

# MCC TENNIS SECTION HISTORY

## **Chairman**

1886-05	Records incomplete
1905-06	E.F. Mitchell
1906-19	Records incomplete
1919-30	H.G. Wimpole
1930-34	W.J. Daish
1934-35	R.E. Wood
1935-46	J.C. Blair
1946-50	H. Malcolm
1950-64	E.L. Moran
1964-68	D.M. Ferguson
1968-70	B.R. Tobin
1970-72	E.L. Moran
1972-85	Dr. D.P. Cordner
1985-92	P.A. Mitchell
1992-	B.J. Brennan

## **Secretary**

1883-86	J.W. Colville
1886-98	Records incomplete
1898-09	H.G. Wimpole
1909-30	W.J. Daish
1930-46	H. Malcolm
1946-55	D. Osborne
1955-58	P. Gordon
1958-61	B.R. Tobin
1961-62	G. Sims
1962-64	J.W. Pontefract
1964-70	J. Mitchell
1970-85	P.A. Mitchell
1985-92	B.J. Brennan
1992-96	P. Dean
1996-	F.A. Graham

## **Life Members**

B.W. Adams	J.P. Cahill	S.C. Griffin	B.J. Brennan
W.H. McCulloch	F.A. Graham	P.E. Richardson	J.G. Fraser
P.A. Mitchell			

## **Australian Davis Cup players to have played for MCC**

Gerald Patterson	Representative in 1919, 1920, 1922, 1924, 1925 & 1928 Non Playing Captain 1946
Harry Hopman	Representative in 1928, 1930, 1932, 1938 & 1939 Non Playing Captain 1959-69
Colin Long	Representative 1946-48
Frank Sedgman	Representative 1949-52
Neale Fraser	Representative 1955-63 Non Playing Captain 1970-92
Allan Stone	Representative in 1970, 1976, 1978-79
Paul McNamee	Representative 1980-86

## **Foreign Davis Cup players to have played for MCC**

Chiro Mukerjea represented India in 9 Davis Cup ties.

## **Federation Cup players to have represented MCC (St. Kilda)**

St. Kilda - Judy Dalton (nee Tegart)	Representative 1965-70 Non Playing captain 1981-84
--------------------------------------	---

## **Australasian/Australian Mens Singles Championships Winners - MCC members**

1904*	Rodney Heath
1911*	Sir Norman Brookes
1914*	Dr Arthur O'Hara Wood
1920*	Pat O'Hara (brother of Dr Arthur O'Hara Wood)
1923*	Pat O'Hara
1926	Jack Hawkes
1927	Gerald Laidlaw Patterson
1949	Frank Sedgman
1950	Frank Sedgman

\* denotes played at the Albert Ground.

## **Victorian Hardcourt Championships**

1972	Mr. B. Leach (St. Kilda member) won the B Grade Mens Singles.
1999	Christina Wheeler won the Womens Singles Championship.

## Dr. Don Corder Award for the Most Valuable Player

1985	R. McKenzie	1986	R. McKenzie	1987	T. Stafford
1988	P. Keller	1989	P. Keller	1990	N. Holland
1991	V. Eke	1992	D. Cox	1993	P. Aitken
1994	J. Limmer	1995	Not Awarded	1996	Not Awarded
1997	Gordon Ryan	1998	Tonia Kennedy	1999	Christine Wheeler
2000	Brett Hunter	2001	Kirsty Benoit	2002	Maureen Spencer

## Singles Champions

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
1998	V. Eke	E. Haylock		
1999	N. Raastrup	E. Haylock		
2000	V. Eke	D. Kypreos		
2001	S. Scrutton	J. Dymond	A. Karlovic	F. Shaw
2002	L. Williams	J. Dymond	B. Mc Adam	

## MCC Pennant Premierships

The club has won 31 mens A-grade pennants (St. Kilda has won an additional 4 mens A-grade pennants and 1 womens A-grade pennant). John Fraser has played in nine A-grade premierships, being captain in seven of them.

