

The Kelvedon Community Street Party

Clive W. Morris

On the 15th August 1986 we moved to Kelvedon Avenue, Taroom. We only knew one other family in the street.

After a couple of months we made the acquaintance of the Hughsons. Tony, in passing, said there had been many families come and go in the street. It would be nice to organise a get-together so each family could meet each other. So the idea of a street party was born.

Prior to 1985 several families used to meet in each others' houses at Christmas. This, to my knowledge, was the first time an invitation had been extended to all the families in the street to "meet your neighbour".

Tony and Chris Hughson, Sally my wife, and I planned our street party. We decided to print a hand bill, inviting the Kelvedon Community to a "Get to Know Your Neighbour Barbeque and a Christmas Party". The date chosen was Sunday, the 22nd December 1986 at 5 p.m. The venue was the reserve at the end of the street, or the Hughson's residence if it was wet.

Each house in the street was door-knocked and each family invited to the barbeque.

The Sunday afternoon duly arrived. Because it was the first time a party had been held, a great flurry of activity ensured there was a barbeque big enough (kindly loaned by the Taroom Fire Brigade), tables and seating. Thankfully, the afternoon was fine. At the appointed time it was a wonderful sight to see families heading for the reserve, carrying chairs and eskies full of goodies.

Each person wore a tag with name and house number to make identification easy and the gathering more informal.

It was a resounding success. As at December 1986, the longest any family had resided here was 33 years, and the shortest, 3 months.

It will be on again next year. I can't wait!



The Soccer Club and Kelvedon Park Soccer Ground

John Ross

The formation of the Taroom Soccer Club had its beginning partly from the ending of a former soccer club in the Taroom district, namely Taroom Ajax, which dissolved in 1976.

Being aware of the family interest in soccer at primary school level and the desire to further the sport in the district, the then president of Taroom Ajax, Harry Huizing, approached me to continue the club. Taroom Ajax trained at the Taroom State High School. However it was decided to start afresh at junior level and call the club the Taroom Soccer Club.

An under thirteen team was formed from local boys to participate in the Tasmanian Soccer Association roster competitions.

Negotiations took place with the Kingborough Council in an endeavour to obtain the use of land to be developed as a playing field. This area is now known as Kelvedon Park.

The next step was to form a Committee of interested local people to manage and assist in the running and development of the club. This included Alex and June Kerr, myself and my wife Barbara, all of whom have maintained their association during the ten years of the club's life.

At this time the ground was available but changing rooms and a toilet block were non-existent. The lads changed in an old tin shed which had been left on the site during the period the ground was being developed.

We decided to have a "door knock" in the district in an endeavour to raise money for the erection facilities. This produced close to \$1,000.

A working bee was arranged. Parents and the newly formed Committee set to work under the supervision of Carl Jaeger and erected steel goal posts. Nets were obtained and matches were able to be played.

The lack of proper changing facilities, however, posed a few problems. When the weather was kind things were great, but when it rained conditions were far from satisfactory for the players. This prompted the club to again approach the Kingborough Council with

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a request to provide a facility.

Upon the Council's advice, and with its direction, an approach was made to the Department of Sport and Recreation to assist financially, on a dollar for dollar basis, in the provision of a changing block and toilets at Kelvedon Park. After negotiations and with assistance from the Council the facility and finance were approved and work commenced.

The construction work was carried out by myself. Dieter Heiden assisted with the electrical work.

Dieter has worked tirelessly for primary soccer in the district. At primary school level he coached and organised boys aged seven to twelve years old. Three or four nights a week and Saturday mornings Dieter took care of his teams in rain, hail or sunshine.

The development of the changing facilities meant that the district was served by a full size, first class ground which was suitable for senior and junior matches. This enabled the primary school teams to train and play locally.

Unfortunately it was found that because the club did not have a senior men's team or older age group sides, players were inclined to leave Tarooma for other clubs.

In 1978 in an endeavour to keep the local

club's interest and involvement, the Committee looked at other senior clubs, with a view to amalgamation. St. Mirren Soccer Club was approached and the two clubs agreed to amalgamate. The new club was to be known as Tarooma St. Mirren Soccer Club. This meant that there was now available for players Senior, Reserve, Under 13 and Under 15 teams, thus catering for all age groups.

In 1985 a directive from the Tasmanian Soccer Association Clubs asked, where possible, for clubs to have one name only. The club name reverted back to the Tarooma Soccer Club.

