



North Balwyn Tennis Club

**Christmas Newsletter
December 2016**



2016 (55th) ANNUAL REPORT OF NORTH BALWYN TENNIS CLUB Inc.

GENERAL COMMENTS

We have recently marked the first year in our new clubhouse pavilion. The new facility has been a wonderful asset for members who are clearly enjoying the comfortable spacious interior, modern facilities and great viewing of the courts. The table tennis area has proven to be very popular and we have held a number of successful functions through the year including an end of year celebration dinner and a social gathering on grand final day. Thanks are extended to all members for keeping the facilities in new condition. The security system seems to be working well. We are also pleased to be able to share the facility with a local basketball club who hold their monthly committee meetings at the clubhouse.

THE COMMITTEE

Our committee for 2015/16 consisted of

President Graham Besley

Vice President Ross Davies

Secretary Tony Barton

Treasurer Rowena Sheung

Membership Secretary Peter McCaw

Junior Organisers Andrew Halford and Stuart Brown

Committee Members; Rhonda McCaw, Melanie Katopodis, Peter Moran, Don Jinnette and Peter Nitsos.

Meetings were held monthly, making use of the new office area. Thanks to all committee members for their enthusiasm, reliable attendance and positive ideas. We ran a number of sub committees to manage ongoing business, including areas of coaching, buildings and grounds, fund raising, club championships and disciplinary issues.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Club remains strong and growing with 352 members financial as of October 2016 compared to 332 in October 2015. No doubt the new facilities are a drawcard for new families in the area. We remain an affiliate of Tennis Victoria which not only avails us of advice from this peak body but also provides members with player insurance coverage.

FINANCE

Our financial position remains sound with cash reserves increasing over the year from \$128,580 to a current balance of \$129,390. This amount includes a 'sinking fund' provision of \$ 30,000 for future renewal of court surfaces. We thank our auditor Theo Eversteyn for his support. Our good financial position allows us to recommend to members that there will be a modest increase in our membership fees only for Junior and Student categories of membership for the coming year starting April 2017.

NEW PROJECTS

The Committee is committed to continually upgrading our court facilities. The old water sprinkling system on the en tout cas courts will be reinstated.

We have applied to Council for a planning permit to add lights to courts 5 and 6. This project will meet the growing demand for night tennis for both social and competition levels. The new lights will use LED technology which will significantly reduce power consumption and eliminate maintenance costs and light outages. We anticipate the lights will be installed in the first half of 2017. This project is expected to cost approximately

\$42,000 and we will be seeking grant opportunities to help minimise the cost to members.

SENIOR TENNIS

We continue to field Senior competition teams in Saturday afternoon ERT, ladies' midweek including Tuesday MEMRLTA, Wednesday EDWTA and Thursday WDTA. Men's veterans MMTA continues with an increase to 4 teams now competing.

Night competition with BDNTA has continued with 11 teams participating. Many other members also play social tennis on nights when there are courts available. Fast 4 Friday night twilight tennis that is rotated between four local clubs is growing in popularity and is a great way to introduce new members to the Club.

Senior social tennis continues to be active on a number of week days. Monday afternoons is an especially strong group with up to five courts in use.

JUNIORS AND COACHING

Both Coaches Andrew & Stuart have been part of the Men's Grade 1 Pennant premiership team for the past 2 years giving their students not only something to strive for but also putting into practice the standards that both coaches rate highly. Having both head coaches winning the highest grade of pennant is proving to be a big drawcard for coaching, which in turn leads to more juniors wanting to join the Club and play competition. There has also been a significant increase in the number of juniors coming down after school practicing. A pleasing sight is when groups join together and play on the same court even when they don't know each other. This is the 14th year the Club has had our joint head coaches at North Balwyn. Classes are growing each year which indicates the coaching methods are effective and students are getting the most out of every session.

Junior competition has been strong for a while but it has only really been the last year or so that we've seen a rapid rise in the standard of our juniors. We have teams in the highest two grades of juniors. There's also been a change with having more of our juniors start to play senior comp whether that be ERT or Pennant. Also encouraging is those juniors that are only just starting to learn the game haven't been afraid to have a go at competition and having fun. The Junior Competition is at maximum capacity on a Saturday and now Sunday mornings are starting to take off too. Our Coaches are proud of every one of the kids that come down and play for our Club, they have a great attitude and are always fair on the court.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The club held a reasonably successful tournament this year with 58 format events but the number of members involved were down on expectations. There were some very memorable highlights, especially the under 18 and open ladies' single finals. Organisers of this annual highlight are to be congratulated. The Committee aims to make some format changes and encourage more members to participate in next year's event.

