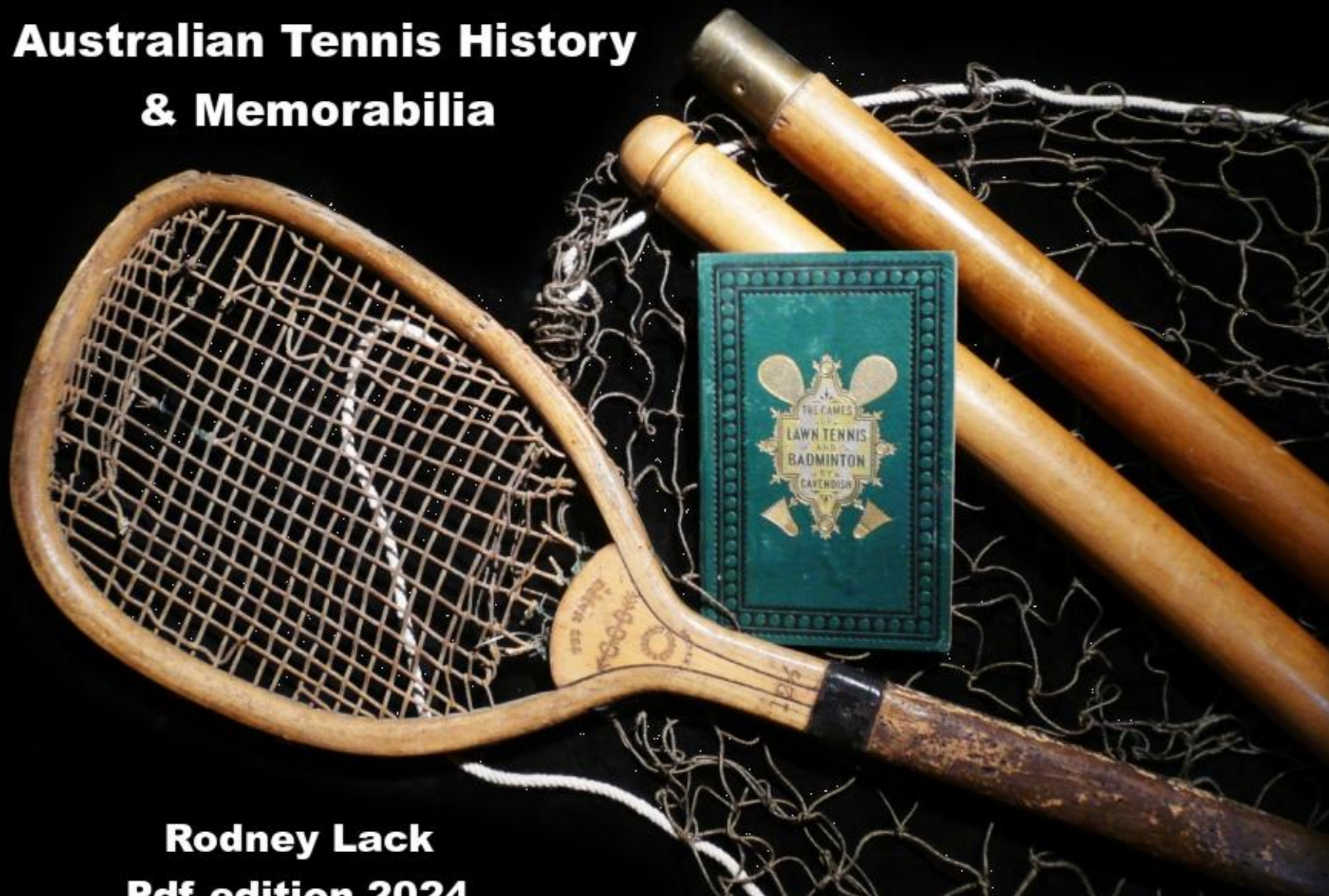


# Australian Tennis History & Memorabilia



**Rodney Lack**  
**Pdf edition 2024**

# Australian Tennis History & Collecting Tennis Memorabilia

My love for tennis began when my parents joined me into coaching classes at the Doncaster Tennis Club as a 7 year old and I played most weekends from morning till dusk. My grandfather, Herman Lauer was champion at the club in the 1920's and I grew up admiring his trophy won outright for three straight singles championships. Mum was the secretary in the late 1940's. I was a junior member at Doncaster up to the age of 20, a Kooyong member for 35 years, played for Old Scotch College for 16 years, became President of the PSTA 1999-2009 and am ex-president of Hawksburn Tennis Club. Tennis remains an important and enjoyable part of my social life.

In the mid 2000's, I found a few old wooden racquets and began wondering if anyone had ever researched the Australian racquet making industry history. There was very little information so my journey began to make contact with family members of manufacturers and past players. This has led to considerable enjoyment collecting Australian Tennis memorabilia, odd and unusual tennis racquets, meeting fellow collectors, co-founding an Australian collecting group, creating a tennis history web site and linking with many overseas collectors to help preserve, share knowledge and promote our wonderful game. ([www.tennishistory.com.au](http://www.tennishistory.com.au))

The early success of our Australian players overseas no doubt helped promote the game throughout the country to a level that in the mid 1920's, the local racquet making industry flourished. Innovation globally and here in relation to frame design, materials, stringing, grips, presses and balls has led to a fascinating industry story I have attempted to outline in this book.



Grandfathers trophy



# A trip down memory lane

There hasn't been many periods in my life when I haven't played tennis except as my three young sons Ryan, Cameron and Justin came along. Getting older hasn't been pain free with back issues and other ailments. After a double hip replacement in 2022, I am happy to back on court still enjoying a hit at Hawksburn.

My first wooden racquets were mostly the mid to late 1960's Slazenger Challenge models. When metal arrived I tried the Yoneyama aluminium YY7500 and green YY8500 but suffered dreadfully from tennis elbow. I then went back to wood with Dunlop Maxply until some half decent low vibration graphite models arrived in the late 1980's.



Mum, Charlotte at the opening of the Doncaster Road courts in 1947.

Inspired early as a youngster by parents and Grandma B. Followed by lifelong friendships with my PSTA/ THA mates. Handy having a family court at McCrae.

# The Development of Lawn Tennis

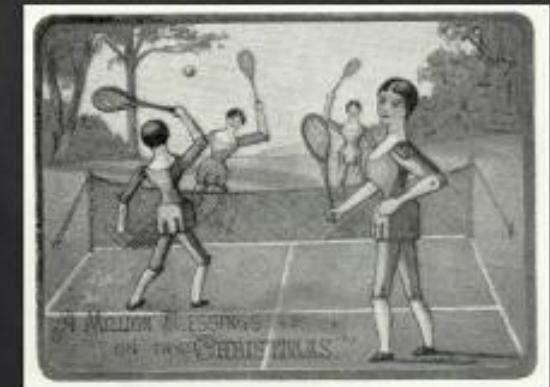
The origins of Lawn Tennis begin in the 15<sup>th</sup> century as outdoor ball games using the palm of the hand evolved into gloves and then rudimentary racquets. Tennis is attributed to monks creating a court (Real Tennis) within their monasteries which in turn, owing to the complexities of the court size and layout could only be played by the wealthy. In the early 1800's outdoor games named "Long or Field" tennis were played on line marked courts in the UK. In 1859, Harry Gem and Augurio Perera created an outdoor game called Pelota and formed a club at Leamington Spa in 1872. With all this heritage it is not surprising that Lawn Tennis evolved, however it burst onto the social scene in 1874 when Major Walter Wingfield launched a boxed set of lawn tennis equipment under the Greek name "Sphairistike". Apart from the clever packaging in boxes, two other developments also paved the way. The first was the bouncy hollow India rubber ball and the second, a new lawn mower design which enabled finely cut grass to be prepared for a garden court.

The Wingfield boxed sets contained all that was needed to set up a match. At this point garden party entertainment had only included the options of croquet or archery so the new game was adopted quite readily. He was very successful at selling sets to titled UK families and rapidly members of the military and other wealthy travellers from England carried the boxed sets to the four corners of the globe. Lawn Tennis took hold as a splendid social and sporting activity.

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) took a great interest in the game and a rules committee was established in 1875 to devise new improvements in relation to court size, net height and scoring. The All England Croquet Club quickly adopted tennis into their activities and organised the first Wimbledon championship in 1877.



1837 Field Tennis  
Games and Sports  
by Donald Walker



1862 Christmas Card

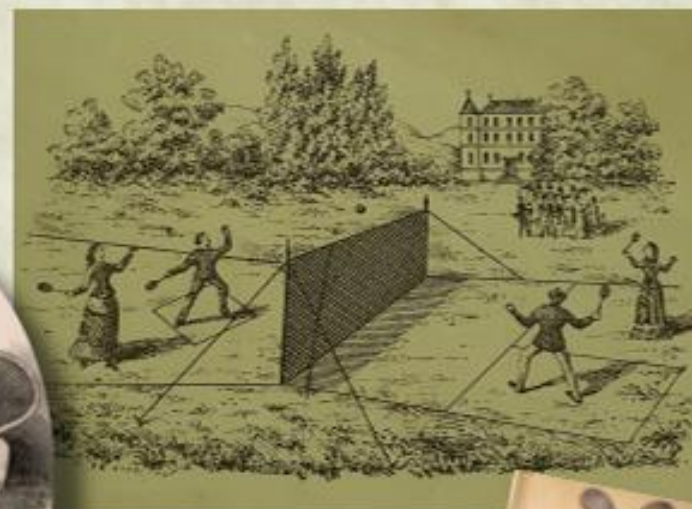


Real Tennis Court  
unchanged for hundreds of  
years

Wingfield's original game included an hour glass shaped court with the server standing in a diamond. The net was over 5 foot high (154cms) and "pat-ball" was an early nick name along with "Sticky". Often reviled by the cricket playing men as a women's game, they soon found it required considerable energy and of course, mixing with the opposite sex had its benefits. Variations even appeared on ice in 1876.

The name was changed to Lawn Tennis and scoring was altered completely from a volleyball style, reverting to that adopted for Real Tennis and Field tennis with the 15, 30, 40, deuce/ advantage system which is believed to have begun from values derived from gambling which was a popular aspect to actually playing these games.

Early equipment design came from Real or Court Tennis and most of the racquets were lopsided. Even though Wingfield's appear not to have a curve, by 1886 lawn tennis racquets were quite symmetrical. Tennis balls also quickly evolved from plain rubber to hand sewn wool covered versions and then onto fully glued covers by the 1890's.



Major Walter Wingfield  
creator of Sphairistike  
1873-1874



An original boxed set held by the  
Wimbledon Tennis Museum



# Early Tennis Boxes

The Wingfield patent application for an hour glass court included a high 5 foot net and a diamond for serving, as below. Competition quickly arrived also in 1874 via the launch of Germains Lawn Tennis rules with a wider court and narrower 7 yard net.

The Wingfield design was modified to have the serving ends identical and scoring was copied from real tennis under the 1875 MCC (UK) review. The net remained 5 foot at first and this is also reflected in the label artwork. For the 1877 Wimbledon tournament, the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club further enhanced the court layout dimensions and net height to what we know today.

On the rare occasions tennis boxes come up for sale, they offer a wonderful visual of the progress of the sport in this early transitional period.



1874



1875/76





1875/76



1877 onwards the set is dated to 1880



1875/76



1875/76



Horsman's is a USA firm while the other two are early English graphics. Imagine finding an unused boxed tennis set hidden the attic some 140 years after being purchased, complete with tissue wrapping paper.

# Early Tennis Racquets

Racquet manufacture was a pre-existing craft, however the rapid growth of lawn tennis saw many new entrants in the UK, Europe and the USA. The first lawn tennis racquets were lopsided as in Real Tennis, but these designs proved inadequate. The famous Renshaw brothers even found playing with these upside down was preferable, in what became known as "the professional style". Gradually, shapes changed from lopsided to symmetrical flat tops with convex throats through to oval shapes with concave throats.

Product differentiation, then as now, was important for sales and from the mid 1880's to 1910 fancy grips and stringing patterns became the subject of very creative designs, although elite players mostly recommended the standard versions.



Extremely rare 1879 presentation or prize tilt top racquet by Jefferies UK, featuring engraved silver collar, laminated woodwork and looped stringing .

The inscription and date CLTC October 1879 supports the racquet was given as a prize at the Cheltenham Lawn Tennis Club's inaugural tournament at which, for the first time in the UK, combined men's and ladies events. Eventual Wimbledon Champions, William and Ernest Renshaw commenced their tennis in Cheltenham and played at this event.



LET YOUR NEXT RACKET BE AN AYRES

50 Years of Racket-Making

To-day

1875

1875



F. H. Ayres Ltd.

Manufacturers

London

Obtainable from all Sports Dealers. If not, please communicate with  
**HORACE RICE**, SOLE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE 5 HAMILTON STREET, SYDNEY.

AUSTRALASIAN LAWN TENNIS

March 31, 1926.

The stringing patterns varied enormously and included double stringing, three way stringing, diamond shapes, very open sweet spots, diagonal stringing and even, as on the opposite page, two independent string planes. This same trend re-emerged in the 1990's as better materials and nylon / polymer strings permitted higher tensions.

The first all metal racquets appeared in 1887 from a bicycle manufacturer. The model shown by Hillman, Herbert and Cooper even included an in-shaft leather cord which permitted the main strings to be tension adjusted. Design changes to the yoke and shoulders were offered and even a bent model (opposite) was produced by A.J.Reach in 1885.



1887 Herman Herbert & Cooper  
Steel racquet



Some of the amazing stringing patterns offered in the early days

# THE EVOLUTION OF THE RACKET.

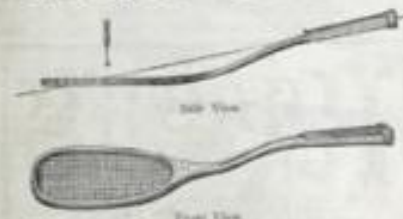


A QUAINI. DEVICE —  
— PATENTED — SEPTR: 28, 1881.



A. J. BEACH & CO'S CATALOGUE

## TENNIS GOODS.



### THE BENT RACQUET.

Pat. Feb. 3, 1884.

The "BENT RACQUET" is the ordinary Racquet in every respect, except that the handle close to the net is curved in such a way that the straight part of the handle which is held in the hand is placed, not at an angle with the net work.

The advantages of this Racquet over the ordinary Racquet, are:

1st. That the player is able with much greater ease to raise a low and well ball from the ground and return it over the net, since when he stands in a nearly upright position, and strikes at a low ball, the face of the Racquet is inclined up toward the top of the net.

2nd. That with balls that come high over the player's head, he can strike with the Racquet at an angle and have the face of the Racquet follow toward the ground in the opposite Court. This makes it especially useful for receiving or high serving.

