

## 2025 VMSA COMMITTEE

### OFFICE BEARERS

#### PRESIDENT:

**Louis Morsch:** 0448 117 231

#### VICE PRESIDENTS:

**Mike Edney** 0419584550

**Allison Douglas** 0412 704 740

#### SECRETARY:

**Michelle Rowles:** 0407 838 572

#### TREASURER:

**Rob Sims:** 0400 910 749

#### TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:

**Darren O'Neill:** 0418 362 909

#### PENNANT DIRECTOR:

**Mike Edney:** 0419 584 550

#### RESULTS OFFICER:

**Clara Edney:** 0419 376 843

#### GENERAL COMMITTEE –

##### NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

**Lynette Woodyard:** 0422 874 825

**Janine Mossop:** 0403 027 980

**Gary McPyke:** 0448 000 492

**Leanne Haley:** 0425 146 602

## THE PREZ SEZ

By Lou Morsch



We are drawing to the close of another year. It's been a busy squash calendar with some wonderful tournaments completed

throughout the year. We spread our wings a bit by travelling to Mildura for the first time then Horsham, Bendigo and Ballarat at the end of the year. Squeezed in between all that was another successful Masters/Juniors event at Westerfolds. I thank everyone who participated or supported our tournaments in 2025. It was particularly encouraging to see a new brigade of younger Masters age players appearing and enjoying what our tournaments provide. Another interesting observation was the number of past or retired Masters coming for the social activities to maintain contact with old friends established through a common interest in the sport.

The finals of our Spring pennant season were conducted. Congratulations to the winning clubs. With the competition surviving by a thread. It's questionable whether we continue to conduct a pennant competition if players won't support it in numbers. There are currently 4 grades in the East and 3 in the West under the format adopted over the past few seasons. Reducing the travel time by separating East and West, starting a bit earlier, or creating three person teams have not changed participation rates or lead to a better outcome.

An important development in 2025 was the delivery of our new website. I trust that with this, everyone will enjoy visiting the site and scrolling through the many pages of information contained within it. A big thank you to Anil Joseph and his IT staff at [worlwidigital.com.au](http://worlwidigital.com.au). It was because of Anil and his passion for squash and his desire to create something which all squashes can benefit from that got us to this point.

Another significant announcement in 2025 was the appointment of Lynette Woodyard as our latest recipient of Life Membership of the VMSA at our AGM in August. Thoroughly deserved and congratulations Lynette. A loyal and passionate contributor who continues to volunteer her time without fanfare or favour.

As we move into 2026, a huge item on the calendar is the World Masters Championships in Perth. Apart from our own Masters events in Victoria, this one is a must do event. A chance to compete in our own backyard against players from all around the world. So save up for this one and see if you can get to it.



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### UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

*Bairnsdale* Feb 13-15

*Vic Champs - Mulgrave CC* April 10-12

*Masters/Juniors-Westerfolds* May 30

*Bendigo* July 24-26

*Squash.com.au Ballarat* Nov 20-22

## ***The Prez Says - continued***

As always, the VMSA relies on the support of its sponsors, members and participants to conduct its affairs and I thank everyone who assisted our association and contributed along the way. Without all of you, we would not be able to afford to run everything as efficiently as we have.

Finally, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. May you eat, drink and celebrate with your friends and families and bring your racquets back in the New Year ready to play again.

Merry Squashing

**Your Prez**

## **2025 \$QUASH.COM.AU BALLARAT TOURNAMENT**

Report from Darren O'Neill – Tournament Director



Being away in October in Peru for a month took me out of the inner loop preparing for our Ballarat tournament. This tournament was really a milestone tournament because all entries were done online through our new website. There was a lot of work done within a very short period of time to get it ready for Ballarat and that should be acknowledged. Anil from Worldwide Digital has been very generous with his time; we are very grateful to him and his team. We also should be very grateful to Michelle Rowles as she worked very closely with Anil, and his team to help develop the new website, which was launched for Ballarat and let me say, very well received with the final numbers 125 to Ballarat which was a great outcome.

Those who played at Ballarat, I hope you had a fun time. The tournament was a really vibrant one this year. I thought the numbers were great, and it's a perfect way to finish the squash year so thanks to all who attended.

