

A History of Sport in Euroa and District

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A FOREWORD FROM THE MINISTER
FOR YOUTH, SPORT AND RECREATION

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As Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation, I am vitally interested in the status and progress of sport, not only in Victoria, but throughout Australia. The role that sport plays in the leisure lives of Victorians is vital, especially for Victorians who live in country areas.

This book provides a wonderful account of the contribution that sport has made in the lives of the local community in Euroa and surrounds. It describes the history of more than thirty different sports, both mens and womens, that have been played by locals over the last hundred years.

It is interesting to note that many individuals have succeeded in interstate, national and international sport as a result of opportunities they have had through Euroa sports clubs over the last century.

The historical account in this book of the contribution that coaches, administrators, players and supporters have made through various sports clubs to Euroa and district, will be a valuable momento to all concerned.

Best wishes

BRIAN DIXON

Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation

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The cover background photo was taken from the air by John Sullivan. In the foreground is the Euroa Memorial Oval, top centre the F. S. Oval and Euroa Lawn Tennis Club Courts, and top centre Euroa Speedway.

Tennis Started in Earnest in Euroa Shire in the 1890's

From newspaper files it is recorded that the first tennis played in the immediate vicinity of Euroa was at Violet Town where there was a club from about the mid 1880's.

First information available of a Euroa team playing was in 1894 when six Euroa players visited Longwood and were defeated by the home team by 38 games to 25. Well known names of later years figured in the match - Maxfield, Savage and Threlfall. Later that year Euroa 36 d Violet Town 14.

There seems little doubt that some tennis was played in Euroa in the 1880's.

Tennis in C of E Grounds

The Euroa Advertiser reported that a match took place in St. Paul's Church of England grounds, Euroa, in September 1894, when the teams were:-

Euroa - P. Swift, Kitson, Allen, Godden, Miss C. Savage and Mrs. Allen; Longwood - Maxfield (2), Threlfall, Revd. A. Wiltshire, Misses D. Maxfield and McDonald.

In 1896 a tennis tournament was held at Violet Town but no mention was made of Euroa contestants.

Euroa and Longwood played a match at Euroa in August 1896, when Euroa won by 60 games to 36, competitors including Slee, Smith, Chomley, James, E. Murray, Kitson, Fraser and J. E. Maxfield.

St. Paul's Club Formed

First report of the formation of a club in Euroa was in 1897 when St. Paul's club was formed with Revd. F. W. Wray president and Miss Charlotte Savage honorary secretary and treasurer.

In 1897 there were reports of matches between St. Paul's and Mrs. Turner's Court and The Pines v St. Paul's at Mrs. Slee's court. (I can remember Turner's court adjacent to the Cricket Ground).

St. Paul's club held a tournament in 1898 and the game appeared to be really "getting a go on" at this point in time. (It is also interesting to note that baseball was being played in Euroa at this time).

More Clubs Mentioned

In December 1898, St. Paul's played Violet Town and Euroa played Gooram Presbyterians. Creighton also had a team.

St. Paul's club was reported to be the centre of tennis activity in 1899. Euroa Public club was formed in 1899. Euroa Presbyterians played Creighton in 1900.

First Euroa Club Court

As the 20th century approached the Advertiser reported that a fine new doubles tennis court had been made in Euroa Park mainly through the agency of Messrs Slee, Murphy and Anderson. The comment was made that a bowling green adjoining in this beauty spot would mean perfect happiness for young and old.

The site was near the Templeton Street gate. The bowling green was established adjacent a few years later and the present croquet lawns adjoin the site of what was named the public courts. Another court was subsequently established.

The official opening of this original Euroa Public Court took place shortly before Christmas 1900 by the president Mr. Harry White.

Miss C. M. Savage was secretary and Mrs. Tuthill, no doubt wife of Dr. Tuthill, served afternoon tea.

Early in 1901 a dark blue pennant bearing the initials "ETC" was unfurled by vice president Mrs. Tuthill, president Harry White making an appropriate speech. (Soldiers were returning home from the Boer War at this time).

Many More Clubs

It was reported that there were many new clubs in the district, Branjee, Pranjiip and Longwood (revival) being mentioned.

Euroa Public played Presbyterians in 1903 and in 1904 Seymour defeated Euroa by 65 to 30 games.

In 1902 there was a club at Strathbogie North.

Association Functioning

We find that in 1905 a six team association was functioning, five of the teams being Longwood, St. Paul's, Presbyterians, Violet Town and Euroa Public. Those days the Presbyterian Court was at the Presbyterian Manse in vicinity of Seven Creeks Hotel.

In 1906 the Euroa Public tournament finals resulted:- Gordon Maxfield d A. Morley 12-6; Miss N. Sutherland d Miss M. Turner 11-9; Mr. J. E. Maxfield was secretary of the Public Club for several years.

That year a club was formed at Balmattum with P. Wilson president and A. McIntosh secretary.

At the 1907 meeting (annual) of Euroa Tennis Club H. White was elected president, Dr. George Bill vice president and J. E. Maxfield secretary and treasurer.

1907 matches included Balmattum v Country, Ruffy v Country, Methodist v Public.

District Tennis

Association Annual

At the 1907 annual meeting of the District Association Dr. Bill was elected president, Revd., A. Wiltshire and J. Shovelton vice presidents and B. Johnson secretary and treasurer.

This could be one of the first fully organised E. D. T. A., competitions with competing teams Public, Violet Town, St. Paul's, Country, Balmattum, and Methodist. The championship was won by Euroa Public, that team comprising Dr. Bill, J. Main, Almond, J. Maxfield, Mrs. Bill and Miss Sutherland.

In 1909 Euroa club officials were - Dr. G. Bill president, Revd., Fr. Tobin vice president and J. E. Maxfield secretary and treasurer.

Club president Harry White died during the year. For the fourth year in succession Euroa club had won the district premiership. Apparently the E. D. T. A., commenced in 1906 at latest. Father Tobin was one of the best players in the town at this period.

In a 1909 Public Courts tournament final Roy Wiltshire d Les Ford. Euroa 56 d Country 38.

Melbourne teams, including Canterbury visited Euroa about this time.

Euroa Defeat Benalla

In 1909 the following Euroa team defeated Benalla - Misses B. Sutherland and D. Maxfield,

Misses M. Sutherland and Turner, J. Main and Ford, Dr. Bill and Fr. Tobin.

In 1910 there was a district association in the Strathbogie area with eight clubs, including Kanumbra and Bonnie Doon. This was the first year the Strathbogie Club was formed with J. Donald president and Jack Smith secretary. Benalla d Euroa by 88 games to 65 in 1911 and St. Paul's Euroa lost to Holy Trinity, Benalla, St. Paul's team being Miss Maxfield and L. Ford, Miss A. Hinton and A. Burton. Miss Lee and W. Pezet.

Asphalted Courts

In 1912 Euroa Public Club laid down asphalt courts at a cost of eighty pounds. These courts were officially opened by Mr. A. C. Palmer, MHR later that year.

Dr. G. Bill and Mrs. Bill entertained. Dr. Bill said that the club could hold tournaments and invite players from the N. E., to compete and an all round improvement in play should result.

Jas Main (newsagent) was club secretary at this milestone in the club's history. Dr. Bill and Mr. Jim Maxfield were mainly responsible for the upgrading of the courts.

In 1912, F. Wadeson was president of Balmattum club and R. Lorimer secretary and treasurer.

1914 saw Dr. Bill still president of Euroa Club, Revd. Fr. Tobin vice president and W. McKenzie secretary. In 1915 the first two officers remained as above with P. Grant secretary.

There was little reference to much tennis activity during the 1914-18 war which of course was to be expected.

After the War

First available information about play getting going again as the Great War drew to a close was in July 1918, when St. Paul's club held its opening with Misses M. Sargood and I. Goldsworthy joint secretaries.

In December 1918 it was reported that the two Public asphalt courts, which had been neglected during the war were being put in order.

At the annual meeting of Euroa Public Club in 1919 Dr. Bill was again president, Revd., Fr. Tobin again vice president and Miss. D. Maxfield and P. Taylor joint secretaries.

In 1920 Dr. Bill was again president of Euroa Public club, P. J. O'Connor vice president and E. H. Shaw secretary and treasurer. Subs were fixed at twelve shillings and six pence for men and ten shillings ladies. Soldiers were made honorary members for the ensuing year.

Futile Attempt to Reform Association

In late 1921 an attempt was made to get the E. D. T. A. going again but this was not found possible as only Creighton, Euroa and St. Paul's clubs were represented at the meeting.

Pat Fitzgerald and Miss Maruja Turner won the Euroa club championships.

Dr. Bill and Mrs. Bill were made life members of Euroa club.

In 1922 in the local ladies' tennis championship final Miss D. Maxfield d Miss Kennedy 6-4, 6-4.

That year G. Fitzgerald d R. Ford in the Public club championship final.

Balmattum club president in 1922 was A. J. Gall with R. Walker secretary-treasurer.

In 1922 P. J. O'Connor (Euroa club president) tendered his resignation as he was leaving the district. He had been licensee of Euroa Hotel.

Farewell to Keen Personality

In 1923 a valedictory tennis social was tendered to Miss Maude Sargood who had been a player and secretary of St. Paul's club for a considerable time.

At the 1923 annual meeting of Euroa Public club, Dr. Prichard was elected president and George Fitzgerald secretary. Miss Hinton and Ford won a mixed doubles tournament, and another such event went to Miss M. Turner and Don Maxfield. Miss M. Sutherland was made a life member.

Association Reformed

1923 saw the E. D. T. A. reformed, K. McLennan being president and Ken Stribling secretary. Clubs represented at the meeting were Violet Town, Euroa, St. Paul's, Balmattum, Moglonemby and Creighton's Creek and it was left open for others to join. With the Association reformed a tennis "boom" was expected.

The 1924 championship of Euroa club was won by Keith Manley (Bob's brother) from George "Captain Fitz" Fitzgerald.

Miepoll Association

Teams in the Miepoll Association in 1924 included Tamleugh A and B, Moglonemby, Miepoll A and B, Rigg's Creek, Tamleugh North.

At the 1924 annual meeting of Euroa club, Dr. Prichard was appointed president again, Mr. Mathewson vice president, G. Croxford secretary and Mr. Dunkley treasurer. Subs were raised to seventeen shillings and six pence for gents and ten shillings ladies.