3rd. It is better adapted than the ordinary Racquet for receiving balls which are going out on either of the side lines, as the face of the Racquet points back toward the Court.

4th. It is especially adapted to making the new "drag-returns" which has proved to be so effective in the past year and was made by the best players in England and this country.

The style of Racquet herein is exactly the ordinary Racquet, and has no greater weight than is held in the hand about the outside bar of the straight part of the handle if a good weight would pass through the center of the net work.

In using the "BENT RACQUET" the ball is generally struck with the face of the Racquet toward which the service is the net point.

It requires from five to fifteen more glads with this Racquet before an average player has become accustomed to it, and can then do better with it than with the ordinary style.

Price, — — — — — \$6.00



Early tennis racquet designs moving from lop-sided shapes to symmetrical flat tops in the mid 1880's.



Examples of 1890-1910 double stringing for added durability and supposedly better sweet spots

Fishtail



Cork grip



Fantail



Cork inlay



Bulbous



Ball tail



There are numerous handle shapes which can be found.

Most of the racquets were made with wooden handles, scored to provide a better grip. Many variations were offered including deep groove channels to drain sweat, checkered grips as per rifle butts, slip reducing fish tail, ball tail, fan tail, swallow tail and bulbous designs, cork inlays and rubber overlays. Rarely, even elaborate decorative models may be found featuring carving or inlaid mother of pearl, possibly indicating stature ahead of playability.



# Australia's First Clubs and State Championships

The first recorded lawn tennis club appears to have commenced in Queensland around December 1876 due to the arrival of new Brisbane Grammar Schoolmaster, Mr Reginald H. Roe from the UK, who brought with him a boxed tennis set. In 1879, the MCC in Victoria was already managing cricket and numerous other club activities. With the benefit of financial resources and management expertise they became one of Tennis' key driving forces in that state. In mid July 1879, they laid their first asphalt court within the grounds of the current MCG and by early 1880 had conducted their first 16 man competition which carried with it Victoria's first Championship title, the winner being Mr A.F. Robinson over H.M. Strachan 2 sets to one. (this was noted as the 1879 championship although held in 1880). Other cricket clubs in South Australia and New South Wales also developed the game and established local competitions.

## Commencement of State Championships

Victoria: 1880 Men's Singles Men's Doubles 1884 Ladies Singles Doubles and Mixed

New South Wales: 1885 Men's Singles & Doubles, Ladies Singles, Mixed  
1886 Ladies Doubles

Queensland: 1889 Men's Singles, 1892 Men's Doubles, Ladies Singles, Mixed  
1898 Ladies Doubles

South Australia: 1890 Men's Singles & Doubles, 1892 Ladies Singles  
1893 Doubles 1894 Mixed

West Australia: 1895-1902, Tasmania 1893 -1901

New Zealand: 1886 -1899



The first interclub trophy from 1880 Geelong  
Recreation Club v MCC  
Oldest Australian tennis trophy known



# Australian Intercolonial Tennis Commences

Following the formation of the first tennis clubs in 1878-1881 administrators of the major Melbourne and Sydney Cricket Clubs then oversaw the creation of suburban pennant competitions. In 1885, this invitation letter to conduct the first Intercolonial / State Championship event was sent by Sydney Cricket Club to the MCC and it includes reference to the creation of an Australian Championship. It would be another 20 years before this event would take place.

Annual Matches and perhaps  
have an open All Comers Tournament  
for the Championships of Australia

Sydney Cricket Club Office  
17 Bourke Street  
17<sup>th</sup> March 1885

Dear Riddell

During our recent interview at the Cricket Match up here you mentioned an Intercolonial Lawn Tennis Match. I have mentioned the matter since to several of our prominent players with the result that the Committee of our Club have authorized me to write on the subject to the Melbourne P.C.C. and by this post I am sending a letter.

Of course it is only a suggestion and if your Committee

has been done in the Baginall- Wright system which is adopted in England. I expect some fellow will have an easy thing but we have done our best to put some on first. I enclose a certificate showing the method in case it might interest you, we have started at scratch but next we will be able to start at our 15 or 20 and so handicap to a greater extent. A New Zealand came up here and wanted very badly to meet our best man, he was accordingly introduced to Salmon who played him and the 15 ran but <sup>Salmon's</sup> which was a decided beating his name is Williams, but as they was that he had been used to playing on asphalt that would put him off a good deal. I suggest alterations should be made, the first matches would hardly be perfect in every detail, but in time we might hope to have Annual Matches and perhaps have an open All Comers Tournament to be played one year at home and the next year with you, if you favour the idea as what you can to make it remunerative. Our Club tournaments are just over and you will no doubt have seen that Salmon has from the Rhyming Light, wearing the Single to the Double with Smith; we have a handicap Single coming off next Saturday and it promises to be a good deal interesting. The handicapping

1885.

INTERCOLONIAL  
**LAWN TENNIS**  
TOURNAMENT.

Association Cricket Ground,  
MOORE PARK.

April 30th, May 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th.

Price: SIXPENCE.

W. W. Macdonald, Printer, 102 George Street.



The first 1885 intercolonial teams from NSW and Victoria and the very rare actual program me.  
Riddell papers, State Library of Victoria



Tennis Champions of the 1880's 1890's Ben Green (Vic),  
Dudley Webb (NSW) & Wilberforce Eaves (Vic)



Trophies awarded at Intercolonial events and  
maybe one day more will appear out of the blue.



Inaugural NSW Men's Doubles Championship trophy awarded for both the  
Intercolonial and State Titles

The involvement of large metropolitan cricket clubs in the formation of tennis competitions is evident due to matches being played on cricket grounds. These were the only venues existing which could be configured into multiple courts on which singles, doubles, handicap and ladies events could be conducted over a period of up to a week.

Many thousands of spectators would attend these Intercolonial matches to witness champions from each state battle for these prestigious titles. Luckily many of the trophies survive today.



1886

# THE INTERCOLONIAL LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE  
Assuration Grounds Moore Park.

MAY 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, & 15,

Under the superintendance of the Assocation Ground Lawn Tennis Club.

Patron  
HIS EXCELLENCY LORD CAHILL

E. C. I.

S. & W. A. T.

G. J. LEWIS  
C. T. HEYCALFE.  
W. J. D. SALMON  
CLIVE SMITH, Hon. Secy

In addition to the above Committee

A. W. ALLEN  
J. BOOTH  
D. F. DICKSON  
C. C. GRIFFITHS  
DR. EVANS

## Intercolonial Lawn Tennis Match

### New South Wales v Victoria

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 1886

Melbourne Cricket Ground

Single Handled Matches

Six players to  
play on the day  
matches will be played  
in sets without intermission

Name	Opponent	Score
Coltham	let	6-2 + 15-8
Martin	6-5, 6-5	+ 18-11
Holt	6-0, 6-2, 3-6	+ 15-9
Howe	6-3, 6-3, 5-6	+ 17-12
Hoyett	6-5, 2-6, 6-5	+ 15-16
Radcl	6-3, 6-1, 6-0	+ 18-4
Martin	6-2, 6-3, 6-3	+ 18-8
Holt	6-3, 6-0, 6-3	+ 18-6
Silman	6-3, 5-6, 6-5	+ 17-14
Conroy	6-5, 6-5, 6-4	+ 18-14
Radcl	6-1, 6-4, 5-6	+ 17-8
Howe	6-1, 6-3, 6-2	+ 18-7

Hoyett W. Salt Ground

1887.

# THE INTERCOLONIAL LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE

MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB GROUND.

Under the superintendance of the LAWN TENNIS COMMITTEE of the  
Melbourne Cricket Club.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18,

AND FOLLOWING DATE.

LAWN TENNIS COMMITTEE.

J. W. CULVILLE

W. H. MOGLE

D. W. MARTIN

W. J. C. RIDDELL

Referee: W. J. C. RIDDELL.

Match Book by W. J. C. Riddell, Printer, Melbourne.

All England Lawn-Tennis Club.

LAWN-TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP-MEETING, 1888.

ADMIT TO RESERVED SEAT.

GRAND STAND, A.

113

PRICE, TEN SHILLINGS

Extremely rare Intercolonial event programmes and the earliest known Wimbledon Ticket 1888. Riddell family papers held at the State Library of Victoria.



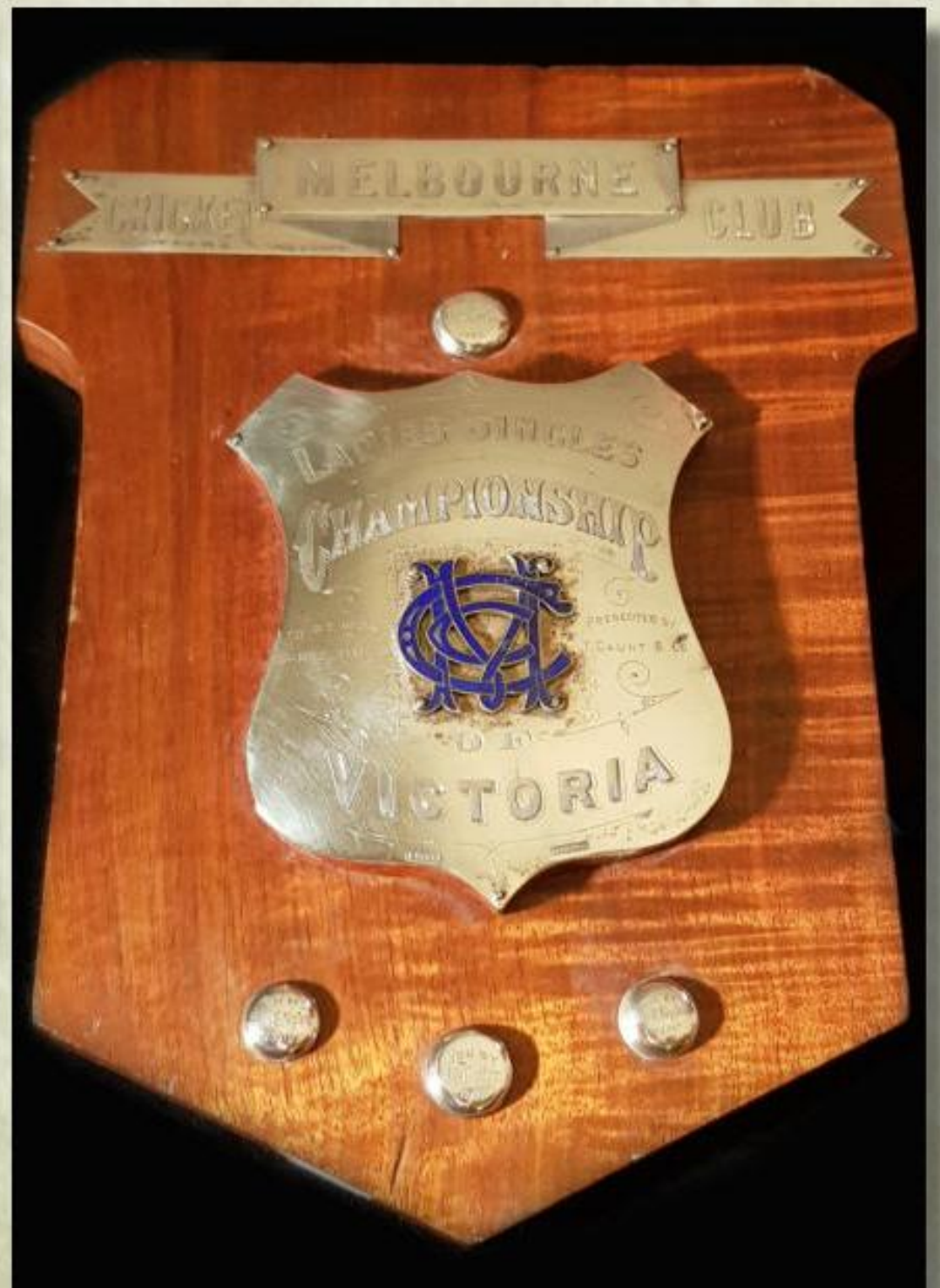
The Intercolonial events were played twice a year. The winners on this Men's singles shield were Nov. 1890 A. Kearney, May 1891 W.V.Eaves, Nov. A. Kearney, May 1892 B.Green, Nov. 1892 D. Harbison, May 1893 & Nov 1893 Ben Green (Victoria) which retired the shield after 2 successive wins.



Alf Dunlop, pictured, won the Victorian Doubles title three times with S.E. Diddams to retire this shield. He won this event 9 times in total and was one of our key Davis Cup doubles players.



The Victorian Men's Doubles trophy from 1898 through to 1901 (above) features wins by Alf Dunlop, S.E.Diddams and Norman Brookes with various partners.



The Victorian Ladies Singles trophy 1900 -1904 won outright by Lorna Gyton

## Other Early Trophies



The Strathfield tournament was a very prestigious event being won in 1892 by Dudley Webb who received this amazing silver plate.



A lovely shield from the inaugural Hunter River District (NSW) tennis singles event 1896-1899, won outright by Mr Wood



# Influential Australian Players Overseas

**Wilberforce Eaves** was born in 1867 in Melbourne and travelled back to England to study medicine. As a student he played tennis well and was presumably the first Australian to play at Wimbledon in 1892. Prior to this in 1891, he came back to Australia to play for Victoria against New South Wales in the Intercolonial and NSW Championships where he beat Dudley Webb. He encouraged doubles players to volley and helped to settle the argument between Victoria and New South Wales as to which balls, covered or uncovered, should be used in competition. Covered balls were chosen.

In the finals of Wimbledon 1895 and US Championships 1897, Eaves narrowly lost both in five sets. In 1902 he returned to Australia and mentored the young Norman Brookes in the art of American twist serving. He also defeated Brookes in the 1902 NSW championships.

Such was their friendship that Eaves was best man at Norman's wedding.

**Arthur B Carvosso** was a student at Brisbane Grammar School when headmaster Reginald Roe arrived from the UK with a tennis set in 1876. As an all-round sportsman, he was a highly regarded tennis player both as student and then science teacher up to 1888.

Inspired to become a doctor, he traveled to Edinburgh University, Scotland and miraculously won the 1891 Scottish Championships Open Singles and then the South of Scotland Championships. In 1892 he repeated the latter, added the North of Scotland Championships and Universities singles championship. In 1893, he was a member of the Edinburgh Whitehouse Club that won the Great Britain Inter-Club Championship.

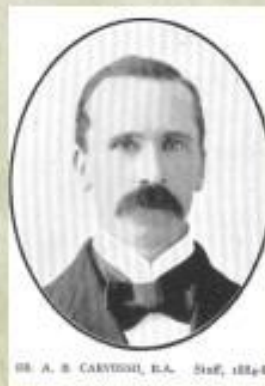
His 1891 victory represents the first significant overseas tennis event to be won by an Australian. He returned to Australia as a Doctor in 1894.

