

Superb Tennis

Fun Fitness Friendship



2021/2022
Annual Report



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2021/2022 Committee

President's Report



Over 2021/22 we realised many major achievements in the context of difficulties beyond our control: namely COVID-19 and record rainfall.

In the first time for over 40 years, we changed our business name: with the launch of Superb Tennis in November

2021, with new signage, branding and website. At Mills Park we completed many facility improvements: resurfacing another 3 courts, replacing the outdoor furniture, replacing court fencing and a new access gate to court 2, improving safety lighting and bringing the clubhouses up to standard for fire safety regulations.

Social Tennis sessions on Wednesday Night, Saturday and Sunday afternoons are continuing to show strong growth, giving members and others the opportunity to play tennis whenever they can, with many people playing in multiple sessions each week. Thanks to all the volunteers who have been running those sessions, your efforts to ensure the participants have a positive experience is the reason attendance at these sessions is booming.

Volunteers... possibly one of the most important words to a Not For Profit organisation like us! Without people volunteering to assist throughout the existence of our Association our achievements over the past 99 years would have been much less. In our modern world though all of us are "time-poor" and a reliance on volunteers to run crucial parts of our activities is not feasible. During my time as President my aim has been to have our core operations run by paid staff or contractors, overseen by the volunteer committee and with volunteers adding the "cream on top", providing extra services that are not essential to a basic level of operation but which add greatly to our experience as members of the club. We are not quite there yet, still heavily reliant on volunteers to run our social tennis activities. In the last few months though Tim has been running the Wednesday Night sessions to familiarise himself, and is looking to develop a panel of people who can be engaged to run our social tennis activities with the same enthusiasm and dedication that our volunteers have displayed to build these events into their current strong positions.

COVID sadly is still with us, and had a large impact particularly in the second half of 2021, but the impact continues to lessen so hopefully next year it will not feature in this report! Thanks to Hornsby Council who approved our request for a 50% reduction in rent for the July-September quarter of 2021 when we were worst affected by COVID.

The rain also continued to arrive at inconvenient times for us, impacting on our competitions particularly, but also things like social tennis, court hire and coaching.

Unfortunately Hornsby Council was not in a position to commence the process for the renewal of our leases for the

Berowra and Mills Park Tennis Centres before they expired end of June this year, so they have been extended for one more year until June 2023. This means that we are in a bit of a holding pattern and not in a position to have applied for any new grants to undertake any major refurbishment of the Mills Park clubhouse as previously intended. The only major capital works we have planned for the coming year is the resurfacing of the last 3 courts at Mills Park that are yet to be replaced. This will mean that all 10 courts at Mills Park and the 4 at Berowra will have been resurfaced over a 3 year period, setting us up for the next 15 years or so.

Thanks to everyone on the committee for what you have done over the past year. We have a few members who will be leaving the Committee, with our Treasurer Zac needing to focus on completing his PhD, Henry having to devote more time to his work, and long serving member and Vice President Matthew moving into a new volunteer role at a state level with Pickleball. If elected at this years AGM, this will be my final year as President, with my main aims being to finalise the leases for our centres for the next 10 years, resurface the last 3 courts at Mills Park and hand over to the next President a smoothly operating efficient organisation that is meeting our members needs.

Speaking of a smoothly operating and efficient organisation, huge thanks to Beate and Tim (along with his team of Khairul, Alex & Sophie) for all the work that they do to ensure our operations continue, and to Steve at Mills Park and Trevor at Berowra along with their coaching teams.

Eddy Watson, President

We are turning...

100!

Superb Tennis aka HKDTA (or "Hornsby District Tennis Association" at that time), came into existence on August 23, 1923 when 11 existing tennis clubs in the area met and decided they needed to form an Association.

A small sub-committee is looking at ways to celebrate our centenary next year, with a major event to be organised. Anybody with ideas on how we can celebrate please either contact the office, a committee member or the Pro Shop, or get involved to assist in planning for the big party!



Secretary's Report

Superb Tennis (HKDTA) 2021/22



Although the year has been influenced by the hangover from the pandemic and periods of persistent rain which impacted competition play and revenues, the Association has continued with its court upgrades, landscaping and other grounds improvements as well as a series

of maintenance projects. It is planned to complete Mills Park court re-surfacing in the current financial year, funds permitting.

The Berowra refurbishment has proceeded well with the court renewal, lighting upgrade and clubhouse renovation stages completed and the carpark renovation now underway. This will be a quality community asset for many years and an integral part of the local sports precinct.

In our centenary year there is much to celebrate and we are grateful to Hornsby Shire Council for its longstanding support and partnership, the state government and other entities for their significant grant funding assistance, our sponsors and volunteers for their unselfish contributions which provide the facilities that we all enjoy.

Some downsides of the past year include a reduced level of junior activity and our absence from the annual NSW Hardcourts Interdistrict competition. A particularly cold winter and rain interruptions have also obviously been negative factors in the staging of regular club competitions.

The ongoing healthy position of our social tennis is a pleasing offset and perhaps simply reflects a wider community trend but the drop-off in junior participation is disappointing and is a growing concern from Tennis Australia down to local club level. This must be addressed for the game to remain in the sporting mainstream and for clubs like ours to be viable into the future. The grass-roots game can't simply rely on the reflected glow of the Australian Open.

