

HISTORY OF JAMBEROO TENNIS CLUB

Since 8 **August 1903** tennis in Jamberoo has been a central focus of the Jamberoo community, when Council was first approached to 'lay a court in the public park, under the park committee's supervision'.

By 11 **February 1905** Jamberoo Lawn Tennis Club's first courts were completed. Constructed by Council and funded by the local community at a cost of 22 pounds. The courts were located in Jamberoo Park, adjacent to Churchill Street, on the site now used for bitumen netball courts.

"Alderman Blow reported that the improvements to the Recreation Ground have been completed and he moved that an account for the money expended by the Council be forwarded to the Tennis Club" (Jamberoo Council Meeting notes, 11 February 1905).

"The funds of the Jamberoo Lawn Tennis Club should be in quite a flourishing condition after the concert in the School of Arts on Wednesday evening next. The energetic Hon. Sec. Miss Eva Nelson, has arranged a long and varied programme which should prove enjoyable, and bring a packed house." (notice in the Kiama Independent Social Column, 17 March 1905).

14th May 1910 – *"The Jamberoo tennis Club's new public court, which occupies the nicest corner of the recreation ground was officially opened in May 1910. It was expected the new court would generate renewed interest in the club which had been in existence for some time but had lately lain dormant"*.

"From the proceeds of a concert, and a special grant, the court has been nicely leveled and laid down in ant-bed."

Following the official opening, the first set of tennis was a mixed doubles match played by Mr. E. Fredericks (Secretary), Miss Pickman (Treasurer), Mr. Robb (who had performed some good work in forming the court) and Miss Robb. Miss Pickman and Mr. Robb were victorious by four games."

1920's – a second court was built with soil obtained from Gosford.

Water for afternoon tea was boiled on a Primus stove with water collected off the tin shed roof – no other water supply.

1933 – Hard courts built.

In 1953 the Club was affiliated with Kiama District Tennis Association. Subs were 15 shillings for adults and 5 shillings for juniors. Juniors were not allowed to play with adults. A and B grade mens and mixed tennis played, as well as a ladies mid-week day competition.

1956 – High winds brought down light poles. Much work had to be done on the courts.

1959 – Floodwaters in October lifted the shed off its foundations and onto the courts. Members lifted clubhouse back into place, and cleared up the debris. The fire brigade hosed down the courts.

1960 - Vivienne Freeman (Boxsell) won the B Grade Singles competition. KDTA registration was 3/6d and the Annual Dance admission cost was 8 shillings.

1961 – Earthquake caused minor cracks in courts.

– Subs were 1 pound for Adults and 10 shillings for Juniors aged 14-16.

A practice wall was built at a cost of 62 pounds 10 shillings and the courts were repainted.

-Dianne Harvison won the C grade women's singles and David Payne the Men's C Grade Singles. Dianne and David won the mixed C Grade.

1964 – Norm Clark and Vivienne Boxsell won the B Grade singles KDTA championships. The centre lighting pole snapped in high winds, new nets and umpire stands were purchased.

1967 – Club fees were \$2 joining fee and \$1 affiliation fee. Junior age now extended from school age to 16 and juniors were allowed to play adults. A trophy for the 'Most Improved Junior' was donated by D. Harvison and won by Bradley Waugh.

1968 – plans for a new clubhouse were first presented by Jack Waugh. Ladies B Grade Division 2 was won by Agnes Marks, Olive Boxsell, Gloria Edgerton, Myrtle Hartenstein and Betty Dillon.

1968 - Club interest was low in the late 1960s. The mixed night teams had withdrawn and junior numbers were low.

1969 - An application for Council support to build a new Clubhouse was declined and a suggestion in 1970 to construct an All-sport Clubhouse did not receive support from other groups. With local fundraising and assistance from Kiama Council and Jamberoo Apex a new clubhouse was finally built by 1974.

1973 – An earthquake damaged courts opening cracks from 1961 earthquake even further. Players refused to play on courts with uneven surface and grass starting to grow in cracks. Shellharbour Workers Club put on a concert to help with funding of the resurfacing of the courts.

1970s - late this decade membership had increased to an all-time high and 8 ladies teams were registered across the three competitions. 5 men's teams were in the night competition, one Saturday mixed competition, 2 boys and 3 girls teams in Saturday morning competition. Coaching clinics were held each week by Ken Saunders.

1978 - New renovations were completed .

1979 – Council gave land for two additional courts to be built in front of the existing ones. Myrtle Hartenstein awarded Life Membership

1981 – 76 financial members. Water damage to existing courts meant \$5000 Council grant to build new courts was used for resurfacing of the old ones. KDTA dissolved and KSDTA formed.

1986 –89 Sunday social tennis was introduced by Tom and Hazel Cooper.

1994 – Kiama Council approved a proposal for courts and a clubroom to be built on the northern side of the Bowling Club.

NEW COURTS

By 1996, with Trevor Fredericks as President and a keen team of fundraisers, the Club had raised \$16,000. With loans of \$34,000 from Kiama Council and \$10,000 from KSDTA, the Club was able to raise the \$70,000 needed for building to commence on the new court complex. Many voluntary hours were donated at working bees to construct the new Clubhouse and Kiama Mayor, Mrs Joyce Wheatley, formally opened the new Clubhouse in March 1997.

“Jamberoo Tennis Club well and truly outgrew its old cement courts, which was just as well... most people must have bought two pairs of tennis shoes each year as they wore out so easily on the cement” recalled past member Judith Brodie.

“I vividly remember the working bees...some of those men using the nail guns for the first time in their lives were scary...I think that all those volunteers did a wonderful job in completing the club.”
(Judith Brodie)

PARKER FAMILY

The Parker family are perhaps Jamberoo's most successful tennis players. Murray, Vanessa and Andrew Parker all started their tennis careers in Jamberoo and went on to play in Australian titles and ultimately to coach Illawarra's tennis talents.

The three were all Age Champions from 10 to 18 and won Grand Slam and sometimes Double Grand Slams in the Kiama-Shellharbour District Tennis Association Championships. They were ranked between 9th and 3rd in the State and were eligible for the Australian Titles. Andrew won the highest point score for Wollongong District two years running.

They all were chosen in the Newcombe and Roche State Squad. In 1983 Andrew made the singles and doubles semi-finals of the NSW Hardcourt Championships, losing in both events to Todd Woodbridge. He reached the semi-finals of the NSW Grasscourt Championships in 1984.

All three retired from Championship playing at 18 to concentrate on coaching and Andrew now coaches tennis at Jamberoo Tennis Club.

THE GRANGER CUP

The Granger Cup is a day of mixed doubles competition for all. It has become a very popular event in the Club's calendar, generally in late March, providing a day of good tennis and good company.

In the 1920's and 1930's the Granger Cup was sponsored by the Grangers who were the store owners at the time. In later years the Pryor brothers were sponsors of the Pryor Cup. the Granger Cup was re-launched in 1998 (65 years after it was last played) the Granger Cup has always been a mixed doubles event with names for the Cup pulled out of a hat. Following this tradition, partners' names are still drawn out of a hat.

MEMBERSHIP

Jamberoo Tennis Club is always keen to welcome new members. We promote FUN – FITNESS – FRIENDSHIP.

Anyone interested in joining as a social or competition player, please contact Club President Ross Douglas on 0408 878 393.