In the 1924 final of the Currie trophy G. Croxford and Miss J. Garrett d K. Manley and Miss M Kennedy.

Euroa Club's First Open Tournament

The Open Tournaments - Euroa's successful initial effort:- Boxing Day 1924 saw the opening of Euroa's first series of open tournaments - tennis, bowling and croquet.



At the opening of Euroa Tennis Club's new courts (near the Croquet Lawns) just after the turn of the century.

G. Croxford president, and E. Poole and Dr. Prichard secretaries kept the tennis moving.

In the singles final Don Maxfield d Bob Vroland 6-4, 6-5. The combined tournaments of which H. S. Beckwith was secretary, brought a large crowd of holiday makers to the town. (Bob Vroland was later president of the L. T. A. V.).

In 1925 Dr. Prichard was president of Euroa club, Geo Fitzgerald vice president and Mr. Hart secretary. The secretary for the 1925 Christmas tournament was Brian Turner. Don Maxfield was club champion this year.

At this tournament W. Martin and J. Mullarvey (Canlambo) won the doubles, W. Martin won the singles, Miss J. Roo d Miss M. Turner in the women's singles final, Misses M and B McKenzie (Ruffy) were successful in the women's doubles and Don and Miss D. Maxfield won the mixed doubles.

In 1926 Euroa club champion singles players were Don Maxfield and Miss M. Turner. In the finals Miss Maxfield was the women's runner up and Don Maxfield d Jack Edwards 6-1, 6-2 in the men's final.

St. John's Tournament

Winners at St. John's club tournament in 1926 were V. Reardon and W. Williams, Mrs. Power and Miss A. Morgan.

Dr. Rawson was Euroa club president in 1926-27 and Geo. Fitzgerald secretary.

District Association Reformed

Apparently the E. D. T. A. had lapsed for a time as in November 1926 St. Paul's club were the instigators of a move to get it going again. The Revd., G. Nelson was elected president and Don Maxfield secretary and treasurer. Affiliating clubs - Euroa Public, St. Paul's, St. John's, Castle Creek, Branjee, Creighton's Creek and Balmattum.

Euroa clubs third annual open tournament was played on the club's asphalt courts near croquet green, Messrs Stribling and Turner's private courts, St. John's and St. Paul's courts.

Dr. Rawson president and Brian Turner and Don Maxfield secretaries were at the helm of affairs.

Results:- Men's doubles, Martin and Mullarvey; ladies doubles, Misses Briggs and Bennison; ladies singles, Miss B. McKenzie;

mixed doubles, Vroland and Miss Vroland. In the final of the men's singles J. Mullarvey d O. W. Rawson 6-4, 6-2.

Don Maxfield's Third in Succession

In 1927 in the final of the Euroa club championship, Don Maxfield won the event for the third season in succession, defeating Dr. O. W. Rawson 1-6, 6-2, 6-3.

E. D. T. A. Premiership To St. Paul's

The local papers reported that St. Paul's won the first E. D. T. A. premiership in 1926-27. This does not seem to be correct as a six team competition was functioning as far back as 1905. Maybe it was meant that it was the first year of the E. D. T. A. as constituted at that time. Anyway St. Paul's won the Maxfield cup in its first year of competition, the team being - D. Maxfield, K. Stribling, W. Williams, T. Sullivan, L. Halsall, R. Masters and Misses D. Maxfield, O. Newton, K. Donovan and M. Wakenshaw.

In 1927 the new Methodist courts were opened.

Tennis Booming

It was reported that tennis was booming and for the 1927-28 season, ten teams lined up, new ones in Longwood, Methodist, Moglonemby and Terip joining the E. D. T. A. The president Revd., Gordon Nelson and secretary Don Maxfield being re-elected and Gladys McKernan became assistant secretary.

Terip club had laid down new courts on the old Butter Factory site.

Moglonemby won the 1927-28 premiership. Miss Dorothy Maxfield and Bob Morley were secretaries for Euroa clubs 1927 Christmas tournament.

Some results - Mens singles championship, R. Vroland d Dr. Rawson 6-3, 6-4; women's championship Miss Walker d Miss Morgan.

The tournament was played on the three public courts, two at St. John's and the private courts of Dr. Rawson and E. Stribling.

Moglonemby Premiers

Moglonemby defeated St. Paul's in 1928 to win the E. D. T. A. premiership, their team being Mrs. Belcher, Mrs. Brown, Misses Seeber and K. McBurney, J. Belcher, J. Chanter, W. Martin, Martin Snr., B. Seeber and D. Chanter. Don Maxfield told me he had a very high opinion of Bill Martin and his oft times partner J. Mullarvey as tennis players.

In 1928, Jack Edwards was president of Euroa club and C. Knox secretary. That season Athol Wearne was club champion.

Two Grades in E. D. T. A.

President of the E. D. T. A. for the 1928-29 season was the Revd., F. J. Travers and the secretary Alan Winburn. A grade and B grade was played for the first time.

Moglonemby won their second successive A grade premiership in 1929 and the first B grade premiership went to Longwood who won in the next two seasons also.

In 1929 and 1930 Miepoll team won the premiership of the Murchison District Association. Players - D. and J. Kelly, J. Cullen, W. Harding, Annie Kelly, Eileen Kelly (sec.), Ivy and Bessie Northcott.

Euroa clubs' open tournament 1929 resulted in the following winning events - R. Vroland (men's championship), Miss D. Anderson (women's championship), Halsall Brothers, Misses Bell and Jones, Jim Elgin and Charlie Sargood.

Strathbogie commenced their annual Easter tournaments in 1930 and leading officials for many years were C. McG Walker (president), J. T. Delahey (sec.), and C. Cook (treas.).

Nineteen Clubs in Two Grades

E. D. T. A. president in 1929-30 was A. E. Bond and secretary Alan Winburn. Nineteen clubs competed in two grades. Longwood won both premierships.

The committee for what was apparently the first Euroa club Grass Tournament played on the Euroa Cricket Ground in 1930 was as follows:- T. Saxon, A. Bond, J. Shannon, A. Winburn, R. Morley, D. Maxfield, J. C. Elgin, Dr. Rawson, D. McCormack, O. Newton, H. Stribling, K. Stribling and G. Fitzgerald. Don Maxfield was tournament manager and Bob Morley secretary. President was Jack Edwards.

1930-31 season saw 22 teams competing in equal numbers in A and B Grades in E. D. T. A.

A. E. Bond was Euroa club president in 1931, secretary Bob Morley and Jack Elgin treasurer.

Grass Courts Committee

Christmas tournament committee for 1931 tournament - A. E. Bond president, J. Edwards, D. Maxfield, Dr. Rawson, G. Fitzgerald, Orm Newton, Jack and Jim Elgin, T. Saxon, A. Winburn, R. Lord, G. Speirs and R. Morley, secretary.

Don Maxfield was appointed tournament manager, admission was fixed at one shilling for adults; 12 ball boys to be appointed at two shillings for first day and three shillings for following days. D. Maxfield, D. McCormack and A. Winburn were appointed handicappers; admission for Ball was fixed at five shillings double and two shillings extra lady.

At that tournament L. Oakley defeated W. Martin for the singles championships, Miss D. Anderson d Miss B. McKenzie in the women's championship.

At St. Paul's tournament T. Sullivan and A. Spencer won handicap men's doubles and Misses E. Richardson and R. Gilpin the ladies.

Longwood Again Premiers A Double

In 1931 Longwood won the A Grade "Maxfield Cup" E. D. T. A. competition.

This was their second of three consecutive wins. Clarrie Halsall captained the A Grade team and Brymore "Bum" Bunting the Longwood B team which won the Row Cup.

Arthur Bond was E. D. T. A. president and Alan Winburn secretary. "Windy" was secretary for many years and his enthusiasm and jovial personality will long be remembered when tennis is discussed.

In the 1931-32 E. D. T. A. season 21 teams competed in two grades - A - St. Paul's, Avenel, Castle Creek, Methodist, Longwood, Terip, Violet Town, St. Andrew's, St. John's, Locksley, B Grade - Shean's Creek, St. Paul's, Mogloneby, Creighton's Creek, Methodist, Castle Creek, Terip, Longwood, St. Andrews, St. John's, Branjee.

Two courts were built at the rear of the Methodist Church at Strathbogie in 1931. The six courts at the Bogie Recreation Reserve were constructed in the Fifties.

About this time Ollie Winburn, Dulcie Smith and Kath McBurney were in an E. D. T. A. Country Week ladies' team.



Creighton's Creek Tennis Club 1906. Standing - Mrs C. Cross (nee Rose Earnshaw), C. Cross, Mrs Bunting (nee Hogg), Mrs W. Earnshaw, Mrs J. W. Pearson, Jack Hogg, W. Heffernan. Seated - Miss M. Dooley, Miss M. Pearson, Mrs Ruby Owens (nee Earnshaw), Mrs J. Walker (nee Kitty Pearson), Mrs Morris, Mrs G. Fay. In front - B. Bunting, Fred Hogg.

1932 Country Week Team What a Beauty!

The 1932 E. D. T. A. Country Week team included some outstanding players - Don Maxfield (St. Paul's captain and manager), Gavan Findlay (V. T. vice captain), Lionel and Clive Brodie (Longwood), Herb Plummer (Avenel), Colin McKenzie (Terip) Women - Mrs Lambert (Castle Creek Captain), Mrs O. Winburn (Methodist vice captain), Misses May Cummins and Sylvia Halsall (Longwood), Jess Arkell (Avenel) and Elsie Burns (Locksley). Lionel Brodie later reached the Davis Cup squad and Col McKenzie played in the Victorian Linton Cup team.

A Controversial Letter in 1932

A "Gazette" correspondent - "Advance Euroa" stated that tennis interests had spent hundreds of pounds in improving the cricket oval. Had not the time arrived for "tennis" to occupy this ground permanently during the season. There were 13 courts there at that time and 20 could be established. The letter concluded with the remark, "Wake up tennis players and claim your rights". (I can well remember how this was received in football and cricket circles).

At a 1932 meeting of the E. D. T. A. a grass courts scheme was brought forward, the showgrounds being suggested. However, some clubs were against the scheme because of the expense and it was decided to do nothing at that point in time, but the executive was to go into the matter.