After an extension of twelve months, our leases of both the Mills Park and Berowra complexes are due for renewal in mid-2023. Recent takeovers of some previously community-based not-for-profit tennis facilities by commercial interests present a potentially existential challenge for organisations like ours. The incoming committee will be closely reviewing our financial situation and strategies for a renewal bid as a priority.

Thank you to all members and registered players for your continued support of the Association and also to Beate Seiler, Tim Brackenreg, Khairul Karim and my fellow committee members for their roles in maintaining the operational and ambient health of the club. Theresa Johnson has been especially busy in the gardens.

Members are encouraged to take an active part in club administration, to refresh its policies and processes or seek to introduce new initiatives and, by so doing, ensure its ongoing development and success.

Attendance at the six scheduled full committee meetings over the past year has been as follows:

Eddy Watson	6
Matthew Noone	6
Zac Reynolds	5 (joined the committee in Feb 2022)
Stuart Hillier	6
Laneth Bissett	6
Henry Chim	5
Marc Donnelly	2
Theresa Johnson	6
Linda Tysoe	3
Beate Seiler	4
Tim Brackenreg	6

Stuart Hillier, Secretary

Treasurer's Report



Dear members,

I am pleased to report that Superb Tennis has generated a **net profit \$92,069.72** for the 2021-2022 financial year (22FY). Although this is a 14% decrease compared to 21FY, this is an excellent result given the challenges

presented by the COVID-19 restrictions during the third quarter of 2021. As you might remember, regular competitions were only permitted from the end of November 2021. This has led to reduced competition income for the 22FY. The loss of competition income was only partially offset by an increase in court hire. It was great to observe many of our members taking advantage of the \$10 court hire 'special' rate that was offered during the hours of late morning to the early afternoon. This special court hire rate was available from August 2021 to the end of December 2021. There were 522 'special' court hire bookings over the five-month period meaning that, on average, 26 bookings were occurring each week. This is court hire income that we may not have received otherwise.

It should be noted that for 22FY, Superb Tennis recorded negative operating profit. Specifically:

- Total expenses exceeded total income by \$4,294.84. Total income was \$284,028.01 and total expenses were \$288,322.85.
- Total income for the 22FY was approximately 19% lower than the previous financial year.
- The reduced income was only partially offset by a reduction in total expenses which were reduced by 9% compared to last financial year.

Note that grant and subsidy income has been excluded from the 'total income' values reported above so that total income represents income only from core activities.

The positive net profit figure of \$92,069.72 is largely due to the grants and subsidies received from the council and government, respectively. I point this out to highlight the fantastic work of the committee (prior to my joining) in securing the funding that has allowed Superb Tennis to remain in a good financial position, but also to communicate that we have not been immune (financially) to the effects of the COVID19 pandemic during the 22FY. Although Superb Tennis has been consistent in securing funding for the past few years, I must echo previous treasurers and state that the government funding should not be seen as guaranteed or available in future years.

The committee proposed and approved several projects and purchases over the financial year. The largest of these projects was the resurfacing of courts 1, 7, and 8, (under the new court

numbering system) at Mills Park to match the previously resurfaced courts (2, 3, 4, and 5). Courts 1, 7, and 8 also had new nets and net posts installed. The financial viability of the court resurfacing was helped by the Hornsby Shire Capital Works Grant that offered a 50% reimbursement on the total court resurfacing costs. The total cost to resurface the three courts was approximately \$113k meaning that approximately \$56k was reimbursed by the grant. This now leaves courts 6, 9, and 10 to be resurfaced in the future, to which the net profit made during the 22FY can contribute. Other notable projects undertaken during the 22FY included:

- The replacement of the wire mesh on courts 3, 5, and 8. The mesh on other courts was also repaired where needed.
- A new lighting system along the main footpath at Mills Park to help members and guests get to the carpark safely.
- A high-quality automated coffee/hot drink machine in the main clubhouse at Mills Park which has seen a lot of use, particularly during the colder months.
- New tables, chairs, benches, and lounges outside of the clubhouse.
- New plants/gardens and a new irrigation system and to keep the expansive gardens at Mills Park well-watered.

As of June 2022, Superb Tennis had approximately \$66k available in cash.

Breakdown of Key Income Information.

