



January 2025



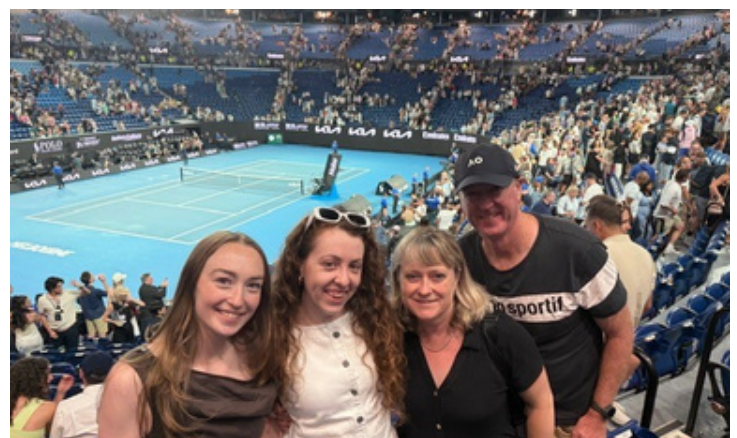
North West Sydney Tennis launches into 2025 off the Back of the Australian Open

There is nothing like the Australian Open to wet the appetite for tennis at NWST in 2025.

A number of NWST members and players visited or participated in the first grand slam of the tennis calendar.

Special mention goes to our NWST member, Radoje Vukic, whose son Aleksandar Vukic, originally a NWST junior, enjoyed the best Grand Slam run of his career at the Australian Open 2025.

The world No. 68 upset 22nd seed Sebastian Korda in five sets in front of an energetic crowd at John Cain Arena. Well done, Aleksandar!



Australian Open

NWST players shine at AO

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news. This year, two of our NWST players attended the prestigious Australian Open Super 10s and Super 12's competition.

Super 10s is an elite event that gathers the top 10 boys and girls in Australia in the 10/U and 12/U categories.

Meet our Champions:

Roy Lee (10/U) - Ranked 6th in Australia on UTR

Ethan Wang (12/U) - Ranked 2nd in Australia on UTR

These talented athletes had an unforgettable experience competing at Melbourne Park over four days. They also had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to watch the Australian Open on Rod Laver Arena and even participate in coin tosses for the Men's Singles Semi-Finals!

Beyond the matches, Roy and Ethan gained invaluable insights from some of Australia's top coaches and received mentorship from legends like Lleyton Hewitt. This experience has inspired them and will no doubt contribute to their future success.

At NWST, in partnership with Voyager Tennis, we are incredibly proud of how they represented our community. Their dedication and sportsmanship continue to inspire their peers, following in the footsteps of five other players who had this opportunity last year and have since achieved remarkable results.



Tournaments & Events

~ Tildesley Shield '25~

NWST is once again the venue for the upcoming Tildesley Shield to be held on March 19th running through to March 21st.

The shield was first held in 1918, with Daphne Akhurst the winner of the singles competition and Normanhurst School, Ashfield, the overall winner.

Daphne, one of the best women tennis players Australia has produced, was a pupil of Normanhurst, a school which in 1918 had as its Headmistress Miss Evelyn Mary Tildesley.

It was Miss Evelyn Tildesley who donated “a beautiful oak and bronze shield” to encourage a tennis competition that emphasized team spirit, school spirit, and wide participation in tennis over individual competition. These values continue today.



Tournaments & Events

~ POP Tennis~



The Pennant Hills precinct will be holding the 6.5km Whale Rock Fun Run on Sunday 23rd February.

On the day, there will be access restrictions in and around our tennis precinct.

NWST will be part of the Event Village, with a retail marquee and an introduction to POP Tennis.

POP Tennis is the closest complementary format to tennis, played on a smaller court with a lower compression tennis ball that allows for longer rallies and more fun.

Come along and enjoy the fun!



Junior Comp 2025

~ Multiple Levels of Matchplay ~



Through 2025, NWST will go one step further with our SJC junior program by offering orange and green ball competitions.

These competitions create an earlier pathway for our younger students into yellow ball competitions and tournaments.




As the player develops and enhances their technical and tactical competencies, they will progress from stage to stage.

Orange balls are the same size as yellow balls, however have lower compression and are 50% slower.

Green balls are also the same size as yellow tennis ball, however they have a lower compression and are 25% slower than yellow tennis balls.

This lower compression slows the ball down and reduces bounce height, which enhances rallying, the cornerstone of the game of tennis.

Watch out on our website for future competitions throughout 2025.

STAGE	RED	ORANGE	GREEN
BALL	 Red Moves slower and bounces lower than orange ball	 Orange Moves slower and bounces lower than green ball	 Green Slightly reduced bounce from yellow ball



Saturday Junior Grading

~ TERM 1 2025 ~



Grading is an important part of NWST's approach to match play.

A number of grading days were held in January for those new students and new members to the club. Welcome!

