

RLTA- President's Report 2013

Les Finney - 1 Feb 2014



This year it has been my pleasure to work with your committee. This year's Administration team consists of:

Our Patron Lena Bandeira, Auditor Bruce O'Connor, President Les Finney, Vice President David Wilson, Treasurer Bill Tapper, Secretary Betty Keeffe, Assistant Treasurer Melinda Dawson, Assistant Secretary Annabelle Alexander, Committee Members Ray Lambley, David Young, Maureen Hilzinger and Jan Hall

Fellow members 2013 has been a successful year, our club has continued to provide services and facilities the envy of many clubs in the South East. Our club is blessed with a dedicated and generous group of volunteers, without whom our club could not function. Our committee has worked towards fostering progress, both in providing tennis opportunities and planning for the club's future. I would thank all the committee for their efforts especially the executive, treasurer Bill Tapper and secretary Betty Keeffe.

Our club is in a sound place with a stable membership and satisfactory financial resources for its present and future needs. This year has been a fast tracked learning curve for me, a year of challenges and triumphs. Our year began well with fixtures and social play both well represented. We faced several challenges this year. The weather has been unkind to many fixture and social groups alike, with matches washed out and revenue lost. Most notably for the first time Saturday semi-finals were washed out, so only the final could be played. Court compaction on courts 2, 3, 7 and 8 caused many difficulties finding, first the cause and then a cost effective and timely solution. This resulted in a cost of several thousand dollars and will continue to be a consideration going forward. I commend Reg Griffin for his efforts and expertise for guiding us through this process.

Our facilities groundsmen Keith Collyer and Pat Cleary do an excellent job, keeping the courts in wonderful condition and the surrounds and the clubhouse looking attractive. Keith and Pat put in long hours as volunteers maintaining the courts and buildings. We often take for granted the courts that are brushed and bagged ready for our use.

Thank you also to the fixture coordinators and their committees. Your roles are the backbone of the club's main business. Your organization and time enable our members to enjoy their tennis in such a friendly, competitive atmosphere. I would especially thank retiring Mid-week Ladies executive, Maureen Hilzinger, Jan Hall and Lavinia Deutschmann for their many years of service and wish the new coordinators well.

The social coordinators also play a vital role, providing opportunities for non-competitive play and practice and I thank them on your behalf. Saturday Vets, Tuesday nights and other morning groups.

Our club has many other volunteers who undertake important roles. They work, often behind the scenes to ensure all is well. Particularly I wish to acknowledge Reg Griffin, Ian Somers and Yvonne Willson and Bruce Maclean for their efforts, expertise and advice this year, Thank you.

As well as those who regularly assist us, I thank those volunteers who work at working bees and club events, who offer their help, suggestions or expertise. I thank those who respond to the calls for help and so keep the courts, fencing, clubhouse and its surrounds and even visiting clubs well cared for, in the manner that we all enjoy. Our club is a volunteer group, which relies on the generosity and assistance of its members and I urge you all to play some part.

The Club has continued the strong relationship with Damien Waddell and his Adrenalin team. I thank them for way they have helped promote the club and have been active in representing the club and helping organize events for the members such as inter- club challenges, family fun days, championships and fixtures.

Canvas Murals In March this year you will no doubt have noticed the wonderful canvases depicting events around the new clubhouse in 2005. Ian Somers kindly donated this lasting memorabilia.

Our Annual working bee on April 21st was well attended and Reg Griffin is to be commended for his organization and preparation ensuring the most efficient progress was made. We painted court surrounds, moved sand, put up umpire stand shades, installed wind breaks on several courts, repainted seats, pressure cleaned the clubhouse and concrete, washed windows, the list goes on. Not bad by lunch time. We even found time for a coffee and the camaraderie was great to see and experience. A Big thank you to all involved and we look forward to your help next year.

The Rosie Dunn Shield (R.L.T.A. v Redland Bay) was held at Redland Bay this year on July 21st. A resounding victory 38 sets to 28 saw the shield return to us after 4 years. An exciting friendly day was enjoyed by all. Thanks to David Young and his team for selecting and organizing this event and the players who represented us so well. Go the Red Army!

New Life Member On August 3rd a special function was held to induct our most recent honorary life member Ian Somers. His many years of service including 12 years as president include many achievements. A new clubhouse, Court 9, over 600 000 dollars of grants and other assistance, strong leadership and plain old hard work make Ian a worthy addition to this elite group. We look forward to many more years of Ian's company and assistance here.

Tom Ferguson Shield On August 25th we hosted the Tom Ferguson Shield. It was a day of glorious weather, great tennis and a fantastic atmosphere. In the tightest of finishes Redlands Lawn Tennis Association won out, taking the shield in a cliff hanger finish. The result was RLTA 34 sets Beenleigh 32 sets, Gold Coast 21 sets and Beaudesert 9 sets. As this was our first win since 2007, we can all be very proud of the Red Army of the day. The Ladies deserve a special thank you for the morning tea, coffee and tea and a great spread for lunch. Thanks also to the David and Dan Wilson for the barbecue work.

Apology Seniors Week tournament. It was unfortunate that this year the two Sundays available to Seniors week clashed both with the Tom Ferguson Shield and use by Brisbane Vets fixtures. Our apologies, to all those members who rightfully love this event. The committee has put in place steps to ensure this event will always have priority in future. I would thank Bruce Maclean for his work over the years organizing these events.

Loss of a Legend On the 4th September, Jack Finney (past president and long- time Patron of the club, passed away. He will be sadly missed all he knew.

Championships. This year's championships were held on 24-27th September. The Friday finals were again popular, with spectators treated to a wonderful display in the A-grade men's singles final. The results are available in the news section of the web site. Special congratulations go to Courtney Sorrensen who at age 15 defended her A-grade women's singles title. Thank you to Damien Waddell for promoting and organizing these events. These are your championships so please support your section and go hard.

Family Doubles Day On October 13th the now annual fun day was held. It was fantastic to see parents and children, spouses and siblings playing for fun and well for fun. The costumes, the matching outfits were all priceless. Once again Damien is to be commended for all the work he puts in to make our club all that it is.

Council Inspections Late in 2013 we received notification on urgent work to upgrade, repair and test aspects of our safety equipment. Most of these works have been carried out at considerable expense to the club.

New Website We have received a grant to modernise our club website. You will see changes in the appearance and functions of the web site in the near future but it will still display many features most used by members. Fixtures and draws will be under ' Play tennis'

Thanks to all the members for making 2013 a successful year for the club and I wish you all fair skies, fun, friendship and more wins than losses. Most fixtures will begin on their day following the AGM.