The weekend started Friday night with 20 matches lined up in the 7.30pm time slot and we completed 50 matches Friday night. We had 125 Entries, 10 Sections, plus 12 Virgins. Thanks to Barry Bannon, Tim Thompson & David Graham (Lilydale), Michael Deane (Churchill), Colby Rook & Josh Thom (Tonic), Clinton Edwards & Adam Stephens (Mildura), Fred Pizzicara (WSRC) Lauchlan Thompson (Werribee), George Kyriakoudis (Focus GP) and we had two international players come this year, one from Finland, Seppo Raiski also David Guilhaud from France, so to all thanks for playing your first tournament. As you all know I love our VMSA virgins and I'm so grateful you played in one of our tournaments. Special thanks to those players who got one of those new players to attend because this is how we get better squash numbers, it's fantastic. To those new players you have a complimentary entry to either Bairnsdale 13-15 Feb 2026 or the Vic Championships Mulgrave 10-12 April 2026.

Thank you to all the Interstate players who made the effort to cross the border. TAS 4, NSW 3.

The Member's draw was won by Daniel Jones from VRC, the 2 dinner dance tickets are to be used over the next 12 months, Congratulations Daniel.

Badges were given at Ballarat this year and one probably took 35 plus years to achieve - a really fantastic supporter of Master's Squash, Geoff Morley received **125+ Tournament Badge**. Joffa, as we know him, sat proudly on the dance floor while everyone made a huge fuss over him as we all know this is a rare milestone and I hope he will remember this as a great achievement. Congratulations Geoff 'Joffa' Morley. Jackie Bannon 25+ tournament badge, Annie Baker from TAS 25+ Tournament Badge. Thanks Annie for travelling across the water to come and play in our tournaments.

Special mention to some players who have made a comeback to our tournaments Helen Collins (Ballarat 2011), Dennis Kennedy (Ballarat 2017) Mark Thurkle (Vic Champs 2022), Linda Thurkle (Vic Champs 2022) so thanks for making a comeback we hope to see you more often.

This year we were very happy to see past players come to Ballarat for the social aspect of the weekend and they included John Sands, Angelo Coco, Phil Warren (GPHC), Ray Gallo, Karen Gallo, Jillian Thomas, Karen Scott (WSRC) also Judy Simmons the only woman to achieve 100+ Tournaments, and close friends Libby Innes and ex Tourney desk helper Bernadette Murphy, and from Moorabbin Kate McClelland, Gll Diggle, Julie Shears and Julie Lester, thanks for making the effort, It really was a great weekend.

The Judith Goadby Memorial Award for 2024 was awarded to Belinda Murphy from the Mulgrave Country Club. The Judith Goadby Memorial Award is the highest award you can win in master's

squash for commitment in a volunteer capacity. Congratulations Belinda, we are so lucky to have you working to push support for our sport.

112 people came along to the North Ballarat Sports Club we had a fabulous night with the food, a few drinks, and great conversation. Our band this year played some fantastic songs to help us dance the night away, the dance floor was packed all night. Thanks to the North Ballarat Sports Club for being so accommodating, it was very easy dealing with them.

To the court manager Jess Parker, you were so helpful with all our requirements. You made my job easy so thanks for the support. To all the people who helped over the weekend, I know you were under pressure so thanks for the hours you put in to produce great food and for the wide range of beverages on offer to our players. Cheers to the bar and food staff.

A special mention to Paul Atkins for all the tech things you did for us, especially the printer again (ha-ha) and this year Paul made a scoring app which ran very smoothly.

Check the results page on the VMSA website for all the finals match results. *(Also included in this newsletter)*

<https://vmsasquash.com.au/ballarat-tournament>

Ballarat section 1 winner Joshua Thom defeated Peter Gilbee in three games in a great match with the gallery full to the brim. Josh gave a humble speech to the crowd and to other winners. It was Josh's first tournament with the VMSA & master's squash, so we hope he comes back and helps bring the next generation of super stars.

As always Steve and Lisa Walton are great supporters of master's squash and squash in general. They supplied fabulous prizes as always. Thank you to Lisa this year for coming from Queensland to be with us all weekend. I am sure all the people who won a prize will enjoy using it. Lisa worked the merchandise stand all weekend, so I hope you supported her by buying something you needed. Another great deal, Squash.com.au have come on board to give any financial VMSA members \$25.00 discount on anything they buy over \$50, so use this offer and get your VMSA membership for free. Conditions apply so contact Michelle Rowles for more information 0407838572 or [rowles.michelle@yahoo.com.au](mailto:rowles.michelle@yahoo.com.au).

