

Off To The Open

This year's Australian Open Tennis Championships promises to provide a number of interesting matches. Particularly, when considering what could be termed as 'the changing of the guard'.

And there to see it all will be a number of people associated with the Old Bar Tennis Club, including the Rattrays, the Sheathers and Dawn Gilmore with her sister and daughter.. These fans have all decided, independently, to cruise from Sydney to Melbourne on P. & O.'s "Pacific Pearl" to witness the biggest event on the Australian tennis calendar. From all indications an even bigger number will follow suite next year.

Plenty of Top Tennis for Aston

Old Bar junior, Aston Purdon, (pictured right) qualified and competed in the State MJDS (Medibank Junior Development Series) final in October 2015. The invitation only competition saw the best thirty two 11 year olds from across NSW compete in Sydney over 3 days. Unfortunately with the expectation of rain the competition was played with an amended format. Aston performed well and came third in his pool of 4. With the amended format only the winner of the pool progressed. It was a great experience for Aston from which he grew as a player.



Aston was then selected to represent Northern NSW (Newcastle to Tweed) in a junior team's event held in Brisbane over 5 days. The event had a Davis Cup feel with multiple games and formats. Aston was chosen to Captain the B team consisting of 6 players (3 boys 3 girls). Competition was fierce with National and International teams in attendance. It was the first time Aston has played in a team environment and he thrived on the comradery. The competition culminated in an U/12's boys Gold level tournament with Australian ranking points on offer. Aston was un-seeded for the event and won 2 challenging games to qualify for the main draw. Unfortunately Aston lost his next game to number 7 seed from Darwin.

This year along with the MJDS Aston will play more U/12's Australian ranking tournaments which will improve his seeding for major tournaments at a State and National level. Aston really

enjoys his tennis and is super keen for 2016. He is a proud member of the Old Bar Tennis.

2015 Seaside Classic

The Old Bar Tennis Club held its annual Club Championships over the last weekend in October. The tournament which is one of the more successful in the Manning Valley attracted over 60 players. These included not only local players from Old Bar, Taree, Cundletown, Tinonee, Rainbow Flat, Wherrol Flat, Oxley and Mitchells Island, but also from Tuncurry, Forster, Darawank, Waitui, Diamond Beach, Coffs Harbour and Sydney. The Tournament kicked off on Friday night with the Special Mixed doubles, consisting of a parent and child. Once again this event proved to be popular as well as a lot of fun. The finals started early afternoon on Sunday after the free barbeque lunch put on by the Club. President of Club Old Bar, Trevor Wisemantel was on hand to present the trophies to the winners and runners-up of the eighteen different events that were contested. Club Old Bar has been the major sponsor of this tournament over the last 13 years and the Tennis Club expresses its thanks for their continued support. Following the presentations, Jordan Smith of Mitchells Island was named the Club's Junior Sportsperson of the year.

A very successful raffle was then drawn to wind up the weekend. The Club would like to thank all those local businesses who provided the prizes for the raffle. The tournament was conducted in perfect weather for tennis, sunny and not too hot.

Defibrillator Training

For those interested in becoming more proficient in the use of our new defibrillator, in the case of someone suffering a heart attack whilst at the courts, the First Aid Industrial Medical (F.A.I.M.), in Taree is offering two courses; one on the 11th February and another on the 20th February. The cost of the course for seniors, being members of a tennis group is \$35 without being presented with a certificate, OR \$50 individually with a certificate. Robin Middleton has indicated that she hopes to attend the first course. Anyone else interested should contact the secretary, on 6553 7574.



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Organisers at the 2015 Seaside Open take a break during the tournament for a photo shoot. From left: Don Sheather. Bob Stone and Wayne Deer.

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Summer Coaching School cancelled

The summer coaching school for juniors run by our coach. Wayne Deer, was cancelled for this year. The school which usually runs for 2 hours (Monday to Friday) during the second week of the new year, had to be cancelled as Wayne had a full time job attending to his wife, Julie, following her recent knee replacement operation. We're pleased to report that Julie is now doing well with the new knees, and that Wayne hopes to continue with this program in 2017.

Preschool extensions Opened

On Saturday, 28th November, the Old Bar Community Pre-school held its official opening of the recent extensions to their building.

The opening of the new additions was carried out by Leslie Williams, the Minister for Early Childhood Education, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Assistant Minister for Education and the Member for Port Macquarie in the NSW Government.