1933 Christmas Tennis Tournament

The 1933 Euroa club annual Christmas tournament was held on the cricket ground in excellent conditions. Pres. of the club was Arthur Bond, vice presidents Jack Edwards, Geo Fitzgerald and Mr. Hill, secretary Bob Morley. The tournament committee was - president and vice presidents K. Stribling, G. Speirs, Dr. Rawson, I. Row, E. Gorey jnr., and A. Winburn. Women - Misses Turner, Wilson, C. Stedman, G. Bond and Mary Giffen and Mesds. Edwards, Tuxen, Speirs and Power.

Results:- Mens championship - V. C. Worrall d C. McKenzie 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; doubles championship Worrall and McNally d Oakley and

McKenzie; mixed doubles championship C. McKenzie, Miss Little d A. Sargood, Miss Davey.

Other winners - Bill Stevens, Neil Scott and Les Sargood, Lydiard and Miss Davey, Mrs. E. Saxon and Miss Dulcie Smith, Miss Nolan, Misses Briggs and Misses Smith and Halsall. Features of the tournament was the fine play of youngsters Col McKenzie, Lionel and Clive Brodie and Bill Stevens.

A Sporting Gift - To mark his appreciation of the fine play and modest bearing of his young opponent, Bill Stevens, who defeated Vern C. Worrall in the handicap at the 1933 Euroa tournament, the loser, Mr. Worrall of Melbourne presented Bill with a top line racquet. The spirit of the donor and the gift was greatly appreciated.

Premiership to Avenel

The 1932-33 premiership of the E. D. T. A. went to Avenel who defeated Longwood who had been premiers the previous three seasons. Lionel Brodie played with Longwood so he would be a big obstacle for Avenel to overcome.

At the wind up ball of the E. D. T. A. the A Grade cup was presented to Charlie Plummer (Avenel captain). That year Denis McCormack was Association president and Alan "Windy" Winburn was the popular secretary.

Another Strong C. W. Team

The 1933 E. D. T. A. Country Week team was another strong combination as follows:- C. McKenzie (Terip captain), H. Plummer (Avenel), W. Stevens (St. Andrew's), Clive and Lionel Brodie (Longwood), Miss S. Halsall (Longwood captain), Miss K. "Tup" McBurney (St. Andrews), Miss E. Burns (Avenel), Miss D. Smith and Mrs. E. L. Saxon (St. Pauls). Miss Halsall withdrew and was replaced by Miss Gadd (Avenel).

Jim Harrington was president of Miepoll club in 1933 and his brother Joel was secretary. Jim Harrington was president and Miss Annie Lewis secretary for many years.

At the 1934 Euroa Christmas tournament N. Ennis d V. Worrall in singles, womens' singles Miss Ginnivan, doubles Ennis and Ledger, mixed doubles Hanger and Mrs. A. Halsall. "Doc" Rawson was tournament manager.

In 1935-36 over a period of 12 months Longwood won cricket, football and two tennis premierships A and B, a performance they had achieved two years earlier.

Request to Council

In 1934 the Euroa Tennis Club requested the Council to supply the labor if the cricket and tennis clubs provided material for a turf wicket at the Euroa cricket ground which would greatly improve the oval. Cr. Bond said there were 13 courts at the cricket oval with an unsightly concrete wicket in the centre. A turf wicket could be used for a court on which to play the important tennis finals as it would be the necessary size for a tennis court. The turf wicket would improve cricket.

On the motion of Crs. Jacka and Nolan the council offered its best support and labour, the work to be done by sustenance workers. (Note - the turf wicket was laid down but it was not used for tennis as far as I know).

Harry Hopman, writing in the "Herald" in 1934 praised Lionel and Clive Brodie of Longwood for their fine tennis at Country Week. He also praised Col McKenzie of Terip (captain), and Linton Cup player.

In 1934 Longwood won what was their fourth E. D. T. A. premiership in five seasons.

E. D. T. A. office bearers for season 1934-35 - Denis McCormack (president), Tom Sullivan vice president and Alan Winburn secretary (honorarium twelve pounds ten shillings).

Euroa Lawn Tennis Club 1934-35

Arthur Bond continued as president, Dr. Rawson, Geo Fitzgerald and Bill Hill were vice presidents, Jack Kelly secretary and Clem Fisher treasurer. The retiring secretary Bob Morley was elected a life member.

Royal Miller was president in 1935-36 and other key offices were re-elected - Lionel Brodie won the championship at the 1935 tournament.

In 1935 Locksley won the E. D. T. A. A Grade premiership which was the first of their three wins in four seasons.

Two Locals Hit High Spots

In 1935 Lionel Brodie of Grace Park pennant team was selected in Victorian team.

Colin McKenzie in 1937 won the Country championship for the second successive year.

Euroa club president in 1937-38 was Royal Miller and Alistair Gibson secretary. At the Christmas tournament main event winners were J. Harper, Miss Rees, V. Worrall and J. McNally. Tournament secretary was Bob Morley and Tournament manager Fred Bond.

When Locksley won the E. D. T. A. A Grade final in 1937 the team included Jack Burns and his three sons Jack, Bill and Tim and daughter Ellie. A couple of years previously Jack and two of his three sons played football together for Avenel.

Lionel Brodie put up his best performance to date in 1939 when he defeated Harry Hopman in a quarter final of the S. A. Championships.

Euroa club officials in 1938-39 - President R. Miller, vice presidents T. Hornsby, J. W. Elgin, Dr. Waterhouse, secretary A. D. Randle, treasurer C. Sinclair.

In 1939 Miepoll won the E. D. T. A. B Grade premiership. The team - J. Cullen (captain), I. Macvean, J and T. Hanneberry, T. Lewis and D. Nagle; Mrs. J. Cullen, Mrs. J. Hanneberry, Misses J. Lewis and D. Nagle.

E. D. T. A. president in 1939-40 was R. Miller and A. Winburn was still secretary.

With the Second World War raging there were little reports of any play for these years.

Move to Take Over Oval

In 1945 just after the end of the War a public meeting was held re establishing grass courts. Mr. Tom Saxon protested strongly at moves to take over the cricket ground permanently for tennis.

In 1946 a site adjacent to the croquet lawns was suggested for permanent grass courts. Euroa Golf Club per A. E. Maygar objected as

same would affect their links. The council refused to grant this site by 9 votes to 2. Eventually the club was granted a site on the F. S. Reserve where 12 excellent courts were established. This was in 1948.

Euroa Club - 1945-46

Malcolm Cameron was Euroa club president in 1945-46, vice presidents Don Maxfield, Alan Winburn and Col Sinclair, secretary and treasurer Noel D. Allen. The president and secretary continued in office for some time.

The first A grade premiership after the War (1947) was won by Longwood. St. Paul's won the following year.

Night Tennis

In those days night tennis was played on A. Winburn's two courts on west side of town.

Entries for Euroa club's 1947 Christmas tournament totalled 250 players, the champs being Jim Matthews (Albury) and Wilma Huf (Benalla).

Lionel Brodie and Col McKenzie gave an exhibition in 1948.

Noel Allen - A Great Man For the Game

For the 1948-49 season Noel Allen was secretary of the E. D. T. A. as well as the Euroa club. Ed Houston was E. D. T. A. president and Malcolm Cameron was Euroa club president and Harry Morgan, Don Maxfield and Alan Winburn vice presidents, Miss M. Nolan social secretary.

The 1948 Euroa Christmas tournament saw Jim Matthews starring, winning the singles championship and doubles with Pat O'Kane and Mona Carter. Women's champ was Mrs. Colin Boyd.

Methodists Win By Two Games

In the E. D. T. A. 1949 A grade final Methodists won the first of four successive premierships by defeating Strathogie by two



A Euroa district tennis photo taken in 1902. Second from left at back: Fred Sargood (Charlie Sargood's father), then Jim Shovelton, person unknown, then Alex Morley. Small boy in front thought to be Charlie Sargood. Note: Flat top racquets and loose stringing.



Green Hills Tennis Team (Tamleugh) early in this century - Back row, from left - Tessie Noonan, Mick Barry, Nellie McKinley, Tom Noonan. Front, from left - Owen McKinley, Lizzie Noonan, Jim Noonan, Frances McKinley.



At Creighton's Creek Courts in the early days.

games. Strathbogie's Archie Donohue and Vern Law never lost a set of doubles during the season.

Euroa Lawn Tennis Club's officials elected for the 1949-50 season were:- President Harry J. Morgan, vice presidents Alan Winburn, Don Maxfield and E. Poole, hon. secretary Noel Allen. Curator Mr. Sam Davis was made a life member.

Miepoll and Strathbogie Associations

In 1949-50 Miepoll and District Tennis Association teams consisted of - Miepoll, Moorilim, North Murchison, Tamleugh North, Arcadia Greens and Arcadia Golds. Miss A. Lewis acted as secretary for ten years to both the M. D. T. A., and the Miepoll club.

For some years Strathbogie had a team in Euroa Association.

Strathbogie has had its own strong association since 1950. (Details of tennis in the

Strathbogie area will be found in the book "A History of Strathbogie" by this author at the time of the centenary in 1977. (Copies of this book are still available - 1979).

The E. D. T. A. Country Week team in 1950:- Men - A. McDonald (captain), B. Burton, W. Crocos, A. Frost. Women - Mrs J. Hahnel (captain), Misses L and R. Watkins and M. Mansfield and Mrs. B. Burton (emergency).

Exhibition Tennis

By courtesy of Spaldings an exhibition was staged at Euroa. J. Matthews - Miss D. Moran d L. Brodie - Mrs. N. Bolten. Frank Sedgman and Mervyn Rose who were due to leave with the Davis Cup team could not play as they had just had inoculations.

At the 1951 annual tournament of Euroa Lawn Tennis Club, Jim Matthews won his fourth singles championship title.

Neale Fraser Wins at Euroa

The up and coming Neal Fraser d J. Matthews in the final of the singles championship at Euroa Lawn Christmas tournament in 1952. Mrs. Diggle won the women's singles and Pat O'Kane the district singles championship. Dan McKernan was president and Henry Gallagher secretary.

A tennis exhibition was staged at Euroa by Davis Cup stars Ken McGregor, Mervyn Rose, Geo Worthington and Neale Fraser.

Methodists Fourth in Succession

In the E. D. T. A. final, Methodists d Avenel to win their fourth successive premiership - a record at that time. Methodists team - N. Mintern, L. Birch, A. McDonald, W. Crocos, G. Gray, G. Spencer, Misses R and L Watkins, J. Mackrell and Mrs. J. Hahnel.