A special mention to Jill Morsch for the raffle prizes you supplied to support the tournament, and Wali and Terry for their continued support.

To all the people who helped me behind the desk in 2025 Janine, Helen, Pam and Alison Gilbert - you are my golden girls, and I just love you to bits for all your help and support. Michelle, you are amazing and I am grateful for the endless work you do for squash. To all the others who popped in to lend a hand when the pressure was on you all are amazing people. A special mention to Lynette for all the photos during 2025. Mark & Linda Thurkle for really taking on the social media platforms I think we can all agree that based on the hits we are getting our output is being appreciated.

Our next tournament will be held at Bairnsdale on the 13-15 February 2026. Entries are open and remember it is an Individual Event. There will be no teams events on the VMSA Tournaments calendar in 2026.

Please keep doing your part for Australian Squash in 2026 as I and the Committee will.

**My Pleasure Darren O'Neill**

**VMSA Tournament Director**

# BALLARAT PRESENTATIONS

## **Presentations - SQUASH.COM.AU - BALLARAT MASTERS TOURNAMENT 2025**

Event	Award	Awarded to
(1) SECTION 1	Winner	JOSHUA THOM Tonic
	Runner Up	PETER GILBEE Lilydale
	Third/Special plate	GARRY PEDERSEN GLTC
	Plate	DAVID KEMPSTER Mulgrave
	Consolation plate	DAVID GRAHAM Lilydale
(2) SECTION 2	Winner	DARREN O'DONNELL Ballarat
	Runner Up	DANIEL ROLLS Ballarat
	Third/Special plate	COREY ROBERTSON MCC
	Plate	GREG MURPHY Benalla
	Consolation plate	STEPHEN BLAMEY MCC
(3) SECTION 3	Winner	GARY MCPYKE Mulgrave
	Runner Up	STEPHEN RUSSELL Lilydale
	Special plate	NIALL RELLIS Dandy
	Plate	PHIL TAYLOR Corio
	Consolation plate	CLINTON EDWARDS Mildura
(4) SECTION 4	Winner	DANIEL TITO Werribee
	Runner Up	RAY MOUW Mulgrave
	Special plate	SIMON HARBOTTLE Ballarat
	Plate	ADI GAUR Focus GP
	Consolation plate	ROBERT MACFARLANE Lilydale
(5) SECTION 5	Winner	BARRY BANNON Little Irish
	Runner Up	VINCE ANCORA Focus GP
	Special plate	GEORGE KYRIAKOUDIS Focus GP
	Plate	DAMIAN MOLLER Ballarat
	Consolation plate	MARIO QUINTELA Italy
(6) SECTION 6	Winner	PAUL ATKINS Ballarat
	Runner Up	JOHN DE LEIJER GPHC
	Special plate	BIDDY MCFARLANE WSRC
	Plate	ANGELA BURTON Focus GP
	Consolation plate	LEANNE HALEY WSRC
(7) SECTION 7	Winner	NORM BROWNING Focus GP
	Runner Up	MAREK HABSUDA Ballarat
	Special plate	SUE LANDY Ballarat
	Plate	FRANK BUGEJA Poowong
	Consolation plate	JACK BARRY Ballarat
(8) SECTION 8	Winner	BRUCE SULLIVAN RACV
	Runner Up	COLBY ROOK Tonic
	Special plate	ALIRA BAKER TAS
	Plate	HELEN COLLINS Ballarat
	Consolation plate	DONNA TITO Werribee
(9) SECTION 9	Winner	LIBBY INNES GPHC
	Runner Up	BARRY DURHAM GPHC
	Third/Special plate	SALLY WINGETT Lilydale
	Plate	VIC STAFFORD Squash Melb
	Consolation plate	CHERYL GILBEE Lilydale
(10) SECTION 10	Winner	BARBARA MELVIN LVSC
	Runner Up	PAM PARK Mulgrave
	Third/Plate	TIM THOMPSON Lilydale
	Consolation plate	JAN WILSON LVSC



