

Around the Courts

Superb Tennis Newsletter December 2021



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Merry Christmas!

From our President - Eddy Watson

Dear members

The past year has been another difficult one for us all with the COVID pandemic and the restrictions impacting our capacity to do what we all love: getting on court and playing tennis with our friends, family and rivals! Hopefully, 2022 will be a much better year.

Despite the difficulties, our club achieved a great deal in 2021, including rebranding with our unique new name "Superb Tennis", rejuvenation of the gardens at both Berowra and Asquith and other landscaping and facility improvements, and the excitement was palpable when we received a \$1M grant for a complete refurbishment of Berowra Tennis Centre. During the year we continued our court resurfacing program at Mills Park by replacing two more courts and there will be three more courts resurfaced by June 2022.

Our next big infrastructure challenge is the much-needed renovation of the Mills Park main clubhouse. This project will include modern change rooms and refurbished bathroom facilities. In the new year we will update you on the renovation plans and we'll also be seeking your ideas and participation in the planning process.

COVID restrictions have curtailed some of our plans to expand our range of tennis activities, but the committee has recently approved a new Junior Play program put forward by Tim, our Centre Manager. This program will offer greater opportunities for our juniors to play at our centres and other tennis clubs in the area. More details will be available soon.

My thanks to the team who make Superb Tennis the wonderful place it is to play our game: our Office Manager Beate, Centre Manager Tim, and our maintenance staff Riley (who sadly has left us recently to move to Tasmania) and Khairul. Throughout this difficult year they have all worked feverishly to allow us to maintain our operations and improve the experience of playing at our centres.

Thanks also to our head coaches Steve at Mills Park and Trevor & Gilly at Berowra plus the others who work with them, who adapted to the COVID requirements and continued to give our members an opportunity to improve their game.

As a not for profit association, Superb Tennis is driven by a committee of volunteers who dedicate their valued time to make our centres the best possible places they can be to play tennis. To all those who served on the committee this year: Matthew, Stuart, Jonathan, Henry, Laneth, Linda, Marc, Theresa & Tony, thank you for everything that you have done! There are many other club members who volunteer in other ways to assist in the operations of the club, particularly Robyn in social tennis and communications plus Alan and Gavin with landscaping. Without your efforts much of what we achieved this year would not have happened, so thank you! As much as possible we draw on the talents, skills and experiences of our members to assist in the running of our club, so always feel free to contact us if you have an idea that you think can improve our operations, and even better if you can volunteer a small part of your time to assist in some way! In fact, we currently have a vacancy on our committee for a Treasurer...(hint, hint).



I hope that you have a wonderful Christmas and New Year holiday, and look forward to seeing many people taking part in the expanded social tennis, mini comps and other activities we are running in January that you will read about elsewhere in this newsletter!

December and January opening hours and special events

Mills Park Asquith: Book online for court bookings – <https://hkda.tennisbcs.com.au/Applns/Bookings/Bookdisp2.aspx>