At Strathbogie Easter tournament (President C. Law, secretary R. Armstrong) the winners included - L. Birch, Miss J. Dolling, Miss V. Reid, Mrs. J. Hahnel.

At Strathbogie Easter tournament (President C. Law, secretary R. Armstrong) the winners included L. Birch, Miss J. Dolling, Miss V. Reid, Mrs. J. Hahnel, Miss J. Mackrell and A. Donohue.

1952-53 Euroa Lawn Tennis Club officers were - A "Dick" Bertalli president, Geoff Halsall secretary, and Henry Gallagher treasurer. Athol Jones was president the following season and Geoff Halsall was re-elected secretary.

Avenel's First of Two

In 1953 Avenel team won the first of their double premierships. Reg Whitford captained the "A" team and Sulli Furlletti the "B's".

E. Houston E. D. T. A. president and Geoff Halsall secretary were re-elected for season 1953-54.

The 1953 Lawn Tennis Tournament saw M. Davies win the championship and the women's championship went to J. Staley (now Mrs. Lew Hoad). B. Kearney d L. Birch in district champ. final. The club held a March tournament when D. Yates and Mrs. Boyd won the championships.

Lindsay Birch won Euroa Club Championship in 1953.

At Strathbogie Easter tournament in 1954, Bill Redfern and Jean Withers won the scratch events.

Changes in E. D. T. A. Administration

The E. D. T. A. had 16 teams competing in two grades in 1953-54. Denis McCormack was elected president, Ed Houston retiring after 14 years in that office. Ron Halsall was the new secretary, Alan Winburn retiring after a long period extending from the late Twenties - a mighty effort.

At Euroa Lawn Tennis Club's 1954 Christmas Tournament A. Ryan and Mrs. Boyd won the open championships and Pat O'Kane d B. Kearney in district final.

Top Liners at "Windy's"

Jack Kramer (America) and Dinny Palls (Aust.) gave a night exhibition at Winburn's courts. Bruce Burton and Jack Kramer played Neil Mintern and Dinny Palls after the singles match.

In 1955, Euroa Lawn Club won its first E. D. T. A. premiership.

Bruce Burton was Euroa Lawn Tennis Club president in 1955-56 with Henry Gallagher secretary and treasurer. The club had a membership of 100.

At the 1955 Christmas tournament, David Yates won the singles championship and the womens' went to Mrs. N. Nethersole.

President of the E. D. T. A., Denis McCormack, at 62, was a member of Gooram "A" grade team.

In 1956 Euroa Lawn won the E. D. T. A. 'A' and 'B' grade premierships. Lawn 'A' team - A. Frost, N. Mintern, H. Gallagher, G. Gray, B. Burton, W. Crocos, Mesdms. J. Hahnel, R. Frost, V. Brown and Miss L. Watkins.

At Strathbogie Easter tournament in 1956, Mrs. Cookson and Lindsay Birch won the singles titles, and the doubles went to V. Law and L. Birch.

In 1956, Arthur Frost was elected Euroa Lawn Tennis Club president, Bruce Burton, Neil Mintern and Al Frost v.p.'s and Henry Gallagher secretary.

Davis Cup Players at Euroa

Four Davis Cup Squad players - Ken Rosewall, Neale Fraser, Roy Emerson and Mal Anderson gave a great exhibition of the game at Euroa Lawn Tennis Club courts.

At Euroa Lawn Tennis Club's 27th annual tournament, G. Stewart won the singles championship, Mrs. C. Boyd the women's, the doubles champs. A. Jacoby and B. Kearney. The district doubles hdcp.s. went to Neil Mintern and Bill Stevens and the womens' to Ruth Frost and Joan McKendrick.

Lindsay Birch won Euroa Lawn Tennis Club's championship for the 7th time in 1957.

New Clubhouse

Early in 1957 Euroa Lawn Tennis Club started to build a new clubhouse.

In 1957 at the annual meeting of Euroa Lawn Tennis Club Arthur Frost was re-elected president, Neil Mintern was elected secretary and Tom McKendrick tournament secretary.

Nagambie won the second of its 'A' grade premierships in 1957-58. Marty Nolan captained Nagambie. Denis McCormack (pres.) and Ron Halsall (sec.) had been re-elected.

Pat O'Kane and Alison Paech won the Christmas tournament championships.

At the 1958 Strathbogie Easter tournament the championships went to Miss. D. Reardon and Billy Redfern. Geo. Armstrong was president and Reg Armstrong secretary.

Euroa L. T. C. 29th. Christmas Tournament

The championships at the 29th. annual Christmas tournament were won by Tony Ryan and Mrs. B. Rae. The district doubles hdcp. went to Neil Mintern and Lindsay Birch. The genial Henry Gallagher was tournament secretary. In the 1959-60 season Arthur Frost continued as president, Peter Gall was club secretary and Nola Hahnel treasurer.

Avenel's Purple Patch

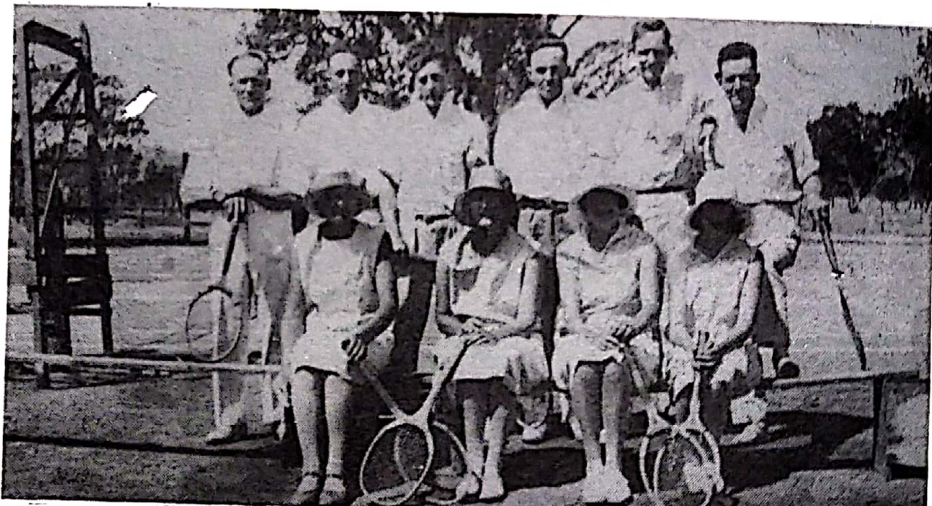
The number of teams in the E. D. T. A. continued to build up and in the 1959-60 season 24 teams competed. The old combination of Denis McCormack (pres.) and Ron Halsall (sec.) continued in office. That season Avenel club won the first of its four successive premierships - in fact it had a double in the 1960-61 season when the 'B' team also won.

At the 1960 E. L. T. C. annual tournament Bert Kearney and Wilma Boyd won the open championships. At the tournament Henry Gallagher was presented with a life membership certificate. Neil Mintern was club president.

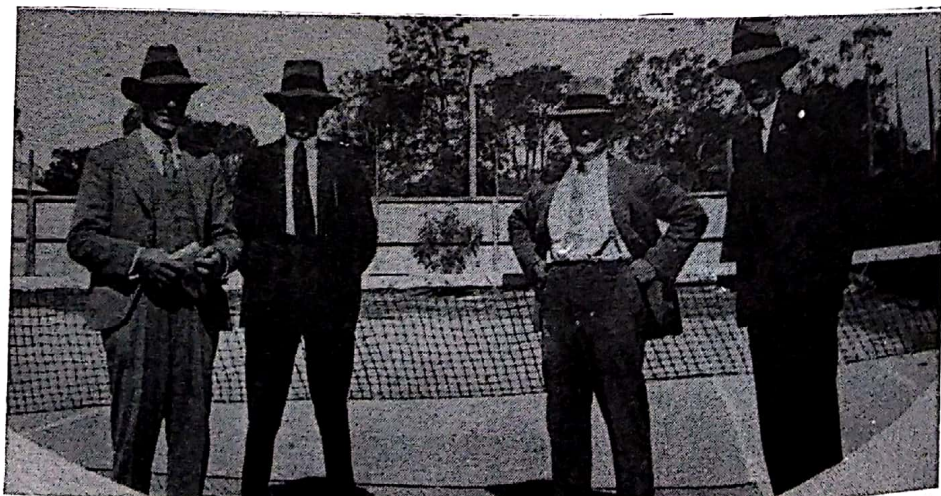
At the 1961 Strathbogie Easter tournament Brian Law won the singles championship.



St. Paul's Club opening 1922:- Left front - K. Stribling, H. Jacka, Miss V. Lana, Jim Elgin, Jess Garrett, Miss F. Carne, Jess Ford, Amy Wilson, Mrs Nelson. Right edge - C. DeBoos, Revd. G. Nelson, Kath Donovan, Matty Sargood, Ilma Goldworthy, Beryl Gilbert, Tina Pratt, Dorothy Maxfield, Ted Poole, Tom Heesom, W. Gallagher. Left back - G. Fitzgerald, Dr. Prichard, Maruja Turner, Mr Rossen (dentist), C. Stedman.



At Euroa Public Courts in the 1920's. Among those in the photo are Jack Kubell (back left), Norm Mimils (3rd from left in back row), Charlie Kealey, Mrs. V. Smith, Joan Nolan and Ella Smith.



District Association final at St. John's courts, Euroa - Moglonemy v St. Paul's. Leading tennis identities pictured (l. to r.) - Orm Newton, Bert Sargood, Denis McCormack and Charlie Sargood.

At the E. D. T. A. annual meeting for 1961-62 season, Arthur Frost was elected president, Wally Crocos secretary and Stan Hewish v.p. 29 teams in 'A', 'B' and 'C' grades.

Bill Stevens' Coaching Classes

In 1963 Bill Stevens was again available to coach juniors. Bill estimates he coached at least 600 young tennis players in the 11 years he was on the job. A mighty contribution to the game!

Ron McKenzie won men's championship and Wilma Boyd once again carried off the women's championship at the 1962 Christmas tournament.

E. L. T. C. Honor Board Unveiled

In 1963, Mr. Bob Vroland, president of the L. T. A. V., unveiled an honor board showing presidents, secretaries and life members of the club. Harry Morgan, who was president when the lawn courts were established 16 years previously received his life membership certificate.