**Edward Dewhurst** also played tennis in the late 1890's playing in the major NSW Intercolonial and state championships.

He left Australia to become a dentist in the USA and while studying at the University of Pennsylvania won the prestigious Intercollegiate tournament in 1903 and runner up in 1904. He also won the 1905 singles/doubles and the National Indoor Championships played at the New York Seventh Regiment Armoury.

In 1906, he became the first Australian to win a major overseas title, that being the US Championship Mixed Doubles.

He lived in America for the rest of his life and was once considered for the USA Davis Cup team. He wrote a book called "The Science of Lawn Tennis" in 1910 and contributed to P.A.Vaile's book "The Methods and Players of Modern Lawn Tennis" in 1915.



# Early Davis Cup & Wimbledon Success

In 1900, American Dwight Davis formalised the "Davis Cup" competition between the USA and UK, and donated the famous trophy. It was then decided to open the competition to other countries provided they had a national Tennis body. In 1904 the Australian Lawn Tennis Association was created and successfully applied to play in the 1905 Davis Cup competition as "Australasia", combining with New Zealand.

The inaugural Australasian Championships were held in 1905, twenty years after the idea had been suggested. Rod Heath took the singles and Randolph Lycett and Tom Tatchell won the doubles.

Australian players always doubted how they would rate against the best from the UK and USA and in 1905, our most prominent player, Norman Brookes created quite an impression, beating many of the UK champions in country tournaments and only just lost the Wimbledon Singles Challenge Round. The Davis Cup team of Brookes, Dunlop and Murphy lost in the semi-finals.

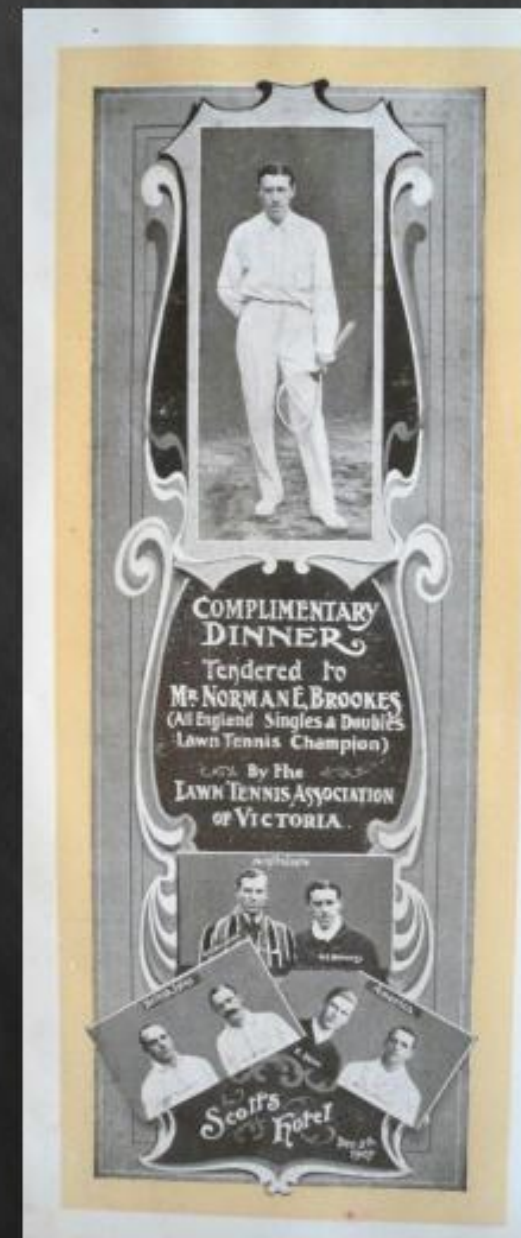
In 1906, the Davis Cup team, without Brookes also missed the target, but in 1907 Australian Tennis changed forever. Norman Brookes was available to play combining with NZ's Anthony Wilding who was studying at Cambridge. It was a clean sweep on English soil. Brookes won all three Wimbledon titles, the doubles with Wilding. They defeated the USA 3-2 and then went on to beat the British Isles 3-2 to capture the Davis Cup, the first non UK/USA team to do so. It also meant the 1908 challenge round would not take place in either the USA or UK but instead a 2 month ship journey away in Melbourne, Australia.

Australasia won this epic Melbourne contest over the USA 3-2 and again in 1909 in Sydney 5-0, followed by 1911 against the USA in Christchurch NZ 5-0 and 1914 in the USA against the USA 3-2. The cup was feeling at home here and public interest in the playing game was growing quickly.

Anthony Wilding won the Wimbledon Singles title in 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913. He could have won Wimbledon in 1914 as the favourite for the fifth time had it not been for the return of Brookes, nicknamed the "Wizard", who beat him claiming his second title.

Post war, Brookes was grooming Gerald Patterson and J.O.Anderson for the Davis Cup. Australia retained the Cup in 1919 against the British Isles and the unknown Patterson won the Wimbledon Singles title and then repeated the win in 1922. Bill Tilden and Bill Johnston playing for the USA dominated tennis for the first half of the 1920's which was followed by the French Musketeers in the late 1920's.

Australia did not win the Davis Cup again until 1939.



The LTAA organised a celebratory dinner honouring the success of Norman and the team in 1907.



*A. F. Wilding. Norman & Brookes*  
*Champions from 1907 the Stars*



Norman with an amazing hoard of trophies won on the 1907 tour including the Davis Cup. Norman went onto play into the 1920's and was head of the LTAA for 29 years, being knighted for his service to tennis. He died in 1968



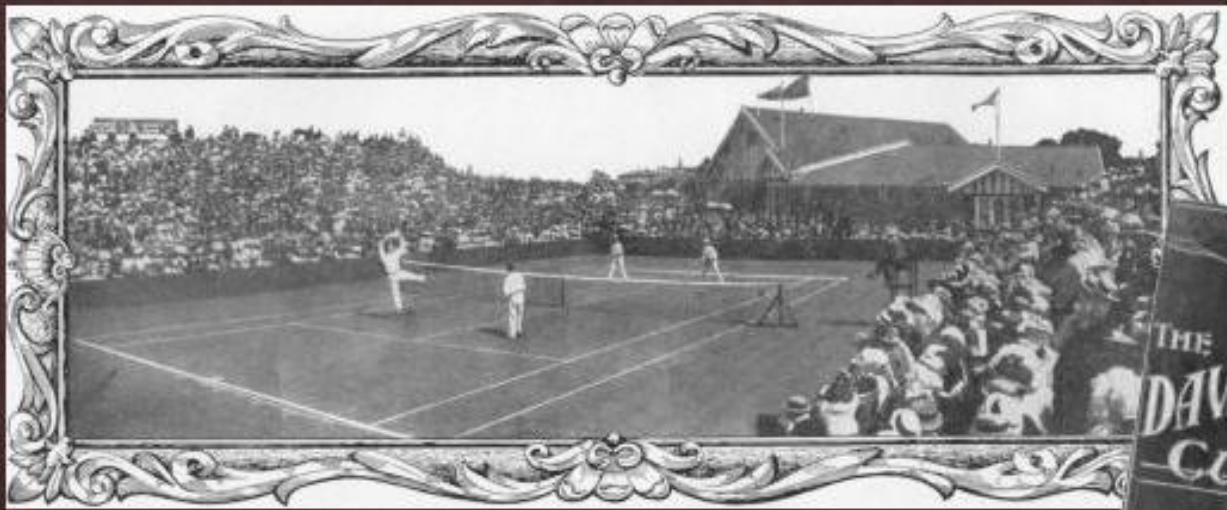
*THE 1907 TOUR ORGANIZATION*  
*A. F. Wilding, the Australian who won the Davis Cup in 1907 and the first of the four British players to win the Davis Cup in 1907, 1911, 1920 and 1924.*



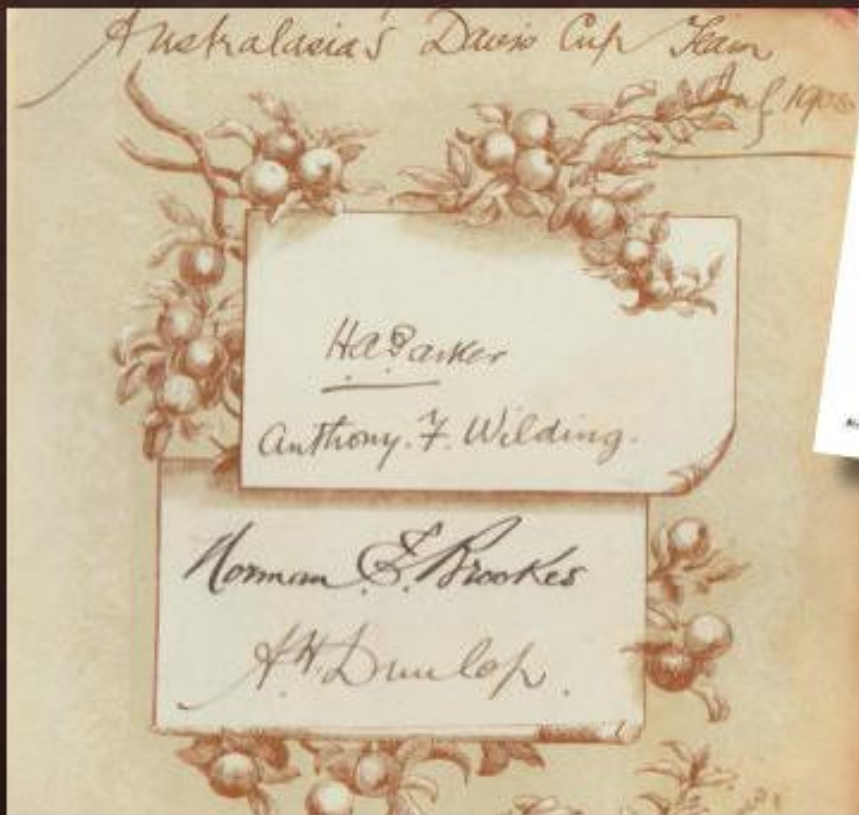
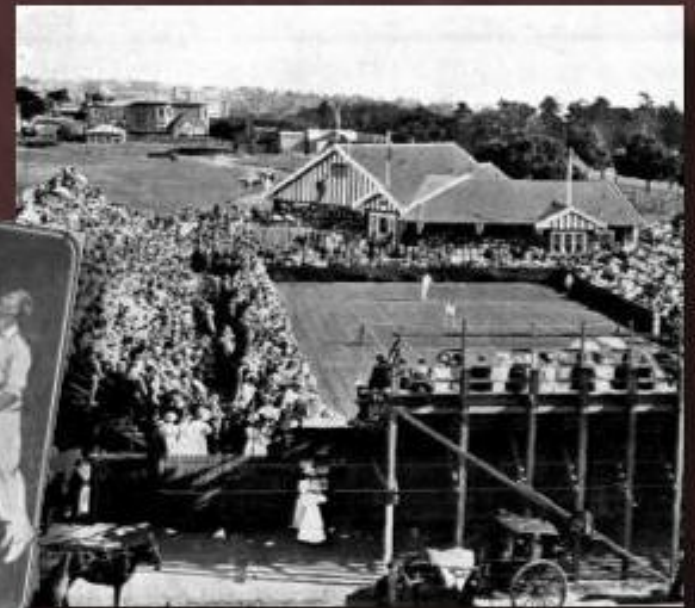
1907 Wimbledon Doubles final A.W.Gore & H. Roper Barret UK v Wilding and Brookes



Having dominated Wimbledon for 4 years, Brookes came to beat Wilding in 1914. In 1915, Wilding was tragically killed in WW1 at Neuve-Chapelle, France



The first Davis Cup played in Melbourne, Australia in 1908 at the Warehouseman's Ground.