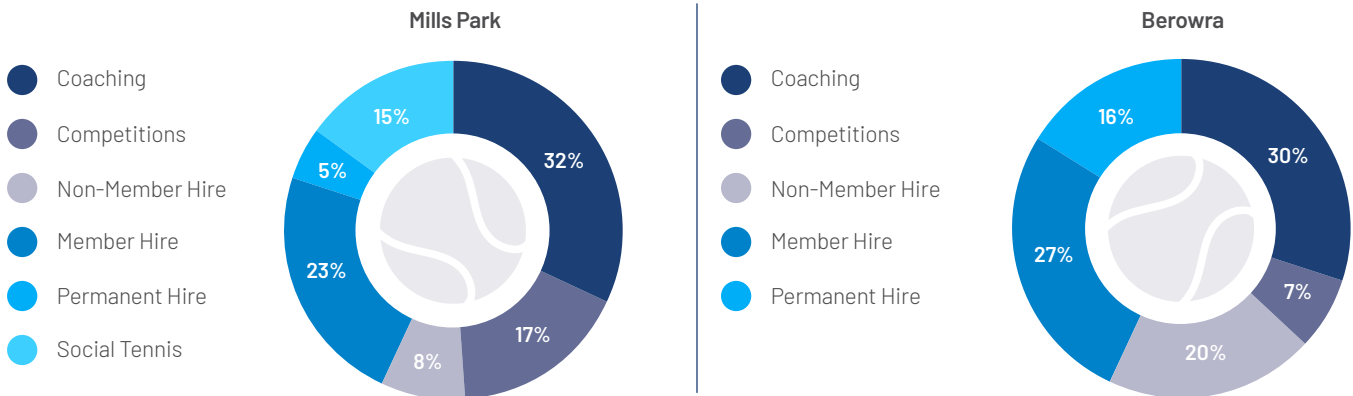
Consistent with last financial year, approximately 83% of court hire occurred at Mills Park and 17% of court hire occurred at Berowra. Figure 1 depicts the breakdown of court usage at each centre. At Mills Park, coaching represented the biggest share of court usage, followed by court hire by Superb Tennis members. Compared to last financial year, the share of court usage to member court hire has increased by 3 percentage points to 23% and the share of usage to social tennis has increased by 3 percentage points to 15%. On the other hand, court usage for competitions was reduced by 7 percentage points to 17%. The COVID restrictions during the second half of 2021 and the significant weather events during the earlier months of 2022 have undoubtedly contributed to this change in court usage for the 22FY.

At the Berowra centre, member court hire has increased by 9 percentage points to 27% whilst non-member court hire increased by 4 percentage points to 20%. The increased share of casual and member court-hire at Berowra is a great sign that the Berowra court refurbishments and improvements to the LED court lighting have increased the quality of the tennis experience for members and non-members.

Treasurer's Report (continued)

Figure 1: Breakdown of Court Usage at Mills Park and Berowra.

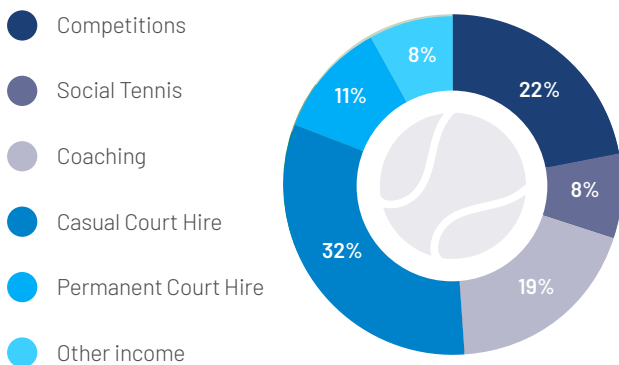
The values are calculated as the proportion of court hire minutes for each category divided by total court hire minutes for each tennis centre.



For the 22FY, casual court hire represented 32% of total income for Superb Tennis whilst competition income represented 22% and coaching represented 19%. This is noticeably different from last financial year where 36% of total income was from competitions and only 20% was from casual court hire. The differences between the two financial years is again likely due to the COVID-19 restrictions prohibiting regular weekly competitions from (re)commencing which resulted in greater demand for casual court hire. Casual court hire at Mills Park contributed just over three-quarters of the total casual court hire income.

Despite competition income being significantly lower this financial year, the breakdown of competition income is largely unchanged from the previous financial year. This indicates that relative competition popularity has remained constant. It also indicates that competition participation has fallen across all cocategories, rather than a select few. The structure, format, and fees of the competitions can be looked at in the future to ensure that the competitions represent good value and a good tennis experience for players.

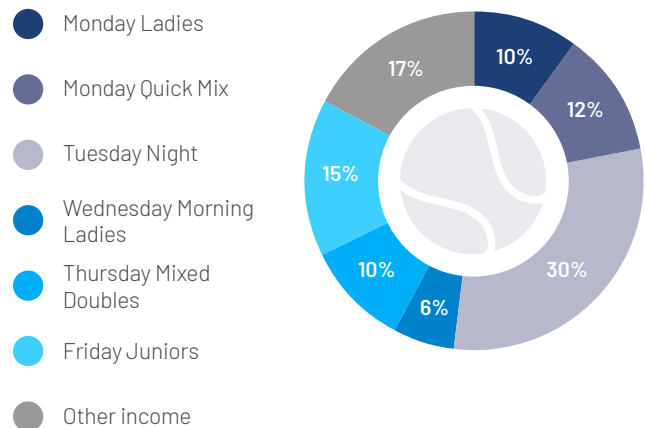
Figure 2: Breakdown of Total Income by Category for the Financial Year Ending 2022. The values are calculated as the proportion of income for each category divided by total income.



Income for each category includes both Mills Park and Berowra income. 'Other Income' includes all income items other than those included in the chart.

I was not entirely sure what to expect when I put my hand up to take the Treasurer role in December 2021. It is safe to say that I have learnt a great deal about what goes on behind the scenes as well as the amount of effort required to run a tennis centre as large as Superb Tennis. To this effect, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Centre Manager, Tim and the Office

Figure 3: Breakdown of Competition Income by Competition for the Financial Year Ending 2022. The values are calculated as the proportion of income for competition divided by total competition income.



'Other' includes income from the weekly singles/doubles competition, the COVID19 competitions, and income from the SJTT competition.

