

COURTSIDE

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December was a most successful and exciting month for lots of people. Some of our Juniors had great success and other members were enjoying a variety of new experiences, time with friends and going on holidays.

Featured in Tennis Australia News Dec 11, 2008:

Christopher O'Connell (NSW) has won the Optus 14s Australian Championships boys' singles, upsetting top seed and Optus Australian World Junior Tennis Competition team member Jack Schipanski (SA), at Melbourne Park today.



The No.11 seed was confident going into the match, having defeated Schipanski in the finals of the Optus 14s Australian Teams Championship last week.

Both finalists enjoyed a relatively easy run through the draw, with straight sets wins in all preceding matches. In contrast, the match today was a see-sawing affair, fought on the baseline and lasting almost three hours.

O'Connell looked comfortable early on, taking the first set. Schipanski's experience showed in the second, when he managed to control the game from the baseline and make it difficult for O'Connell to get into the match. O'Connell took an injury break – he has struggled with an arm injury throughout the tournament – finally managing to refocus and win the third set 7-5.

"I'm actually really stoked. I hit a winner on the last point, I'm really excited and I can't believe it," O'Connell said after the win.

"I was fairly confident [going into the match]. I beat him last time but you never know. He always had the advantage because he was bigger and stronger."

That same week North Shore Times' sport section ran a story [with a photo] about a group of girls from PLC, including one of our Juniors, Emma Taylor, who won the Australian Schools Tennis Challenge in Wagga Wagga. Their next step is to represent Australia at the International Schoolgirls Challenge in Belgium. Well done and good luck in Belgium.

Social Jottings

- Cameron & Leanne Johnstone, their 4 children & Leanne's Dad all really enjoyed an OS adventure late last year. Cameron had a conference in Mexico City, so while he "worked" the family took in the sights. Another stop-off was Disneyland in LA.
- Great to welcome several new members including the Abadee family. Kerry & Alistair now feel their children are old enough to play happily on the sidelines while their parents enjoy a game of tennis again.
- Darren Tilley's new little daughter, Serena was born on Dec 10th. Her Mum, Michelle can look at the wonderful photo of Serena hoping one day she may play tennis as well as Dad, or even Ken Rosewell. At this stage Serena only has eyes for Dad.
- Darren has also had his name in print with his letter to SMH Wed 4th Feb, given the heading "Tennis values men and women equally." His letter led to quite a few follow-up responses.
- Angela Johnstone is now semi-retired and enjoying her new found "extra" days. She is planning on fitting in more tennis, but has already had a holiday at Kawana Waters.
- Joy Simpson travelled to Moruya where her daughter Megan lives. The occasion was to celebrate the second birthday of little Jayde.
- Robyn Crosbie and husband Mick are in the last stages of planning their trip to Cuba & South America in March/April. More details next issue.
- Kit Meyers and Kerry Rymer, along with children Scott, Krystal, and Joanna, grandchildren Lauren and Jack and Krystal's boyfriend, Dave spent a magical two weeks in Bali attending the Dun wedding, enjoying time at Villa Tanju next door, and then heading down to Nusa Dua for the second week.



- Kit and Kerry's third grandchild, Samuel Alexander, arrived while they were in Bali. Samuel is Margaret (former club manager) and John Down's second grandchild. Belinda (his mother) worked at the club for a time and Ken, his father played comp at the club for several years before they moved to Melbourne.
- Tim Dun and Greta Jansen were married in St Francis Xavier Church in Kuta, Bali on January 16th followed by a traditional tea ceremony. Afterwards, friends and family gathered at Villa Merindadi, in Canggu, for a fairytale reception that had everything from Balinese dancers and a gourmet Asian feast, to a lively dance floor, fireworks and the groom thrown in the swimming pool. When the guests and the most of the wedding party followed, you knew it was a good night. Tim and Greta spent a few days after the wedding with their families from Jakarta and Australia before heading off to Ubud and Sanur for their honeymoon.
- Joye & Don Walsh have recently entertained UK visitors Joan & Johnny, including attending the One Day Cricket at SCG where they happened to sit just behind Fiona Hughes. Joye & Joan first met as pen-friends when both were in primary school [many years ago!]
- Steve Ackling enjoyed a week at Shelley Beach on the Central Coast.
- Every year quite a contingent of Club members enjoy the tennis in Melbourne at the Australian Open. The group this year included Col Ritchie, Bernard Sharpe, Gordon & Anne Parry, Lyn & Terry Herfort, Trevor & Julie Jones and Alan Giles.
- Louise Dortmans attended the Kooyong Classic while visiting family in Melbourne.
- Kathie & Graeme Woodley holidayed at the Sandon with all their children & grandchildren, including new baby Luca [b 21st Dec]. His German grandparents were visiting for 5 weeks to enjoy the Aussie summer and to meet their newest grandie.
- Congratulations to Serena Potts and Rowan Keating who announced their engagement last October. They have recently celebrated with a party and now are beginning to plan their 2010 wedding.
- Tim Barnes spent some of his summer holidays going to Nowra to visit his sister. There was a great family gathering as 22 of them managed



- to be together at one time. They had lots of fun, despite sleeping on floors – wherever they could!
- Haidene Maltz enjoyed meeting her new grandson in Melbourne before going to Johannesburg to attend her parent's 60th wedding anniversary celebrations.
- Jenny Clark's husband is recovering well after an operation to remove a carcinoma from near his eye and then a skin graft. His biggest worry now is the delay in getting back to playing tennis.
- Dylan Viera and younger brother Liam Duffy with their mum Tanya enjoyed their 3 week holiday at the Sunshine Coast followed by a week at the Gold Coast. They had a busy time visiting Movie World, Wet n Wild, Australia Zoo and many trips to the beach.
- George Parlby is missing the last couple of rounds of comp to go to Vegas for a week's holiday before jetting to Cabo San Lucas in Mexico for another week. According to the web site *Cabo was once a tranquil fishing village and, in times long ago, a hangout for pirates. Although no longer the fishing village of old, and not many of the old pirates are seen around town any more, the magic of Cabo remains.* Hope George is able to enjoy the more modern village - *Cabo San Lucas which has become known as a perfect vacation spot for the entire family.*
- Paul Anderson is going to Japan for his 2 weeks holiday.
- Anne Stewart spent time exploring & adventuring in India and then went on to NZ South Island to visit some friends. Anne: *I thought I had been dropped on another planet when I arrived in Karol Bagh at 3am in the morning. I was later to learn that India is dirty, dusty & very noisy in most places. No way to avoid it unless you go to 5 star hotels and don't leave there. Loved the whole country but particularly the countryside of Rajasthan. Spent a wonderful 5 days in Rishikesh a holy city for Hindus located in the foothills of the Himalaya in northern India. Found it to be a very special place, like the Beatles before me who spent 3 months there.*



All contributions gratefully accepted – contact joye_walsh@yahoo.com