### *Mens State (A) Grade*

1886, 1889, 1890, 1892, 1893, 1895, 1900, 1904, 1905, 1907, 1908, 1913, 1914 - St. Kilda, 1921, 1926, 1929, 1934 - St. Kilda, 1935 - St. Kilda, 1936 - St. Kilda, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1947, 1949, 1952, 1954, 1955, 1961, 1965, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1976, 2001.

1976: W.Coghlan, J.Fraser (C), I.Barclay, R.McKenzie, P.Avery.

2001: Shane Scrutton, Ian Peter-Budge (C), Chris Barkla, Lachlan Williams & Brett Hunter.

### *Womens State (A) Grade*

1936 - St. Kilda

#### *Mens B Grade*

1979

1983 R. McKenzie (C), J. Fraser, D. Prior, J. Evans.

#### *Mens D Grade*

1958 - St. Kilda. N.Oliver (C), P.Craine, T.Lock, K.Thorpe, R.Baxter & B.Stanley.

#### *Mens Grade 1*

1993

#### *Mens Grade 2*

1991 V. Eke

1996 Ernie Ewart, Barry Golightly, Chris Kachel, Peter Keller, Stuart Thompson.

2000 Stephen Myers (C), Matthew Egan, Victor Eke, Brett Hunter, Chris Letcher, Clint Letcher.

#### *Mens Grade 3*

1990

1999 Chiro Mukerjea (C), Brett Hunter, Chris Kachel, Kim Kachel, Peter Keller.

#### *Mens Grade 10*

1995 - St. Kilda. George Georgopoulos, Jim Hattioannou (C), Ben Page, George Chrisafis & Edward Cutting.

2000 Jarrod Waight, Ryan Waight, John Coleman, Brenton Simpson, Hugh Millikan, Daniel Kerby.

#### *Mens Veterans*

1990 Grade 1

1991 Grade 1 W. Coghlan, B. McWilliams

1992 Grade 1 W. Coghlan

#### *Womens Grade 3*

2001 Tonia Dean, Rebecca McDonald, Kirsty Benoit (C) & Kate Szabo.

#### *Womens Grade 6*

1990

- Womens Veterans** 1991 - St. Kilda Ann Harrison (C), Fay Jeffery, Joan Laurent,  
Gloria McGraw, Janelle Billens & Helen Bright.  
1994 - St. Kilda Ann Harrison (C), Fay Jeffery, Joan Laurent,  
Gloria McGraw, Marg Molloy.

In 2002, Tennis Victoria Pennant became a two-tiered event entitled "Victorian Tennis Series".

**Tier 1** premiers were the winners of individual sections within a grade and **Tier 2** premiers became the overall winner of the grade.

#### **Victorian Tennis Series Tier 1 Premierships**

- 2002 Mens Grade 1 Section 2 P.McNamee, V.Eke (C), M.Hicks. J.Yap & B.Durham.  
Mens Grade 7 Section 2 A.Hayward, M.Simpson (C), H.Millikan, R.Waight & B.Simpson.  
Womens Grade 4 Section 2 M.Spencer, D.Atkins, C.Cox (C), K.Dowlin, T.Durham &  
L.Kenway.  
Womens Grade 7 Section 1 A.Tobias, A.Eke (C), S.Bollas, T.Jungwirth & C.Eke.

#### **Victorian Tennis Series Tier 2 Premierships**

- 2002 **Mens Grade 7** A.Hayward, M.Simpson (C), H.Millikan, R.Waight & B.Simpson.