Lawn Gold won the 'A' grade premiership in 1963 when they defeated Nagambie by 4 games.

Further E. D. T. A. Expansion

Thirty-two teams competed in the Euroa Association in 1963-64 season when Arthur Frost and Wally Crocos were elected president and secretary respectively. That season Violet Town won their first E. D. T. A. premiership.

In 1963-64 Rex Anderson was president and Wally Crocos (re-elected) secretary of E. L. T. C.

Jack Lydiard was president of E. L. T. C. in 1966 when at the Australia Day tournament the men's singles went to R. Round and the ladies' to L. Robinson.

Neil Mintern in 1967 led Euroa team which won Wangaratta Sunday competition. He was named Stackhouse Motors "Sportsman of the Week" at that time.

In 1966-67 season there were 37 teams in the E. D. T. A. when Max Brook was president and Wally Crocos continued as secretary. Methodist Club won their first premiership since 1952.

Euroa was defeated in the Inter-town grand final by Broadford in 1968.

President of E. L. T. C. in 1967-68 was Neil Mintern. Wally Crocos, after seven years as secretary, did not seek re-election and Joy Elston was appointed. These top officers continued for several seasons.

St. Paul's won 'A' and 'B' grades in 1968 winter tennis. 'A' team - R. Frost, L. Sargood, M. Withers.

E. D. T. A. Up To 38 Teams

A record 38 teams in five grades faced the barrier for the 1967-68 season. Methodist won the second of their five successive premierships.

In 1968 Doug Jeffery and Sandra Pearce won the championships at E. L. T. C. annual tournament at the Labor Day weekend.

Max Brook (pre.) and Wally Crocos (sec.) continued in E. D. T. A. office in 1968, when a record 43 teams competed.

Four E. L. T. C. Life Members

In 1969 Mrs. Jean Hahnel, Tom McKendrick, Bruce Burton and Arthur Frost were made E. L. T. C. life members.

1969 president of Region 9 was Neil Mintern with John Lee secretary.



Euroa District Tennis Association Ball 1934 - at Memorial Hall.



Longwood "A" team with trophies - Premiers 1930, 31, 32 and 34, runners-up 1933. Back row, from left - Clive Brodie, Reg Halsall, Bill Donovan, Ted Withers (president), Lionel Brodie, Ed. Houston, Bob Houston. Seated - Sylvia Halsall, Eva Halsall, May Cummins, Alice Brodie.

John Lee was Euroa District Tennis Association president for the 1969-70 season when 45 teams competed. Wally Crocos continued to give great service to tennis as secretary.

1969 C. W. teams:- Lawn ladies - R. Frost, J. Telford, V. Dullard and M. Withers. E. D. T. A. - E. Lodding, D. Byrnes, B. Reeves, J. McKendrick, M. Mintern; Men - K. Telford, N. Mintern, L. Birch, G. Brown, A. Rowan.

In 1970 new sealed courts were opened at Terip Terip, Cr. A. McKernan officiating. The Terip club was formed in 1924. Tennis was played in the area before that on a cement court owned by Dick Meggett.

Euroa Women Win at Country Week

In 1970 the Euroa team did well to win the womens' 'B' grade section at Country Week. The team - Ruth Frost, Vera Dullard, Jan Telford and Daph. Byrnes, with Dot Saxon helping out on the Monday.

At the E. L. T. C. 40th annual tournament Ken Jorgensen and Pat Billings won the championships.

Euroa Players Successful at Geelong

At a Junior tournament at Geelong in 1970, the following players were successful:- Robin Owens, Warren and Andrew Mintern and Jenny Telford. Robin Owens won boys' open single at Shepparton junior tournament.

Euroa Lawn C. W. team in 'B' grade in 1970 - Neil Mintern, Ken Telford, Alex Rowan and Garry Brown.

At the 1970 Strathbogie 36th Easter tournament the championships went to Garry Brown and Nola Dudley.

In 1970 the E. D. T. A. 'C' Grade team won its section at Country Week - Marlene Lingard, Elaine 'Bub' Lodding, Joan McKendrick and Dorothy 'Bib' Deane.

70 Delegates From 19 Clubs

At the 1970-71 season's annual meeting of the E. D. T. A. 70 delegates attended from 19 clubs and 44 teams competed. Ray Akers, of Locksley, who had had a very long connection with the Association was elected president,



A. E. D. T. A. Country Week team which was runners-up in the 1930's. Back row (l. to r.) - Harry Morgan, Frank O'Farrell, Lionel Brodie, Colin McKenzie. Front row - Margaret O'Farrell, Beryl Bradley, Irene Power, Rosie O'Farrell.



Euroa Lawn Tennis clubhouse was still in course of construction when this photo was taken.

Lawn Gold d. Lawn Blue in 1972 Final

The 1971-72 'A' grade premiership was won by Lawn Gold who defeated Lawn Blue by 78 games to 65. The premier team - L. Thomson, N. Dudley, R. Frost, L. Anderson, D. Mackrell, I. Lewis, N. Mintern and R. Owens. Tim Burns, of Avenel, was Association president.

Nine-year-old Jillian Mintern was awarded "Sportsman of the Week" in 1972 for winning both singles and doubles in Under 11 section at Shepparton Junior tournament.

E. L. T. C. president in 1972-73 season was Gordon McCombe and Joy Elston was secretary. Like her father Alan "Windy" Winburn before her she was doing a great job for tennis.

In 1972 Jenny Steen was made joint "Sportsman of the Week" for winning four events at Euroa junior tournament.

Tim Burns (Avenel) was again E. D. T. A. president in 1972-73 with Wally Crocos continuing to run up a great tally of years as secretary. There were 45 teams competing, 6 in 'A', 11 in 'A' Reserve, 12 in 'B' Special, 8 in 'B' grade, 8 in 'C' grade - and there were not enough courts in Euroa.

Early in 1973 Mark Carracher was joint "Sportsman of the Week" in recognition of his winning of the under 15 boys' championship at Benalla New Year tournament.

The 1972-73 'A' grade premiership went to Lawn Red who defeated Methodists by 14 games. Avenel won in "A" Reserve. Sue Tate (now Mrs. Xavier Thomson) of Lawn Red, was made "Sportsman of the Week" for her good play in the grand final. Incidentally Sue's father, Greg, was a former star rover with Essendon V. F. L. team.

Warren Mintern and partner won the State doubles in the Under 16 Hardcourt finals at Melbourne.

Wally's 13th Year as Secretary

Forty-six teams competed in the E. D. T. A. in season 1973-74. Tim Burns was president, Geoff Webster vice-president and Wally Crocos commenced his 13th. term as secretary.

Lawn Gold won the 'A' grade premiership by 11 games from Methodists. The winning team - R. Frost, L. Anderson, M. Lingard, D. Saxon, G. Garrick, K. McFarlane, W. Mintern, N. Mintern. Longwood won 'A' Reserve - F. Sudholz, B. Threlfall, R. Houston, R. Carracher; M. Carracher, M. Tubb, R. King, M. Steers.

Jenny Steen and Warren Mintern won Junior Sportsmen awards.

Euroa Lawn Club held a successful annual tournament at the Labor Day weekend. Nola Dudley was tournament secretary. Local winners were L. Owens, Sue Thomson, Fiona Williams, M. Carracher, Jenny Steen, Karen Withers, Jenny Telford, W. Mintern, J. Birch, C. Webster.

Jillian Mintern and Miranda Yates won Victorian Junior Under 12 hardcourt doubles in Melbourne.

1974-75 Annual Meetings

Tim Burns was elected E. D. T. A. president and Wally Crocos secretary. 44 teams entered. E. L. T. C. president was Max Wehner, secretary Joy Elston and tournament secretary Nola Dudley.

At Kooyong Warren Mintern won the Victorian Under 17 doubles title with Ian Welsh. Lawn Green won the E. D. T. A. 'A' grade premiership. The team - A. McDonald, R. Carracher, M. Carracher, W. O'Connor, L. Thomson, N. Dudley, R. Frost, L. Anderson.

rosebowl to Balmattum; Graham Shelton the 'C' grade shield to St. Joseph's (Nagambie).

The 1970-71 'A' grade Methodist premiership team - G. Brown, M. Kubeil, L. Birch, K. Lomer, M. Bruce, M. Goldsworthy, D. Lomer and P. Downing.

1971-72 E. L. T. C. officials were all re-elected - Neil Mintern (pres.), Joy Elston (sec.), Max Wehner (treas.).

E. L. T. C. Labor Day Tournament

Recently the Euroa Lawn Tennis Club's annual tournaments date was changed from Christmas to Labor Day weekend. At the 1972 tournament the champions were R. Petersen and K. Wilkinson. Nola Dudley was tournament secretary again.

Warren Mintern, 14, in 1972 won boys and mixed doubles in Under 19 championships at Benalla and was named "Sportsman of the Week". He was again named "Sportsman" for Under 15 Victorian Schoolboy's championship doubles at Kooyong.

Another 1972 "Sportsman of the Week" was Lindsay Birch, who for the second time in his long career won Reg. 9 singles.

Gordon McCombe was vice-pres. and Wal Crocos was once again secretary. Ray Akers is probably the "elder statesman" of the E. D. T. A.

In 1971 Robin Owens, one of Euroa's leading junior tennis players, retained his boys' singles title at Regional Tennis Championships held at Euroa. He was named "Sportsman of the Week".

State Selection

Mrs. Jan Telford was selected in the Country Inter-State team in 1971.

The E. L. T. C. annual tournament in 1971 was the 41st annual event. Brian Arundell and L. Robinson won the open singles. Nola Dudley was tournament secretary.

Five in a Row - An E. D. T. A. Record

In the 1970-71 season Methodist won 'A' grade for the fifth successive season to make a record. In 'A' Reserve the undefeated Gobur team went down to Longwood in the grand final. At the wind-up function Ray Akers (pres.) presented the 'A' grade Maxfield cup, Max Brook the "Crocos-Brook rosebowl to Longwood; Fred Sudholz the 'B' Special shield to Locksley; Vera Dullard the "McCormack"

Longwood won 'A' Reserve - F. Sudholz, R. Houston, C. Steers, L. Carracher; M. Tubb, M. Carracher, M. Steers, P. Walters.

The E.L.T.C. president in 1975 was Max Wehner and Joy Elston continued as secretary.