CONCLUSION

With a strong membership base, excellent clubhouse and court facilities and an effective Committee, the Club is in a good position to grow and offer our members the tennis experience they are seeking. We have a good community spirit within the Club and will continue our efforts to develop a basis for friendships to grow.

Graham Besley, President

THE COMMITTEE 2016/2017

Graham Besley	President
Ross Davies	Vice-President and Maintenance Co-ordinator
Tony Barton	Secretary and Public Officer
Rowena Sheung	Treasurer
Peter McCaw	Membership Secretary
Andrew Halford	Junior Organiser (joint)
Stuart Brown	Junior Organiser (joint)
Rhonda McCaw	Committee Member
Peter Moran	Committee Member
Melanie Katopodis	Committee Member
Don Jinnette	Committee Member
Theo Eversteyn	Honorary Auditor

Andrew and Stuart are also our joint Head Coaches.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Club membership is almost exactly on a par with this time last year. At the moment we have approximately 365 fully paid up members over all categories. We welcome all new members who have joined in recent months and hope they have a long and enjoyable association with the Club.

The security system, with its electronic access cards, is working well. I would ask all members to take particular care when leaving the Club to ensure that the four side doors are locked and that the electronic lock on the main door operates. However, do **not** operate the **manual** lock on the main door as this overrides the electronic lock and makes entry to the Clubhouse difficult. Also, physically check that the front gate locks behind you. When exiting either the Clubhouse or the front gate, use the **green button**, but on no account use the break glass (which is for genuine emergencies only).

Furthermore, please remember that the front gate should generally be kept locked so that an access card will be needed to gain entry to the premises, even when other members are present at the Club.

Peter McCaw, Membership Secretary, 9817 2940

COMPETITION REPORTS

JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORT – ERT WINTER 2016

Junior Boys/Girls/Open	Day	Season	Section	Position on ladder	Pennants
Open Rubbers	Saturday	Winter	1	2	R/UP
OR	Saturday	Winter	2	5	
OR	Saturday	Winter	5	1	PREMIERSHIP
OR	Saturday	Winter	7	2	R/UP
OR Green	Saturday	Winter	8	5	
OR BLUE	Saturday	Winter	8	6	
OR	Saturday	Winter	11	6	
OR Green	Saturday	Winter	13	2	
OR BLUE	Saturday	Winter	13	1	PREMIERSHIP
OR Green	Saturday	Winter	16	2	R/UP
OR BLUE	Saturday	Winter	16	5	
Girls RUBBERS	Saturday	Winter	2	3	
Girls Singles/Doubles	Saturday	Winter	2	2	R/UP
Boys Singles/Doubles	Saturday	Winter	6	1	R/UP
Boys Singles/Doubles	Saturday	Winter	11	4	
Girls Singles/Doubles	Sunday	Winter	3	4	
Girls Singles/Doubles	Sunday	Winter	4	2	PREMIERSHIP

Stuart Brown, Junior Convenor (with Andrew Halford)

SENIOR COMPETITION REPORTS

Weekend Senior Competition

ERT Saturday afternoon – Winter 2016

We finished the 2016 winter season with two teams, OS8 and SD4, near the bottom of the ladder while OS4 finished fifth. Our OS6 team finished third but were soundly beaten in their semi-final. In summary, another disappointing season.

The 2016/17 summer season is so far proving much more successful. We are fielding three Open Sets teams in sections 5, 7 and 9 together with three Open Singles/Doubles teams in sections 2, 3 and 8. At the halfway mark of the season OS5 is on top of the ladder, OS7 second and SD2 third while the other three teams are just outside the top four and are proving competitive. It is again pleasing to note that our Singles/Doubles teams comprise young players, some still eligible for Junior competition, whom we hope will continue with the Club for some years to come. Please note that the entry sheet for the 2017 winter season will be posted on the noticeboard in late January in time for entries to be submitted to ERT in early March. We are always looking for new players. If you might be interested and would like more information, please feel free to ring me on 9817 2940.

