

1. VETS tennis. I am pleased to announce that the FCTA has joined the Tennis Queensland Veterans competition in 2010. We have played 2 matches and are having a great time representing FCTA in the inter-club competition. If you are over 35 and are keen to get involved in a friendly competition, email the club and we'll sign you up as a reserve. Thanks to our club secretary, Brenda Strachan, who has kindly taken on team captain responsibility.

2. Coaching at Dundowran. Club coach Tristan Brown, proprietor of Fraser Coast Pro Tennis, has announced an expansion to his coaching program. He will be using the 2 courts at Dundowran (next to Little Athletics) commencing in Term 2. If you are keen to sign on your children, or know someone who has been thinking about tennis coaching, do not hesitate to contact Tristan at fcpt@live.com.au

3. Volunteers Grant. Congratulations to Jo Evans, our grants officer, on winning a \$5000 volunteers grant late last year. The bulk of the money has been spent on mowing and maintenance gear, BBQ facilities and fundraising items. We still have approximately \$1200 that we are hoping to use to update or replace the existing shed. If you have contacts within the shed building industry, are a concreter, or can source steel sheeting, roofing or roller doors, please contact committee member Clinton Wagstaff at caslw@internode.on.net

4. Facilities Grant. April 16 is the deadline for the next major grant offered by the Qld. Department of Sport and Recreation. We are applying for the maximum of \$400 000 to build 4 new competition standard courts, with lights and fencing at the Dundowran site. The committee has been working tirelessly and still have a lot of work to do in order to get this grant application in on time. The good news is that Council is supporting our efforts and Tennis Queensland is willing to consider an \$80 000 loan application (we must provide 25% of the total grant cost). That leaves us with \$20 000 to raise and we are seeking sponsorships and donations. Please contact me at barnesct@bigpond.com if you are able to assist. The committee (in January) voted to carry all financial members for another calendar year in lieu of the fact that we have not been able to provide members with any new facilities in 2009. It may be likely that many of you will be happy to donate \$10 or \$20 (or more??) to help support the club in this major grant opportunity. A 2nd Hervey Bay tennis club has always been our major goal and we feel that we are on the cusp of a major announcement very soon.

5. Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. Congratulations to the committee members that donated their time to work the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on March 27. We raised over \$850 for the club. Well done! Thank you to our sponsors of the raffle, Bunnings, Sportfirst, Craignish Foodworks, Nana's Pantry, and Brisbane International Tennis. Please continue to support these sponsors and let them know that you are an FCTA member next time you do your shopping.

6. Court Hire. The transition to Craignish Foodworks is now complete and all social players at Dundowran are asked to hire the gate and shed key from Craignish Foodworks. Rates are still \$4 per hour with a refundable \$20 key deposit required. Say hello to Stephanie while you are in Foodworks and help support their sponsorship by picking up your milk, bread and sports drink on your way home.

7. Vandalism. There has been some minor vandalism at the Dundowran site, with damage to some fencing and to the shed roof. If you notice anyone getting up to mischief, please ring the police and email me at barnesct@bigpond.com as soon as possible.

8. Fence Upgrade. In the coming weeks members will notice a major upgrade to the front fencing (road side) at the Dundowran courts. Thanks go to Koppers Wood Products and the Big Produce Place for sponsoring this upgrade.

9. Get Involved. This is your club and I invite you to get involved. Under point 4 above I made an appeal for financial assistance. If that is not possible for you, then you may be able to volunteer your time as a committee member, participating in fundraising, lending a hand with mowing or working bees, or putting us in touch with sponsorship opportunities. In fact, the committee has talked about the possibility of a naming rights sponsor for the new facility, should we win the current state government grant. Don't hesitate to get in contact with me at barnesct@bigpond.com or with club secretary Brenda Strachan at iwannaplay@frasercoasttennis.com

Looking forward to an exciting year ahead and I hope to hear from you soon,

Chip Barnes, President FCTA