Fourteen Years Great Service by Wally Crocos

In 1975 Wally Crocos, a great man for tennis retired after 14 years meritorious service as secretary of the E.D.T.A. Alan Vearing took over the position. Tim Burns was again president and Geoff Webster vice-president.

Craig Beckenham won the Victorian under 12 championship and received a Sportsman award. He also won the Tennis Association of Victoria Junior Invitation Masters' Tournament (Under 13) singles.

Fiona Williams and Jenny Steen won the girls' doubles at the Regional championships.

Further Successes For Young Euroaites

At Nagambie tournament Warren Mintern won the Mens' open singles and his 12 year old sister the Ladies section. Warren also won the mens' open singles at Rushworth.

At Shepparton tournament Mark Carracher was successful in winning the under 19 and under 17 singles. Tony Withers carried off the under 15 and under 13 singles. He and D. Ellis won under 13 doubles. Karen Withers and C. Harrington annexed the under 17 doubles.

Euroa C. W. team - F. Williams, K. Withers, J. Steen, R. McKendrick, Marlene Lingard; Men - W. Mintern, M. Carracher with others filling in.

At the E.L.T.C. annual tournament local winners in 1976 included J. Mintern, K. Withers, W. Mintern and J. Lorenz. J. Davis won the open singles and S. Neville the womens'.

Inter-town Junior Grand final to Euroa

In 1976 Euroa defeated Albury in the grand final of the junior section of the N.E.G.V. inter-town competition. The team - Mark Carracher, Neil McDonald, Karen Withers, Jillian Mintern. Juniors who have figured in previous victorious final teams include Gayle Carracher, Fiona Williams, Jenny Steen and Warren Mintern.

Methodists were 'A' grade E.D.T.A. premiers and champions in 1976. The team - L. Birch, S. Hewish, K. Lomer, J. Birch, D. Lomer, D. Cann, J. Steen, M. Lomer.

In 1976 Euroa Lawn Tennis Club had 153 members. Neil Mintern was president and Gayle Furze secretary. After nine years of fine service Mrs. Joy Elston did not seek re-election.

At the Regional championships Warren Mintern won the open singles and F. Jeffery the womens'.

Lawn Gold E. D. T. A. Premiers in 1977

Mark Carracher, Robert Garside, Ian Frost, Neil McDonald, Nola Dudley, Lena Thomson, Ruth Frost and Gayle Furze were the members of the Lawn Gold team which won 'A' grade in 1976-77 season.

Bert Kearney won the mens' championship at the 1977 E.L.T.C. annual tournament. G. White was lady champion. As usual Wally Crocos had the courts in fine order.

John Arthur was E.D.T.A. president for the 1977-78 season and Robert Garside secretary-treas. Affiliation was \$13 per team. 39 teams competed in five grades.

Neil Mintern was re-elected president of the E.L.T.C. in 1977-78, v.p.'s were Kevin McFarlane and Brian Rule, sec. Gayle Furze and treas. V. Doxey.

In the 1977 regional championships played at Euroa Warren Mintern won the mens' singles and Lindsay Birch the veterans' singles. Other local winners were Jillian Mintern (two events), Mark Carracher and Craig Beckenham.

Jillian Mintern won the under 16 Victorian Country championship at Kerang. In 1978 and 1979 she played 'B' pennant with Grace Park Club.

General Notes

Shell Squad - Players from Euroa who have made this squad over the years include Warren Mintern, Mark Carracher, Tony Withers, Craig Beckenham and Jillian Mintern. This squad is for the best juniors under 16 of that year and they are coached at Kooyong every Sunday morning.

Harry Morgan and Neil Mintern are the only life members in Euroa District of Region 9 Tennis Council.

One year Euroa won Seymour and District premiership, defeating Broadford in the final. Euroa's team: N. Mintern, L. Birch, B. Burton, K. Adams, Mrs. R. Frost and Mrs. J. Hahnel.

Violet Town held annual tournaments for many years.

Lindsay Birch in the early Fifties won the under 19 boys' singles twice, once defeating Bert Kearney in the final.

In early 1979 Tony Withers, formerly of Euroa, was seeded in the first three under 16 tennis players in Australia.



Methodist club - E. D. T. A. premiers 1949, 50, 51 and 52 - Back row from left - Vic Fox, Doug Bamford, Geoff Spencer, Alf McDonald, Wally Crocos. Front - Jean Hahnel, Lorna Watkins, Bill Stevens (captain), Joy Winburn, Rene Crosbie, Valda Brown.



Euroa Lawn, "A" Grade premiers 1955-56 - Back row from left - Geoff Anderson, Bruce Burton, Henry Gallagher, Arthur Frost, Gordon Gray, Wally Crocos. Front - Jean Hahnel, Lorna Watkins, Neil Mintern, Ruth Frost, Valda Brown.

Euroa Lawn Tennis Club

President	Secretary	Life Members
1947-48 - M. C. Cameron	N. D. Allen	N. D. Allen
1948-49 - M. C. Cameron	N. D. Allen	A. L. Hemley
1949-50 - H. J. Morgan	N. D. Allen	S. Davis
1950-51 - H. J. Morgan	N. D. Allen	-
1951-52 - D. McKernan	H. G. Gallagher	-
1952-53 - R. Bertall	G. Halsall	-
1953-54 - A. Jones	G. Halsall	-
1954-55 - B. Burton	P. Carboon & G. Halsall	A. Jones
1955-56 - B. Burton	H. G. Gallagher	-
1956-57 - A. L. Frost	H. G. Gallagher	-
1957-58 - A. L. Frost	N. Mintern	-
1958-59 - A. L. Frost	N. Mintern	H. G. Gallagher
1959-60 - A. L. Frost	P. Gall	-
1960-61 - N. Mintern	W. Crocos	M. C. Cameron
1961-62 - N. Mintern	W. Crocos	-
1962-63 - R. Anderson	W. Crocos	H. J. Morgan
1963-64 - J. Lydiard	W. Crocos	-
1964-65 - J. Lydiard	W. Crocos	J. Hahnel
1965-66 - J. Lydiard	W. Crocos	T. McKendrick
1966-67 - A. L. Frost	W. Crocos	B. Burton
1967-68 - N. Mintern	Mrs. J. Elston	A. L. Frost
1968-69 - N. Mintern	Mrs. J. Elston	-
1969-70 - N. Mintern	Mrs. J. Elston	-
1970-71 - N. Mintern	Mrs. J. Elston	-
1971-72 - N. Mintern & G. McCombe	Mrs. J. Elston	-
1972-73 - G. McCombe	Mrs. J. Elston	-
1973-74 - G. McCombe	Mrs. J. Elston	-
1974-75 - J. Dunn	Mrs. J. Elston	-
1975-76 - M. Wehner	Mrs. J. Elston	-
1976-77 - N. Mintern	Miss G. Furze	-
1977-78 - N. Mintern	Miss G. Furze	-
1978-79 - N. Mintern	Mrs. J. Rowlands	-



Lindsay Birch - a leading Euroa district player for many years.

General Information on Euroa and District Tennis

(By Arthur Frost)

(This article on tennis in Euroa and District was compiled by fine versatile Euroa sportsman, Mr. Arthur Frost who interviewed many local tennis enthusiasts. He wrote it to tie in with the material I had compiled from "Gazette" and "Advertiser" files, etc., and I am grateful to him for his added comprehensive information).

Tennis may have been played in this Shire prior to 1880, but so little information of those times is available to enable this to be stated with any degree of certainty. It is therefore necessary to rely upon newspaper reports and the recollections of our elders with memories of court locations, facets of conditions and stories of the early days. Many people have given accounts, among them Mr. Don Maxfield, who has outlined progress of the game from 1900 onward. Every attempt at cross-referencing has been closely pursued in an endeavour to gain utmost accuracy.

Even in those early times, it appears that the popularity of tennis was very widespread, so great difficulty was encountered by the writer in determining the exact location of courts.

Early Courts and Equipment

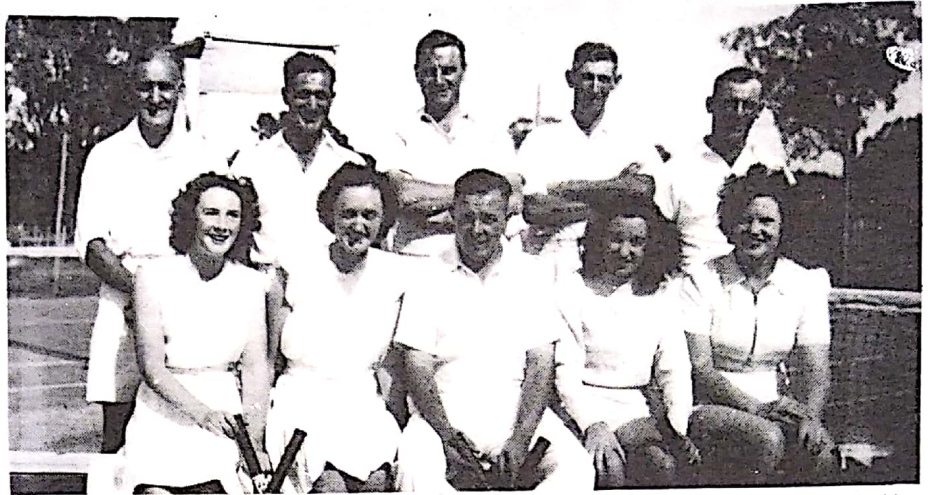
It must be remembered that all early surfaces were merely chipped ground with little or no imported materials, such as clay or sands. Lines of whitewash were brushed on between two parallel strips of wood. Most net posts were of rough hewn timber similar to fence posts and without stays. Nets have changed little apart from the materials. Tennis balls too were much the same as today except that in time of economic hardship (which was generally the case), they were worn bare.

Early racquets were unadorned, having plain bare, wooden handles, with heavy gut not as tightly strung. In 1903 the cost of a "Union" was Twelve shillings (\$1-20) while a top-class "Renshaw" as much as Fifteen shillings (\$1-50). Later prices in 1920 for such brands as "Bluebell", "Silver King", "Uptown" or "Moon" ranged from Nineteen shillings and sixpence. The shape has varied only slightly but in the 30's the flat top was popular. As this name implied, the top of the usual oval was flattened with a resultant straight top edge of some 15 cms. The life of an average racquet may have been ten years and players replaced broken strings themselves for One shilling each (10c).

