

Monday 20 June

Tennis Townsville- getting ready for a big celebration!

Tennis Townsville is celebrating its 100th year of tennis in 2011 and is getting ready for a big celebration. From its humble beginnings in 1911, as the Townsville Lawn Tennis Association, it has successfully provided hours of fun and fitness to many generations of Townsvillians. In 1995, the Association changed its name to Tennis Townsville Inc and it has grown into a solid, vibrant Association.

“The Association is held in high regard in the tennis sector” Tennis Townsville President, Peter Duncan said, “This has been reflected in the tournaments run by the club, its involvement in the running of 2 Davis Cup ties held in Townsville, its strong membership base of over 500 members and its recognition as Tennis Queensland’s Affiliate Club of the Year in 2008.”

Coordinator of the Centenary Celebrations, Michael Kern said that ‘Tennis Townsville wants to make its centenary year a memorable one and wants to involve not only its members, but also the local schools and community at large’. The weekend of the 5th to 7th of August has been locked in for the celebrations.



Tennis Townsville's Head, Coach Wayne Hannah

The weekend will kick off with a junior tennis clinic, to be held Friday 5th August from 3.30pm-5.30pm at the Tennis Townsville courts. The clinic is free and we encourage kids of all ages (4-17 years) and all abilities to come along and take part.

On Saturday, 6th August a Jumbo Tennis tournament will be held. This tournament is targeted at regular tennis players and those who have never played before. Jumbo tennis racquets will be used making this a very entertaining tournament. The tournament will commence at 11am

On the eve of the 6th of August the Gala Event and Reunion will be held on the Tennis Courts. This will be the formal event of the weekend and will be a great opportunity for members, past members and people of the community to reflect on the changes in the game, learn some of the history of the club and reminisce. Tennis Townsville have secured a special guest to attend the Gala Evening, John Fitzgerald! John Fitzgerald is an Australian sporting icon. As a player, his greatest career highlights came during the 11 years he represented Australia in the Davis Cup. During this time he put his stamp on Australian tennis. He proved to be an integral part of the team, playing in 3 finals and playing a major role in defeating Sweden in both the 1983 and 1986 finals at Kooyong. In 1983 John won a key singles match on the opening day, while 1968 saw him team with Pat Cash to give the Aussies a crucial 2 –1 lead over the Swedes.

John took the honours on a number of occasions and his career was filled with many fist pumping triumphs. He held the Number 1 ranking in Australia, represented his country in 2 Olympic Games (Seoul and Barcelona), won 6 ATP TOUR singles titles, won 30 ATP TOUR doubles titles (which included 7 GRAND SLAM titles) and received the Order of Australia Medal in 1993 for services to tennis. He completed a career Grand Slam in men's doubles (Australian Open,

French Open, Wimbledon and US Open) between 1983 and 1989, and was ranked World No 1 doubles player in 1991. Since his retirement, John has joined the Seven Network providing expert commentary on the Australian Open and Wimbledon.

The cost of the Gala Dinner is \$55 per person- bookings are necessary.

On Sunday, 7th August a Veterans Tennis Tournament will be held from 11am. This will give the Vets a chance to show the crowd their tennis skills. A Celebrity Tennis Tournament will be on from 2.00pm. Our celebs include CK & Blake, Breakfast crew from 106.3FM, Ray Gartrell, local councilor, a Crocs Basketball player (Name yet to be confirmed), Stephen Duffie, Editor of Sports Lifestyle Magazine and Kathleen Skene, Editor of Savvy (Townsville Bulletin). Not all of these celebrities have played tennis before, so the crowd is in for some entertaining matches. Jumping castle and Face painting will also be part of the fun on Sunday!

“The Centenary Celebrations weekend will celebrate a very special anniversary and the club is very proud and excited to be celebrating 100 years, it’s a remarkable achievement!” said Michael Kern, “A publication is also being put together to mark this special event. The publication will include a compilation of Tennis Townsville’s history together with photos and memorabilia.”

Tennis Townsville has also committed to spend \$50,000 giving the Tennis Centre entry a facelift. Vic Bayer said ‘Contracts for various stages of refurbishment have been tendered out and work is scheduled to commence end of June to be completed by middle of July’.

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

For further information visit

www.tennistownsville.org

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