# BALLARAT PRESENTATIONS



SECTION 1



SECTION 2



SECTION 3



SECTION 4



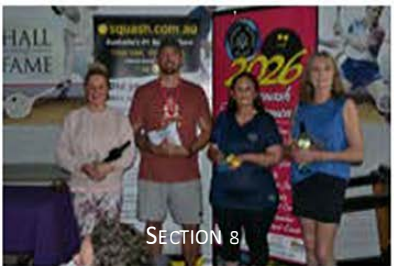
SECTION 5



SECTION 6



SECTION 7



SECTION 8



SECTION 9



SECTION 10





# BALLARAT AROUND THE COURTS





# BALLARAT DINNER DANCE





# AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - PERTH

## TEAMS EVENT





# AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - PERTH

## INDIVIDUALS





# AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS VICTORIAN TEAMS DINNER





# AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS DINNER DANCE—PERTH





# 2025 SPRING PENNANT GRAND FINALS

EASTERN SECTION					
Grade 01	Grand Final	Lilydale Club 01	Won	Lilydale Club 02	2R9G188P-2R7G188P
Grade 02	Grand Final	Mulgrave Club 02	Won	VRC 01	3R9G201P-1R6G179P
Grade 03	Grand Final	Mulgrave Club 06	Won	VRC 03	3R10G209P-1R6G169P
WESTERN SECTION					
Grade 01	Grand Final	Werribee 02	Lost	WSRC 01	2R6G141P-1R6G148P
Grade 02	Grand Final	Focus GP 01	Lost	Werribee 03	0R5G176P-4R12G237P
Grade 03	Grand Final	WSRC 04	Won	Werribee 05	3R9G170P-0R3G132P

# 2025 SPRING PENNANT GRAND FINALS

## WESTERN SECTION

GRADE 1 Winners - WSRC 1



Grade 1 Runners-up Werribee 2



GRADE 2 WINNERS - Werribee 3



GRADE 2 Runners-up - Focus GP 1



GRADE 3 Winners - WSRC 4



Grade 3 Runners-up - Werribee 5





# 2025 SPRING PENNANT GRAND FINALS

## EASTERN SECTION



Grade 1 Winners - Lilydale 1



GRADE 1 Runners-up - Lilydale 2



GRADE 1 - Lilydale 1 & Lilydale 2



GRADE 2 - Mulgrave 2 & VRC 1



GRADE 2 Winners - Mulgrave 2



Grade 2 Runners-up - VRC 1



GRADE 2 - Mulgrave 2 & VRC 1



GRADE 3 - Mulgrave 6 & VRC 3



GRADE 3 Winners - Mulgrave 6



GRADE 3  
Runners-up VRC 3



## **John Forrest**



We regret the passing of our Canberra friend, John Forrest on September 7th. A bright spark known for his quick wit, clever turn of phrase, and endless supply of historical facts and trivia. John's great sense of humour brought warmth and cheer to every gathering.

A longstanding member of the ACT squash community, he embodied the very best qualities of sportsmanship - always competitive, yet unfailingly fair.

Remembered as a gentle man, a great Dad, enduring friend, dedicated worker, sportsman and volunteer. John will be deeply missed.



## **AUSTRALIAN JUDITH GOADBY MEMORIAL AWARD**

At the AMSA National Masters Squash Championships dinner in Perth, it was announced that Wendy Ashley was the 2025 winner of the Judith Goadby award for services to squash. This is a national award that recognizes a major contribution from a player to Masters Squash at all levels.

What a year for Wendy! - Life membership TMSA, Judith Goadby Award and her team won their division with Hans and Judy!!!! Congratulations Wendy.

## **GLASS BACK SQUASH WALLS FOR SALE**

We have 5 sets of squash court glass backs in storage in Benalla.

Two are the configuration of 2 large pieces and a door.

Two are the configuration of 4 pieces and a door.

One is the configuration of 2 large pieces and door that fit within a steel square tubing surrounding frame. Each set is selling for \$2,000 or a better price can be agreed on if buying multiples.

Reasonable offers can be made.

Contact me (Greg Murphy) on 0421 036 395.

Thank you.