#### **Tennis Victoria Pennant Player of the Year**

- 1987 Tim Stafford Mens Grade 4  
1991 Victor Eke Mens Grade 2  
1991 W. Coghlan & B. McWilliams Mens Veterans  
1991 - St. Kilda Ann Harrison Womens Veterans  
1992 W. Coghlan Mens Veterans  
1994 - St. Kilda Ann Harrison Womens Veterans  
1995 - St. Kilda George Georgopoulos Mens Grade 10  
1998 Tonia Kennedy Womens Grade 3  
2001 Prue Baulch Womens Grade 5  
2002 Brenton Simpson Mens Grade 7

#### **SDTA (Southern Districts Tennis Association) Premierships**

- 1957 Summer- St. Kilda *Mens Section 2* L.Le Nepven, J.Draper, B.Cornish, J.Cahill, R.Hosking,  
J.Arnold, G.Savage, J.Howse & G.White.  
1959 Summer- St. Kilda & **Butterworth Cup** *Mens Section 4.* B.Nichols (C), P.Craine, J.Cahill,  
J.Leffis, T.Lock, M.Wheeler, G.Goudil, R.Binks & J.Hands.  
1970/71 Summer - St. Kilda (CBC Bank) *Mixed Section 7*  
1971/72 Summer - St. Kilda (ANZ Bank) *Mixed Section 6*  
1974 Winter - St. Kilda *Mens Section 2* D.Lucas (C), B.Lowe, I.Johnstone, B.Wilkinson.  
1974/75 Summer-St. Kilda *Ladies Section 2* P.Sayers (C), K.Nickson, C.Crean, J.Jones,  
J.Nash & G.Burke.  
1976 Winter - St. Kilda *Mixed Section 11* Mssrs. A.Schultz, K.Alexander, K.Wain, J.Knight,  
T.Volosinas & Mesdms. S.McKenzie, S.Jones, J.Riley, J.Outhard.  
1977/78 Summer-St. Kilda *Mens A Grade* A.Tannenberg (C), S.Whitecross, G.Whitecross,  
Chris Tregonning & J.Cahill.  
*Mens Section 2* G.Neale (C), A.Vecgravis, S. Balmford, M.Gilson, D.Lucas  
1978 Winter- St. Kilda *Mixed Section 8* Mssrs. D.Jones, F.Miserus, N.Ogge, B.Whimpey,  
R.Morley & Mesdms. J.Outhred, L.O'Grady, R.MacDonald,  
L.Curtis.  
1979 Winter - St. Kilda *Mens Section 2* K.Wain (C), C.Smith, K.Carter & T.Walker.  
1979/80 Summer-St. Kilda *Ladies Section 5* K.Nickson (C), P.Jones, S.Jones, S.McKenzie.  
1984 Winter- St. Kilda *Ladies Section 3* F.Baker, P.Jones, S.Jones, L.Johnston, K.Nickson (C)  
& A.Furnell.  
1987 Summer - St. Kilda & **Butterworth Cup** *Ladies Section 1* H.Scholfield, S.Lokan, R.Manser,  
K.Lewis & J.Billens.  
1990 Winter - St. Kilda *Midweek Ladies Section B3* J.Stait, J.Neef, K.DeVeth, J.Seville &  
L.Karras  
1991 Summer - St. Kilda *Mixed Section 7* Mssrs. T.Price, P.Becker & Mesdms. J.Price, J.Smith.  
1998 Summer *Mixed Section 4* Mssrs. D.Lucas, J. McLoughlin, D.Martin &

	Mesdms. J.Lucas, J.McLoughlin, N.Elliott.
	<i>Mixed Section 5</i> Mssrs. B.Eden, R.Stevenson, S.Loch & Mesdms. F.Shaw, J.Stevens, K.Jordan.
	<i>Mid Week Section 2 Ladies Singles/Doubles.</i>
1999/00 Summer	<i>Ladies Section 1 Doubles Rubbers</i> J.Bromell, C.Heinze, H.Bloustein (C), H.McKinnon, K.Judd & C.Watson.
	<i>Ladies Section 4 Doubles Rubbers</i> W.Skinner (C), P.Jones, J.Carr, L.Becker, F.McIlroy, D.Bryant & D.Winfield.
	<i>Mixed A Grade Doubles Rubbers</i> Mssrs. V.Eke, B.Eden, S.Myers & Mesdms. D.Jones, M.Hocking, I.Fraser.