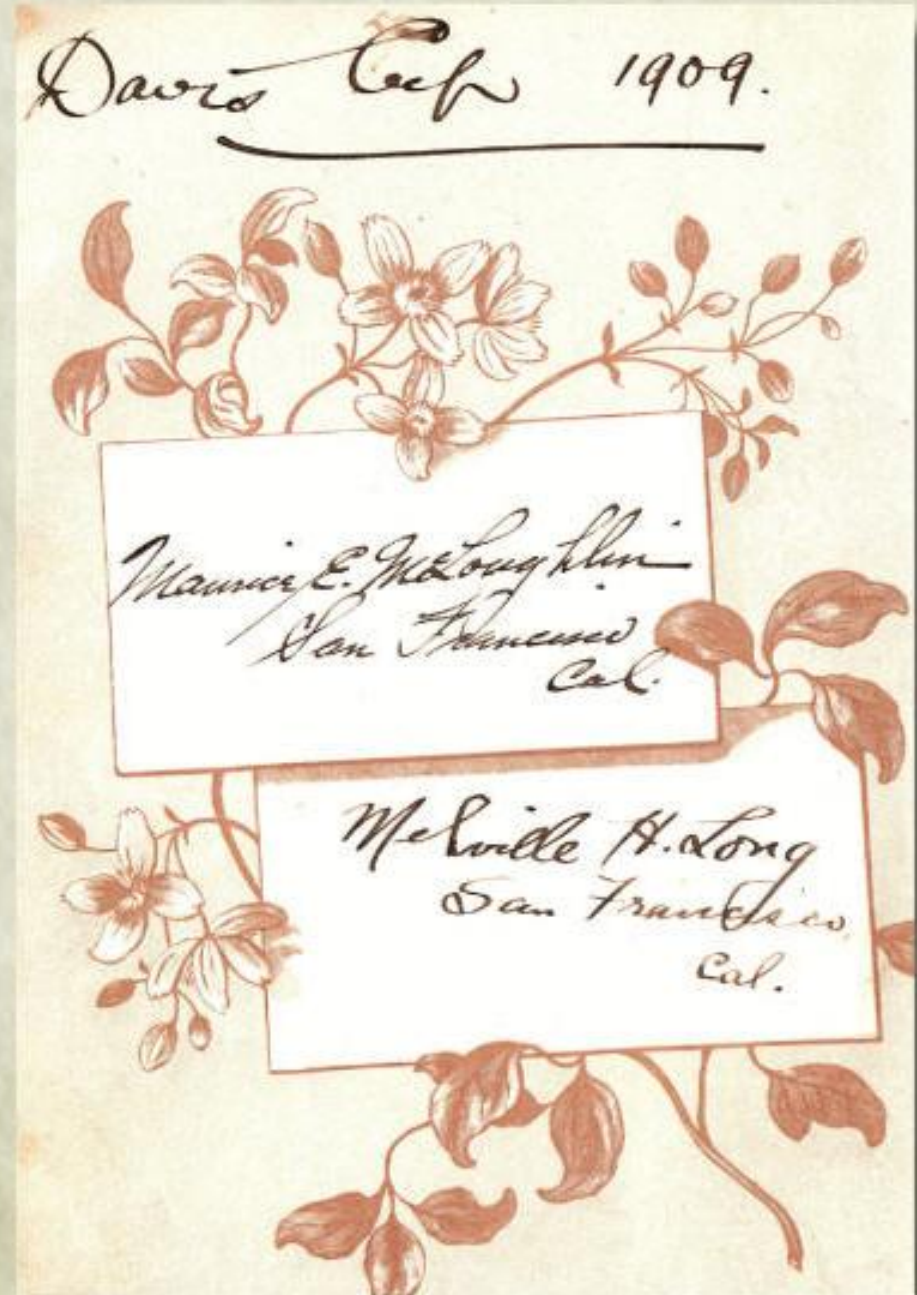
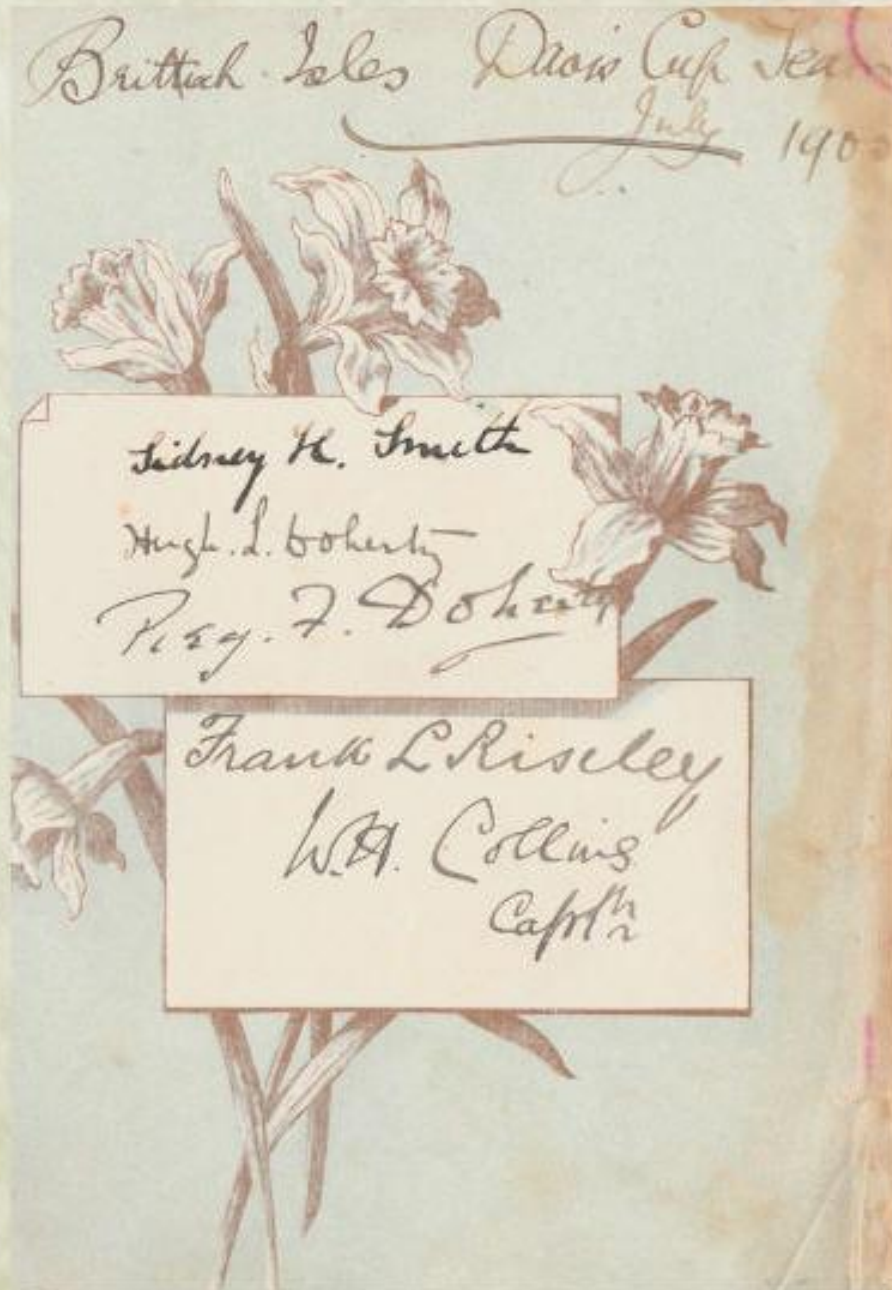


From the same autograph book as the following pages.



1911 Davis Cup belonging to Alf Dunlop

# Famous International 1900's Player Autographs



From an autograph book belonging to Australian Davis Cup player Alf Dunlop.

Many names belong to early Wimbledon, US and Davis Cup Champions

America's Davis Cup Team

July 1905  
S. J. [unclear] (r) [unclear]

Holcombe Ward  
Beals C. Wright

Wm. J. Clothier  
William Channing  
Paul J. Dashiell  
Capt. U.S.A. Side

[unclear]

Davis Cup Team

1908

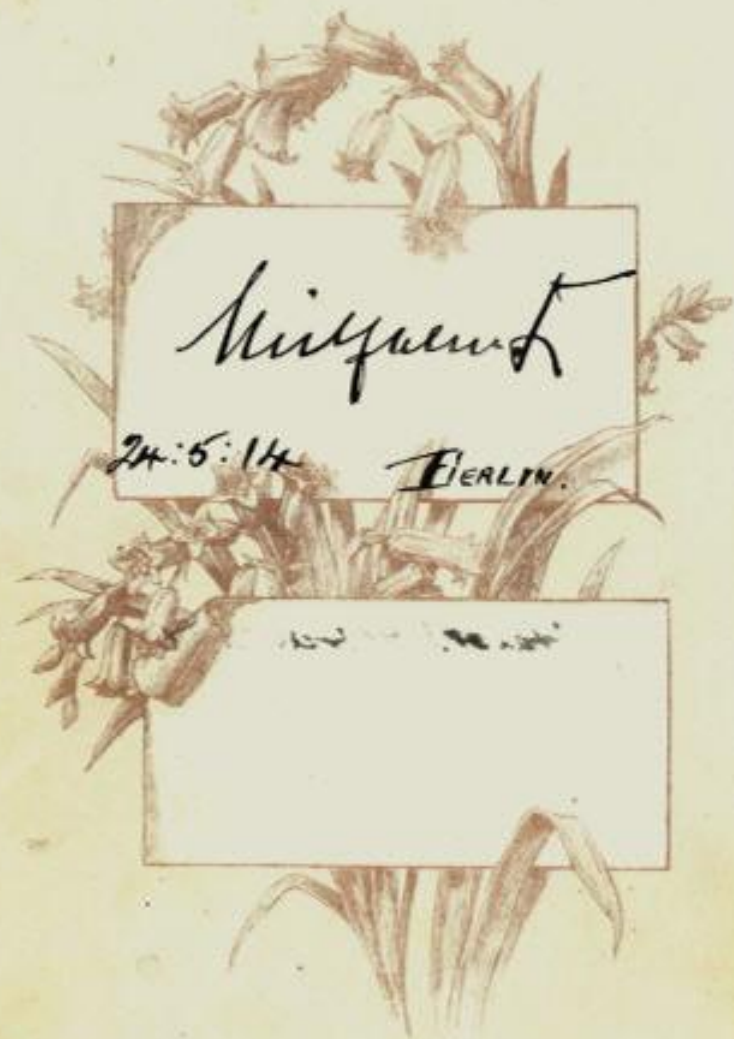
Con  
Holcombe  
America 1907

Beals C. Wright  
Boston U.S.A.

Fredrick B. Alexander  
New York City  
U.S.A.

Fredrick B. Alexander  
New York City  
May 1908

David T. Dunlop  
New York



14:5:14 Davis Cup. N.Y. 1914

Dwight D. Davis

Edna D. Wrenn

Richard N. Williams Esq.

George J. Ades

Sam'l H. Dehr

Thos C Bundy

S. Courtney Newcombe

Harold H. Hackett

Julian P. Myrick

Edward B. Dewhurst

Phila. Pa.

All Members

Founder of the Davis Cup, Dwight Davis at the top. Some of these players visited Australia and New Zealand during attempts to win the Davis Cup back for America. Australian, Edward Dewhurst went to live in the USA.

# Post WW1 Davis Cup

Despite having Wimbledon champions in our team, the Americans and then French dominated and Australia did not win the Davis Cup again until 1939. In the 1950's and 1960's Australian Davis Cup teams and individual players were dominating the global tennis scene.



1907 Ronald.V Thomas, Gerald Patterson, Jack Hawkes & Gerald Patterson, Randolph Lycett, Stanley .N. Doust, Norman. Brookes, Pat O'hara Wood



1923 Jack Hawkes, Ian McInnes, James.O.Anderson, Richard Schlesinger



1931 Jack Crawford, Jim Willard, Edgar Moon, Harry Hopman



1934 Don Turnbull, Adrian Quist, Jack Crawford, Vivian McGrath



1938 Adrian.Quist, Harry Hopman, Len Schwartz, John Bromwich



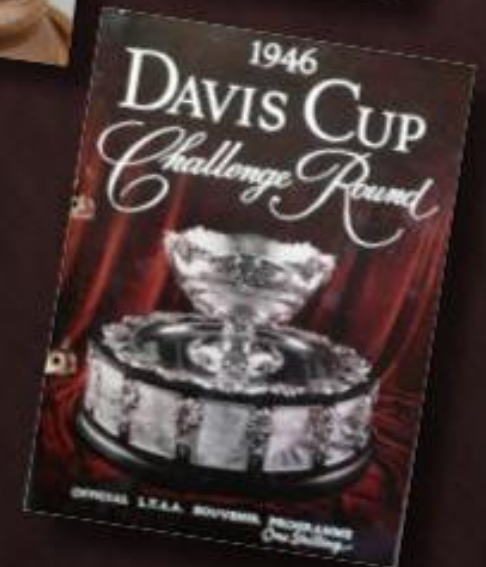
1939 Jack Crawford, Adrian.Quist, John Bromwich, Harry Hopman



1946 John Bromwich, Geoff Brown, Dinny Pails, Colin.Long

## Davis Cup Wins

1907, 1908, 1909, 1911, 1914, 1919, 1939, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1973, 1977, 1983, 1986, 1999, 2003







1950 George Worthington, Ken McGregor, Frank Sedgman, Harry Hopman, John Bromwich



Lew Hoad, Ken Rosewall



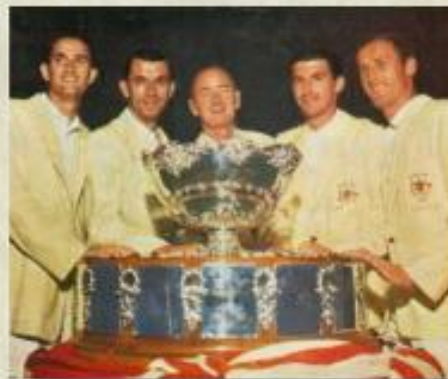
1954 Rex Hartwig, Lew Hoad, Ken Rosewall, Merv Rose



1955 Lew Hoad, Neale Fraser, Harry Hopman, Rex Hartwig, Ken Rosewall



Lew Hoad, Ken Rosewall, Harry Hopman, Ashley Cooper, Neale Fraser



1957 Mal Anderson, Merv Rose, Harry Hopman, Ashley Cooper, Neale Fraser



1973 Geoff Masters, John Newcombe, Mal Anderson, Neale Fraser, Rod Laver, Ken Rosewall Colin Dibley



1977 Davis Cup player reunion

# 1905 Australasian Men's Championship

Having formed the Australasian Lawn Tennis Association in 1904 to enter the Davis Cup, the new body quickly organised the first National Championships in 1905. It was a Men's only affair played for the first time at the Warehouseman's Ground on St Kilda Road, Melbourne. The Ladies Championships began in 1922.

The first trophy was donated by Slazengers of London and remarkably this looks identical to the Wimbledon trophy. It was retired when Jack Crawford won it three times from 1931-33. Jack sold his trophies in the 1980's and nobody knew where they were. Fortunately, they were retained by a Sydney family of jewellers who donated them to the Albury Museum in 2014 in honour of the area in which Jack grew up and learnt his tennis.



First Australasian Championship 1905, Melbourne



1905 -1933 Australasian Men's Trophy - Albury Museum



Champions: Rod Heath, Arthur O'Hara Wood, Horace Rice , Norman Brookes, Gerald Patterson, James O. Anderson, Pat O'Hara Wood



Jack B. Hawkes, Randolph Lycett, Edgar Moon, Harry Hopman, Don Turnbull



Wimbledon and multiple Australian Champion, Jack Crawford playing with an Alexander flat-top racquet

The Championship was played alternately in all of the capital cities and also in New Zealand at Christchurch and Hastings. In 1922, the relationship with New Zealand ceased and the Championships simply became known as the 'Australian'.

In 1934, in honour of his service as a player, team selector and administrator, the Association introduced the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup which cannot be retired and is still the main trophy presented today.



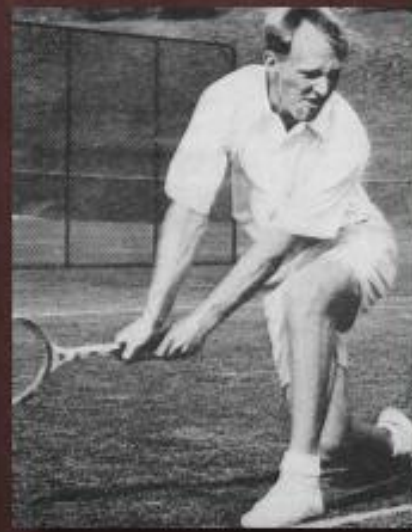
Norman Brookes Challenge Cup



Viv McGrath



Adrian Quist John Bromwich (Mako & Budge USA)



John Bromwich



Bill Sidwell



Frank Sedgman



Don Candy & Merv Rose



Dinny Pails



Geoff Brown



Clive Wilderspin



Frank Sedgman  
Ken McGregor



Merv Rose & Rex Hartwig



Ken Rosewall & Lew Hoad



Colin Long



Neale Fraser



Ashley Cooper



Rod Laver & Roy Emerson



Rod Laver



Owen Davidson & John Newcombe



Marty Mulligan & Ken Fletcher



Roy Emerson & Mal Anderson



Barry Phillips Moore



Bob Hewitt & Bob Howe



Fred Stolle



Tony Roche



2016 Legends of Tennis stamps (Rod Laver & Margaret Court 2003)

# Australian Women's Championship

In 1922, the partnership with New Zealand under the Australasian banner concluded and this led to the Australian Championships being created. It was this year that the Women's event and mixed doubles were included making the championship one of the few complete event tournaments, hence it became one of the four majors.