Manager, Beate for the great work that they do with respect to the day-to-day operations at Superb Tennis that ensure that our members and court-hirers continue to have a great tennis experience at Superb Tennis.

Zac Reynolds, Treasurer

Landscaping Sub Committee's Report

Spring is in the air and the jasmine is flowering along with the lavender, gauras etc. The bees are doing their job and the weeds are flourishing but being kept under control by our enthusiastic volunteer gardeners!! The plants appear to be thriving and the sun and water is all they need along with an occasional pruning and kind words, of course.

Thank you everyone who has commented on how lovely the gardens are looking. We appreciate the feedback.

Theresa, Linda and Laneth



Office Manager's Report



The last 2 years have certainly been challenging, with Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions but everybody has put in a tremendous amount of extra work to get Superb Tennis through this.

Thank you to our wonderful committee, competition secretaries, coaches,

Tim and Khairul and volunteers for their dedication and commitment.

Thank you also to all our members and players for their support and understanding. Numbers are increasing steadily, and we are hoping to keep this up (see table below for member numbers).

Being finally able to launch our new Superb Tennis (Fun, Fitness, Friendship) brand in November last year was one of the highlights. We have also been busy with improvements at both our centres through maintenance, refurbishments, repairs, court resurfacing as well as constantly improving our playing tennis offerings.

We are extremely excited to see that the Berowra Tennis Centre upgrade including court resurfacing, clubhouse refurbishments, and installation of solar power for court lighting and an electric vehicle charging station is almost completed.

Looking forward celebrating this wonderful achievement with our members, players and community soon!

Beate Seiler, Office Manager

Year	Junior	Adult	Registered Players*	Total
2017/18	78	306		384
2018/19	55	332	128	515
2019/20	61	342	260	663
2020/21	51	370	472	893
2021/22	59	396	531	986

*Are non-members who have hired courts or played social tennis.

Centre Manager's Report



What a huge year! So many achievements and results to be celebrated.

I expect that the committee have already mentioned many of the maintenance and capital works achievements at Mills Park & Berowra

so there is no need to repeat it all here.

My preference is to thank and acknowledge the efforts of the team [paid & volunteer] who have made these improvements happen as well as maintain existing infrastructure.

From court cleaning to garden maintenance, building cleaning and maintenance as well as the hours of work in preparing and planning for our future; it's valued and appreciated.

In addition to these efforts, we have the booking systems, comp systems, website and communications that require constant attention. Thanks to the team behind the scenes that have assisted in providing the best level of customer service we can.

From a pro shop perspective, it's been an OK year. Delays in shipping from suppliers who found it hard to service their retailers impacted the service and stock we could provide on site.

As a member of Superb Tennis, the pro shop can look after you in your equipment needs, grips, strings etc. If we don't have it in stock it won't necessarily mean we can't order it in for you.

Thanks to those who have supported the shop in the past 12 months, it's been appreciated.

2023 promises another big year of work in the space. I'm keen to hear from the members on ideas and suggestions you might have to ensure we deliver the best experience for everyone on our courts.

Juniors Program

Finding 12 months is a long time in Junior Tennis.

In reflecting on last year's report I was struck by how many of our young juniors have progressed in the past year.

Our Friday play program has evolved and grown with the addition of the WHIZZ KIDS session to complement our Jordan Thompson Cup matches each week. This skills based scoring session has allowed a number of juniors to develop their game and prepare for the "serve, rally & score" of competitive match play. We are already seeing juniors progress to the 5:30pm matches and feel this has been a great addition to the program.

The competitive match play of the Jordan Thompson Cup has also seen growth with some of the players in older phases

of their tennis journey progressing to adult competition participation. With some early wins on the board in the "big league", the juniors team has been proud to watch them grow and succeed in the "big pond".

2023 will see further consolidation of this pathway with coaching, camps, round robins and tournament opportunities to enjoy the game we hope they will play for life.

A big thank you to the parents who make the effort and financial commitment each week. Providing an opportunity to play is only part of the formula, supporting the will and effort from those our kids most admire is essential. Congrats and thanks parents.

Lastly, a quick word of thanks to the team who help our juniors each week. Beate, Stephen, Jacques, Tyrese, Andre, Alex, Alice, Jodie, Shane, Alan, Katrina, Kitty, Kevin and Scotty. Each of these team members help your kids deliver a positive and healthy experience each day. Congrats and thanks.

Lastly, a quick word of thanks to Jodie B for ensuring our Friday comps run smoothly each week. Jodie was quick to understand and improve the way we have delivered the comp each week and we are better for her efforts. Thanks.

Tim Brackenreg, Centre Manager



Berowra Tennis Centre

It's been a massive year for Berowra Tennis Centre, with a \$1M upgrade well underway.

The four courts have been surfaced and new LED lights installed. In addition the clubhouse has been renovated with new toilets and showers. The project includes the installation of solar powered charging stations for electric vehicles in the carpark.

While this project has delivered huge improvements for our players and coaches to enjoy, the work has taken longer than expected, with major disruptions. Like most major facility improvement projects, there has been significant inconvenience to centre users during construction.

We look forward to completion of the final stages of the project for players to enjoy "superb" facilities at Berowra Tennis Centre.