### **CCTA (Caulfield-Carrum Tennis Association) Premierships**

1982/83 - St. Kilda	<i>Mixed B Special Singles/Doubles</i> Mssrs. N.Baker, R.Ampt, V.Digirolamo & Mesdms. J.Ampt, K.Lewis, J.Carr.
1983/84 - St. Kilda	<i>Mens A Reserve 1 Singles/Doubles</i> C.Zaharis, J.Caravidis, N.Baker, R.Levey & V.Digirolamo.
1984/85 - St. Kilda	<i>Mens A Singles/Doubles</i> C.Wilson, J.Caravidis (C), G.Neale & C.Zaharis. <i>Mens A Reserve 1 Singles/Doubles</i> C.Crawford, N.Baker, R.Levey (C) & V.Digirolamo.
1985/86 - St. Kilda	<i>Ladies B Special Singles/Doubles</i> J.Billens, D.Bridson, W.Skinner (C) & J.Carr.
1986/87 - St. Kilda	<i>Mixed.</i> Messrs. R.Levey, T.Skinner & Mesdms. W.Skinner, J.Carr. <i>Ladies A Reserve Singles/Doubles</i> H.Scholfield, S.Lokan, R.Manser, K.Lewis & J.Billens.
1987 Winter - St. Kilda	<i>Ladies Section 1.</i>
1989 July-Dec - St. Kilda	<i>Midweek Ladies Section 9.</i>
1990/91 - St. Kilda	<i>Men Section 1 Singles/Doubles</i> T.Young, D.Ryan, P.Lew & A.Vecgravis.
1991 Winter - St. Kilda	<i>Midweek Ladies Section 7 (Wednesday).</i>
1992/93 - St. Kilda	<i>Mens Section 1</i> S.Gay, T.Young, B.Lawry & A.Vecgravis. <i>Ladies Section 3</i> P.Jones, H.Laffey, W.Skinner, J.Carr & J.Price.
1993/94 - St. Kilda	<i>Mens Section 1</i> L.Barker, B.Lawry, S.Gay, T.Young & A.Vecgravis.
1996/97	<i>Mens Section 5</i> P.Becker, R.Nowotny, R.Dunstan & T.Price (C). <i>Ladies Section 2</i> P.Jones, H.Laffey, W.Skinner (C) & J.Carr.
1997/98	<i>Mens Section 2.</i> M.Petrou, P.Clemson, A.Stewart, R.White & A.Vecgravis.

### **Bayside Regional Tennis Association Premierships**

2000/01	<i>Mens Doubles Rubbers Section 1</i> T.Higgins (C), T.Brown, D.Kenley & S.Trafficante.
	<i>Ladies Doubles Section 1</i> K.Jordan (C), M.Hocking, I.Fraser, J.Dymond & T.Thompson.
2001/02	<i>Mens Singles/Doubles Section 9</i> R.Walsh (C), A.Walton-Hall, C. Wolf & A.White.
	<i>Ladies Doubles Section 1</i> J.Dymond (C), M.Hocking, T.Thompson, K.Jordan, C.Stribbles, F.Shaw & P.McWilliams.
	<i>Ladies Doubles Section 2</i> P.Jones (C), W.Skinner, J.Carr, D.Bryant, L.Becker & L.Tierney.

## **Dates & Events**

- 1879** An asphalt tennis court was put down at the MCG and when demand grew, it was followed by a grass tennis court (as it was cheaper - only 60 pounds).
- 1880** Tennis courts were laid out on the actual Melbourne Cricket Ground itself for an "Intercolonial Championship". The trophy was worth ten guineas – more than twice the average weekly wages of the day.
- 1883** The first interclub tennis matches were organized. The six original clubs were Bohemians, Windsor, St. Kilda, Trinity College, Ormond College and Melbourne. Each club except Melbourne had only one asphalt tennis court.
- 1884** Women first played in the Club's Championships when a "Lady & Gentleman's Double-handed Championship" was introduced.
- 1888** The Autumn Tournament was first held (in March). This tournament was such a big affair that in the 1920s it rivalled even the state title and sometimes there were over 900 entries.