Moll Molesworth won the first two years and the decade was dominated by Esna Boyd, Sylvia Lance and Daphne Akhurst. The Wilding family donated the trophy in honour of Anthony Wilding. Akhurst won the event three times straight to retire the trophy and sadly died quite tragically under anaesthetic during an operation in 1933, aged 29. From 1934 the Ladies Trophy was named in her honour and is still held aloft by players today.



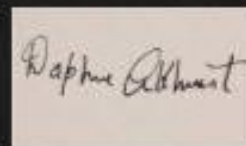
Moll Molesworth  
First Champion 1922 & 1923



Esna Boyd  
Meryl O'Hara Wood  
Louise Bickerton  
& Daphne Akhurst  
International  
team 1928



Coral Buttsworth  
1931 & 1932



Daphne Akhurst  
Champion 1925, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1930  
The 1934 trophy named in her honour.



Joan Hartigan  
1933 & 1934  
with miniature Akhurst  
trophy (left)



Thelma Coyne Long  
1952 & 1954



Nancye Wynne  
Bolton  
1937, 1940, 1946,  
1947, 1948, 1951  
10 Doubles Titles  
with Long



Mary Bevis



Clare Proctor



Dulcie Whitaker



Dorothy Moran



Nell Hopman



Emily Westacott



Beryl Penrose





Nell Hopman with  
Federation Cup Plate



Mary Hawton &  
Thelma Long



Lorraine Coghlan  
Margaret Smith



Kay Denning  
& Mary Hawton



1961 Women's International Team  
Nell Hopman, Jan Lehane, Lesley Tuner,  
Margaret Smith, Robyn Ebbem, Mary Reitano



1963 Women's International Team  
Madonna Schacht, Jan Lehane, Lesley Turner  
Robyn Ebbem Nell Hopman





Lesley Turner and Margaret Smith



Madonna Schacht



Lesley Turner, Jan Lehane



Newcombe with Karen Krantzcke



Margaret Hellyer



Kerry Melville



Margaret Smith Court



Judy Tegart



Evonne and Janet Young



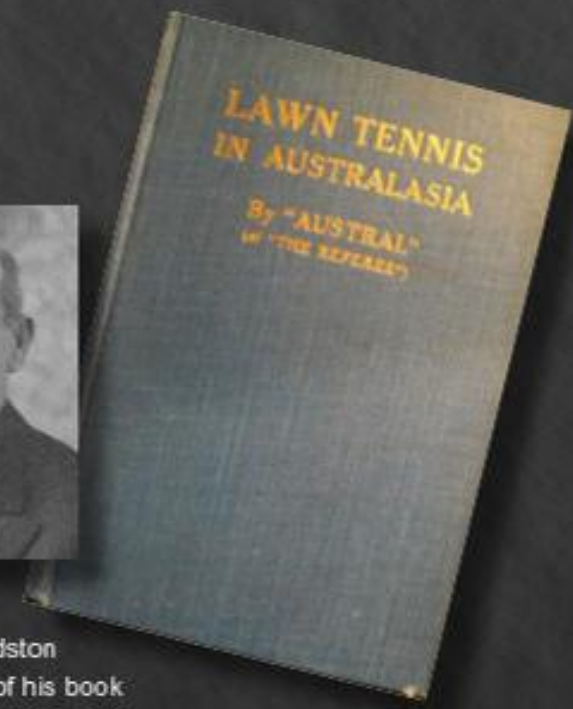
Evonne Goolagong Cawley

# The first Australasian Tennis Book

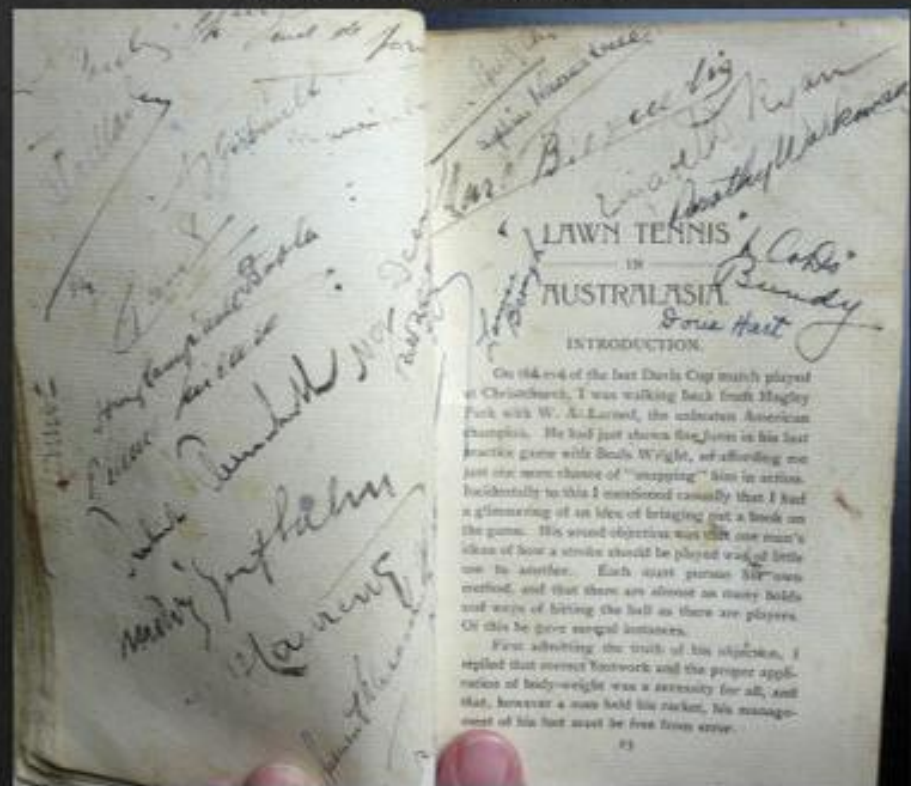
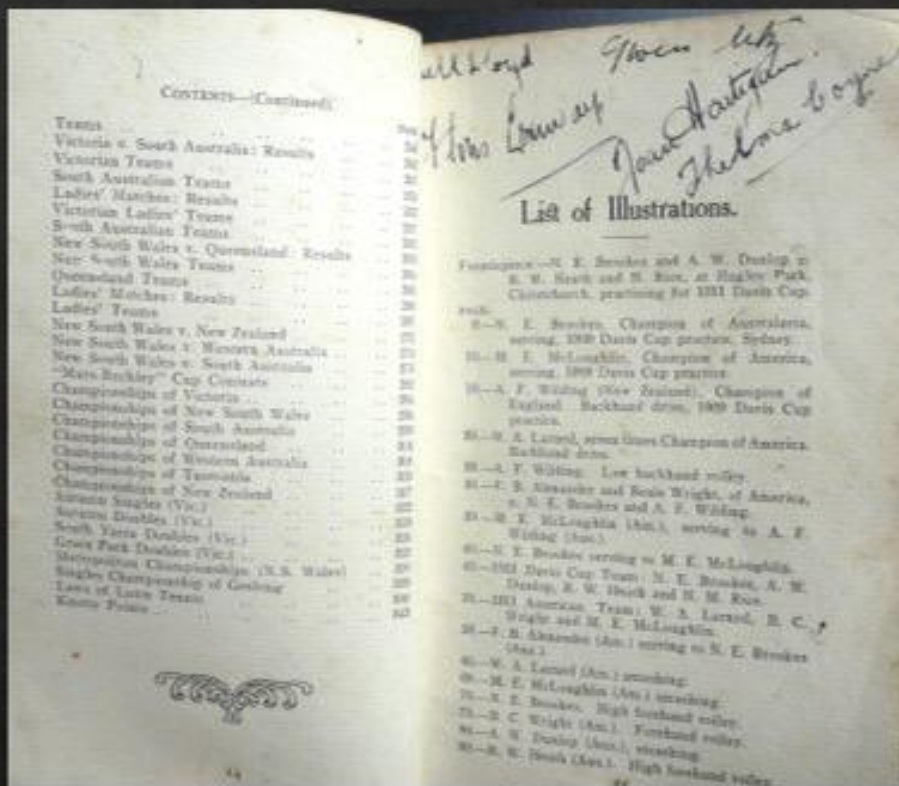
In 1912, Robert Kidston, alias AUSTRAL, wrote the first major book about Lawn Tennis in our region, spurred on by our international successes at major tournaments and in the Davis Cup.

Robert played a high standard of tennis himself having been in numerous Intercolonial NSW teams. He joined the ALTA and became a Davis Cup selector and, although a lawyer by trade, also wrote about tennis in the newspaper called the REFEREE. Combining roles, he often travelled overseas with the players and was a keen photographer.

In 2014, I was lucky enough to acquire his own personal copy signed by some 200+ players and administrators spanning 1900-1950. I sold this to an avid local tennis autograph collector for safe keeping. It truly was a highlight of my collecting career.



Robert Kidston  
Personal copy of his book  
signed by 50 years of champions



Wolfeville, N.Z. McVitt  
 Meryl Waxman  
 Gerald. R. Patterson.  
 E. F. Thomas.

Nell Hopman

M. W. W. N.Z.

W. G. Watson

V. H. Dulwiler

A. J. Linsay

W. H. H. H.

A. Butler

H. A. B. C.

1899 Praddon / R. J. Pope.

Frank Smith.  
 E. S. Butterfield  
 R. J. L. J. Newman

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Frank W. Pope  
 27/11/50.

Thanks for the honor of dedicating  
to me this most interesting and  
novel production on lawn tennis  
in Australasia.

I am very glad

Norman E. Brookes

A.W. Lamb

Robin W. Heath

A. Brown

Ken de Gooze  
Stirling Board  
Pat. O'Hara  
Wood J. G. Anderson

Jack B. Hawkes  
Loren G. Todd

George Peck  
Fred E. Hargreaves  
Bliss Smith  
George Worthington  
K. Schleringer  
Tom Hooper

Bingham  
Jack Crawford  
Jim Millar

Frank Seligson  
Gus Moon  
Don J. Turnbull  
Glen B. ...  
Dennis ...

Theyre & B. Wengall

G. Stanbury  
Sydney ...

W. Gannett

Sayd Aziz  
The ...

Bob Kullif (S.A.)

So chairman  
of ...

Dedication. W.A.A. Campbell

Malcolm

Dedicated, by his kindly permission, to  
Norman E. Brookes, of Victoria, Champion of  
Australasia, and the acknowledged Champion of  
the world since 1907, whose skill has been the chief  
instrument in maintaining Australasia as the holder  
of the Davis Cup, and as such the champion nation  
of the world.

A.W. Webb

W. H. Witzheim

Robert ...

Heiner Henkel

R. W. ...

The book was dedicated to Norman Brookes and here we find a thank-you inscription along with the successful 1907 Davis Cup team and numerous other Australasian/ Australian Champions and Davis Cup players

Alan Bamward. The last word on the  
 most of whom  
 Randolph Lynett.  
 Ernie Bradley Robert  
 Ernie Bradley  
 C. V. Dodd  
 a real good boy  
 C.B. G. Wm.  
 W. W. W.  
 ad. Ottawa Wood  
 J. d. Patterson  
 Stan. R. W.  
 Pat C. Hare Wood  
 The Gough  
 Lindsay  
 as Walker  
 J. G. Schwarz

Maurice E. McLaughlin  
 Thos. Bundy  
 Richard W. Williams  
 Mattie Pate  
 William A. Ramey  
 Frederick B. Alexander  
 Doughty D. Davis  
 Arthur Jensen  
 Holcombe Ward.  
 Bee Talbert.  
 Ellsworth J.  
 Bryan Jines  
 Robert W. Tramm  
 Duke Sault  
 George J. Stiel  
 Richard J. Tucker  
 John G. Gaudin  
 John Gaudin  
 Samuel Hardy  
 William J. J. Jones  
 Watson Washburn  
 Keith G. G.  
 Richard Bonser

On the left page more great Australian champions and on the right most US Davis Cup players from the 1907 era through to the 1950's. With few exceptions, signatures cover 50 years of Wimbledon, US and Australian Championship singles winners.

# Australian Tennis Racquets

Most tennis equipment arriving into Australia followed the footsteps of other established sports such as cricket. The majority came from the UK from firms such as Slazenger, Ayers, Prosser and Bancroft and Spalding in the USA.

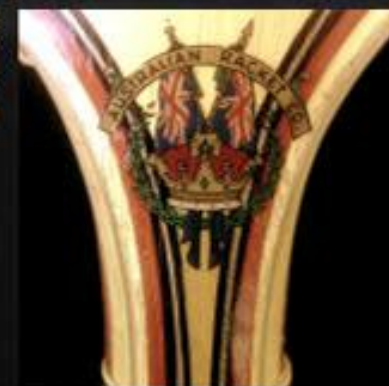
There were some local makers in the 1890's and by 1914 Stevens & Rowe in South Australia were making 1000 racquets a year up to 1924. From 1925 the market supported local manufacture and competition was fierce.

Quickly the plain wooden racquets with gold stamped model names were being replaced by colourful paint designs, hand painted lines, decals, coloured bindings and trebling strings. It was a trend that positioned Australian racquets on the global stage and many enjoyed excellent export business up until WWII.

In the 1930's, Australian innovations saw the emergence of the semi flat top models, a derivation from the 1880's shape, diamond stringing, variable balance adjustment models and slotted handles. Models and decorations changed every season and some makers also produced player endorsed signature and photo decal models.

Old newspaper advertising, colour catalogues and point of sale help pinpoint the identity and age of numerous models.

As a collector, each racquet is a small work of art both in terms of the wood work and artistic design. It is not surprising that many racquets become treasured wall display items.

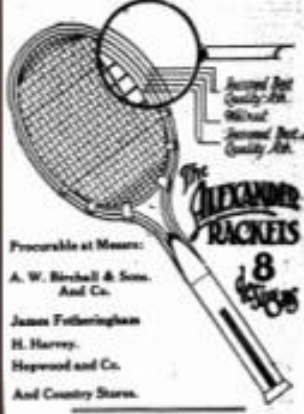




# Australian Racquet Making & Innovations

Alfred Alexander and his brother Douglas were specialists in timber and carpentry. In 1921, they developed a more rapid process to construct racquets by laminating 4 or more thin strips of Ash and Walnut together and cold bending these into shape without steam, which was a World first. From a home workshop, as the Tasmanian Tennis Racquet Company the business evolved into the 1926 publicly listed Alexander Patent Racket Company.