From the outset the facilities and ground have been cared for and maintained by the club. The ground has been my responsibility.

Flood lights were obtained by Gwyn Richards and myself. A working bee was held to erect and install them, the lights of course being a necessity for training during the winter months.

Fencing around the ground play area was badly needed to avoid loss of balls, which are a costly item, and to keep cars off the playing surface. Once again the Council assisted with materials and club members erected the fencing.



Facilities under construction at Kelvedon Park Soccer Ground, 1978.

PHOTO JOHN ROSS

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Since the inception of the club, which is currently in its tenth year, many young and old players have passed through.

Committee members have changed and teams have had mixed success.

The club has retained Brett Ross, who started with the original under thirteen team, closely followed by Craig Ross and Phillip Kerr. These three are currently playing in the club's senior side.

Five or six primary school teams train and play on the ground each week. The under

thirteen team is coached by long time supporter and former senior player, Chris Bishop. The senior team is coached by Gwyn Richards who has been involved with the club over a long period of time.

The facilities now available in this district for soccer are recognised as one of the best in the state. Hopefully the club, ground, and its assets have served our youth and senior members in their endeavour to participate in their chosen sport.



Kelvedon Park Soccer Ground, 1986.

PHOTO JOHN ROSS.

The Swimming Club

Joan Fuglsang

During the 1950s it was realised by Taroona parents that many children in the district were unable to swim. Concern was felt that, due to Taroona being a seaside suburb, it was essential that a swimming club be established.

It was in 1955, when I was presiding over a meeting of the State Primary School Mothers' Club, that this matter was brought up for discussion. At this meeting it was realised that many mothers were unable to swim and would like to take the opportunity of learning to swim with their children. Therefore it was resolved that the proposed swimming club should include adults as well as children. Subsequently a public meeting was held and a committee formed.

It was decided to commence instruction at the Taroona Beach on the first Saturday morning in December 1955, and continue over the summer months. Some residents living close to the beach in Taroona Crescent and Devon Walk volunteered their services as trained swimming instructors.

On a sunny Saturday morning in December 1955 the beach was crowded with happy folk, all enthusiastic participants in the first Taroona "learn-to-swim" campaign. At the end of the summer, in 1956, certificates were presented to the successful swimmers, even for being able to swim ten yards.



The Tennis Club

Norman Birt and Jenny Parrott

"Anyone for tennis?" We are unaware as to whom may lay claim as the originator of this saying, other than in the very early days of the sport it became the usual request throughout the world. However, it is rarely heard by players today.

In writing the brief history of the Tennis Club it may be as well to relate the forming of the same as it appeared in the *Mercury* in October 1959:

Tennis Club formed for Taroona

The Taroona Tennis Club, which will use the new municipal courts at Taroona, was formed at a public meeting in the Taroona Hall.

The meeting was under the chairmanship of Mr. W.E. McIndoe, chairman of the Taroona Reserves and Recreation Committee.

It was resolved that a committee of 10, comprising three men and three women and representatives from the high school, primary school, and reserves and recreation control the club.

Those elected were Mesdames C. Castley, K. Lane, N. Birt, Messrs P. Hadlow, B. Coates, E. Owen, with Mr. N. Birt as representative of the Reserves and Recreation committee.

The Committee voted in Mr Norm Birt as the Chairman, Mr Peter Hadlow as Vice Chairman, Mrs Con Birt as Treasurer and Mr Brian Coates as Secretary. Committee members were Mesdames Castley and Lane, and Mr Erle Owen.

The first task for the Committee was to find people to join, as although the three courts were built by the Kingborough Council, the contractor did not supply nets, hoses, seats, locks for the gates or brooms to sweep the court prior to and after play, this being essential for crushed brick or en-tout-cas courts.

Fortunately for the Committee people were keen to join the Club. As the subscriptions came to hand we were able to purchase the aforementioned items and the tennis courts took on an air of respectability.

Although the courts had been built from monies collected under the reserves rate levied throughout the municipality, the courts did not have a club house. This was considered

necessary in our very changeable climatic conditions.

Some huge stones had been bulldozed from the site and fortunately left by the contractor. They were put to very good use by members for quite a lengthy period until a club house was eventually built.

Taroona residents were extremely grateful to the Council for providing the courts, but we should mention that members of both the bowls and tennis clubs were required to build their own club houses. These buildings automatically became the property of the Council, as did all internal and external fixtures.