Eddy Watson, President



Project Director's Report

Berowra Tennis Centre Rejuvenation Project



I'm delighted to report that the Berowra Tennis Centre Rejuvenation Project is nearing its conclusion. As I write, preparations are being made to swing the structural steel into place above the newly emplaced foundations in the car park. New cable trenches have been laid in

the car park and the EV Charging Station slab has now been poured. The battery cum controls cabinet is concluding its manufacture in Melbourne, Victoria and will be dispatched to site next week. PV panels should be delivered to site later this week and installation will start immediately the structural elements are in place.

So far, we have managed to complete the principal elements inside the tennis court precinct. These comprise:

- Replacing the tennis court playing surfaces on all four courts with intermediate-speed, synthetic grass, replacing the winder posts and nets
- Replacing the Halide Sports lights with LED lights. These have improved luminosity levels to Competition Standard per Tennis Australia's Infrastructure Planning Guide whilst reducing energy requirements by 30%
- Replacing the ageing tiled roof with colorbond - thereby positioning the roof structure for deployment of PV Panels on the north face of the new roof without affecting the structural integrity of the roof trusses
- Replaced the gutters with the EavesWater system¹ - this will allow leaf litter and debris to be ejected under the influence of rainfall velocity whilst reclaiming the relatively clean water into the new retention tank

- Introduced a new retention tank and dual source pressure pump - this allows the toilets in the refurbished bathrooms to be flushed, preferentially, from retained water using mains water as a backup. This is anticipated to significantly reduce site net water use over time
- Refurbished the two bathrooms entirely - converting one to an accessible bathroom and the other to unisex. This conforms to new design principles to recognise LGBTIQI persons as well as accommodate persons with a disability. The new accessible bathroom also includes a baby change table to allow young parents to change their toddler's nappies etc
- Replaced all windows - incorporating new security screen features and widening the sliding entry door to the clubhouse
- Replaced the fridge in the clubhouse
- Replaced the previous hot water Zip system with a filtered, chilled cold, and hot (boiling), Zip system
- Installed a new Air-Sourced Heat Pump - in so doing we have enlarged the hot water storage capacity from 50L to 270L thereby allowing simultaneous showering in both refurbished bathrooms using an electric-powered system (from renewable energy generated entirely on site; see below) and at an efficiency which is up to 4x more efficient than a comparable electrically-heated tank of the same size
- Decommissioned the two bar heaters in the clubhouse and replaced with a reversible A/C system. This will allow both heating and cooling as appropriate for the seasons - again, using renewable energy entirely generated on site
- Stripped the floor back to its terrazzo concrete surface
- Deployed an access ramp to the double entry gate to Court 2 - allowing wheelchair-bound athletes to participate in tennis play

¹ <https://www.eaveswatersystem.com/>

Project Director's Report (continued)

In the coming weeks of October, the focus will be on the car park precinct. This will involve:

- Installing the PV Panels on both the north face of the clubhouse and the structural elements of the car park awnings
- Receiving and installing the 3 AC Fronius Inverters on the rear wall of the clubhouse
- Receiving and installing the battery cum controls cabinet
- Installing the Tritium EV Charging Station on the EV Slab – and connecting to the battery cabinet
- Installing a new multi-function vending machine
- Restoring the car park surface (fresh asphalt) then installing the necessary bumper stops, and line marking the combination of new types of car park bays – disability (near the court entrance gate), EV (2x) and the balance of conventional bays

Over the balance of November, we anticipate commissioning and optimising the various renewable energy elements. This will involve finalising formalities with AusGrid for Grid connection. However, given the combination of PV Panel generating capacity and internal uses, plus battery storage capacity (ca 60kWh), we anticipate that the facility will effectively be able to operate entirely “off grid” using renewable energy. Tennis players and Club Members will be able to use the EV Charging Station 24/7 at a modest cost of 40¢/kWh – for example, enabling a Tesla Model III to charge from 20% to 80% State of Charge in less than 15minutes and costing about the price of 3 coffees. This will generate fresh revenue for Superb Tennis as well as provide a new community service to Greater Sydney – being the last (& fastest) EV Charging Station just off the M1 Motorway before the next EV Charging Station at Kariong near Gosford.

A Grand Opening is planned for early December with details to follow.

This project represents an Australian first – an integrated PV/renewable energy generation, battery and EV Charging Station development enabled by a community Not for Profit organisation using State-government funds. As such, it represents a flagship project showing the way forward for the deCarbonisation of the Australian urban landscape and enabling the further transition from internal combustion transport to EV.