**The Racket Used By Champions**



Secured Pat. Quality Ash  
Secured Pat. Quality Ash

**ALEXANDER RACKETS**  
8  
1925

procurable at Messrs:  
A. W. Birchall & Son,  
Aid Co.  
James Fotheringham  
H. Harvey,  
Haywood and Co.  
Aid Country Stores.

THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS HAVE WON OUR RACKETS IN THE  
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

D. F. WILLIAMS (New Zealand)	W. G. HARRISON (New Zealand)
H. WILSON (New Zealand)	W. G. HARRISON (New Zealand)
P. A. HARRISON (New Zealand)	W. G. HARRISON (New Zealand)
A. J. HARRISON (New Zealand)	W. G. HARRISON (New Zealand)
W. G. HARRISON (New Zealand)	W. G. HARRISON (New Zealand)
A. J. HARRISON (New Zealand)	W. G. HARRISON (New Zealand)
W. G. HARRISON (New Zealand)	W. G. HARRISON (New Zealand)
A. J. HARRISON (New Zealand)	W. G. HARRISON (New Zealand)

**A UNIQUE PERFORMANCE**  
AUSTRALIAN — FRENCH — AND  
**WIMBLEDON (World's)  
SINGLES TENNIS  
CHAMPIONSHIP**



Won with  
**ALEXANDER CRESSY WIZARD  
(FLAT TOP) RACKETS**



Jack Crawford



Alexander continued to innovate and they were responsible for resurrecting the old school, 1890's flat top design from a racquet lent to Jack Crawford by Norman Brookes. Jack went on to win the Australian, French & Wimbledon titles with it in 1933 starting a huge craze where makers started marketing a range of oval and flat top models through to the late 1940's. 'World's Record Breaker' appears on this after the fact edition.





**A Sensational New Racquet**  
**Slazenger's Aero-**  
**dynamic**  
**"STREAMLINE"**  
 (PATENTED)  
**For Super-Speed**  
 THE GREATEST ADVANCE IN RACKET  
 CONSTRUCTION FOR MANY YEARS

This wonderful racket incorporates revolutionary principles. The basic feature is the scientific "streamlining." It is the best word in general use, but extra strength in the frame construction, is extra for this speed.

The "Streamline"  
 Price, 28/-

**A Radical Change**  
**in Racquet Construction**  
**Slazenger's "Dynamic**  
**Floating Power Racquet"**

Something entirely new in Racquet construction... an innovation as different from the usual construction as different from that of 25 years ago. The secret lies in the placing of mercury within the handle, and in the manner with the balance is correctly maintained, you buy another Racquet, be sure to see this new and different "Dynamic Floating Power."

The frame is of this-glass construction, of finest quality, while the handle is streamlined throughout, and features the new Slazenger "V" or "bullet" design. Price ..... **67/6**

The widest range of all other makes of Racquets is also available at the Melbourne Sports Depot, including the following very specially priced Racquets:-

Slazenger's Grey Flash ..... Price 25/-  
 Alexander Master Stroke ..... Price 35/-  
 The "Suzuki" ..... Price 19/4

CALL OR SEND FOR ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE

**Melbourne Sports Depot LTD**

*Aerodynamic Construction*

*Slazenger's (Aust.) Ltd.*

*Streamline* *Made in Australia* 2062  
 FOR SUPER SPEED

Slazenger Australia patented this aerodynamic design in 1935 and also introduced a mercury filled tube model delivering adjustable balance. No example has been found to date

# Balance point adjustment

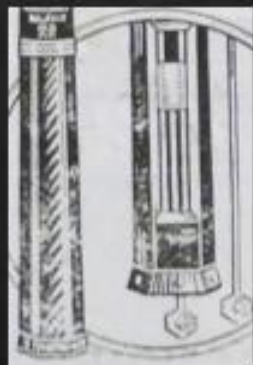


The mid 1930's also saw other forms of balance adjustment. Empire introduced this internal weight system using a key in 1935. Chesterfield introduced a brass weight insertion model in 1937 and the Alexander Air Stream model used a screw driven approach which was resurrected by Puma in the 1980's.

The adjusting unit comprises a tube in which are fitted rubber guarded metal weights (see illustrations). Adjustment is made by withdrawing the tube, and then altering the position of the weights to affect the balance, or by removing or adding one or more to decrease or increase the racket's weight.

Your Dealer will help you make an adjustment to suit you perfectly, and to help you to find in the Chesterfield a racket which plays better and lasts longer.

**The Strongest Rackets in the World**  
 Constructed from super selected material - Improved new shape has fine grain laminated form with fast line system. New super square compressive outside frame at double lock built inside and bottom of frame, as well as outside shoulders and throat reduces the over pressure strain of string.



**Empire Rackets**  
**SWIFTSHOT, 70/-**

Heavy in Head  
 or  
 Light in Head

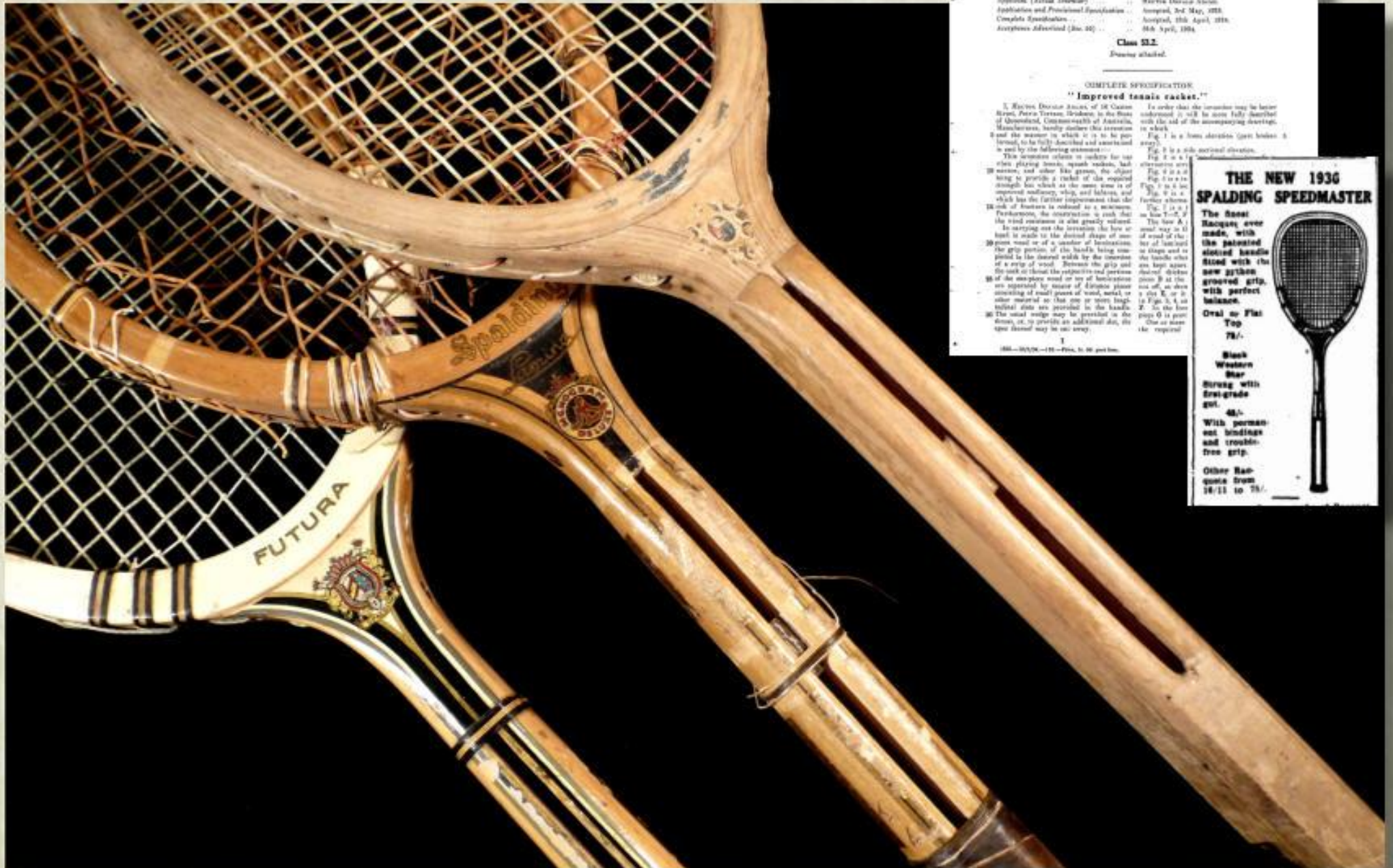
Whichever You Wish  
 By Means of Adjustable Balance  
 FROM ALL SPORTS DEPOTS.



Make Your Choice from one of the following Four New Leaders in the 1937 Tennis Racket Field—  
**"AIR STREAM" (Variable Balance).**  
 This racket features provides the player to obtain the perfect balance to suit his style. For super laminated and frame with compression machine reinforced shoulder, making the exceptionally strong frame. Close handle, beautifully finished in natural colors and line.

Chesterfield version above  
 and Alexander Air Stream version left

# Slotted shafts




 No. 12,215/33.  
 APPLICATED PATENT  
 13th April, 1933.

Applicant (Actual Invention) .. Hectors Duvane Adams  
 Application and Provisional Specification .. Accepted, 2nd May, 1933.  
 Complete Specification .. Accepted, 15th April, 1934.  
 Acceptance Advertised (Sec. 50) .. 26th April, 1934.

**Class 53.2.**  
 Drawing attached.

**COMPLETE SPECIFICATION**  
**"Improved tennis rackets."**

I, Hectors Duvane Adams, of 18 Canton Street, Para Terra, Adelaide, in the State of Queensland, Commonwealth of Australia, Manufacturer, hereby declare this invention and the manner in which it is to be performed, to be fully described and ascertained in and by the following statements:—

This invention relates to rackets for use when playing tennis, squash, badminton, and other like games, the object being to provide a racket of the required strength but which at the same time is of improved outline, weight, and balance, and which has the further improvement that the head of the racket is reduced to a minimum. Furthermore, the construction is such that the wind resistance is greatly reduced. In carrying out the invention the head at least is made in the desired shape of an oval or of a similar form, the grip portion of the handle being completed in the desired width by the insertion of a strip of wood. Between the grip and the neck of the racket the various parts are separated by means of distance pieces consisting of small pieces of wood, metal, or other material so that one or more longitudinal slots are provided in the handle. The usual wedge may be provided in the throat, or, to provide an additional slot, the open throat may be cut away.

I  
 1933—33/33—13—P. 10. 10. per. 10.

**THE NEW 1936**  
**SPALDING SPEEDMASTER**



**The Best Racquet ever made, with the patented slotted handle fitted with the new nylon grooved grip, with perfect balance.**

**Oval or Flat**  
**Top**  
**75/-**

**Black Western Star**  
**Strung with first-grade gut.**  
**45/-**

**With permanent bindings and trouble-free grip.**

**Other Racquets from 14/11 to 75/-**

Spalding Australia adopted this 1933 slotted shaft invention by Queenslander, Hector Adams.

The racquet on the right is likely an early model by South Australian firm E.T. Rowe / Stevens. Spalding took this invention worldwide

# Alexander Patent Racket Company

## ( Launceston, Tasmania)

The Alexander Patent Racket Company is probably the most successful home grown racquet manufacturer beginning in 1926 and operating until 1961.

Alfred Alexander was a pioneer who experimented, invented and patented the first form of dry bent, laminated timber racquet frame in a process which would change wood racquet construction techniques forever. With this opportunity, the Alexander company was formed and became one of the Worlds most prestigious brands. They were also primary innovators in the trend for improved design using colour and decals to create customer appeal.

The first models included the Dover, Murray, Understudy, Hunter, Cressy, Masterpiece, Mersey, Lismore and Red Seal. Naturally, other models followed, but it was the "Cressy" which remained a flag ship brand name from the start to the end.

The boom years came in the 1930's & 40's when Australian Champion, Jack Crawford won Wimbledon in 1933 using a specially made semi flat top Cressy "Wizard". Also many of the Davis Cup players were using Alexander racquets at this time. This started an industry trend which saw production of both semi flat top and oval shape models.





A very rare Alexander photo decal / signature model featuring Australian Champion J.O.Anderson.  
Inset pic is a 1949-1953 Cressy Perfect model

# ALEXANDER

1 NEW MODELS INCORPORATING  
ALEXANDER'S NEW STREAMLINE  
CONSTRUCTION

1935 RANGE

1 MODELS OF EXCEPTIONAL  
VALUE AT VERY MODERATE  
COST



Cruesy Perfect

Jim Willard Super

Cruesy Streamline

Marathon

Topspin

Speedwing

Jim Willard Special

Cruesy Hardcourt

Cruesy Wizard

Cruesy Jr.

Hot Shot

Defender

Dauntless

Hurricane

Fearless

FLAT TOP  
MODELS OF  
PERFECTED  
DESIGN

This is the finest range of tennis rackets ever produced by any manufacturer. Every model represents the greatest value at the price.

The Cruesy Perfect, Cruesy Wizard and Jim Willard Super models incorporate Alexander's most recent improvement in racket design, the recessed oval.

The Recessed Oval gives added strength, greater durability, better balance and improved play—and is exclusive to Alexander.

These three models also embody improved streamlined handles of great strength and beauty. Nothing finer has ever been produced before.

The Cruesy Streamline model represents an entirely new form of racket construction and is a masterpiece of design and finish, yet is strong and will give amazing service.

The various flat top models have special features of construction and so better value than any of these models could be made by any tennis player.

Alexander pioneered flat top racket construction in modern form and their range of flat top rackets can be relied upon. This is proved by their fine record of achievements in international tennis.

Buy only GENUINE Alexander flat top rackets.

A NEW RACKET WILL IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

Also available: Victor Model,

Jim Willard, Jr., Model,

The five oval top rackets illustrated above are made with the same skill and care as the higher priced models. They also embody many features of construction not usually associated with rackets in their price class.

The Marathon model is very attractive in appearance, has a full overlay and specially designed throat, giving great strength and rigidity.

The Speedwing is also very smartly designed with special throat and shoulder reinforcement. It also has a walnut ideal frame.

The Topspin, Victor and Hotshot models are built with the same precision and care as the higher priced models and are wonderful value.

The Cruesy Junior model and the Jim Willard Junior model are specially designed for the use of boys and girls under the age of 11 years. They are slightly shorter in length than the usual racket and are made lighter in weight and with small grips to suit young hands. They will give splendid service and enable children to play a better game. You cannot do better than buy Alexander rackets.

