



Tennis Veterans Rockhampton Association

23-Nov-2015

Hi, to all enthusiastic tennis players of Queensland, from Tennis Veterans Rockhampton Association.

This proud tennis club of ours has stood the test of time, due mainly to the enthusiasm of our long serving committee and the club members, that reflects in the extensive social attitude, which is a large part of the fabric of this great club. Our appearance on Facebook and other social media occurred in recent times. Like most clubs, we will never say no to any level of new tennis player, whether it be a novice to the expert. We naturally match our players abilities to suit their playing standards to make the game competitive and more enjoyable. We are pleased to share our history and proud culture with all tennis lovers like yourselves.

It all began with an inaugural meeting of interested players held at the Victoria Park courts in Rockhampton on 7th August, 1977. A Steering Committee, with Ed McKeon as Chairman was formed and the first AGM of Central Queensland Veterans Tennis Club was held on 19th February, 1978. The Patron elected was Len Laver (heard that surname somewhere), with President, Jarvis Crank and Secretary/Treasurer, Neil Smoothy. Their first Tournament was held on 17th and 18th June, 1978. Social tennis was played on the first and third Sundays of each month.

After several name changes, we became Tennis Veterans Rockhampton Association Inc. on 26th August, 2004.

Over the 37 years of existence, annual matches have been played with Bundaberg, Theodore, Mackay, Emerald, Dawson/Callide Valley, Yeppoon, Kabra and Cressy Clubs.

In September 2012, we moved our Home base from the hard courts of Victoria Park, to the far more forgiving synthetic grass courts and beautiful setting of Athelstane Tennis Club, situated in the world-renowned Rockhampton Botanic Gardens. 19 new members were recruited this year, and we continue to grow. Presently, membership sits at 54 players. The longest serving current members are Laraine and Des Campbell with 25 years, and Pat Hayes with 23 years, Laraine, Des and Pat still hit a mean ball. Pat Hayes, 80 years young

next March, was recently awarded Life Membership in recognition of his exceptional longevity on the tennis court, providing an inspiration to all younger players, showing that there is hope for us all to play tennis into the 80's.

In addition to our weekly Sunday morning sessions, we are trialing a new concept of summer Friday night games under the newly installed, terrific LED lights, to survey interest in the Friday night concept. Good numbers turn out for the first night. Any 35 years and older players, whether prospective new members or visitors to Rocky, are very welcome to join us of a Sunday morning at the Botanic Gardens end of Ward Street, from 8.30 am until we have had our fill of tennis that day.

Des Campbell - Secretary