Jonathan Gray, Project Director

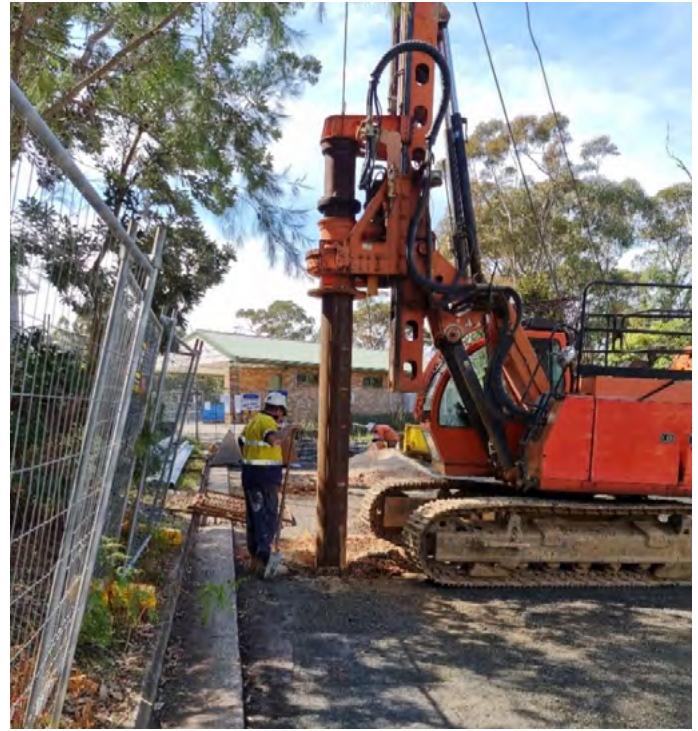


Figure 1: Drilling the pylon foundations using a short-mast drilling rig.



Figure 2: (L to R) Hornsby Deputy Mayor & Ward Councillor, Nathan Tilbury; Jonathan Gray, Project Director, Superb Tennis; Hornsby Mayor, Philip Ruddock; State Treasurer and Minister for Energy, Member for Hornsby, Matt Kean and Superb Tennis President, Eddy Watson (Sep 2022) Electorate Office Day.



Figure 3: Aerial shot (Jan 2022) of the partially completed resurfaced tennis courts.

Mills Park Coaching



Firstly, I would like to thank Eddy, Beate and Tim for their continued support to the coaching programmes and also a big thanks to all the coaches that play their part in delivering the lesson.

Now that the Covid restrictions have eased and group coaching is back the numbers have been steadily increasing.

School tennis programmes have also recommenced. Nick De Vivo was selected in the Australian Schoolboys Representative Team and Elyana Moonen in the Australian Schoolgirls Representative Team.



Well done also to our following 11 students who have been selected into the NSW State High Performance Programme at Homebush:

Nick De Vivo, Andre Filep, Pavle Marinkov, Rianna Alame, Chanel Awkar, Renee Alame, Aarush Sethupathi, Mathew Tan, Vesna Marinkov, Sava Marinkov, Rafaello Munocza.

And congratulations to:

Vesna Marinkov – Representing Australia in the U/12'S European Tour.

Renee Alame – Representing Australia in the U/13'S European Tour AND Winner 12/s and 14/s Nationals.

Pavle Marinkov – Winner of U/18s ITF Adelaide.

Andre Filep – Runner up Darwin U/18'S ITF.

Lisa Mays – WTA ranking in Singles of 921 and Doubles of 632 after a year on the circuit.

We hope to have another successful year in 2022-2023.

Steve Thompson, Head Coach



Vale Greg Thomas



In September 2022 we lost one of our long time members – Greg Thomas. His friend and tennis partner Robyn Flood shares her memories of Greg:

I first met Greg at Mills Park over twelve years ago. We had both turned up looking to join a team for the upcoming Thursday night mixed comp. I saw him hitting up on court and instantly thought he was one

of the coaches – he was that good. He didn't hit the ball hard or smash people off the court but his forehand was deep and consistent, his backhand was a thing of beauty, always deep into the opponent's backhand corner and he had a net game that most players could only dream about. We started a team together that night called Grinders and it was the start of a close and happy on court friendship. I was the lucky one. Playing with

Greg made me a better tennis player and, through his on court example, Greg made me a better person. He was hard on himself when he made an error (too hard!) but he would lavish praise and encouragement on his opponents constantly and was known for popping his racquet under his arm and clapping a good shot or even a near miss. I never heard him say a bad word about anyone. Together we experienced the highs and lows: winning many competitions and were runners up two years in a row in the Open Mixed Doubles Club Championships. In recent years after a bad fall and subsequent serious head injury Greg felt he was unable to compete at high level competition, but he became a regular at our social tennis events and was highly regarded for his solid play and positive attitude.

I guess I would best describe Greg as my 'once in a lifetime mixed doubles partner'. He was a gentleman on and off the court, with an old school gentleman's game.

Robyn Flood

Night Competitions

Competitions

External factors on organised competitions at Superb Tennis provided a challenging year for players and organisers.

As I type, we are due to record the largest rainfall total ever in NSW. These weather events had a tangible impact on competition results and calendars throughout the year.

Covid restrictions, whilst less harsh than the previous year, still had an impact on our lives resulting in an excess of reserves being required and allocated to matches throughout the year.

The combination of these two factors softened the competitive offerings and performance for the past year for the association.

The positives for the year were the resilience, adaptability & loyalty of the members to these competitions. We also saw an increase in "first time participants" to our competitions over the year. Transitioning from social tennis, casual play or lessons showed these members that the leap to compete was not as daunting as it can appear. Congrats and thanks for joining us!

We are looking forward to a stronger competitive calendar this coming year and thanks to those who helped ensure these fixtures were able to proceed.

Monday Quick Mix

An excellent opportunity to transition from "social tennis" into a friendly, quick competition format where two players form a team and play 3 sets of doubles each Monday evening of school terms.

Currently, the competition awards winners' trophies to the team with the best score in their division, as well as the highest scoring individual male and female within the competition.

We completed two competitions in this past year with numbers of teams engaged returning to pre covid levels as we commence the latest iteration which started in September. The schedule has us starting the next comp early in 2023 and now is the time to express your interest in joining the fun.

