA) and Metro Masters competitions.

Many thanks to all, and to Team Captains who lead the "on court" activity.

### **JUNIORS: - Kata Pinter.**

#### **NSJTA Competition:**

Season 2 2018 – (Jul to Nov), 14 teams – A Special to D Grade 3; 4 Mixed, 2 boys, 8 unisex.

6 of 14 in finals, with 3 Runner-up results (Boys A Grade 2; Unisex: D Special 2, D Grade 2)

Season 1 2019 – (Feb to Jun) 12 teams – A Grade 2 to D Grade 3, 9 Mixed, 1 boys, 4 unisex.

3 of 12 in finals, with 1 Premier (Unisex: D Special 4) – they also topped the grade;

The team mix of boys/mixed/unisex changed noticeably season to season, with our junior group being influenced by 11 players "aging out" and 26 new recruits joining the player list. For 2019, the Association also varied the number of players/Saturday mixed team from 3x3 (boys & girls) to 2x2 – potentially encouraging more balanced teams, but also adding to the task of finding "emergencies" for sick/injured players. Team selection and monitoring workload continued, and our Junior Committee utilised initiatives such as pre-season parent briefings to familiarise new participants with competition requirements and etiquette. End of season celebrations provided opportunities for player certificates to be awarded, and for parent interaction.

Team Managers' assistance contributed to a reasonably positive year, supported by Carole Houston and Kevin Walsh on Saturday mornings, though the small Committee was challenged to manage the demands of running 26 teams. As Junior Co-ordinator, Kata Pinter invested significant time and effort in the work involved, including Association meetings, and we thank her and her assistants.

Some rebuilding/reshaping of the Junior Committee is being explored for 2019/20, so as to strengthen the resources and share the demands involved with managing some 100 players/season to ensure our juniors and parents enjoy their tennis experience. We will also aim to have some Future Leader nominees again.

**Junior Pennant club representatives of NSJTA Aug to Nov 2018;**

Two Club juniors were included in Association teams (14s & 10s) – Arabelle Mancini & Eddie Tiplady.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS - Caryle Demarte**

This year we again successfully applied for a number of grants to assist in our role as a community service provider:

- we received a grant of \$2,000 from Tennis Victoria to continue our involvement in the Huddle program at the Flemington community centre. This year we took the program to Ascot Vale community centre with some 70 children participating in the program.
- an Active Sport grant of \$1,220 enabled us to take tennis and other activities to the Mercy Aged Care Facility in Parkville. Both the Huddle and Mercy programs were conducted by Matt Gregory and his team.
- we received a grant to the value of \$2,000 to install a defibrillator in the southern pavilion, and
- a grant of \$8,800 was received from the Victorian Government's Community Safety Funds Grant for the installation of security lighting in our car park, and finally
- a \$1,000 uniform grant for our juniors.

Finally, with the support of Matt Gregory and Dan Donnelly we provided free cardio tennis, adult coaching and junior coaching programs during Tennis Month. The Club conducted a free open tennis program on the Sunday and Tuesday during the same program and also provided a free social tennis program during Seniors Week.

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**PLANS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING YEAR**

In line with our strategic plan we are continuing to focus on increasing participation and providing a friendly environment by focussing on the following areas:

1. Junior programs that provide a positive experience and connection to the RPTC community, endeavouring to involve more parents and seeking ways of building partnerships with our local schools.
2. Enhancing our social tennis programs to include young adults and school age children, and continuing to build on delivering quality tournaments.
3. Use of technology and communications to better engage our Parents, members, users and community; in particular, a redesign of our web site (a carryover from last year).
4. Identify opportunities and build partnerships with local service providers and create new channels to attract participants.
5. Maintain our strong operations so that we remain a viable not-for-profit Club that has a sustainable future.

We welcome questions and suggestions at any time regarding where we should be focussing our resources.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

To successfully manage a Club of this size requires a significant effort from many people and I extend our gratitude and appreciation to the following for their support and valuable contribution to the success of our Club:

- Carole Houston, Janice Lacy, Neil Oborn, Greg Kennedy, Kevin Walsh and Natalie Walsh for having again provided excellent management and operation of our activities, court usage and maintenance of our facilities.
- To all the dedicated members who gave their time and energy to maintenance, tournaments, social and operational activities.
- To the members of the Management Committee - Maria Keys, Troy Knowling, Kata Pinter, Kim Summerill and Jason Vochala, a big thank you for your help and support. I wish to make special mention of Kata Pinter's great contribution in running our Junior teams and for her help in transitioning to new Junior Committee leaders.
- To the members of our Junior, Match and Team and Tournament Committees for their efforts, and
- To our Coaches, Matt Gregory and Dan Donnelly and their teams for their excellent coaching services to our members and the public and for their support of our Club.

To all members, thank you for your loyalty, participation, encouragement, input and support. We rely on you telling us what your needs and aspirations are for our Club and its facilities and we appreciate being told that what is happening at the club is good or could be better.

Finally, I encourage you to seek opportunities to get involved because it is essential that you and your member friends do your bit to ensure our Club is in a place that provides an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for you, your family and friends and continues to thrive and grow.

**Caryle Demarte**

**PRESIDENT**

**September 2019**