In the first year 46 players paid a full year's membership, 32 ladies joined to play midweek and 58 juniors requiring coaching lessons joined.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Club was held in the Taroona Ex-Servicemen's Hall, Jenkins Street, on Wednesday the 5th October 1960.

The hall was packed on this occasion due to the very great interest displayed by the residents who were keen to play competition tennis, not only midweek ladies, but also in Saturday Pennant matches.

It was decided by those present that the

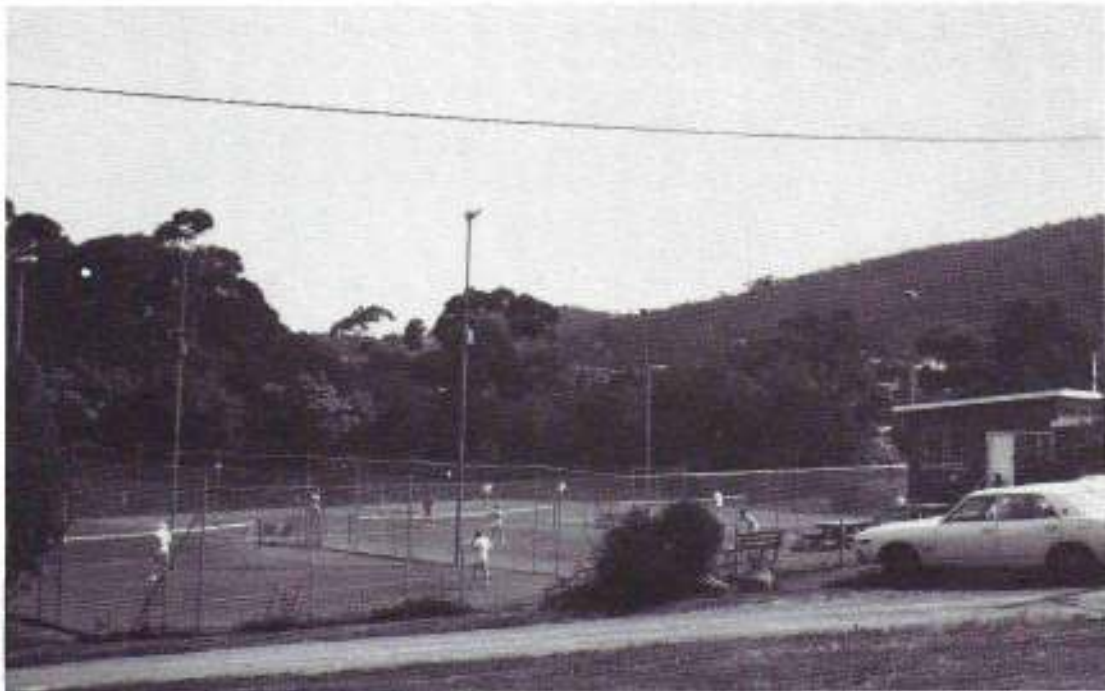
management of the Club shall be vested in a Committee comprised of ten persons, nine of whom shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting of the club. Those nine Committee members shall be:

President,
Vice-President,
Honorary Secretary,
Honorary Treasurer,
Three Committee Members,
Two Junior Members (whether male or female) being persons under the age of 17 years and each of whom shall be a member of the Club.

The other Committee member shall be one adult person approved by such staff of the Taroona State High School.

It may be of interest to local residents to know whom were the members elected in 1961:

President:	C.R.Kimber,
Vice-President:	P.G. Hadlow,
Honorary Secretary:	M. Button,
Honorary Treasurer:	E. Owen.
Committee Members:	
	Mesdames Norma Gooley, Wyn Balfe,
	Pat Nicolson, Messrs. Brian Coates,
	Ray Worsley.
Junior Members:	
	Wendy Munro and Gregory Mason.



General view of tennis courts with club house on the right, 1986.

