

**BETTY ELAINE GRIGG**

Medical researcher, tennis player
Born: June 28, 1937, Brisbane
Died: August 2, 2017, Wamuran, Queensland

Tennis lover never gave up game

BETTY Grigg had been an exceptionally good tennis player as a child but, at the age when most others started slowing down, she was well on her way to being at the top of her game.

Her tennis career first took off at 13 when she played for Queensland. Among an illustrious group of greats, including Rod Laver, Roy Emerson, Mal Anderson and Daphne Fancutt, she was mentored by Australia's greatest Davis Cup coach and player Harry Hopman.

She played in both state and national tournaments from 1953 to 1957. In 1956, she was

named Queensland Sports-woman of the Year.

"It was a very proud moment to be named Queensland Sportswoman of the Year," said Betty. "Back then it wasn't just about sporting prowess but it also took into consideration general sportsmanship and fitness levels."

Throughout her early playing career Betty also completed her secondary education at Somerville House girls school before embarking on a science degree at the University of Queensland.

Tennis remained an import-

ant part of her life and she gained not only a Full University Blue but also a husband, John Grigg, to whom she was introduced while playing socially.

Betty completed her degree and then proceeded to study the synthesis of penicillin at the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

She recalled: "It was an exciting time to be working as a scientist. The study of penicillin was at the forefront of science at that stage."

In 1959, Betty married John and over the next two decades devoted herself to raising their three children. However, her

desire for sporting challenges didn't end there.

She sat the Professional Tennis Coaches exam and opened a tennis school in the late 1970s.

In 1984, Brisbane hosted the Australasian Veterans Championships and it gave Betty a springboard back into competitive tennis. Joining up with old Hopman coaching squad colleagues, she entered a team and they won the over-45s event.

Following numerous team and individual successes in local and overseas tours, Betty earned the world No. 2 ranking in her age group in 1990.

That same year, her crowning glory came when competing in Spain and her team became the first Australian women's team to win an international veterans' team competition.

After this success she became the first woman on the Tennis Australia's Veterans' Committee and a national selector.

Her first grandchild was born at this time and so tennis took a back seat as she became a doting grandmother.

Her husband predeceased her in 2004. She is survived by her children, John, Wendy and Roger, and eight grandchildren.