Tuesday Open & Tuesday Doubles

Playing Tuesday evenings from 7pm sharp at Mills Park & Berowra Tennis centres, its' our most competitive tennis staged during school terms. Designed for players with a suggested UTR approaching 3 or more; my goal as an organiser is to achieve as many tie break sets as possible each week.

The past year has seen a couple of additions to this popular night of tennis.

The introduction of "doubles only" as a result of feedback from players has been well received with two competitions having been run and won. Players are currently rotating opponents and partners, playing three sets of doubles and keeping individual scores. It sounds like a bunch of fun judging by the hoots and hollers from these courts each week.

Our regular formats have seen a solid injection of new talent in all four divisions this past year. This saw the standard of play rise as well as a "fresh games" seen as a positive by existing teams.

Whilst its accurate to state some our highest ranking members play "Tuesday Night Open", its' fair to say the breadth and depth of standards is broader than we have seen in recent years. Most members looking to "test their game" will find a division that suits their current standard and provide a challenge to improve their game through this evenings fixtures.

Thursday Mixed Doubles

This competition offered teams of two ladies and two men, a chance to play a total of eight sets of doubles Each player plays two sets of "unisex" doubles and two sets of "mixed" doubles. Many members have made this their second comp of the week for a number of years.

Competition has seen a decline in participation over the past year. As suggested above, Covid & weather were highlighted as challenges to this rate of participation.

The standard of play however has been consistent if not improving in the past 12 months. I attribute this to the number of reserves being "introduced" to the format over the past year providing greater depth within the teams playing.

We are starting the next competition early in Term 4 with expectations high to return to pre covid participation levels. I would recommend this competition if singles is not your "thing" or the idea of a night out together without breaking the bank and getting exercise appeals.

Tim Brackenreg, Centre Manager

Monday Ladies

The Winter Comp 2021 was unfinished due to Covid; mini competitions were offered until the end of 2021 with a good turnout of players and prizes for coming first. We had our traditional end of year Christmas party at the Hornsby RSL and celebrated the end of lockdowns with enthusiastic Christmas cheer!!



On the 7th February 2022 we started with a Doubles Only Comp consisting of two divisions and 29 ladies. The finals were played on the 16th May. Winners of Division 1 were Katie and Trish and Division 2 winners were Kate and Jennie.

The Winter Comp started on 29th August offering two formats; Doubles Only and Singles and Doubles. This competition ended on 22nd September 2022. The winners of each competition were Bev and Margaret (Doubles Only) and Sue and Michelle (Singles and Doubles).



We've started our Spring Comp which has both formats. Luckily we were able to have enough participants to accommodate both choices. Our Comp will end in December with our Christmas Party on Monday 12th December. Yippee!!!

Theresa Johnson and Beate Seiler



Wednesday Ladies

Our 2021 Winter Comp started on 2 June but had to be suspended due to another COVID-19 lockdown after only 3 rounds of play. Luckily, we were able to resume this comp on 9 February 2022. Last day of comp was on the 15 June 2022. Division 1 Won Hit Wonders defeated Highly Strung and in Division 2 Westleigh defeated Finesse.



We started our term 3 comp on 20 July and finished on 21 September 2022. Division 1 finals teams Matchplay & Won Hit Wonders played a wonderful match. They each won 3 sets and

27 games and agreed to declare both teams equal winners. Congratulations also to Finesse who won Division 2. Well done ladies!



We are extremely excited to announce that we had new ladies joining our term 4 comp and we are now back to 5 Division 1 teams!

Thank you to our wonderful committee, Tim & Khairul and thank you to all our wonderful ladies for your support and help in these challenging times.

Beate Seiler

Mixed Berowra Monday Morning Social Tennis

Berowra Monday morning social tennis has had another successful term. We have a core group of around 8 players who come each week for tennis, friendship, coffee and a whole lot of laughs.

We are a non-competitive group, but that doesn't stop us for playing some very competitive and spirited matches. We truly

cater for all abilities with some of our newer members tennis skills improving as they realise the joy of tennis.

Always looking for more players to join in the fun.

Rhonda Anderson



Social Tennis at Mills Park



Since November 2021 we have resumed our usual social tennis events at Mills Park on Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday evenings. This has been welcomed by our 100+ social players who were disrupted by COVID

restrictions in 2021 due to the COVID pandemic. This coincided with the rebranding of our club to Superb Tennis – see separate article.

Social tennis continues to be strongly supported by our members, with high numbers of players at most events.

Participation peaked over January to April, with the usual dip in attendance during winter Wednesday nights, when only the desperados tolerate the frigid conditions. Many players comment on the friendly and welcoming atmosphere at our social tennis events. In addition, the organisers grade sets when possible, aiming for everyone to enjoy a “superb” experience: from players starting their tennis journey to seasoned veterans. The combination of flexibility (just turn up and play) with well organised sets seems to appeal to many of our members who are attending social tennis in greater numbers.



Thanks to Robyn!

After organising social tennis for several years every Saturday afternoon and Wednesday night, Robyn Flood resigned from this volunteer role earlier in 2022. The committee formally acknowledges Robyn's cheerful, reliable and resilient contribution to social tennis over recent years. There is no doubt that Robyn's positive impact has been one of success factors leading to a resurgence of social tennis at Mills Park.