MCC virtually launched tennis in the colony. It ran the first intercolonial match against NSW in 1885 and the pennant competitions until the formation of the LTAV in 1892. For the intercolonial matches, the MCC paid the rail fares and expenses of practically all the selected players so that the colony could be properly represented. Until 1892, all the intercolonial matches were conducted on the club's three asphalt courts at the MCG. They then moved to the Albert Ground where the big matches until 1907 were played on the cricket pitches in the centre of the arena.

- 1904** The Australasian Council of Lawn Tennis, the fore-runner of Tennis Australia, was formed. It delegated the MCC the right to hold the first Australasian Championships which were played on the courts of the MCC Warehousemen's Ground – now the Albert Oval between St. Kilda Road and Queens Road.
- 1907** MCC donated to the LTAV a strip of land at the northern end of the Albert Ground which ran from St Kilda Road to Queen's Road. Eight tennis courts were completed by the end of 1908 in time to conduct the Davis Cup against England.
- 1908** The Davis Cup Challenge Round was held at the Albert Ground.
- 1912** The Davis Cup Challenge Round against England was again held at the Albert Ground; this was the last Davis Cup match played at this ground.
- 1924** The Australasian Championships were held at the Albert Ground for the last time.

Two asphalt courts located at the corner of St. Kilda Road and Roy Street were built some time between 1924 and 1936.

- 1937** These two asphalt courts were replaced by en-tout-cas and were ready for use by the start of the 1937 winter pennant competition.
- 1970's** Throughout this period, the tennis section entered six teams in the pennant competition (on its two en-tout-cas courts at the Albert Ground).

- 1985** The section established a perpetual award for the most valuable player to be known as the Dr. Don Cordner Award. The inaugural trophy was presented to Ron McKenzie at the Combined Sections Dinner.

- 1987** For the first time, a ladies team was entered in pennant competition (at this time, there were 600 mens teams and 250 ladies teams in pennant competition). Tim Straford won the Cordner Award and was also the first MCC player to win the VTA trophy for the outstanding player in his grade.
- 1993** For the first time in the Section's history a Women's State Grade team was entered in pennant. The team, captained by Anna Klim, finished in 3rd position.
- 1994** Another first for the Section when both Women's and Men's State Grade teams were entered, captained by Lorena Romano and Paul Aitken respectively.
- 1995** Brian Adams, the Section's treasurer, achieved 25 years service as a Committee member.
- 1996** The Section merged with St.Kilda Tennis Club (a traditional club formed in the late 1800's) which had won four Men's and one Women's State Grade premierships. Fran Graham became Secretary and upon finalisation of the merger agreement, St.Kilda Tennis Club was wound up with the merged entity continuing as the MCC Tennis Section.  
The Section's main home became St.Kilda's Junction Oval complex with 6 en-tout-cas courts and the two courts at MCC's original Roy Street site were retained.  
Membership for the merged club began at 170.  
Winter teams entered: SDTA - 3  
Tennis Victoria Pennant 14 (5 made the finals and 1 premiership was won).
- 1997** The complex at Junction Oval was upgraded with courts repaired and top dressed, an automatic watering system installed and the existing lighting on the 3 lower or western courts improved to a standard suitable for State Grade competition. Also, a new pavilion was erected displaying honour boards of both Clubs.  
On 5 October the then President of the MCC, John Mitchell, officially opened the new pavilion by unveiling a plaque displaying the name of the Fraser Pavilion. The pavilion was named after outstanding Section members, brothers Neale and John Fraser whose contributions to the Section and tennis in Australia is widely acknowledged.  
A mid-week ladies team was entered for the first time.  
Summer teams (1996/97 season): 6 - 2 premierships resulting.  
Winter teams: Tennis Victoria Pennant teams: 18 (9 in finals).  
Membership: 191
- 1998** Christina Wheeler, the No.1 player in our Women's State Grade team, at age 16 won the Victorian Hardcourt Women's Singles Championship.  
The Chairman, Barry Brennan was awarded the MCC Hans Ebeling award for outstanding service to the Sporting Sections of the MCC.  
The BBQ and a lock-up shed were installed.  
One mid-week ladies team was entered - resulting in a premiership.  
Summer teams (1997/98 season): 8 - 3 premierships resulting.  
Winter teams: SDTA - 1  
Tennis Victoria Pennant teams: 21 (10 in finals).  
Membership: 254
- 1999** The Treasurer, Brian Adams, was awarded the MCC Certificate of Merit for outstanding service to the Melbourne Cricket Club (30 years).  
Christina Wheeler was undefeated at No.1 in the Womens State Grade team and was ranked amongst the top three 18 & Under girls in Australia.  
Victor Eke won the Australian Mens 45's title and represented Australia in international events conducted in London and Amsterdam.  
Peter Keller won the Australian Mens 55's title.

