

# THE *Waverley* INFORMER

Issue 4, December 2021

The official newsletter of Waverley Tennis

## TINA KEOWN – COACHING EXCELLENCE FINALIST!

Oakleigh Tennis Club would like to congratulate our Head Coach, Tina Keown (from the Victorian Tennis Academy), on her nomination as one of 3 finalists for the Coaching Excellence Award in the 2021 Victorian Tennis Awards, which is thoroughly deserved.

Since Tina and VTA became OTC's official coaching team at the start of 2019, Tina has worked tirelessly to provide quality tennis coaching, embracing our club's culture and building on the solid foundations laid down by our previous coaching team (McNamara Tennis) after David McNamara retired.

Tina has formed strong bonds with everyone she coaches, and she has helped foster an excellent club-coach relationship with committee members, social players, competition players, parents of juniors and other members.

Tina's high level of professionalism, excellent communication skills and easy-going nature have made her a pleasure to work with, and are a big part of why OTC & VTA have made the successful transition to our new Caloola Reserve home together.

Tina is always suggesting ways to improve the club for all participants, and takes on many volunteer roles to make the club better for everyone.

The past 2 years have been difficult but Tina has cheerfully faced all the challenges that COVID-19 has presented, and it is great to see Tina and her team rebounding now that we are starting to open up.

Winning this award would be richly deserved, but in our eyes, Tina is already a winner!



WAVERLEY TENNIS  
IS NOW ON  
INSTAGRAM

Better late than never, we always say...

Chuck us a follow on [@waverleytennis](https://www.instagram.com/waverleytennis) (and tell all your mates) to keep staying up-to-date with news, events and more!



## PAUL BOWMAN – TENNIS SERVICE AWARD

Glen Waverley TC had a rather exciting AGM on 29 August 2021 over Zoom. President, Paul Bowman, was presented with a Tennis Service Award by Jim Lekkas from Tennis Victoria.

Paul has been a member of the Committee of Management since 1997 and President since 2004. His devotion to his role goes way above and beyond anyone's expectations of a voluntary role in anything – and this says nothing of his competence and attention to detail that so many aspects of his position requires. Above all, Paul is a very intelligent, super organised, generous and fair leader and the Club is all the better because of these qualities.

Paul was very surprised and really “chuffed” and there is no one more deserving than him to receive such a reward.



## COUNTDOWN FOR CLYDE TC

Clyde TC is currently undergoing re-development thanks to the City of Casey and their support to see the future for tennis in Clyde and the surrounding developments.

Progress is slow but we see the changes and area designated taking place. A new clubhouse, 8 new courts with lighting, and the implementation of "Book a Court" for online bookings will certainly give locals more access and opportunities to play. We anticipate all should be ready by March 2022, if not earlier.



We also thank our outgoing Club President, Ian Gardiner, and Club Secretary, Varuni Singh, for their time served on the Committee to ensure our club is now in a position to grow and prosper. They have been the backbone of our club for a number of years and worked closely with our sponsor companies. Incoming President and Secretary, Ken Blencow and Andre Amaya, are well-positioned to move our club forward.

In the meantime, we thank Cranbourne TC for making room for Clyde TC members to play social and competition tennis and allow coaching to continue.

We hope to welcome visiting clubs soon!



## GIVING OLD BALLS NEW LIFE

Waverley Tennis has signed up for Game On Recycling, a pilot program that aims to create a national recycling system for sports equipment.

The initiative was created by Australia New Zealand Recycling Platform (ANZRP) and Wilson and is financially supported by ANZRP, Wilson and a government grant from the National Product Stewardship Investment Fund. The pilot phase of this project started on 1 July 2021 and continues to 31 March 2023.



Used balls will be sent to ANZRP's processing operations in West Melbourne where they will firstly undergo sorting and separation to identify items that (a) can be reused and placed back into circulation therefore extending the life of the product(s), and (b) items that have passed their shelf life and require processing.

The plan is to make items destined for reuse available to various community clubs, groups, institutions and organisations.

Tennis clubs can **submit an expression of interest** (link sent via email) to take part.

In the meantime, hang onto your old tennis balls and we will let you know soon how you can arrange for their recycling!

## THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO VAN TA-PLACIDI, ASSOCIATION SECRETARY

After three years as Association Secretary, Van Ta-Placidi will be passing the baton in January 2022.

Van has been involved with Waverley Tennis since 2008 when her daughter, Lucia Placidi, began training at Doveton TC. Van and Lucia are much-loved members of the Waverley Teams, having been a part of many tournaments and competitions over the years.

We are grateful to Van who has been a beacon of positivity on the Committee of Management. She has been responsible for many new changes implemented, including the revamp of the Waverley Informer and Waverley Tennis Annual Report.