Matt Noone, Social Tennis Coordinator | Vice President



New club name – *Superb Tennis*



In November 2021, after a process which started in mid 2020, we launched our new club name: Superb Tennis. The new branding also includes the tagline *Fun Fitness Friendship* plus the new icon of the blue wren.

For some years now, many of our club members have recognised the need for a modern business name and logo for our tennis club. The club's official name, Hornsby Kuring-gai District Tennis Association will be retained, but adding a new business name will modernise our look, help us stand out from our competitors and uniquely identify our club to attract new members and visitors. We started the process by forming a rebranding subcommittee made up of people with business, advertising and communications experience.

Next, in September 2020 we surveyed our members to seek their ideas for a new club name that is:

- Original
- Memorable
- Succinct
- Relevant
- Meaningful to players
- Easy to find via internet search
- Available on the Australian Business Register
- Available as internet domain

We received many great ideas and concepts from the survey and informal discussions with players. From these we created our shortlist. We knew we needed a unique name, something unforgettable that would evoke emotion. We also felt very strongly that our beautiful bushland settings, at both our Mills Park and Berowra centres, are one of our most attractive features. We wanted to reflect our environment in our new brand.



Launch of Superb Tennis - November 2021.

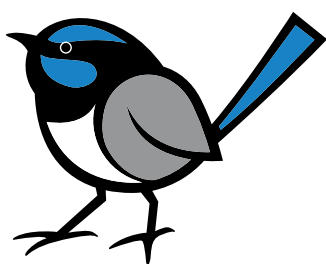
Why 'Superb' Tennis?

As we started to look to our environment for ideas, some excellent suggestions were carefully considered: Bushland Tennis, Parkland Tennis and Ku-ring-gai Tennis were just a few. But none of them created the unique and emotive hit we needed. Then Tony Foster, the most creative member of our team had a light bulb moment and remembered the **superb** blue fairywrens that frequent our Mills Park centre. They flit from shrub to shrub looking for food and entertaining us with their antics and active natures. And so Superb Tennis was born! It's unique, memorable and sets us apart from our competitors. It incorporates a beautiful part of our natural environment and is also a great description of the game we all love to play!

Mills Park and Berowra centres retain their names

Our two centres retain their separate identities as Mills Park Tennis Centre and Berowra Tennis Centre, with Superb Tennis replacing HKDTA as our umbrella club and business name. Our new club name allows us to expand to incorporate other tennis centres as part of the Superb Tennis family in the future.

Our icon: the superb blue fairywren



Perhaps surprisingly, we quickly rejected the notion of a tennis related icon: no racquets or balls. With 'tennis' in our new name using a traditional tennis icon is unnecessary and a wasted opportunity to use a unique and memorable icon. Our **superb** wren is active, interesting and friendly: creating an emotive and unique brand identity.

Our tagline – Fun Fitness Friendship

With our new name Superb Tennis, we need to ensure that our stakeholders don't mistake our club as an elite venue only for 'superb' players or players looking to play only a 'superb' level of tennis. *Our club is for everyone*: players of all standards and ages are welcome at our centres. So, we asked ourselves a basic question: *What is it that most people want out of tennis?* We came up with these three answers:

1. Have fun!
2. Get fit and maintain fitness
3. Enjoy social contact

Fun Fitness Friendship reveals who we are as a club and makes a strong statement on the tennis experience we strive to offer everyone who plays at our centres. We also like the nice alliterative flow to it! So, after many months of researching, collaborating, head scratching and sleepless nights, we came to the end of the process. We're very happy with the outcome and we welcome you and invite you to experience Superb Tennis every time you visit.

Has Superb Tennis made a difference?

Almost a year down the track from the launch of Superb Tennis at the time of writing (October 2022), it is too early to assess the success of our new branding with other factors such as COVID affecting outcomes eg. number of members and court bookings. In any case it would be hard to ignore our new name which is reflected in new signage, court screens, our website and Facebook page. Our bold step to move away from traditional geographically-based names sets our club apart from most tennis clubs in Sydney and we hope this delivers long term benefits. Time will tell!

To see our new brand come to life, watch this [two minute video](#)



2021/2022 Committee

President	Eddy Watson
Vice President	Matthew Noone
Secretary	Stuart Hillier
Treasurer	Zac Reynolds
Committee Members	Laneth Bissett, Henry Chim, Marc Donnelly, Theresa Johnson, Linda Tysoe
Competition Secretaries	
Monday Ladies	Theresa Johnson, Beate Seiler
Monday Night Quick Mix	Tim Brackenreg
Tuesday Night	Tim Brackenreg
Wednesday Morning Ladies	Beate Seiler
Thursday Night	Tim Brackenreg
Friday Night Junior	Tim Brackenreg
Social Tennis Co-ordinators	Matthew Noone, Henry Chim, Eddy Watson
Berowra Monday Morning Social	Rhonda Anderson
Head Coaches	
Mills Park	Steve Thompson
Berowra	Trevor Hodge
HKDTA Staff & major contractors	
Office Manager	Beate Seiler
Mills Park Centre Manager	Tim Brackenreg
Berowra Centre Manager	Tim Brackenreg
Auditor	William Kang
Friday Juniors	Tim Brackenreg
Court Resurfacing	Synthetic Sports Group
Facility Maintenance Workers	Khairul Karim, Alex & Sophie Moreau
Facilities Issues	Hornsby Council