Peter McCaw, ERT senior co-ordinator

Midweek Senior Competition

Night Tennis Competition (BDNTA)

We have had a very successful season with eight of our eleven teams making the finals. Monday Ladies, Ballwyn.nets and Monday Open Giants both lost their semi-finals, as did Wednesday Racketeers and Thursday Flotsam.

However, Tuesday Open Scorpions, Section 4 and Champion Chokers, Section 14, won their grand final matches. Thursday Ad Ins (Thursday open) won their grand final match comfortably for the second season in a row and will apply to be promoted to section 6. That's three Premiership flags for NBTC this season. Well done!!!

Scorpions, Tuesday Open Section 4 Team:

*From left: Lewis Freeman, Andrew Hayes, Martin Ip, David Rehe
(Michael Halford & Russell Downie
absent)*



*Champion Chokers, Tuesday
Open Section 14 Team:
From left, Don Jinnette, John
Barlow, Joe Iacopino, John
Coulson and Tony Barton
(Graham Besley, absent)*



Ad Ins, Thursday Open, Section 7: From left, Angelo and Melanie Katopodis, Rowena and KK Sheung, Peter Howe and Sarah Shan.

Team entries for Autumn 2017 have been submitted with 11 teams again. The Monday Giants are changing their name to the "Pumpkin Eaters", The Tuesday Open team, Dragons is not continuing but members of the team are playing for other teams. Martin Ip has put together a new Wednesday Open team, SorryPham, Section 2 Open. Captains of teams are to be congratulated for their hard work and dedication in managing their teams so effectively.

We want the night tennis to grow so please let me know if you are interested. As noted in the President's report, in 2017 we are planning to put in lights on courts 5 & 6 which will give us more courts for social, competition and coaching.

Rhonda McCaw, Night Tennis Co-ordinator

Midweek Ladies Competition

NBTC has four midweek ladies teams, two on Tuesday (MEMRLTA), one on Wednesday (EDWTA) and one on Thursday (WDTA).

MEMRLTA – Section 3

In the Winter season our team moved up to Section 3 and finished 6th out of 10. Jill Smith left the team (to play golf) and Tricia Arthur and Yana Barton joined Rhonda McCaw, Rowena Sheung and Melanie Katopodis for the Summer season. Sarah Shan, who has returned to study, will play for us when she can. We are very pleased to be 3rd on the ladder, just over half way through the season. Melanie is having knee surgery during the Christmas break and we wish her a quick recovery. Tricia is now retired and planning some serious travelling so we are happy to have Sheryl Kerwick offer to help us out next season when she is free.

Rhonda McCaw, Captain

MEMRLTA – Section 9

Our team of Lorna, Helen, Catherine, Carole, Margie and Shirley managed to play a semi-final last season but were beaten by the top team. So far this season we have had washouts, byes, public holidays which has resulted in a very ordinary set of results so far. Our first round has been up and down, so we hope to come home strong and challenge for the finals again!!! Most of our team are retired and love travelling overseas, which is quite a challenge for any captain to ensure we get a team on the court each week. Wishing everyone involved in tennis all the best for Christmas and a successful 2017.

Helen Rayner

EDWTA – Section 5

It has not been an easy season for our very able and busy captain, Diana Lamb, as we have been plagued by injuries and absence due to foreign travel. The injuries were significant, Marie Purcell was twice in hospital as an emergency patient and is now back on the courts, Philippa had a pulled muscle in Europe and Captain Diana had a serious attack of flu. We particularly wish to thank Wendy Bowen, Catherine Lawton, Shirley Wick, Lorna Sergeant and Lana Gagiero who were willing and helpful stand-ins. The season ended on a happier note with all back in form and we look forward to the new format in 2017.

Norma Ross

WDTA – A Grade 1

Team members are: Judy Davies, Sheryl Kerwick, Jane Cash, Carol Thompson, Yvonne Pettigrew, Fiona Medina and Susan McLaughlin.

I would have to be one of the luckiest NBTC members to be in a team with such a great bunch of amazing ladies! On the court we are very competitive, but we compliment our opposition often. Win or lose we have aimed to show good sportsmanship, try our best and support each other along the way. We had a solid season playing some great tennis against some tough opposition and finished up in fifth position. However, the best thing about our season are the caring, supportive and long term friendships which just get stronger every year. Big thanks to our number one supporter Eva Bettiol. Christmas blessings to all!

