Entry type: Concept
Entry ID: AWE2276

Tennis

(1904 -)

Born	19040101
Occupation	Sport

Summary

Tennis Australia began as the Lawn Tennis Association of Australasia in 1904, when it was housed in Sydney, New South Wales. At this time, the Association was affiliated with New Zealand for the purposes of organising the Davis Cup and the Australasian Championships, but the two national bodies separated in 1922. In 1926, the Association moved to Melbourne where it became the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia and was presided over by (Sir) Norman Brookes until 1955. Following a worldwide growth in open tennis in the 1970s and 1980s, the Association became a company in 1984 and was renamed Tennis Australia in 1986.

Details

The first Australian Open was held in Melbourne in 1905 with just seventeen entrants. In 1924 it was designated a national event, and was rotated around State capitals until 1972. It has been held in Melbourne each year since. Ladies' singles and doubles were not included in the championship until 1922, and professionals could not compete until 1969. The Open is now an international Grand Slam event.

Notable Australian women tennis players include Evonne Cawley (Goolagong), who won Wimbledon, and Margaret Court (Smith), who won twenty-four Grand Slam titles in the twelve years before 1973. Nancye Bolton (Wynne) won twenty Open titles, and ten national doubles titles with Thelma Long (Coyne).

Published resources

Book
Court on Court: a life in tennis, Court, Margaret Smith, 1976

An illustrated history of Australian tennis, Whitington, R.S., 1975

Great players of Australian tennis, Metzler, Paul, 1979

Grand slam Australia: the story of the Australian open tennis championships, Johnson, Joseph, 1985

Edited Book
Gender, theory and sport: the formative years of tennis and snowboarding, Warren, Ian, 2005

The Oxford Companion to Australian Sport, Vamplew, Vray; Moore, Katharine; O'Hara, John; Cashman, Richard; Jobling, Ian, 1997

Site Exhibition
She's Game: Women Making Australian Sporting History, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2007, http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/sg/sport-home.html

Author Details
Barbara Lemon

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