

Monday 8 August, 2011

100 years of Tennis Townsville celebrations a success!

Tennis Townsville celebrated 100 years over the weekend and the celebrations could not have gone better!

The celebrations started Friday afternoon at Tennis Townsville; a free junior tennis clinic was organized to get kids into tennis. 40 kids participated in the 2 hour clinic learning ball skills, forehand, backhand and serving techniques. Afterwards everyone was rewarded with a drink bottle from MacDonnells Law and a Dunlop Cap. Lucky prizes were given away with 5 lucky kids leaving with a special prize including merchandise from Tennis Queensland and Tennis Townsville.



The formal event of the weekend, the Gala Evening and Reunion was held at the tennis courts on Saturday night, 6th of August. This night was a great opportunity for members, past members and people of the community to reflect on the changes in the game and learn some of the history of the club. 160 people attended the event, with some of the special guests including Tennis Legends John Fitzgerald and Ashley Cooper who both spoke about their careers in tennis.

Tennis Townsville displayed some of the trophies and shields that have been collected over the past 100 years and a photographic exhibiting was displayed which had photos from as far back as 1920 through to 2011. A publication was put together to mark this special event, which was launched at the Gala Evening. "The title of the book "Play On" was about celebrating the history of 100 years of Tennis, but indicating that the club is ready for another 100 years of Tennis and will continue to play on" said author Barbara Horsley.

Another prestigious part of the night was the presentation of 2 new Life Memberships. John King and Pauline Shield were awarded this significant membership for their involvement in Tennis Townsville. Unfortunately John King was unable to attend the Gala Evening and sent his apologies, however Pauline Shield was present to accept the membership.

As it was a 100 years celebration, the Tennis Townsville Committee thought it was necessary to have a 'Player of the Century' Award. This award went to Angus Smith; the former Mayor of Townsville was an avid tennis player at the club. He won the NQ Tennis Championships each year from 1931 to 1935 and again in 1940. Angus' son, Neville Smith accepted the award in his behalf. The Smith family is still very much involved with the club, their store- Angus Smith Sportspower is a sponsor of the club.

The official part of the evening concluded at 9.30pm with a celebration cake being cut whilst the crowd sang Happy Birthday to Tennis Townsville. "The evening went wonderfully and we hope all of our guests enjoyed the celebrations. We were touched that people came from all over the world including the UK to share this special anniversary with the club" said Club President, Peter Duncan



From left to right: Pauline Shield- Life Member, Celebration Cake, John Fitzgerald and Cameron Pearson- Tennis QLD CEO



On Sunday morning, the day kicked off with the Veterans Tennis Tournament. Tournament Director, Pauline Shield said "It was great to see all of the vets participate in this tournament; everyone really enjoyed themselves as it was a beautiful day for tennis and the perfect way to finish off the Centenary Celebrations weekend." 26 people participated in the tournament which finished at approximately 2pm.

Vets Winners and Runners up, from left to right: Terry Wolanski, Keith Skaines, Gordon Olsen, Heather East, Sandra Eardman, Stephen Boon and Andrew Tickle



In the meantime the Family Fun Day commenced at 12pm, which had plenty of activities to keep the kids entertained. Tennis Townsville organized a jumping castle, face painting, fastest serve machine, hit the target tennis games and jumbo tennis. The fastest serve of the day was 172km/hour which was recorded by Brendan Keune, who is a regular on the tennis courts at Tennis Townsville.

Photo: President and Coach, Peter Duncan, Head Coach Wayne Hannah and coach Fred Gerhardt.



The Celebrity Tennis Tournament kicked off at 2pm. The celebrities that provided the crowd with some entertaining matches were Councilor Ray Gartrell, Councilor Natalie Marr, Stephen Duffie- Editor of Sport Lifestyle Magazine, Kathleen Skene- Editor of Savvy Magazine Townsville Bulletin, Todd Blanchfield and Ben Allen from the Townsville Crocodiles and CK & Blake- the breakfast announcers from 106.3FM.

The Crocs players proved they were not only good at basketball, but also skilled tennis players as they took out CK & Blake in the Celebrity Finals match.

Photo from left to right: CK Kern, Natalie Marr, Kathleen Skene, Ben Allen, Stephen Duffie, Chloe Hancock (our ball girl), Ray Gartrell, Todd Blanchfield and Blake Pattenden.

Tennis Townsville was very proud to celebrate 100 years of Tennis and is looking forward to the next 100 years!

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Bernie Lanigan Optometrist Tennis Townsville Championships 17 & 18 September
Ergon Energy North Queensland Junior Age Championships 25 - 27 September

For further information visit

www.tennistownsville.org

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