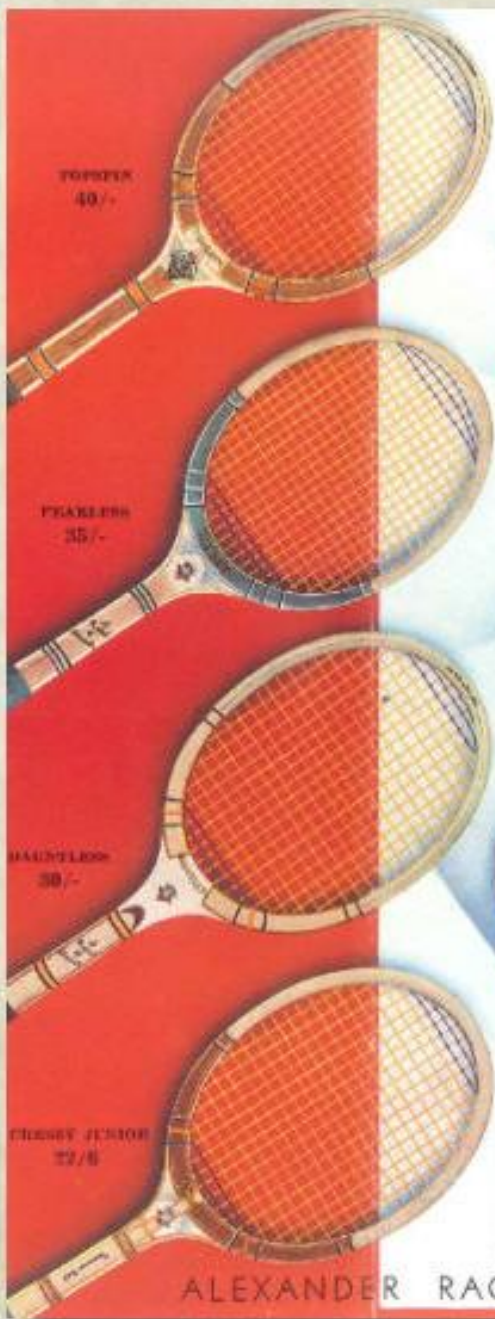
Unsurpassed for SPEED, STRENGTH and DURABILITY

THE BLUE RIBBON  
OF THE TENNIS WORLD

# ALEXANDER



44.11% of players in Australian Davis Cup Teams, in quest of the Davis Cup since 1928, have used Alexander Cressy Rackets.



TOPPER 40/-

PIKLETT 35/-

MAINTENON 30/-

CRESSY JUNIOR 22/6



VICTORY 75/-

CRESSY 2-STAR 65/-

PERFECT 70/-

CRESSY SUPREME 60/-

ALSO AVAILABLE

CUPPER	75/-
CRESSY WIZARD	75/-
CROSS-GRIP	75/-
HOTSHOT	45/-

WHILE THE STOCKS AVAILABLE

CROSS WIZARD	75/-
2-STAR	65/-
SPRINGING	65/-
PIKLETT	35/-

Amended Retail Prices  
of  
Alexander Rackets  
★  
1940-41  
★

Racket	Amended retail price
Cressy Perfect	79/6
Cressy Wizard	79/6
Cuptin	79/6
Victory	79/6
Cressy Supreme	67/6
Jim Willard Super	62/6
Cressy Hardcourt	62/6
Marathon	52/6
Speedwing	47/6
Top Spin	42/6
Fearless	37/6
Downton	32/6
Hotshot	27/6
Cressy Junior	25/-



SPRINGING 65/-

ALEXANDER RACKETS SET THE STANDARD FOR THE WORLD

# Brewer Racket Company

## ( Melbourne )

Born in Bendigo in 1905, Albert Brewer moved to Melbourne in 1920 to commence work as a furniture factory machinist at Rojos Pty.Ltd. in Little Lonsdale Street Melbourne.

With skills developed in moulding timber, he gained twelve months experience in crafting tennis racquets at AG Spalding, then in 1928 bought his own factory in Farm Street, Newport, Victoria.

Bert began making his signature brand, the Brewer 'Style Leader' and like others built a great export business. He imported solid Canadian ash logs rather than pre cut strips or semi made frames and also doubled his warranty to 60 days.

Brewer was not a huge company, yet like others also produced badminton and squash racquets. A more novel product line was a caravan which also stowed a boat. The company was not included as part of the ARMA manufacturing cartel created in the late 1930's and gaining widespread retail distribution was difficult. Eventually, they bought into a retail store Alcock and Pierce, so finding a Brewer model is harder than most. Suffering two factory fires and rebuilds, the company survived until the mid 1970's.







# Chesterfield Racket Company

( Sydney )

The Chesterfield Racquet factory began c. 1923 and was located in Hyde St Alexandria, NSW. A small newspaper article from 1942 noted there was a fire at their Trafalgar St. Annandale factory.

The primary timber was Canadian Ash, imported as wood blocks. The parent company Best & Gee is still operating today and owns numerous business entities and investment properties. Combined with Chesterfield, the business also manufactured timber shaft golf products and owned Festival Records.

The Chesterfield brand may deserve the title as the longest lasting having been made from 1923-1975. They made oval and semi flat top models and employed some interesting marketing techniques. J.O. Anderson endorsed products from 1933 after a long association with Alexander's.

Like many Australian racquet makers, the export market was important for volume sales and an American Tobacco Company, Liggett & Myers, who owned Chesterfield cigarettes became the USA distributor post war. Consequently, you will find racquets available in the USA and ads appearing in tennis magazines with tag lines such as " On the court it's flash...in a cigarette it's taste".



You can't score bulls' eyes with a Masher —

It's your Racquet at fault not You —

Price 75/- Strung with best Gut

**CHESTERFIELD'S SuperStroke TENNIS RACQUET**

Best & Gee Ltd  
 Chadwell Bros  
 R. L. Duncan  
 Cornell Ltd

100 YORK ST., SYDNEY  
 99 EDWARD ST., BRISBANE  
 136 FLINDERS ST., MELBOURNE  
 122 PRINCE ST., ADELAIDE

There's a **Chesterfield** FOR EVERY CUSTOMER...

Each one a winner in its class — for value, performance and sales appeal. Pick Chesterfield... it pays!

**PLAYBAT** THE UNIVERSAL PLAY!  
**TRUFLEX**  
**AUTOCORAN**  
**HIGH POWER**

PLUSH The Chesterfield Stroke Squash Racket

**Chesterfield**

The Quality Racquet to recommend and sell for profit and prestige.  
 Products of  
**BEST & GEE PTY. LTD.**  
 100 YORK STREET, SYDNEY



# Dunlop Racket Company

## ( Sydney )

The new Dunlop Sports Company was established in Sydney in 1937 with a capital value of 100,000 pounds. Davis Cup star Adrian Quist, aged just 24, was appointed a Director, and transferred from South Australia to Sydney to take up the position. Fellow directors included Wallace Bartlett, Henry MacKirdy and Albert Alfred MacPherson (of Baker MacPherson) who presumably sold Empire into the new Dunlop venture in a share swap arrangement.

As Australia's Number one men's player during this period he was a logical choice. Also in 1937 Dunlop Sports Co. signed on Nancye Wynne onto the staff although no mention of her role was identified. Quist was also credited with the design and launch of the Dunlop Volley shoe range.

The Dunlop Maxply wood racquets were made locally during the 1930's and up to the late 1960's although the company rarely added "Made in Australia" to their products. Dunlop was part of the ARMA. In 1946 the plastic shoulder overlay called DURAPLAS was invented by two Australians, F.G. Stevens and A.A. Macpherson and this development with the statement "ten times stronger than wood" came to be a leading differential with other racquets of the era. Dunlop acquired Slazenger Australia in 1958/59.

Key players endorsing Dunlop were Frank Sedgman, Gussie Moran and later Lew Hoad, Rod Laver and Evonne Goolagong.





**"PLASTIC NOW USED IN TENNIS RACKET"**

Plastic is being used in the manufacture of tennis rackets, according to a report of the American Tennis Association. The new material is said to be a synthetic plastic which is lighter and stronger than wood. It is also said to be more resistant to moisture and to last longer. The new rackets are being made by the Maxply Company, of Chicago, Ill. The new rackets are being marketed under the name of "Maxply" and are being sold at a price of \$10.00. The new rackets are being used by many of the top players in the world. The new rackets are being used by the following players: Billie Jean King, Margaret Smith, and Arthur Ashe. The new rackets are being used by the following players: Billie Jean King, Margaret Smith, and Arthur Ashe.







From 1932 this was the traditional looking Dunlop Maxply which survived in this format for 50 years. It was used by Adrian Quist in the 1939 win against the USA hence the decal added to the 1940's models.



The 'Australian' designed Maxply models were sold alongside the traditional model for 40 years



In the late 1950's & 1960's Lew Hoad featured on numerous models



The last models made in Australia c1983. Aluminium/ nylon throat







In Australia, the development of more colourful, elaborate designs and consumer preference caused Dunlop to market both the UK style traditional design and the 'Australian Model' Maxply from the 1940's to the late 1970's when the model became 'Austral'. These were far more decorative and changed annually, hence the MAXPLY brand here includes quite a few incarnations.

# Empire Racquet Company

## ( Sydney )

We know very little about Empire pre 1925. From a press clipping we learn that in 1925 Baker MacPherson acquired Empire Racquets and based on the factory signage they maintained the Empire branding. Early models found feature scored wood grips typical of the 1920's.

The newspapers record a fire (not uncommon) occurring in December 1926 at the premises of Baker Macpherson in Camperdown causing damage to frames of some 3000 pounds. In 1932, they experienced another fire which destroyed stocks and two of the three floors. Fires in these factories were notoriously fierce due to the oils, resins and lacquers used in production.

Around the mid 30's the company developed some new racquet technology permitting adjustable balance by using a mechanical key winding device in the handle. These racquets are very scarce and highly collectable.

In addition to Empire branded products, retail ads appearing in 1934- 1939 are offering Baker Macpherson racquets of varying models, but it is not clear if they were promoting the manufacturer or the Empire brand. The business was acquired by Dunlop in 1937 to give them local manufacturing expertise. The Empire Swift Shot model with the green background also features the Dura-Plas innovation created by Dunlop. The FREE ad involved 1000 Empire racquets being sold for the price of stringing only...what a deal.





# FREE Tennis Rackets

Respecting those readers who are looking for the best quality of tennis rackets, the Department of Sports, Harris, Scarfe, Ltd., is pleased to announce that it is giving away a large number of tennis rackets. The only condition is that you place in the envelope a small covering piece of paper on which you will afford to write "FREE".

**FREE**  
 "The Standard" Tennis Racket, Standard size, 11 1/2 inches long by 10 1/2 inches wide, with 18 strings, 18 gauge, 18/20.

**FREE**  
 "The Standard" Tennis Racket, Standard size, 11 1/2 inches long by 10 1/2 inches wide, with 18 strings, 18 gauge, 18/20.

**FREE**  
 "The Standard" Tennis Racket, Standard size, 11 1/2 inches long by 10 1/2 inches wide, with 18 strings, 18 gauge, 18/20.

**Our Guarantee**  
 To obtain the highest grade of the quality of these rackets, we have purchased them to be made with selected materials, the quality is tested. Further, all these rackets are guaranteed by the Harris Scarfe Co. for a period of 12 months.

**Our Sports Dept. has Moved**  
 To suit the convenience of our customers, our Sports Department has been moved from the premises in the Strand to the new premises at 11, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4. This move will be completed by the end of the month of June. The new premises are in a most convenient position for the purchase of tennis rackets in all districts.

**HARRIS, SCARFE, LTD.**  
 The Arcade—Rundle Street, Adelaide

# Hedleys Racket Co.

(Melbourne)

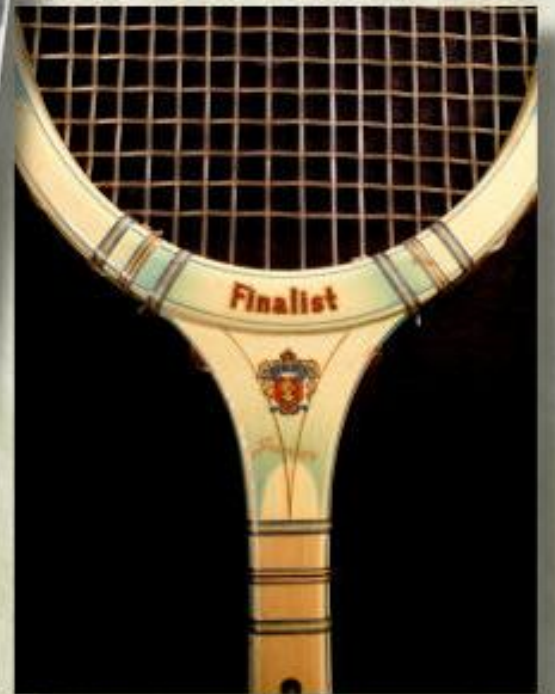
In September 1924, Robert Hedley announced the inclusion of tennis racquet manufacture into their business and later that year launched at the Melbourne Consumer Goods Exhibition. They claimed to be the first racquets made in Australia, which was not the case. The new MD in 1926 was Percy Tasker, with brother George in charge of racquet manufacture. Production facilities with 10 staff were located at 245 Punt Rd. Richmond. Larger factories followed at Alfred Street, Prahran and then 291 Toorak Rd. South Yarra which produced racquets and other vinyl/canvas sporting products.

Only two Hedley player endorsed examples have been found, one from the late 1920's with Pat O'Hara Wood and the other in the early 1950's with Dinny Pails picture/signature model. Both Pat and Dinny, played Davis Cup for Australia.

In the 1930's they also produced the Krak-Shot range (as Hedley-Nelthorpe). In 1946, Hedley and Swift Tennis Ball Company announced the formation of Commercial Importers and Exporters Pty Ltd. The plan was to market sporting goods, amongst other general items to the USA, India, China and the Middle East.

In 1951 Associated Leathers acquired the shares in Hedley which seems to have operated for another 7-8 years. Robert Hedley became a long-term manager for Dunlop Sports from the 1930's to 50's. Tasker Rackets began in the late 1950's.





# Oliver Racket Company

## (Adelaide)

Jack Oliver grew up in Port Pirie where his father was a carpenter. He left school at the end of grade 6 and working with his father learnt wood working. In addition, he was a competent sportsman and also excelled as a painter winning many art prizes for his oil and water colour paintings.

Jack opened a sports store on Henley Beach Road at Mile End. In the 1930's he began "playing around" making his own rackets in his father's carpentry shed. The holes for the strings were drilled with a belly brace and bit, the rackets shaped with spoke shave and rasps and sprayed with the use of a Breager hand pump. At this stage his only outlet for these rackets was his own sports store.