Van will be moving to Maroochydore with her husband, Michael, and dog, Pepper. She will be dearly missed by us all, but we wish her nothing but the best of luck – stay in touch, Van!



*Interested in leaving your mark on Waverley Tennis? Contact President Mark Collins for more details on how you could take over this fulfilling role – 0404 047 541*



# SPOTLIGHT ON: Max Flaherty

*Every issue, the Informer will be picking the brains of a Waverley Tennis member...*

*Has lockdown got you itching for something fun and exciting abroad?*

*Take some inspiration from Max Flaherty, who took his tennis dream all the way to Europe.*

Q: Hello there! Let's start from the beginning – tell us who you are and how you started with Waverley Tennis.

My name is Max Flaherty. When I was around 10 years old I started training at Doveton TC with Coach Justin Yeo. From there I started Waverley Squad and was chosen to represent Waverley in district competitions like the Frank Sedgman Cup, the Alicia Molik Cup, the Pat Pearce Shield and the Daphne Fancutt Shield.

Q: What have you been up to in life?

I went to Spain when I was 16 where I lived and trained at the Sanchez Casal Academy. I got my first ITF points in Portugal and qualified for my first Futures when I was 17. I moved to Sotogrande [on the coast] to train under Dan Kiernan (former British #1 Doubles player) and here I won a Spanish tournament and received a wildcard into a Challenger event.

Then Covid hit and I've been back in Australia ever since. I've relocated to Brisbane to train and am back on the court now after wrist surgery.

Q: Did you always know you wanted to play tennis?

No, early on I played many sports and in primary school I was a competitive swimmer. Up until the age of 12/13 I was half-tennis, half-soccer. Soccer became very time consuming with travel for State and National teams so I had to make a decision and tennis is what I wanted to pursue.



▲ Max and his teammate, Teodora, representing Waverley Tennis at the 2013 Alicia Molik Cup



Q: What do you feel are the greatest challenges you've been up against? Not only is it incredibly tough to be successful as a professional tennis player, but I have also had many injuries that have taken time away from the court for rehabilitation and recovery. Another massive challenge was being in Europe and away from my family and that support network.



Q: Despite the challenges, what has been your greatest support throughout this journey?

My family – particularly Mum and Dad. They have been my greatest supporters from the very beginning. They have always given me that chance to pursue my dreams and chase my goals.

Q: If you could pass on some words of wisdom to someone else thinking of pursuing a similar path, what would they be?

Do the work, no shortcuts.

Then when it comes to match time, trust and believe that you have done the work needed to play well.

Trust the process.

Q: One last one: if you could be one tennis player for 24 hours, who would you be and why?

This is a tough one – I would have to say Roger Federer. He is so fluid around the court and looks so light. To me, he is the epitome of a tennis player and the GOAT.



▲ Max and his biggest supporter, Mum!



▲ Since doing this interview, Max has gone on to win the SILVER Mount Isa Open – his first tournament in months after his injury and surgery. This just goes to show what you can achieve with hard work and determination.

*Are you interested in knowing where tennis can take you? Keep an eye out for more interviews with Waverley Tennis players!*



## COMING UP: 31ST ANNUAL DAPHNE FANCUTT SHIELD

Waverley Tennis has commenced planning for the 31st Daphne Fancutt Shield Junior Tennis Carnival to be held at Doveton TC on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 January 2022.

Friends, family and spectators are always more than welcome to come along and enjoy the day!

We are also excited to announce that representatives from EducationUSA will be in attendance. EducationUSA provides secondary students with up-to-date, comprehensive information about studying at accredited institutions in the US.



▲ *The 2021 Waverley Tennis team.*

You made it to the end!  
Thanks for reading!

Got something you'd like to share? Submit your stories and photographs by emailing us at [informer@waverleytennis.asn.au](mailto:informer@waverleytennis.asn.au)

Stay up-to-date with everything Waverley Tennis following us on our socials:



## ENTRIES OPEN – AUTUMN 2022 NIGHT COMPETITION

Night Tennis is back in full swing, with teams currently seeing out the remainder of the Spring season.

Entries are now open for the Autumn 2022 season. **Forms are available on our website and are due on 24 December 2021**, with the season commencing on 31 January 2022 (right after the Australian Open).

We have worked hard to develop a fixture which will provide opportunities for plenty of play, including both Singles and Doubles, a large cross-section of gradings, and dates to avoid school and public holidays. Finals are set to be played in mid-June.

*For any questions, contact Michael Lewis, Night Competition Convenor – 0404 639 050*

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*In the spirit of reconciliation, Waverley Tennis would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which we work, live and play. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.*