PHOTO ANDREW LORD

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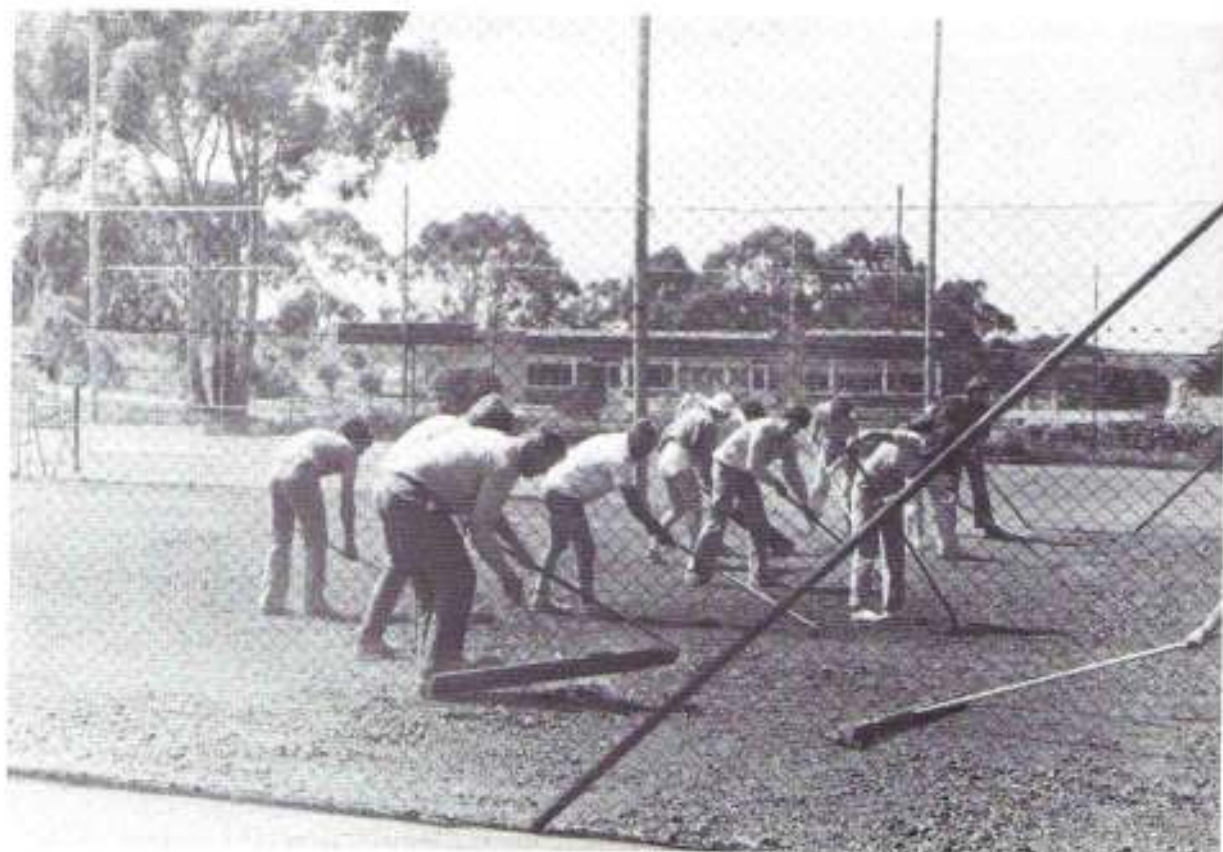
The original club house consisted of bucket toilets, change room and balcony, and was built in 1960-61, with electricity and a septic tank provided in 1962. In 1964 extensions to the building were commenced, funded by a loan of £400. These were held up through difficulties over finance and were completed in 1966 and the loan repaid.

The court surface began to deteriorate through poor drainage in 1966 and, although the club house and courts escaped devastation in the 1967 bushfires, the courts were badly affected by the winds and high temperatures. The Reserves and Recreation Committee was approached for assistance with funding and in 1968, at a cost of \$2,000 the Kingborough Commission resurfaced the three courts. After this, regular and proper court maintenance was commenced by Bern Rafferty senior. General landscaping of the area was done, including work on the fences and the planting of *Virgilia* trees at the southern end of the courts.

In 1970 the practice wall was built by Harry Valks, Ken Parrott and Reg Escott, along the lines of the Hutchins School wall. Although much used, not only by the Club Members but by others in the community, this wall has since proved to be too small for the demands made on it.

1971-74 saw a great increase in Club membership, particularly among young adults and juniors. A suggestion to limit membership was rejected in 1973 and, although it was decided not to proceed with building a fourth court, negotiations were carried out with the Kingborough Council to reserve land for future court extensions. A perpetual trophy for the most improved Junior member was presented by Bern Rafferty senior in 1973. The first recipient was Anita Green.