# VICTORIAN JUDITH GOADBY MEMORIAL AWARD 2025



## BELINDA MURPHY

A big congratulations to **Belinda Murphy** on being awarded the Victorian Judith Goadby Award 2025. Belinda has tirelessly worked at the Mulgrave Club to encourage players to expand their experience in squash.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

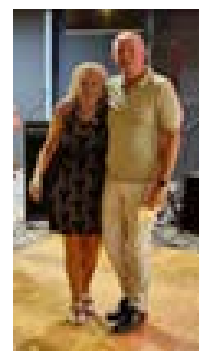


Lynette Woodyard was honoured to receive the VMSA Life Membership at the AGM in August.



## TOURNAMENT BADGE AWARDS

Annie Baker (*left*) from Tasmania (great effort) and Jackie Bannon achieved their **25+ Tournament Badge**. Congratulations to you both.



**Geoff 'Joffa' Morley** achieved **125+ Tournament Badge** which is an outstanding effort. Considering up until a few years ago, we only had 4 tournaments a year ... I'll let you do the math. A great ambassador to our wonderful sport. Keep up the great work Joffa, you're not ready to step off the court yet!



## UPDATE ON OUR NEW WEBSITE

As you now know, we have launched Stage 1 of our new website which went live for the Squash.com.au Ballarat Tournament. We have had some fabulous feedback and special thanks to Anil Joseph and his teams for all their hard work to date. It is really appreciated.

We are now working on Phase 2 which will include some tweaks to the Tournament Entry Form and the uploading of the photos from the old website. We thank you for your patience while we progress with this phase.

Meanwhile, all our current photos and videos are available to view on the VMSA Facebook site which Linda and Mark are constantly loading for your enjoyment. Many thanks to you both.

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## Thank you note from Belinda

I just wanted to pass on my thanks to the VMSA for this award which came totally out of left field for me.

I started playing Masters in the early 1990's as a result of being asked to fill in as a friend was desperate. I wasn't really a player & got smashed every time I played some old codger when I filled in for my new friends at Brandon Park. I lived not far from Brandon Park & so the journey started, playing Masters, then Ladies, & of course being invited onto the committee as Treasurer when the treasurer they had "acquired" all the money. As a group the club was very very friendly & social & they started going to tournaments, Ballarat the first when we all went there in a mini bus borrowed from a local school, then Wangaratta, & of course the Australians were a must. In 2001 I moved my teams to Mulgrave when the Brandon Park courts were sold to make a car yard. Our Masters team had to play on a Friday night as there were only 3 courts then. The opposition didn't particularly like Friday nights but they were only every second week & you didn't have to get up the next day to go to work. Then I gravitated to the squash committee not long after, was Masters pennant co-ordinator for about 5 years before becoming Chairperson of the section for 5 years. During this time we knocked down the old courts & built new ones which was an interesting time juggling pennant while playing out of other clubs. I had a 5 year break from the committee, but still played every competition I could as I retired from work in 2014, then nominated for the Board of the Club in 2020 - once on the Board you are not permitted to be on any sporting committees at the club. This year I stepped down from the Board.

What a great time I have had playing Masters squash, making many lifelong friends. I am very lucky to be still playing & hope to continue playing & being involved for as long as possible.

Again, thank you to the VMSA Committee for the recognition in receiving this award.

Kind regards

Belinda Murphy

Pictured right is a newspaper article published in the local Horsham paper featuring the players from Horsham who played in the Australian Masters Squash Championships in Perth.

I'm sure all who attended either or both events had a wonderful time.



# **Bairnsdale Masters Tournament**

**Friday 13-15 Feb 2026**

*Entries close Thursday 5th February 2026*

**Bairnsdale Squash and  
Table Tennis Centre**

**64 Great Alpine Road, Lucknow, Vic 3875  
(03) 51527366**

**Tournament Director: Darren O'Neill - 0418 362 909  
tournaments@vmsasquash.com.au**

**NEXT TOURNAMENT:  
Victorian Championships  
Mulgrave  
10th-12th April 2026**



**Victorian Masters VMSA ABN 39 143 122 923 [www.vmsasquash.com.au](http://www.vmsasquash.com.au)**

**Graphic design - Phillip Howe 0433 416 565**





# 2026

## Squash Tournaments

13th-15th Feb - Bairnsdale Individual Event

10th-12th April - Vic Champs - Mulgrave

30th May - Masters Juniors Tournament  
Westerfolds

24th-26th July - Bendigo Individual Event

20th-22nd Nov - [Squash.com.au](http://Squash.com.au)

Ballarat Individual Event