

An update from the President

October 2009

Dear FCTA member,

Thank you for your continued support for the Fraser Coast Tennis Association. Your committee has been working hard behind the scenes, and we haven't yet cut the ribbon on a new tennis centre in Hervey Bay, we are confident that progress is being made to that end.

This correspondence is to let you know what has been happening lately, and is a request for your support in a volunteer capacity to spread the load and help keep our young club on track for success.

1. As of the October monthly meeting, we know have 160 members! What a great result considering our club is only 9 months old and has no modern facility to play tennis. You can help by continuing to recruit new members. Every dollar helps because we need operating revenue and our largest bill, Tennis QLD affiliation, is due soon and will cost over \$900. Check the website for or contact a committee member if you need membership forms for your friends or family.

2. Successful raffle. Thank you for your support of the recent raffle. We earned over \$150 and the winners were, 1st - Heidi Boede, 2nd - Danielle Rayner and 3rd - Conor Hancox. Congratulations winners!

3. CQ acknowledgment. Committee member Dave Dorey recently represented our club at the Central Queensland meeting of TQ, held in Gladstone. This was our first involvement at regional level and we were welcomed graciously by the other clubs. Dave reported that the CQ was disappointed that Hervey Bay has not been holding an open tournament in recent times and said that the FCTA will be more than keen, we just need courts! Thanks for making that trip on behalf of our club Dave.

4. Grant applications are in the mail. Our hardest working committee member would have to be Jo Evans who has 2 grant applications in the mail and 1 more nearly ready. After hoping for some initial financial support from the Fraser Coast Council and then getting knocked back (the Dundowran Recreation Committee has told me that the local council has given \$3000 in over 10 years of trying, so 'Don't hold your breath Chip') we have now applied through the yearly council (local) and gambling fund (state). Jo is also about to submit a state volunteer grant. We are hoping for new fencing, expanding of court bitumen to bring the two existing courts up to full size, and possibly a couple of rolls of grass to transform the courts into a synthetic surface. What you can do as member? Keep ringing or writing to the council and let them know you are a ratepayer and you are keen to have a choice of tennis club provider in town; Spread the word that we are keen to source potential private or corporate donors - "The 'insert your name here' tennis centre" is the best long-term advertising venture that I can think of. For our 8 court complex we need about \$200 000, which will be matched by Tennis Australia under its court rebate scheme. One court with lights and fencing costs about \$50 000. Additionally, we will need trees removed, back-filling, fencing, surveyors, road base, shed structures, electrical, plumbing, etc. All donations of money and/or services will be exchanged for long-term signage at the site. This is potentially an exciting business opportunity as the location is on the verge of becoming a real family oriented sporting precinct for the local community.

5. Signage. Our new sign advertising the courts as the "Future site of the Fraser Coast Tennis Association" has been erected. As has been in the past, Ann Eadie, from next door will hand out the key to the gate and shed for \$4 per hour. Her phone number will be on the sign.

6. Fundraising. We are in the mix to host sausage sizzles out the front of a few local business. We will be conducting a sausage sizzle outside Dan Murphy's on Saturday 28th November. If you are able to help on a Saturday morning, contact a committee member or send us an email. Your help will be greatly appreciated. We are also selling Cadbury chocolates. Contact Sharon Wagstaff, (4124 1729) for your box. And don't forget to register and shop with IGA Centro, where proceeds from sales help the club.

7. Junior Success. This winter we had several junior tournament players receive winner and runner-up prizes in singles and doubles. Play has taken place in Hervey Bay, Noosa, Gympie, Gladstone, Brisbane and Bundaberg. Congratulations to John Flett, Morgan Cullen, Jacob Dorey, Hannah Dorey,

Demi Steinhardt and Cooper Barnes on your successes. A special congratulations to Jacob and Hannah Dorey who have won the right to be ball kids at the Brisbane International this January. Watch for them on TV! Also on the Junior front, we now have over 60 kids doing private coaching with our club coaches. As always, these coaches are chasing courts all over town, including Burrum Heads, Newhaven and the Esplanade. This is because the Hervey Bay tennis club has a sole coaching policy and our coaches are not allowed to use their courts. You can help support our club by referring Tristan Brown or Ryan Pritchard to your friends and family. Contact a committee member or send an email for details on how to get a hold of Tristan or Ryan.

8. Working Bee. We recently spruced up the courts and surrounds at Dundowran. It is actually a beautiful rural setting for tennis and I often play there with my family. Help support the club and give your family a fun afternoon of exercise by having a go! You will be pleasantly surprised by how much you will enjoy it! If you are looking for a hitting partner, all ages, send us an email and we will try to match you up with others looking for a game of tennis. After all, that is what we are all about. Tennis is a lifetime sport, to be enjoyed by the whole family. Have a go!

9. AGM. Our Annual General Meeting will be at the Dundowran Hall on Tuesday 1st December at 6.30. Our next general meeting will be at the Barnes home at 148 Long St, Point Vernon at 6.30 on Tuesday 9th Nov. Your attendance at these meetings will help continue the progress we are making and bring our dream of a new tennis centre ever closer.

10. Contact information: website - www.frasercoasttennis.com

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Yours in tennis,
Chip Barnes