Susan McLaughlin, Captain

Metro Masters Tennis Association (MMTA)

Section 1

Our Section 1 team of Kevin Gregory, Eli Cohen, Frank Kraps, John Mansour and Michael Byrne managed to win four matches for the season, and at one stage was holding 4th position on the ladder. However injuries did not help their situation in the latter half of the season, and they finished 6th.

Section 3 - Lions

The Lions team of Stephen Clarke (capt.), Albert Au, John Zannoni, Donald Wilde, Ross Davies, and Roger Taylor, was top team in the section for the first half of the season and then second for most of the remainder. This included a comprehensive victory over Donvale at Nth Balwyn, and a closely fought 5 game win at Donvale in the Second Semi-final. However in the Grand Final on en tout cas courts at Nth Ringwood they went down to Donvale 4 sets to 2, although the game count was Donvale, 40, North Balwyn 39, only a difference of 1 game.

Section 3 - Tigers

After winning Section 4 in the Autumn season, the Tigers team of Theo Eversteyn (capt.), Jim De Stephanis, John Coulson, Peter Nitsos, Arthur Cox, and Tony Gallichio, found it more difficult, as expected, to compete effectively against the top teams in Section 3, after having washouts against the two weakest teams. However towards the end of the season they managed to do better and held 4th position for 3 weeks, only to lose it by losing the last 2 rubbers of the last match, and thus finishing 5th.

Section 4 Jaguars

The Jaguars team of Gary Basinski, Peter Yap, Brian Greaves, Don Jinnette (capt.), and Preston Berryman had a successful season winning 9 matches and losing 4 after losing the first 2. They vied for the top of the ladder with Koonung Park for most of the season and defeated them comfortably at home in Round 13. However they were unable to repeat the performance in the Grand Final and were clearly beaten, 4 sets to 2, 40 games to 29 games. Also, their hopes of advancing to Section 3 next season may have been dealt a blow.

Peter Moran, MMTA Co-ordinator

SENIOR COMPETITION RESULTS 2016

Assoc-iation	Senior/Vet	Day	Team Name	Season	Section	Position on Ladder	Pennants
MEMRLTA	Senior Ladies	Tuesday		Winter	3	6th	
	Senior Ladies	Tuesday		Winter	9	5th	
EDWTA	Senior Ladies	Wednesday		Season 2	5	5th	
WDTA	Senior Ladies	Thursday		Season 2	A Grade 1	5th	
MMTA	Veteran Mens	Thursday		Spring	1	6th	
		Thursday	Lions	Spring	3	2nd	R/U
		Thursday	Tigers	Spring	3	5th	
		Thursday	Jaguars	Spring	4	2nd	R/U
BDNTA	Senior Ladies	Monday	Ballwin. nets	Spring	4	4th	Lost S/F
	Senior Open	Monday	Giants	Spring	3	2nd	Lost S/F
	Senior Open	Tuesday	Scorpions	Spring	4	1st	PREMIERS
	Senior Open	Tuesday	Rattlers	Spring	9	5th	
	Senior Open	Tuesday	Dragons	Spring	9	1st	Lost S/F
	Senior Open	Tuesday	C. Chokers	Spring	14	1st	PREMIERS
	Senior Open	Wednesday	Racketeers	Spring	4	3rd	Lost S/F
	Senior Open	Wednesday	Kirin	Spring	5	8th	
	Senior S/D	Thursday	ABTA	Spring	3	5th	
	Senior S/D	Thursday	Flotsam	Spring	3	3rd	Lost S/F
	Senior Open	Thursday	Ad Ins	Spring	7	1st	PREMIERS
Pennant TV	Senior Mens	Saturday		2016	6	4th	
	Senior Mens	Saturday		2016	7	5th	
ERT	Senior Open Sets	Saturday		Winter	OS4	5th	
	Senior Open Sets	Saturday		Winter	OS6	3rd	Lost S/F
	Senior Open Sets	Saturday		Winter	OS8	7th	
	Senior S/D	Saturday		Winter	SD4	5th	

MIDWEEK SOCIAL TENNIS REPORT

Organised social tennis is on every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am for a couple of hours and all ages and genders are welcome. Tennis balls are provided so just show up and you will be made very welcome. At least two to three courts are used each of the mornings and the social tennis board (for court allocation) is back in use. Non members are welcome to try out before joining the club, just pay \$5 visitor fee.