Our grading process is facilitated by a number of experienced graders who measure performance across a number of parameters including:

- Forehand and Backhand
- Serve
- Rally ability
- Movement and agility
- Anticipation
- Attitude
- Power and Accuracy

Grading also involves both singles and doubles play to measure the different skill sets required for both formats.

We also utilize existing SJC players as a benchmark to effectively grade our new players. This improves their chances of playing at a level or division that suits their abilities.

At NWST, we are also keen to engage new players' coaches to ensure we have a long-term view of their development. Combining lessons and competition is the perfect recipe for effective tennis development and improvement of UTR.



Junior Comp 2025

~ TERM 1 2025 ~



Orange Ball

The Sunday JCS Orange Ball Competition commences on 9th February.

The Orange Ball competition is a pathway into the Green Ball competition.

The timing is in line with the Term 1 school term, covering 8 weeks and then the final.

The time slot is 9:00 am - 11:00 am.

The playing format is S4-2, which includes 2 singles sets per player.

Good luck everyone! Make sure you enjoy, are competitive, and sportsmanlike.



Yellow Ball

The Saturday SJC competition commences on 8th February.

The timing is in line with the Term 1 school term, covering 8 weeks (rounds) and then the final.

The competition continues to grow with up to 10 divisions across 3 time slots and a total number in excess of 130 players.

This is one of the largest Saturday junior competitions in Sydney.

The playing format is DS5a-2, which includes 5 matches per player—2 singles and 1 doubles.

Good luck everyone! Make sure you enjoy, are competitive, and sportsmanlike!



Green Ball

The Sunday JCS Green Ball Competition commences on 9th February.

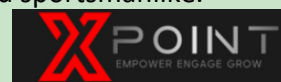
The Green Ball competition is a pathway into the Yellow Ball competition.

The timing is in line with the Term 1 school term, covering 8 weeks and then the final.

The time slot is 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM.

The playing format is S4-2, which includes 2 singles sets per player.

Good luck everyone! Make sure you enjoy, are competitive, and sportsmanlike.



Adult and Social Competition

~ A Recognised Pathway ~



NWST social and competition work hand in hand at NWST.

Social tennis is a great base for those wanting to trial tennis for the first time, desiring a great social atmosphere over competitive intent, or a tremendous pathway into competition.

The club encourages this pathway.

For those starting the tennis journey, NWST has designated social tennis secretaries to make the journey easier. See our website at the social dropdown menu or click link below [Social](#)

For those keen to transition more quickly into competition NWST provides a coaching service- Voyager Tennis. Contact customer service on (02)8999 7026 to organise some valuable lessons.

For those keen on competition NWST has designated secretaries to make the transition seamless. Simply click the links below or go to our website and navigate into the competition dropdown menu

[Competition](#)



Connecting with Environment

~ Tennis Ball Management ~

Here at North West Sydney Tennis, we pride ourselves on supporting the environment and holistic tennis ball management.

NWST has partnered with Treadlightly, a national initiative that recycles sporting balls, with tennis balls being a significant contributor.

A Treadlightly POS Bin is set up at the front of the pro shop at Pennant Hills, providing a refuge for used tennis balls.

Once the POS bin is full, we make the phone call, and the tennis balls are collected.

Feel free to drop your used tennis balls into our Treadlightly bin to help complete the tennis ball lifecycle.



10 MILLION
TENNIS BALLS

ARE USED EACH YEAR, BUT UNFORTUNATELY
END UP IN **LANDFILL** WHEN THEY'RE NO
LONGER NEEDED.

Recycle your old tennis balls at
your nearest TreadLightly collection box.

Visit: treadlightly.asga.com

@TREADLIGHTLY.ASGA

DID YOU KNOW?

BALLS COMPONENTS
CAN TAKE MORE THAN
400 YEARS
TO DECOMPOSE



@TREADLIGHTLY.ASGA



Connecting with Environment

~ Return and Earn ~

At NWST we lead the way in providing a pristine tennis precinct and supporting the environment.

NWST has recently introduced the “Return and Earn” initiative, which assists in keeping our grounds clean and raising money to support our Junior Leaders program which assists in the development of skills prior to playing tennis.

The bins are easily identified by their distinct purple colour and easily understood labelling.

There are 8 bins located across our Pennant Hills tennis centre.

- 1 purple bin on top level
- 2 purple bins on mid level
- 4 purple bins on bottom level
- 1 in reserve

Contents Allowed :

- most drinks consumed “on the go” between 150ml and 3L
- includes soft drink, water, beer, juice etc

Contents Not Allowed:

- No general waste
- No coffee cups
- No spirits
- No plain milk
- No cordial
- No cask wine/water
- No flavoured milk-1L or more
- No pure fruit juice-1L or more
- No vegetable juice- 1L or more

Containers must be empty, uncrushed and have the original label attached



New Shed for Roller

NWST prides itself on providing seamless tournaments. Part of this is the availability of equipment prior to and during the tournament program, ensuring that tournament downtime is minimized.

A shed has been constructed on the 3rd level between courts 13 and 16, to hold a sponge roller. The roller is used to collect excess water on the court during a wet weather event.