Date	Opening hours	Events
Friday 24 December Christmas Eve	Close 5:00pm	
Saturday 25 December Christmas Day	CLOSED ALL DAY	
Sunday 26 December Boxing Day	8:30am - 6:00pm	Social tennis 2:00pm - 6:00pm*
Monday 27 December	8:30am - 6:00pm	
Tuesday 28 December	8:30am - 6:00pm	
Wednesday 29 December	8:30am - 9:30pm	Social tennis 6:00pm - 9:30pm*
Thursday 30 December	8:30am - 6:00pm	
Friday 31 December New Year's Eve	8:30am - 5:00pm	
Saturday 1 January New Year's Day	8:30am - 6:00pm	Social tennis 2:00pm - 6:00pm*
Sunday 2 January	8:30am - 6:00pm	Social tennis 2:00pm - 6:00pm*
Monday 3 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Social tennis 6:00pm - 9:30pm*
Tuesday 4 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Singles mini comp 7:00pm - 9:30pm**
Wednesday 5 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Social tennis 6:00pm - 9:30pm*
Thursday 6 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Doubles mini comp 7:00pm - 9:30pm**
Friday 7 January	8:30am - 6:00pm	
Saturday 8 January	8:30am - 6:00pm	Social tennis 2:00pm - 6:00pm*
Sunday 9 January	8:30am - 6:00pm	Social tennis 2:00pm - 6:00pm*
Monday 10 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Social tennis 6:00pm - 9:30pm*
Tuesday 11 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Singles mini comp 7:00pm - 9:30pm**
Wednesday 12 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Social tennis 6:00pm - 9:30pm*
Thursday 13 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Doubles mini comp 7:00pm - 9:30pm**
Friday 14 January	8:30am - 6:00pm	
Saturday 15 January	8:30am - 6:00pm	Social tennis 2:00pm - 6:00pm*
Sunday 16 January Australia Day	8:30am - 6:00pm	Social tennis 2:00pm - 6:00pm*
Monday 17 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Social tennis 6:00pm - 9:30pm*
Tuesday 18 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Singles mini comp 7:00pm - 9:30pm**
Wednesday 19 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Social tennis 6:00pm - 9:30pm*
Thursday 20 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Doubles mini comp 7:00pm - 9:30pm**
Friday 21 January	8:30am - 6:00pm	
Saturday 22 January	8:30am - 6:00pm	Social tennis 2:00pm - 6:00pm*
Sunday 23 January	8:30am - 6:00pm	Social tennis 2:00pm - 6:00pm*
Monday 24 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Social tennis 6:00pm - 9:30pm*
Tuesday 25 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Singles mini comp 7:00pm - 9:30pm**
Wednesday 26 January	8:30am - 9:30pm	Social tennis 6:00pm - 9:30pm*

*Social Tennis

No bookings required – players of all standards welcome! You will see in our calendar that we have expanded social tennis during January to 4 days per week, including Monday evenings.

**Mini Comps

Mini comp invitations will be sent via email to all members in late December.

These round robin events are contained to each evening – play for just one night, or as many as you want! We will create divisions to suit all standards.

Berowra Tennis Centre will be open most days from 8:30am - 10:30pm daily (online bookings only).

Note: Berowra will be closed from 17 January to mid/late February, with additional disruptions over coming months during major renovations – see article next page.

Our gardens are looking superb



Garden bed preparations



Theresa Johnson - Committee Member



Garden completed

It's taken a lot of blood, sweat and tears (mainly sweat) from many green thumbs to pull the front entry garden at Mills Park and the Mai Donnelly rose garden into shape. Jonathan, Stuart, Tim, Theresa, Laneth, Khairul, Riley and myself have spent the last few months planning, digging, buying, laying, planting, dreaming, laughing and sweating the gardens into reality.

Thanks to Gavin's connection with Alpine Nursery we were able to source so many beautiful plants, which we hope the superb wrens will enjoy as much as the rest of us.

You will have also noticed the new outdoor tables and chairs outside the pro shop, which provide a comfortable and attractive space for our players and visitors to relax.

We have more pots to tidy up and replant so keep your eye on the progress as we continue the replanting program throughout the summer growing months.

Lastly, we've just installed a fancy new water bubbler outside the pro shop, which even boasts a dog bowl for your thirsty furry friend!

Linda Tysoe Committee

Massive rejuvenation underway at Berowra



This project, under the auspices of the Greater Cities Sports Facility Fund, has now commenced. The focus leading up to Christmas has been twofold: preparing the site and engagement of contractors.

Site preparation has included trimming vegetation behind the clubhouse to allow construction access and rejuvenating the entry garden, including a new irrigation system. We have also replaced the two old water bubblers with new bubblers and installed new taps. We plan to replace the court lights with brighter and more efficient LED lights in the last week of December.