Normal attire for the ladies consisted of long ankle length dresses and big floppy hats. The men wore long trousers, long sleeved shirts and usually a hat. Shoes were of canvas top with rubber soles. Apart from very early times when black skirts were worn, all attire of course was strictly white or cream and color of any other shade would have brought forth an immediate rebuke.

Transport

Transport in the early days was by a "drag" - this was a four wheeled buggy drawn by two horses which carried 6 to 8 persons on seats down each side. These drags may have been hired from one of two livery stables - one (Hintons) in Brock St., next to what is now Halsall Court, or the other (Simpsons) in Binney St., next to the Court House. With the advent of the "T" model Ford, of which Mr. Ken Stribling recalls there were seven cars apart from his familys' in 1914, the motor car began to play a major role. The roads, usually earth, but some metal (stone) were so rough that it was often smoother to drive alongside the fences. Later



A St. Paul's team which was E. D. T. A. runners-up in the fifties. Back row (l. to r.) - Don Maxfield, Fred Artridge, Theo Hornsby, Charlie Sargood, Ken Watkins. Front - Melva Holland, Marge Tubb, Ron Halsall (captain), June Morgan, Georgie Dudley.



Euroa Lawn Green, 1975 E. D. T. A. "A" Grade-premiers - Back row, from left - Alf McDonald, Richard Carracher, Mark Carracher, W. O'Connor. Front - Lena Thomson, Nola Dudley, Ruth Frost, Lorna Anderson,



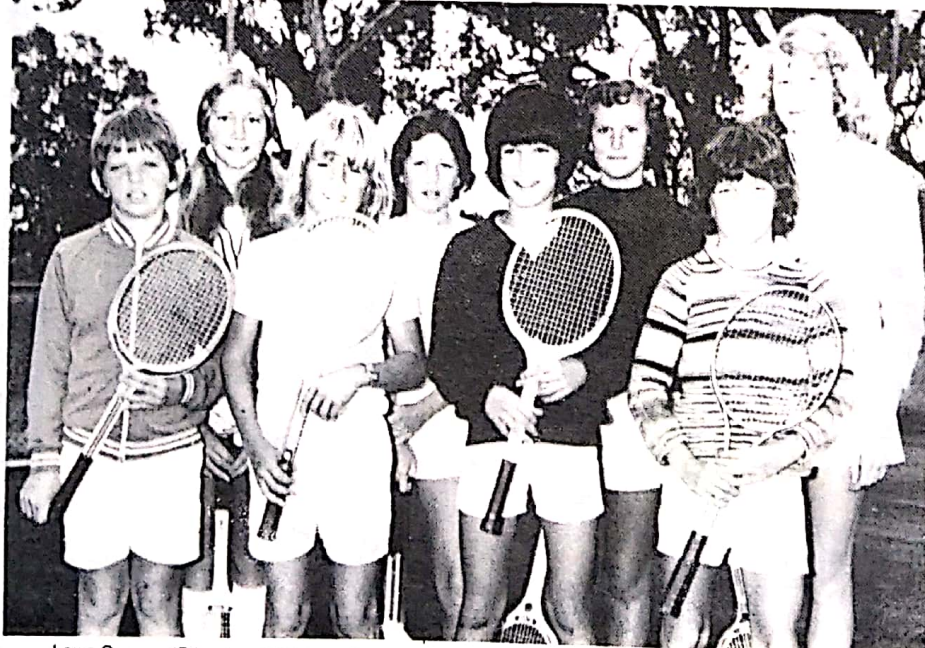
Moglonemby - E. D. T. A. "B" grade premiers 1974:- Back row (l. to r.) - B. Daldy, M. Ick, J. Harrington, G. Hunt. Front - M. Broughan, J. Grimes, H. Hunt, G. Ick.



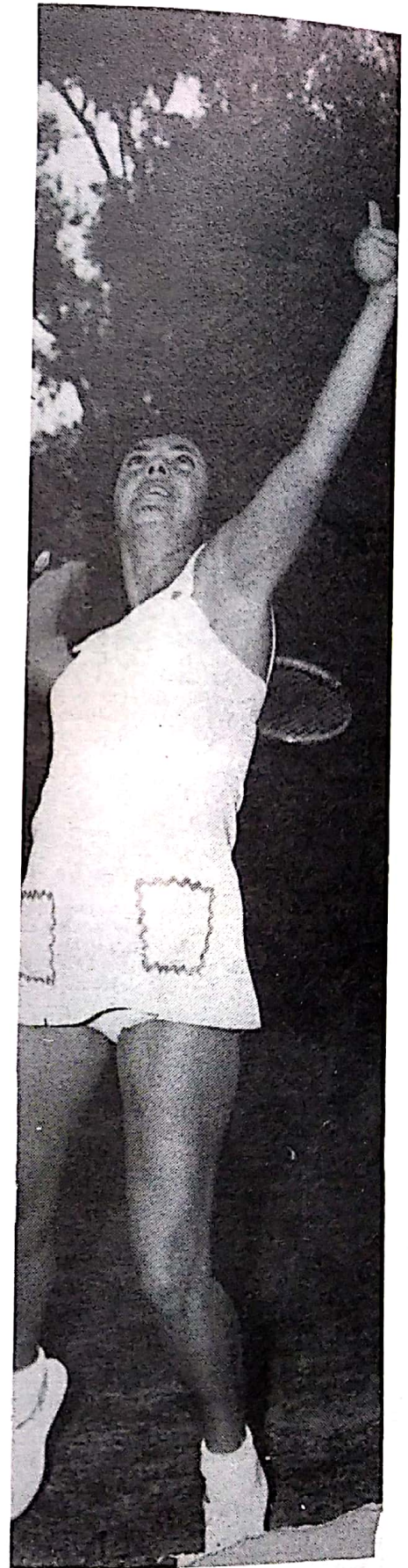
Methodist - E. D. T. A. runners-up, "A" grade - 1975 - Back row from left - Stan Hewish, Kevin Lomer, J. Birch, Lindsay Birch. Front - Mavis Bruce, Dot Lomer, Dawn Cann, Jenny Steen.



Longwood - E. D. T. A. "B" grade premiers 1975 - Back row from left - W. Willis, J. Steers, G. Grant, B. Threlfall. Front - B. Willis, C. Cox, R. King, R. Sudholz.



Lawn Orange, "B" grade premiers of the Saturday morning competition, 1974 - l. to r. - T. Watkins, F. McIntyre, I. Woods, J. McCoombe, E. Singleton, R. Verbyla, S. Saville, A. Douglas.



Sue Tate (now Mrs Xavier Thomson) shows good form with racquet and ball. She won a "Sportsman of Week" award.

Euroa transport came in the form of Mr. Ned Broughton's cream truck with benches on the back. For the most part, however, the early general transport were horse-drawn gigs and the like.

Earliest Courts

Among the earliest courts known in the town (1900) were two public ones situated between the existing croquet lawns and the creek - traces of these in fact are still to be seen. Single courts were located in Hunter St., (3 or 4 doors from Railway St., - Methodist), in Foy St., (near Seven Creeks Hotel, at "the Manse" - Presbyterian), one in front of the Vicarage, along school fence (Church of England). There were at least 3 private courts:- one at Turners (Railway St.), one at Mrs. Slee's (Railway St.) and one at Dr. Tuthill's in Binney St., which still remains at the rear of land owned by the late Dr. Waterhouse.

The Methodist court location changed a further three times, to Bury St., (between Lewis and Campbell Sts.) then to the land opposite O'Bree's fuel depot and finally to their present site in Cree St., where the club was disbanded. The Presbyterian location also changed, to Hunter St., next door to Mr. Alan Davidson's.

There were some very early country courts in existence at the turn of the century and one particularly was brought to notice. This was at the Branjee School which was on Currie's Road between what is now Mr. Curnow's and Cr. Max Brook's. The court was laid down in 1901 under the supervision of a keen, tennis-playing school teacher, a Mr. Sydney Kitson, who maintained strict supervision at all times. No such nonsense as hob-nailed boots allowed. This court was closed in 1927, after which two courts were established nearby, adjacent to the Castle Creek.

The original Branjee minute book of 1901-08 is still in existence (Mr. John O'Connell) and is probably the oldest recording of this type available. It is sufficiently interesting to include in this history, a copy of their first balance sheet for 1901-02, confirmed by W. Knight, President.

Debit: To - 20 members at Five shillings ea.: Five pounds; donation J. S. Kitson One pound; To balance - Six shillings and ninepence; Total Six pounds six shillings and ninepence. Credit: Aug. 1, 1901 - 4 rackets - Twelve and sixpence each. Two pounds ten shillings; 1 Net (tanned) - Twelve shillings and sixpence; ½ doz. Covered balls fifteen shillings doz. - Seven shillings and sixpence; 2½ rolls netting at Twenty-two and sixpence roll - Two pounds fifteen shillings; 6 lbs. staples One shilling and ninepence; Total Six pounds six shillings and ninepence.

Balmattum had courts as far back as 1906 on land directly across from the Church. In 1911 a Mr. G. Akers was founding President of the Locksley court. The name of Akers share a remarkable service record of almost 70 years including present secretary Ray who has held that position for the past 33 years! The Brook families also have an impressive record of 30 years duty. Tim Burns (now of Avenel) first played at Locksley in 1930 and Ray Akers in 1940. Their club joined the E. D. T. A. 50 years ago.

The type of tennis played until 1905 was of a social nature only and in fact even with the introduction of regular competition, this remained a very popular pastime and social event right up to the 2nd World War (1939). This social type of game for example continued for some 35 years on the one court put down by Dr. Tuthill initially, but maintained by succeeding doctors - Bill Prichard and Rawson (the latter being a fine player in both tennis and golf).

There were many private courts scattered throughout the Shire, these being constantly used by visitors. This home tennis in the '30's provided an ideal social atmosphere and relaxation when it was customary for one family to visit another at quite frequent intervals. The Watkins families were among these people. George Watkins had a court at the end of Branjee Rd. (now Kings), his brother Harry, on the Mog. Rd. (Cliff Watkins) and another brother William, on the Mansfield Rd. (Neil Watkins). These courts, no doubt, laid the foundation for the tennis success of their children later.

Euroa Tennis Club

The Euroa Tennis Club in its early days met at the old Shire Hall (present site of the Kindergarten) and the Temperance Hall (alongside above). Such meetings were always well attended with intense interest shown.

