

Balwyn Historical Society News July 3, 2020

Greetings to members and friends,

BHS was contacted a few weeks ago by Tim Heath, secretary of the Deepdene Tennis Club. He asked whether BHS members had any information regarding Deepdene Tennis Club which is coming up to its centenary year in 2023. Part of his letter is reproduced below. If anyone has any information or photos please contact Tim Heath, Deepdene Tennis Club secretary directly on <Tim.Heath@aur.com.au>

There is no information so far as to when we will be able to hold face-to face meetings at BEC but we will let you know as soon as we have some news.

Stay safe, stay well and stay warm!

Your BHS Committee (Marilyn, Matthew, Barbara, Pat and Heather)

Deepdene Tennis Club

The Deepdene Tennis Club is coming up to its 100 year (in 2023).

As part of our planning for this milestone we would like to know more about the history of the club.

Below is what I have been able to find out so far – which is much more than we ever knew.

I was wondering whether your society had any available information on the history of Deepdene Park and possibly the tennis club. Some of the questions being asked by our committee include:

- Have the tennis courts always been in the same location?
- When was the original club pavilion built? When was the current brick club pavilion built and opened? Did it replace the original weatherboard building? See photo below.
- The club started with 2 lawn courts, and we now have 4. When were the additional courts added?
- We think the club pavilion was used as a kindergarten in the 1950, during the post war baby boom. How long did they occupy the building? See the photos below.
- Have there been any other noteworthy occasions at the club worth documenting?
- Are there any old photos of the club or the park available?

- Are there any old maps of the park showing the layout of building and sporting facilities?

Any help you might be able to provide would be greatly appreciated.

Origins of the Deepdene Tennis Club

- 1922 - Deepdene Park was donated by Mr Alexander Macneil to the Camberwell Council for recreational purposes. Mr Macneil was a life member of the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria. He lived at 'Roystead', which is now part of Camberwell Grammar, and the land was known as Macneils private recreation grounds. Mr Macneil is honoured by a plaque on the right pillar of the entrance gates to the park.
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- 14 Feb 1923 – The Deepdene Tennis Club was formed. A letter was read from the secretary of the Deepdene Park Committee granting permission for the club, when formed, to use the park. At the meeting Mr J Sheedy was elected club secretary.
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- Over the course of 1923 the Deepdene Tennis Club committee set about raising money to construct the tennis courts, led by Mr Sheedy, Mr N. J. Bedford and Mrs Newing.
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- 16 June 1923 – The Deepdene Park Committee granted the tennis club permission to construct the lawn tennis courts. By 6 July 1923 the levelling of the site for the courts was in progress, with construction of the courts nearing completion in mid-October 1923, at a cost of £135.30
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- Nov. 1923 – The Deepdene Park was officially opened with around 8,000 people attending.
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- 22 August 1925 - The Deepdene Tennis Club held its inaugural annual ball at the Camberwell Town Hall.
 - President – Mr Walsh
 - Secretary – Mrs Fowler
 - Treasurer – Mrs Newell
 - The club's colours were purple and gold.
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 - 20 Oct 1925 – The Deepdene Tennis Club was admitted as an affiliate club of the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria.

The photographs below relate to the Kindergarten at Deepdene Tennis Club in the 1950s



If you have any information regarding Deepdene Tennis Club or the kindergarten there in the 1950s please contact Tim Heath <Tim.Heath@aur.com.au>