The retaining wall at the southern end of courts 1-3 was built, the paving around the BBQ was completed and in December, lights were installed on the top (east) courts.  
Summer teams (1998/99 season): 9  
Winter teams: SDTA - 1  
Tennis Victoria Pennant teams: 19 (11 in finals, 1 premierships).  
Membership: 278

**2000** Christina Wheeler won the Australian Open Junior Girls Doubles.  
Events conducted at the Junction Oval courts included:  
- the Fed Cup Goolagong Cup (an interstate challenge for 13 & Under country girls)  
in January 2000,  
- training for the National Australian Claycourt championships by the Queensland  
14/U & 16/U teams  
- Victorian Junior Competition home base for a combined country girls team.  
Summer teams (1999/2000 season): 7 - 3 premierships.  
Winter teams: SDTA - 1  
Tennis Victoria Pennant teams: 20 (8 in finals, 2 premierships).  
Membership: 289

**2001** Chris Guccione represented Australia in the World Youth Cup, was awarded an MCC grant of \$500 & was also the recipient of the Gordan Moffatt Award presented by Tennis Victoria. This award is presented to one boy and one girl each year whose sportsmanship, good demeanour, presentation and proper attitude to training and competition set them apart as examples to their peers. Brett Hunter won two ITF Group 5 singles events and one doubles event during 2001.  
He is currently training at the AIS and was invited to travel to Sydney to provide hitting practice for our Davis Cup squad prior to their semi-final win. Brett was awarded a Sporting Scholarship by MCC. Four junior members of our Section are currently ranked in Australia.  
Danielle Kypreos (8<sup>th</sup> in the 16/U girls), Kirsty Benoit (10<sup>th</sup> in the 14/U girls), Christopher Letcher (14<sup>th</sup> in the 16/U boys) & Jason Yap (15<sup>th</sup> in the 16/U boys).  
Events conducted at the Junction Oval courts included the Fed Cup Goolagong Cup in January 2001 and training for the National Australian Claycourt championships by the Queensland 14/U & 16/U teams.  
Summer teams (Bayside 2000/01 season): 8 - 2 premierships (In Womens Doubles section 1, MCC were represented by three teams and two of the teams played the final).  
Winter teams: Bayside -2  
Tennis Victoria Pennant teams -21 (15 in finals, 2 premierships).  
Membership: 315.

**2002** Brett Hunter represented Australia in the winning Windmill Cup team (a team comprising 2 current satellite players & 2 players over 45 who competed in Grand slam events).  
Peter Keller represented Australia in the Austria Cup (Men 55 & over).