Bruce Holloway

SOCIAL EVENTS AT THE CLUB

AFL FINAL TENNIS DAY

On Saturday 1st October about 35 members gathered at the club to play social tennis and watch the AFL grand final. Everyone brought food and drinks to share and there was much excitement as the match unfolded. Most of those present were barracking for the Western Bulldogs and even those who were supporting the Sydney Swans were happy with the result too. Our new clubhouse proved a great place for such an occasion and a good time was had by all.



TWILIGHT TENNIS WITH LOCAL CLUBS

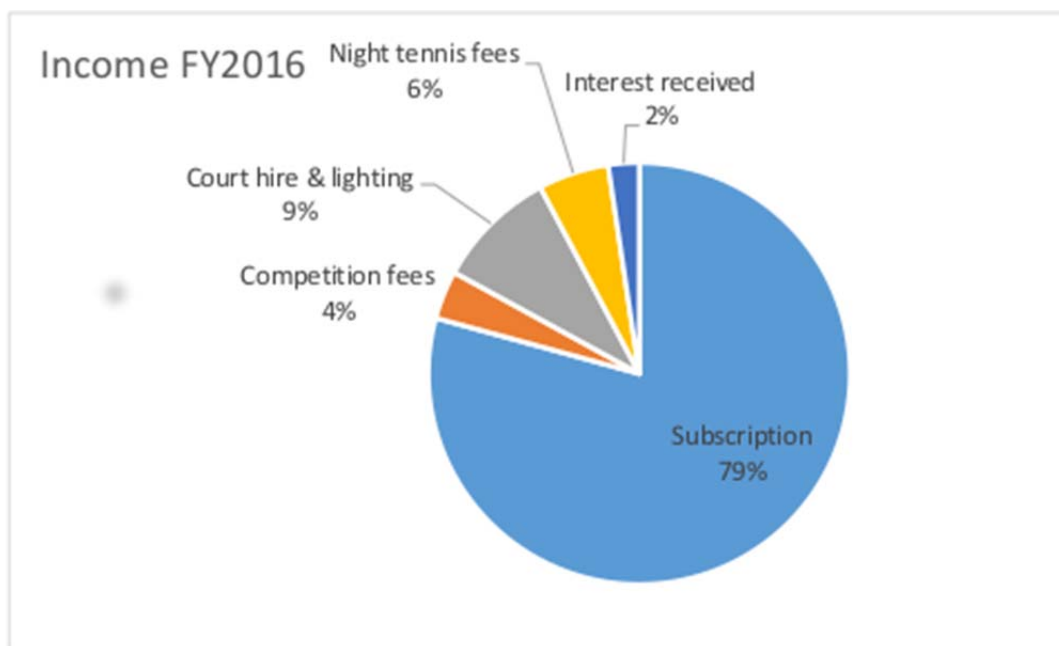
Twilight Tennis on Friday evening is when members can play at local Clubs at 7.30pm: Greythorn Park on first Friday, North Balwyn on second Friday, Canterbury on third Friday and Deepdene on fourth Friday. Visit and meet players at another club. Bring a friend when our Club hosts. No sign up or commitment required. Hosting clubs provide refreshments and balls. There is a gold coin donation. The format is Fast 4. At least a dozen came to our last hosting session for 2016 on Friday Dec 9th so numbers are growing. The program will start again in February with Friday 10th Feb our first hosting night.

AGM AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

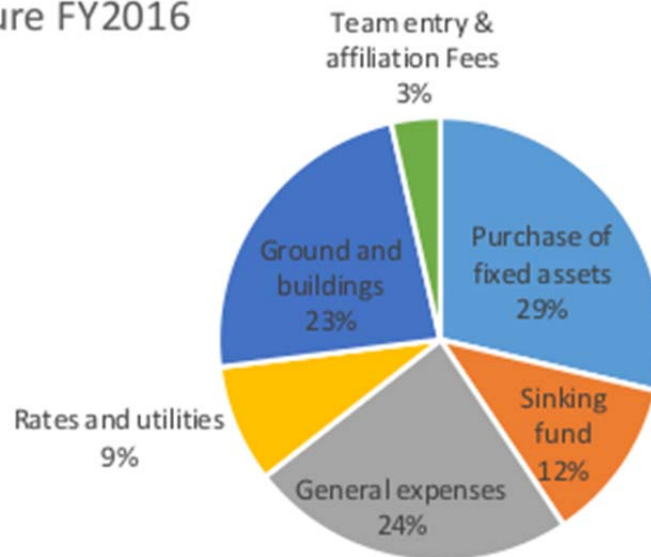
On Sunday 4th December at 5.30 pm the club held its Annual General Meeting with 23 members attending. The new committee was elected. Peter Nitsos did not stand again for the committee and he was thanked for his contribution. Subscriptions were set for 2016/2017.