The main works will commence on 17 January with completion expected by June 2022. The project includes these main elements:

- Court resurfacing
- Renovation of clubhouse, toilets and showers
- Installation of solar powered electricity for the centre
- Electric vehicle charging station

While every effort is being made to minimise disruption during the project, player and visitor access to the centre (including courts, clubhouse, surrounds and carpark) will be closed between mid January and mid to late February. We expect play at Berowra to resume before the end of February, with firm dates to be provided early next year.

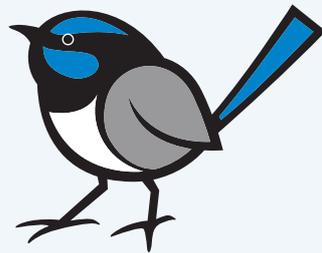
Players who normally use Berowra courts are encouraged to book online to play at Mills Park during this period. Berowra coaches, Trevor and Gilly, have been in touch with players and parents to make alternative arrangements.



Jonathan Gray
Project Director

Our wren is on trend

Call it coincidence, serendipitous or just plain good luck – but the Superb blue fairy wren was recently crowned as the **Australian bird of the year (2021)** in a survey of nature lovers conducted by The Guardian and Birdlife Australia.



We were stoked to see our blue chested friend take out the title in what is a hotly contested field each year.

With the blue wren population declining, we made sure that the plants and shrubs in the Mills Park garden overhaul were conducive to breeding, and sought advice from Birdlife Australia’s fairy wren expert during the planning process.

A link to the Guardian article with full survey results is below.

Superb fairywren crowned 2021 Australian bird of the year winner in hotly contested vote | Australian bird of the year (2021) | The Guardian



COVID-19 Update

From 15 December all COVID restrictions affecting Superb Tennis were released. This means that mask wearing and checking in at our venues are now optional, with capacity limits eliminated. Also, there are no restrictions affecting non vaccinated people at Superb Tennis. However, people are encouraged to continue basic COVID safe practices, such as social distancing, hand hygiene and no hand shaking.



Court hire in the middle of the day is cheap as chips!

We continue to offer casual court hire at only **\$10 per hour between 11am and 3pm Monday to Friday**. This offer has been extended until **14 January**. Book online and save!

<https://hktda.tennisbcs.com.au/Apllns/Bookings/Book-disp2.aspx>



Platinum Court Hire

Members who hire courts more than one hour per week should consider paying for platinum court hire at a weekly cost of only **\$27**, subject to conditions.

[Click here](#) (hyperlink to webpage) for more information.

Casual court hire fee increase

From 1 January our daytime casual court hire fees increase modestly from **\$17.50 to \$18 per hour for members** and from **\$20 to \$22 for non members**. This is the first fee increase for two years and is driven by our increasing costs. There will be no change to permanent court hire rates or night time rates.



Kids' Holiday Tennis Camps

At Mills Park we offer fun full day or half day tennis camps for beginners through to highly skilled young players to improve their tennis. Only **\$200 per week** for full days **9:30am – 3pm**.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

ATP Cup & Sydney Classic 1-15 January

You can enjoy watching world class tennis live again in Sydney during January. In the ATP Cup men represent the best tennis playing countries on the planet – including Australia – from 1 to 9 January. Then the new Sydney Tennis Classic (10 – 15 January) features some of the top ranked men and women in the world, including Ash Barty.

What's your Universal Tennis Rating?



During 2022 Tennis Australia and Superb Tennis will be promoting awareness and more use of UTRs.

For more information, go to: <https://www.tennis.com.au/competitiveplay/utr-rating>

A Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) is a number that provides an accurate measurement of skill level: a bit like a golf handicap. A player's UTR Rating is a number between 1.00 (lowest) and 16.50 (Novak Djokovic has 16.3 and Ash Barty has 13.4) – it is age and gender neutral.

You will have a UTR if you play any competitions or tournaments – to claim your UTR profile, jump onto <https://www.universaltennis.com/> – it's free and easy.