In 1963 consideration had been given to court lighting for night tennis and twelve years later, at a cost of \$1,300, lighting was installed on court 1. The Club was fortunate to receive



Club effort, court resurfacing, 1980.

PHOTO JENNY PARROTT

\$500 from a government grant to assist with the cost. At this time it became apparent that complete resurfacing of the courts was needed, together with improvements to the drainage system.

The eighteen months between 1978 and 1980 saw the first major court resurfacing project. The Kingborough Council provided \$1,500 towards the cost and, with the expertise of Bill Cromer and Mike Green, and the assistance of keen Club members the courts were ploughed up, re-graded, surfaced and new lines put down.

The increase in the number of members wanting to play night tennis, both socially and competitively, led to the installation of lights for courts 2 and 3 in 1980. Preliminary investigations were made into the cost and funding of a fourth court. By this time the Club membership was over 200 and in 1981 was 250.

In 1981 one of our junior members, Adriano Cortese, represented the State in the Tasmanian Winter Cup Team.

A loan of up to \$20,000 was offered to the Club by the Kingborough Council to finance a fourth gravel court in 1981. Necessary repayments led to an increase in subscriptions and the introduction of a joining fee. The Club also became an incorporated body at the time and the existing Constitution was drawn up. The fourth court was opened by the Patron, Mr Norm Birt, in January 1982. The basic

construction of the court was organised by the Council, with the final surfacing and line laying being done by Club members.

A period of ground beautification commenced between courts 3 and 4. Stone walls were built, a lawn laid, shrubs and ferns planted, and the sundeck built on the western side of the club house. This sundeck proved so popular that it had to be extended in 1983. In this year the first formal lease agreement was negotiated with the Kingborough Council to run for five years.

1983 saw the inauguration of the Tarroona/Ansett open singles tournament in November. The idea was to provide a top class singles tournament for men and women at a time when competition was limited. Generous sponsorship was received and the top state players participated. Willing assistance was provided by Club members and the Tournament has now been held for four years and involved top state players.

Other clubs in Hobart began to install artificial court surfaces at this time and a subcommittee was formed at Tarroona to investigate surfaces and possible means of funding. This committee recommended artificial grass and attempts were made to obtain the \$60,000 needed for this project on suitable terms. However, the committee was unable to obtain the finance and in 1985 the idea was abandoned. Tarroona is now the only major suburban club with clay/gravel/en-



The grassy bank above the tennis courts, with the bowls club Club House in right background.

PHOTO NORMAN BIRT.

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tout-cas surfaces and, contrary to our expectations, this has not adversely affected our membership.

In 1984 the courts were again resurfaced and re-levelled. Bill Cromer, assisted by Toss Gascoigne, surveyed the courts and established the levels. With the use of Club slave labour and some assistance from the Council the resurfacing was completed satisfactorily. As a result of this work court drainage has been greatly improved.

The two years since 1984 have seen the replacement of some of the fences and upgrading of the court lighting, at a cost of \$7,500. Landscaping of the gardens has been completed and the Club house redecorated.

The Club members continue to participate in Inter-Club Pennant competitions, including the AYC Night Pennant and both State and Southern Region Tournaments. Our members are active in the Veterans Tennis Association and have provided Officials, Referees, Umpires and Ball boys and girls for interstate and Davis Cup matches.

In January 1985 the Australasian Veterans Championships were held in Hobart and Club members participated in both the teams events

and individual championships. Tennis courts and facilities were also used for some events.

The current subscription is \$50 per annum, with \$10 joining fee for adult members. Membership is currently about 160, with the majority being adult members.

Junior membership is at an all time low. At the formation of the Club Junior membership was high, with the necessity of drawing up a waiting list. Coaching was provided by Bern Rafferty senior, assisted by members. A ball stroke machine was purchased from money lent by members in 1963. Since then other notable coaches have been Valda Buckley, Bill Field and Maree Roberts. With the establishment of the Tennis Coaching Centre at the Domain the demand for Club coaching has lessened.

Life members of the Taroona Tennis Club are:

Mr N.O.W. Birt,
Mr C.R. Kimber,
Mrs J. Kimber,
Mrs C.I. Birt,
Mr B. Rafferty,
Mrs. J. Parrott,
Mr K. Parrott.



View of club house with tennis courts on the right and practice wall on the extreme left.

PHOTO NORMAN BIRT