Adult	\$225	Nomination Fee	\$50
Student	\$155	Nomination Fee	\$50
Junior	\$155	Nomination Fee	\$50
Restricted	\$145	Nomination Fee	\$50
Maximum Family fee	\$510	Nomination Fee	\$50
Non-Playing	\$25		

The Treasurer, Rowena Sheung has prepared an analysis of the year's income and expenditure for the members to show how the money raised for the club is used. We hope it is of interest to the club members.



Expenditure FY2016



After the AGM, 32 members stayed on to enjoy a very tasty meal of chicken, salads and dessert. Thanks go to Melanie Katopodis and Rowena Sheung for organising the food and all the lovely Christmas decorations and to Judy Davies and others who helped clean up afterwards.



Rowena Sheung, Melanie Katopodis and Judy Davies with the delicious dinner

DECEMBER SHOWDOWN (AO SERIES) AND AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2017

Look out for some of our members this summer.

Scarlett Campbell, NBTC's Girl's 18 & Under Singles Champion has been invited to compete in the 12 & U Girls Australian Teams Championships event (December 9-12). She will also compete in the 12 & U Girls Singles Australian Championships commencing on December 13 at Melbourne Park. Good luck Scarlett!

Also, at the 2017 Australian Open, once again, Calidore Cramb and Rowena Sheung have been selected to umpire, whilst Julian Cramb will participate as a ball kid.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017

The Club Championships Committee is comprised of: David Rehe, Andrew Halford, Stuart Brown, Peter Moran and Don Jinnette. The proposed dates for the events are the three weekends:

Friday 3rd March, Saturday 4th March and Sunday 5th March,
Friday 17th March, Saturday 18th March and Sunday 19th March,
with the semi-finals of all matches on

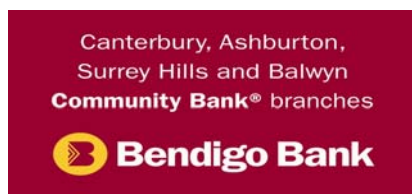
Friday 24th March and Saturday 25th March, and the finals, presentation and dinner on Sunday 26th March.

We hope that all members will consider participating. More information will be emailed out in February.

SPONSORS OF OUR CLUB

Bendigo Bank has been very generous in supporting our club in the past and continues to offer to donate to our club if members of NBTC do business with them.

Canterbury:	143 Maling Road, Canterbury	Tel: 9836 9466
Ashburton:	241 High Street, Ashburton	Tel: 9885 2666
Surrey Hills:	107 Union Road, Surrey Hills	Tel: 9890 7188
Balwyn:	411 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn	Tel: 9836 8029



NEW SPONSORS

Two new sponsors have come forward recently and kindly offered to sponsor new court signs and scoreboards. You should see them appear at the courts early in the New Year.

A big thank you to

Vets on Balwyn, 341 Balwyn Road, North Balwyn and **Capital Physiotherapy**, 55 Whitehorse Road, Balwyn.

Capital Physiotherapy is offering NBTC members 25% off their first visit for December 2016 and January 2017 as a welcome gift.



GETTING THE CLUB NEWS

As we only have the Club newsletter sent out twice a year, we need other ways to keep our members informed of club events and key decisions made by the committee. There are a number of ways this is done. Firstly, the monthly committee minutes are posted on the Social noticeboard. We encourage all members to be on the email address list. It is the most effective and quickest way for us to communicate club matters to you. If you wish to be added to the address list, send your email address along with your name, to **northbalwyntc@yahoo.com.au**. Also check for news on our web site at <http://northbalwyntc.org.au/nbtfiles/News.htm>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The NBTC committee would like to thank all those who contributed articles for the newsletter.

Editor: Rhonda McCaw

Do you know someone who might be interested in joining our club?

Why not pass on this newsletter after you have read it, or direct them to our website:

Our website address is: www.northbalwyntc.org.au

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES

PETER McCAW

9817 2940