Miepoll Association

Soon after the 1st World War, regular competition began, at Miepoll where a District Assn. was formed. This area was much more heavily populated at that time for each 320 acre block supported a family. Strangely enough for reasons unknown, it was a winter competition, played on Sunday. There were five clubs involved, each with one court, situated on well drained loamy ground. Tamleugh West had their court at Mr. Chas Icks' (now Am. Gough's) while others were Tamleugh Nth. (at Nth. school), Rigg's Creek (at school on Shepp.-V. T. road), Moglonemby at hall and Miepoll at the football ground.

Competition Tennis

1926 marked the re-introduction of regular E. D. T. A. competitive tennis in Euroa when Mr. Don Maxfield was instrumental in re-forming the Assn. He had recently returned from Melbourne and was at the peak of his playing career. He enlisted the aid of the then Shire President Cr. A. E. Bond and others to again bring regular tennis to Euroa and District. The Maxfield Cup was presented that year with St. Paul's (and Don) having the honour of being premiers. Moglonemby then won it two years in a row.

The first Christmas open tournament was held in 1924, played on the public courts around town. These tournaments were later (1930) carried on at the present football oval. It is believed that pig netting was used for temporary fences at practice, being pulled down for cricket on Saturdays. Leather shoes replaced the normal iron shoes on the horses which pulled the concrete roller once a week.

All work was carried out after normal hours, supervised by a Mr. Gordie Bell at One shilling and threepence (15c) per hour. Net posts were wooden, temporary affairs with rope stays.

It was in 1912 when asphalt appeared as a playing surface and because of upkeep, the old earth courts gradually disappeared. An asphalt court was put down alongside the N. E. hotel in 1932, being used until the war (1939). This too is still in evidence.

First Lawn Court

The first lawn court appears to have been established by accident. According to Mr. Ken Stribling, he and his brother first put down an earth court at "Vega", Railway St., but gave up its maintenance and decided to allow the couch grass to cover it. This occurred in 1923 and was used until 1939.

Other early courts were at Creighton (1898) near the old railway station, while the Pranjip court (1903) at the school lasted up to the first war, but little was heard of it after the war. Social matches between Longwood and Euroa began in 1894. Ten years later Longwood added a second court. The first annual event was a promenade ball and concert with the proceeds directed toward building a clubhouse. It was many years later before asphalt was used and these were laid down beside the former dirt courts.

Permanent Lawn Courts

In 1945, Mr. (then Cr.) Malcolm Cameron recalls the Council being anxious to provide sporting amenities quickly, for the men and women returning from the war. Camouflage nets were used as temporary fencing on the Oval. It was about this time that again consideration of a permanent home for lawn courts was being debated. There was a distinct difference of opinion over the site - one, between Foy and Templeton Sts., facing the old swimming pool and the other, which finally won the day, to become the present site on the Friendly Society ground. This cost Council nothing and was a bigger area.

Mr. A. L. Hemley then Shire Engineer, was awarded a Life Membership for the enormous amount of time and effort which he poured into the preparatory task of establishing the courts. He supervised the importing of special soil from the banks of the Seven Creeks upstream of Burton's Bridge. The Euroa Shire Council gave invaluable assistance to the project at that time. There were other outstanding individual people who gave unsparingly of time and money and these also were duly awarded Life memberships.



Longwood - E. D. T. A. "A" Reserve premiers 1975 - Back row, L. TO R. - F. Sudholz, R. Houston, C. Steers, L. Carracher. Front - M. Tubb, M. Carracher, M. Steers, P. Walters.

The new courts were officially opened by the then Shire President, Cr. H. B. Baylis, on December 26, 1947. The water supply was first from town reticulation alone, but was later supplemented from the Seven Creeks for some years. Many an arduous hour was spent on cranking up a most obstinate motor and those with aching backs were greatly relieved when an improved town supply afforded the end of pumping.

The Lawn Tennis Club in its early years here, did not compete regularly in the District Assn., playing social tennis instead. However the merit of this type of closed tennis was doubtful as the strength of the Lawn Club declined until 1958 when teams were continuously entered in the E. D. T. A. Consideration was even given to the closure of half the clubs' 12 grass courts. This crisis passed and later two hardcourts were added and even these were insufficient to meet a new boom in the sport.

Coaching

There were two influencing factors which brought local tennis into a dominant sporting position. Firstly, the Lawn Club gave its full support to the Assn. with an ever increasing number of teams. The second factor however, was the most important as it not only boosted the Lawn Club, but promoted an enormous influx of fresh young people into the many existing Assn. teams. More dramatically, it re-created long abandoned clubs and even created new ones. Not only did these young enthusiasts play tennis, they moved into sagging administrative positions and pushed this era of the sport to its zenith. In the years between 1959 and 1969 the number of teams exploded from 24 to 45 and from two grades to five.

The reason for this phenomenal upsurge was the coaching and incentive given to a tremendous number of youngsters. This had a further snowballing effect when these children enthused Mums and Dads who also returned to play and assist in other ways.

The main person responsible for this vital tennis promotion was Mr. Bill Stevens, who actually began on his own initiative as far back as 1948 on the old Methodist courts (now owned by Mr. R. Brown, Cree St.). This came to a halt some three years later because of lack of support.

Some time in the mid 1950's, the coaching was resumed by Mr. Stevens, this time with strong support from members at the Lawn courts, where numbers of juniors increased to such an extent that nearly 100 attended weekly. Mr. Stevens sound coaching technique set many a junior on the way to very high standards, even to become the best in the country. He coached hundreds of boys and girls in his time and with Lawn Club help was to the forefront in causing the biggest boom ever in local tennis. It must be remembered that junior coaching had been carried out in previous years, but not with nearly the same intensity.

Lawn Clubhouse

It was in 1957 when the Lawn Club built its present clubhouse. This amenity had been talked about since the inception of the courts some ten years previously. Just prior to this, the Shire had built two toilets on the North side of the courts, leaving an area of land between them. The club-house took up this area to link the three buildings. The vast majority of the work was carried out by club members and with Shire help brought into existence a much needed facility.

Among those responsible for the construction and planning was Mr. Bruce Burton who acted as "foreman". His drive and enthusiasm aided by the help and knowledge of

a carpenter turned policeman in Mr. Jack McGough, kept the big project alive. Many hundreds of cement bricks were churned out by willing (and unwilling) members. This had a two-fold effect - it helped build a club-house and it helped build a club. This building became a meeting place for the club and Assn., drawing them closer together.

The Euroa Lawn Club rose to a position from where it once entered two teams in the E. D. T. A. to ten. This Assn. on a population basis would rank numerically among the strongest in Victoria. The club still maintains its coaching classes for it recognised the importance of a constant supply of junior players.

Many Supporters

Finally one would dearly love to include the names of many, many wonderful people who have not merely contributed, but essentially carried on the off-times onerous tasks of maintaining a team, a club or an Assn. The majority will have their names duly recorded, but there are some who won't. To all of these, the sport of tennis in Euroa and District over this past century, is eternally grateful. I too, am grateful to those whom have given information.

In passing, I quote a little aside from a multitude of anecdotes and experiences told to me during the compilation of this summary. For 22 years, Mrs. Olive Winburn played with the same partner, the late Mrs. Rita Wood and when their tennis playing days concluded, they played one another for a championship bowls title. Great ambassadors for tennis and great workers for their clubs.

These are the kind of folk we hope are still about today and will be forever more.

General Notes

A lawn court was established at Seven Creeks Estate in the early 1920's and was in the garden where the swimming pool is now situated.

Between 1920 and 1925 a court was put down just for the families social relaxation at "Drysdale" and in 1947 a second one was added. Both of these were then sealed and a club formed to enter the E. D. T. A.

Goram club in its early history appears to have played at "Springvale" until 1908 when the court was established at the Castle Creek School.

The early minute books of St. John's Club are apparently lost, but recollections of two of the original players share the opinion that the courts were made in the mid 1920's. The courts are still in the same area that was once the Euroa Saleyards site. Social tennis only was played for a few years before entering the E. D. T. A. To demonstrate the keenness of some of the early people this little story is included - "In early 1927 Jack Anderson, Bert Hewish and Jack Kubell were working for Harry Jacka on renovations on a property near Pine Lodge for a Mr. J. McKernan. As they worked a 44 hour week those times they used to work an extra half hour per day to allow them to knock off at 10-30 on Saturday. On one particular day there was a screaming south wind blowing straight down the road to Euroa. They took off on their bicycles down the dusty road into the wind and more or less walked. They were so late getting to Euroa they had to miss dinner, had a shower and changed just in time to catch Jack Hartwig's transport - a large three-seater car in which they travelled to Castle Creek for an E. D. T. A. match".

Creighton's Creek club's first court was established in 1913. A second one was added in the 1920's and both were sealed in 1970-71.

Euroa District Tennis Association

'A' Grade Premiers

1927 - St. Paul's, 1928 - Moggonemby; 1929 - Moggonemby, 1930 - Longwood, 1931 - Longwood, 1932 - Longwood, 1933 - Avenel; 1934 - Longwood, 1935 - Lockaley; 1936 - Longwood, 1937 - Lockaley, 1938 - Lockaley; 1939 - St. Andrew's, 1940 - Longwood; 1941 - St. John's, 1947 - Longwood, 1948 - St. Paul's; 1949 - Methodist, 1950 - Methodist; 1951 - Methodist, 1952 - Methodist; 1953 - Avenel; 1954 - Avenel, 1955 - Euroa Lawn; 1956 - Euroa Lawn, 1957 - Nagambie; 1958 - Nagambie, 1959 - Avenel, 1960 - Avenel; 1961 - Avenel, 1962 - Avenel, 1963 - Euroa Lawn; 1964 - Violet Town, 1965 - Euroa Lawn; 1966 - Euroa Lawn, 1967 - Methodist; 1968 - Methodist, 1969 - Methodist; 1970 - Methodist, 1971 - Methodist; 1972 - Euroa Lawn; 1973 - Euroa Lawn; 1974 - Euroa Lawn; 1975 - Euroa Lawn, 1976 - Methodist; 1977 - Euroa Lawn; 1978 - Euroa Lawn.



Youth Club 1975 - "B" special runners-up - Back row, from left - R. Garside, K. Seach, A. Johnson, M. Steen, K. Halsall. Front - F. Spencer, G. McKinnon, N. Garside, R. Cummins.