Turfing

Turfing will commence in February for the new sandstone seating area between the clubhouse and our 2 matchplay courts.

This will place the final touches on what will be a great viewing and seating area.

Special Treatment of Newly Surfaced Courts

We pride ourselves on maintaining both existing and new court surfaces.

For our newly resurfaced courts 3 and 8, manual broom sanding is undertaken 3 times per week, as well as automated sanding which also occurs 3 times per week.

The courts are monitored closely until a point is reached where they are moved back into standard court maintenance program



Volunteers

Congratulations to our **Mary Baker** who was awarded **NSW Senior of the Year** while in Adelaide representing NSW in the Australian Tennis Seniors Teams Tournament.

Mary wears many hats in driving and facilitating the improvement of tennis.

In 2019, Mary received a Volunteer Achievement Award from Tennis NSW, instrumental in securing a \$184,000 community sport and infrastructure grant, which allowed upgrades to our NWST facilities.

In 2023 Mary also graduated from the Women Leaders in Tennis Program (WLIT), committed to making change for youth players across the tennis NSW community.

Congratulations Mary, thank you for your contribution to tennis and thanks for volunteering at our club we are lucky to have you.



Lids For Kids



Repairing

Thankyou to our **Andy Kleiberg** for repairing the court sponge rollers.

These rollers are essential in collecting excess water from the playing surfaces.

Also a special thanks goes to both **Andy Kleiberg** and **Dean Moran** for their invaluable IT support during the recent extreme weather events where our internet, phone and lighting systems were incapacitated.

Thankyou to our **Barbara Schultz** for her continued effort towards the environment.

Barbara collects the aluminium compression rings from tennis ball cans for recycling, where the actual rings are used to support the wheelchair industry while the lids re recycled .

Barbara also collects the milk and soft drink bottle lids, used for the "Lids 4 Kids" program, melted down and converted into varying prothesis.



President's Message



A warm welcome to 2025 to our members, parents, volunteers, staff, coaching partners and private coaches, suppliers, our supporters and members of the community !

NWST continues to thrive as an association and wrapping up a successful 2024 with some fantastic capital improvement projects going in just prior to Christmas. New court surfaces on Court 3 and 8 and the sandstone seating in front of showcourts 5 and 6 were two significant improvements worth mentioning with Council installing an amazing playground at Midson Road.

The weather events immediately after the Christmas break kept the maintenance teams and volunteers incredibly busy keeping the complex free of bark, leaves and other debris. Thank you Andy Phelan and team for an amazing effort.

Our new Council of Management is stable going into 2025 and looking forward to continuing to deliver the highest priority projects in our Strategic Plan and making the improvements to our Association that our members have provided a mandate for. More on that shortly.

Our management team, ably led by Darren and Jackie in the Proshop have settled into their new roles supported by an amazing set of team members Gabi, Abi, Daniel and Will. A special mention to Anne who does such an amazing job as our bookkeeper and making sure our finances run like a well-oiled machine.

A few notable call-outs on achievements including our past President and active Council of Management member Mary Baker who was awarded Tennis NSW Senior of the Year 2024 which is a deserved recognition of Mary's contribution to Tennis as a sport. Congratulations Mary! (more on Mary's award in the newsletter). One of our Juniors, Isabella Pu, made it into the United Cup ballkid program and it was amazing to be watching world class tennis and having one of our own on the court. Well done Isabella and to those Juniors who tried out.

Our first Council of Management (CoM) meeting for 2025 is just over a week away so please let a CoM member or a staff member know of any items you would like placed on the agenda for consideration.

Have a **fantastic** 2025 and looking forward to seeing you all around the courts enjoying this great game.

Amongst a very full schedule of deliverables, here are some of the pipeline initiatives for 2025:

- Turfing of the area above the sandstone blocks (we had to wait for the extreme heat to pass to prevent scorching of the new grass)
- New Point of Sale (POS) system in the Proshop and a precursor to an upgrade of our Club Management system including our booking system
- Return and Earn purple bins will continue to create a "fighting fund" for our Junior Future Leaders program so please contribute as many recyclable containers and thank you to the Adult comp players who continue to provide a steady stream of bottles and cans every week 😊
- Treadlightly Initiative for the recycling of tennis balls
- Surveying our members will be a key part of listening and improving our offering so please provide that feedback when the surveys are sent out.
- Lease renewal remains a key priority and we're confident of our good outcome in 2025
- Inaugural orange and yellow ball competitions
- A survey is being created to select new outdoor chairs for members and guests.

NWST will be having a tilt at the Most Outstanding Tennis Club or Venue – Metro at the Tennis NSW Awards later in the year.

We have adjusted our Proshop pricing for food and drinks to keep pace with inflation. The team reviewed pricing at other Tennis Associations and recommended retail prices and we did need to bring our pricing into line. All revenue from the Proshop is re-invested into the Association so rest assured that the outcome of the price adjustment will contribute to the success of our Club.