The additions were made possible through a share in NSW Community grants, \$35,000 in cash donations (which included \$20,000 from the Old Bar Festival Committee and \$1,000 from the Old Bar Tennis Club), and a further 'in kind' donation from the community in the form of labour and materials, valued at \$45,000.

A number of our members were present for the ceremony and the following inspection and morning tea.

The Pre-school is adjacent to the Old Bar Tennis Complex.



Leslie Williams MP opening the recent additions to the Old Bar Community Pre-school. Director Merrilyn McLoughlin is pictured in the back ground.

2015 Seaside Classic - Results

Div. 1 Mens Singles – Robbie Bisset def.	
Steven Bell.....	6/3, 6/0
Div. 1 Ladies Singles – Alex Bisset def.	
Caitlyn Sykes	6/1, 6/0
Div. 2 Mens Singles – Aston Purdon def.	
Sam Gibson	6/1, 6/2
Div.3 Mens Singles - Nikolai Nash def.	
Jordan Smith	1/6, 6/2, 10/3
Div. 4 Mens Singles – Tannor Purdon def.	
Marcus Smith	6/0, 6/5
Div. 4 Ladies Singles – Nadine Purdon def.	
Kim Smith	6/4, 4/6, 12/10
Div. 1 Mens Doubles – Steven Bell/Robbie Bisset def.	
Wayne Deer /Jeb Smith	6/3, 6/3
Div. 1 Ladies Doubles – Alex. Bisset/Liz Wisemantle def.	
Merilyn Armstrong/Caitlyn Sykes	6/3, 4/6, 10/2
Div. 2 Mens Doubles – Ric Bentley/Bob Bisset def.	
Kevin Steinke/Geoff Sinclair	6/1, 6/3
Div. 2 Ladies Doubles – Alison Newcombe/Elizabeth Hill def.	
Kim Smith/ Nadine Purdon	6/4, 6/1
Div. 3 Mens Doubles – Aston Purdon/Ian Smith def.	
Jordan Smith/Eli Worldon	6/0,3/6, 10/3
Div. 4 Mens Doubles Tim Shappere/Luke Earley def.	
Marcus Smith/Tannor Purdon	
Div. 1 Mixed Doubles – Alex and Robbie Bisset def.	
Caitlyn Sykes/Jeb Smith	6/1, 6/2
Div. 2 Mixed Doubles – Liz Wisemantel/Bob Bisset def.	
Robin Middleton/Ric Bentley	6/5, W/O
Div. 3 Mixed Doubles – Katrina & Steve Hood def.	
Pat Whiteley/Brian Clarke	6/2, 6/2
Div. 4 Mixed Doubles – Logan Paulson/Matt Masturszny def.	
Teresa/Luke Earley	4/6, 6/4, 6/5
Special Mixed Doubles – Darren/Nikolai Nash def.	
Ian/Bevan Smith	6/3, 6/2

Vale Joyce Howarth



Long time member and stalwart of our Club, Joyce Howarth, passed away the day following last year's Melbourne Cup (Wednesday 5th November, 2015). She suffered a massive stroke and never regained consciousness.

Earlier last year, on April 21st last year a group of Joyce's friends met at the Old Bar Tennis Clubhouse to farewell her and her son, Bob. They moved shortly after to Turners Beach, near Ulverston, Northern Tasmania.

Joyce had moved to Old Bar in 1999 and soon become involved in the tennis scene, making many friends through tennis and maintaining those friendships up to the time of her passing.

On the 9th January, 2016 a memorial service has held at Club Old Bar and attended by sixty three of her friends. She would have been 94 on that day.

Site of Men's Shed Unresolved

On 7th December members of the Old Bar Men's Shed, the Old Bar Tennis Club, the Old Bar Sport and Recreation Committee as well as a number of other individuals met with Greater Taree City Council representatives in an attempt to resolve the siting of the proposed Men's Shed. After a number of years in trying to find a suitable site for the Men's Shed in Old Bar, Council had suggested two sites at Old Bar Park; one on the northern edge of the existing netball courts and another on the southern edge. Both sites would have fragmented the area to the extent that future use as outdoor or sporting activities would have been impractical.

The Old Bar tennis Club had particular concerns with the proposed site to the south as it would have impeded on the development of the Club in providing facilities for the future. The meeting agreed to investigate a site between the existing amenities block at Old Bar Park and the Bed and Breakfast, (across the car park from the tennis courts). However, due to neighbours concerns and drainage easements the matter remains unresolved.

At this stage the Council has suggested a site at the North-eastern corner of Trads fields and this is currently being considered by the Old Bar Men's Shed.