In 1934 Jack bought at auction metal formers (racket head shape) and bands (to hold the laminations together) and by the late 1930's Jack had established sales outlets for his tennis rackets in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth, and had commenced exporting. The "Bluebird" became the flagship model and was named in honour of the 1930's land speed record holder, Malcolm Campbell's famous car. In the mid 1970's the factory was producing 50,000 + racquets a year, which by 1984 had fallen to fewer than 5,000.

Highlights for Oliver included Frank Sedgman winning Wimbledon in 1952 playing with a Bluebird. In the 1960's Frank returned to Oliver joining with 1957 U.S. Champion Mal Anderson and both have signature models.





Frank Sedgman

# Slazenger's Racket Company

## ( Sydney )

Slazenger UK began promoting sporting goods in the mid 1880's adding a range of tennis, cricket and football equipment to their already successful military clothing business. The owner of Slazenger's, Captain Ralph Slazenger visited Australia in 1889 presumably to help establish distribution channels for their extensive range. He appointed PAIN & TAYLOR in Sydney as their sole agents.



In the 1920's tennis in Australia was booming and Slazenger opened their Australian factory to make racquets in November 1928 in Surrey Hills. In 1930 they added cricket bat production and struck tragedy in May 1932 when a fire started in the ducoing room destroying thousands of racquets. The key owners were the McMaster Brothers followed by 1935 Managing Director David Blacklock and partner E.S.Wolverton. Eventually Slazenger UK reacquired the entire business and also set up operations in New Zealand. It was acquired by Dunlop in 1958.



In the 1930's an Australian inventor, Harry Webeck came up with the idea of inserting a mercury filled tube into a racquet handle so at the time of ball impact the swing weight of the racquet was enhanced. The product range was sub branded "Floating Power" and the key brands with this feature included the DYNAMIC and the GYROFLOW.



Around the World, Slazenger Australia produced high quality product using Canadian ash and were endorsed by Fred Perry, John Newcombe, Ken Rosewall and Margaret Smith Court.





KEN ROSEWALL

MARGARET COURT





Fred Perry and the local Slazenger factory created the 'All White' for a finals match against Jack Crawford in 1934



Flat top design (top) and a 'spear' finish helped differentiate models



The 'Challenge' model survived 40 years and other examples featured different throat treatments

# The CHALLENGE....

*The Racket that clinched  
Australia's Davis Cup Victory!*

Four piece frame of highest quality sinamay, one second - growth Ash. Laminated with Walnut inlays.

Walnut veneer specially strengthened at stringing points with rawhide.

The "Challenge", as well as our other models, is finished with Macgregor's exclusive waterproof varnish lacquer finish.

Whether you select a "Challenge" or prefer one of the other rackets we manufacture, you can be assured that you are receiving outstanding value. The whole resources of the Slazenger world-wide organization stand behind these products to see that you receive lasting satisfaction.

Frame is bound with strong, attractive bindings, permanently fixed, will not slip.

The small compact head of this racket lends itself to high tension stringing and only the finest gut obtainable is used. We recommend Slazenger's SPEEDRITE, the gut used by Champions.

Special double overlay, using Ash and Blackwood, gives the "Challenge" great strength and rigidity, so essential to championship performance.

Specially strengthened four side shoulder reinforcements of cowhide.

Interlocked wedges, cone protected in assembly to protect all glue joints and stress points.

Top of the grip — specially protected with Fibrolite — this obviates trouble in use.

Finished with selected impregnated calf skin grip, will not slip.

Recessed comfort grip end.



TO VICTORY  
IN  
THE DAVIS CUP



*with*

SLAZENGER'S  
RACKETS



# SLAZENGER'S

## NEW RACKETS



### CHALLENGE

The racket that helped to win the Davis Cup. Features the specially strengthened shoulder reinforcements; interlocked Wedge Case protected under cover; deep pistol handle with buttressed grip; semi-oval head; perfect balance. **75/-**



### CAVALIER

This well balanced frame is in small size reinforced at stringing stress points. For many years its patented "Cradled in Case" construction has been favored both in Australia and overseas. **75/-**



### PERRY INTERNATIONAL

This brilliant White Racket, with its small, compact head, imported Ash frame reinforced with rawhide at shoulder, throat and stress points; impregnated cell-like grip with non-slip surface, is truly the "Choice of Champions" **75/-**



*Fred Perry*  
Official Coach to the victorious 1939 Australian Davis Cup team and World Champion 1928-3-4

*Sage*  
"Your racket range is magnificent, each model is outstanding. I can congratulate you!"



### ECLIPSE

Here is remarkable value . . . note these outstanding features! Small, compact head in selected Ash, inlaid with a Walnut veneer; stress points strengthened with rawhide; full cavity and grip-grip. **45/-**



### RENSHAW

This design, whilst rugged and strong, is delightful to play with and features a specially constructed wedge, with case protecting all joints; Ash shoulder reinforcements; rawhide with case on wedge. **50/-**



### LA BELLE

A laminated Ash frame with Maple shoulder reinforcements. Essentially balanced, strongly constructed, and most attractively finished, this brilliant model is Australia's Most Outstanding Value. **25/-**

### OTHER RACKETS NOT ILLUSTRATED



**DOHERTY.** This frame is worthy of one of the most famous names in Tennis. Special shockproof frame with case cavity reinforced with Maple veneer on bridge and full case handle make it outstanding value. **65/-**



**COCHET.** Redesigned by the famous French professional to 1940 standards. Small, compact head; full cavity and streamlined case handle make it a racket of the future! **65/-**



**DENNIS.** Attractively designed with full Ash cavity inlaid with Blackwood, rawhide shoulder; case handle and impregnated grip. . . here is the racket which helped to make our name. **60/-**



**FLAYER.** Entirely new model with laminated frame; Walnut inlay; rawhide reinforcements at stress points; Canadian Birds Eye Maple shoulder protection; matched handle with grip-grip. **40/-**

### RETAIL PRICE AMENDMENT

Owing to increases in the cost of materials, etc., since this leaflet was printed, it has been found necessary to increase prices as follows—

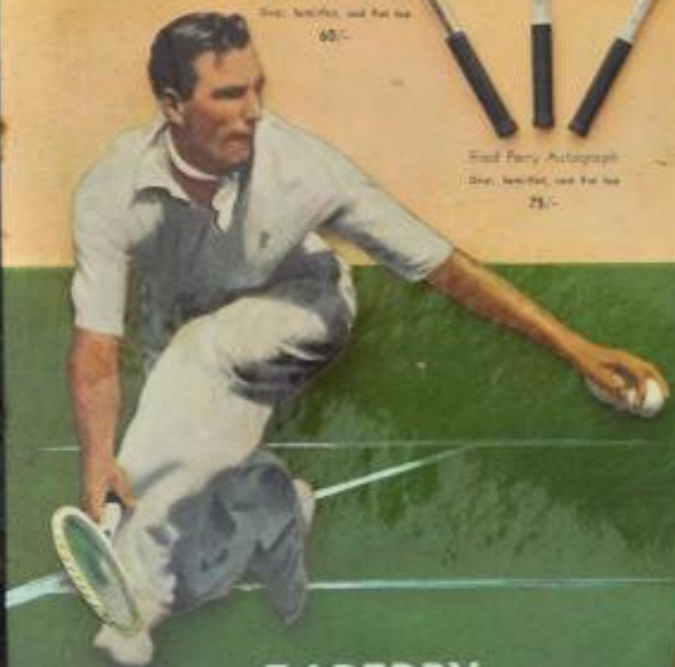
Challenge . . . . .	75/6	Eclipse . . . . .	45/6
Perry International	75/6	Flayer . . . . .	40/6
Cavalier . . . . .	75/6	Garrick . . . . .	27/6
Doherty . . . . .	65/6	Speedline . . . . .	22/6
Cochet Personal . . . . .	65/6	La Belle . . . . .	25/6
Dennis . . . . .	60/6	Challenge Junior	25/6
Renshaw . . . . .	50/6	Perry Junior . . . . .	25/6

These prices are to operate from the 1st July, 1940

'INSPIRATION TO BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE!'

1940 Slazenger brochure after the successful 1939 win of the Davis Cup. John Bromwich used the Slazenger Challenge and so the victory model was created

# The CHOICE of the CHAMPION!



**F.J.PERRY.  
WORLD CHAMPION  
1934.5.6.**



**Fred Perry Precision**  
Oval, Synthetic, and Red Top  
65/-

**Fred Perry Junior**  
Oval only  
25/-

**Fred Perry Autograph**  
Oval, Synthetic, and Red Top  
75/-



**Sanitop**  
Oval, Synthetic, and Red Top  
50/-

**Eclipse**  
Oval, Synthetic, and Red Top  
40/-

**Player**  
Oval, Synthetic, and Red Top  
32/6

**Garrick**  
Oval, Synthetic, and Red Top  
27/6

**La Belle**  
Oval only  
22/6

**Design**  
Oval only  
60/-

**Delux**  
Oval only  
67/6

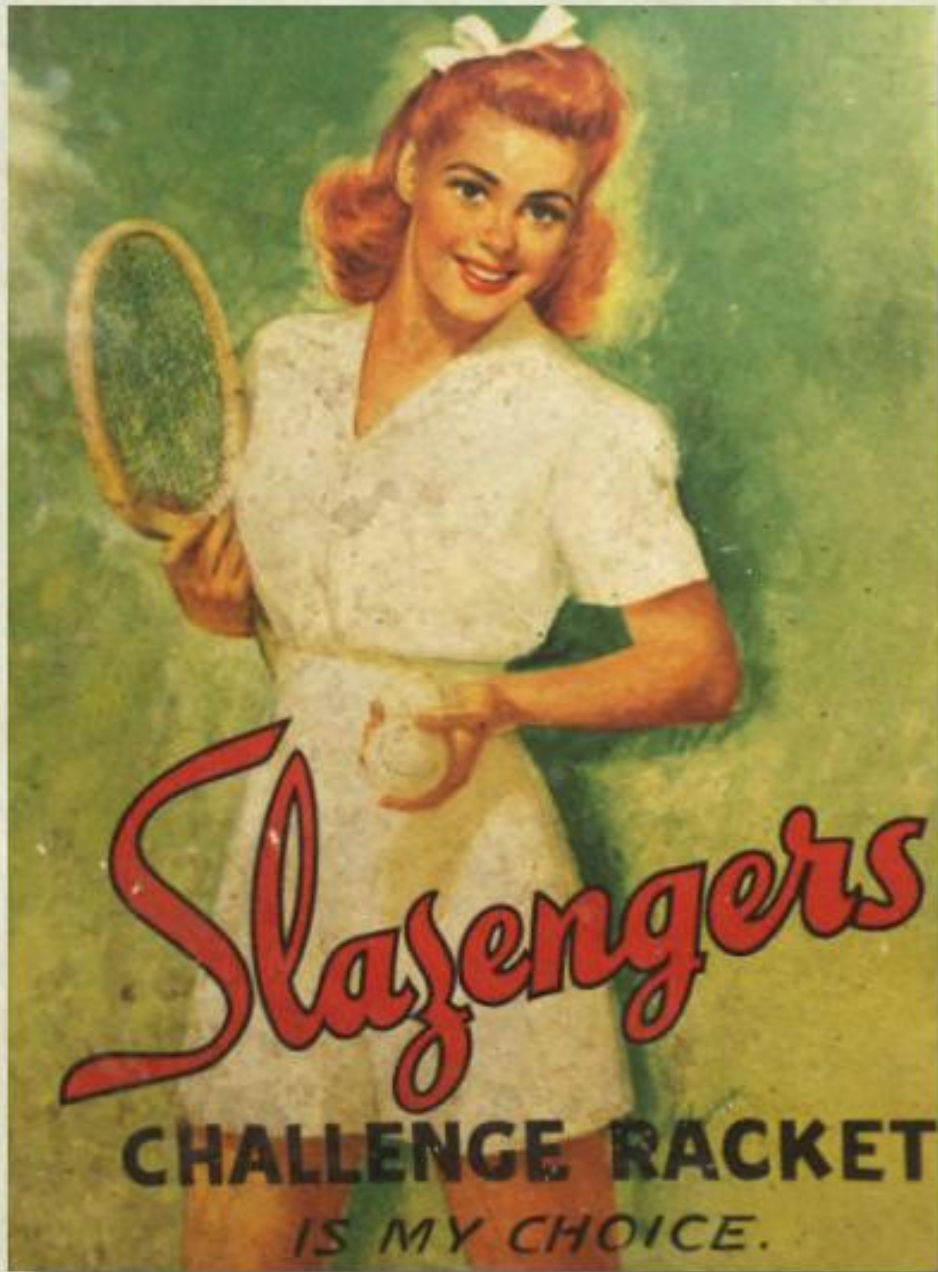
**Cavalier**  
Oval, Synthetic, and Red Top  
75/-

**Hand Crafted Personal Model**  
Oval, Synthetic, and Red Top  
67/6

**Streamline**  
Oval only  
75/-

**1937  
TENNIS  
RACKETS  
by  
Slazengers**

1937 era Slazenger counter top point of sale.



**Slazengers**  
**CHALLENGE RACKET**  
*IS MY CHOICE.*





The Slazenger 'Challenge' from the 1950's to the mid 1970's featured in many major tournament wins





In the 1950's Ken McGregor had a Challenge signature edition and Ken Rosewall won many tournaments over his 20 year career. In the 1960's Slazenger added John Newcombe and Margaret Court (Smith) and their 'as used by' names often appear on frames together

# Spalding Racket Company

## ( Melbourne )

USA Company A.G. Spalding was founded in 1876 by Albert Goodwill Spalding a successful baseball player. In 1925, Spalding made the decision to open their fifth global plant in Australia, adding to those which already existed in the USA, Canada, UK and France. Melbourne was their preferred city and the suburb in which the new plant was constructed was Sunshine.

The plant was purpose built to make tennis racquets, tennis balls and golf balls. The tennis balls were the new two piece plug less and stitch less type which Spalding had invented. One of the first employees and Victorian Sales Manager was Gerald Patterson a Wimbledon winner in 1919 & 1922 and Davis Cup player.

Raw tennis racquets were imported from the USA and then refined and shaped at the factory. They did however use Queensland maple and cedar woods for the handles. Projections in the first year were to produce 40,000 racquets.

Key 1926 brands were the top of the range Kro-Bat, Gold Medal OS, Gold Medal HIC, Vantage, Greenwood, Crescent and the locally named Sunshine model. By 1927, the famous Top Flite split throat made an appearance. The company also introduced slotted and groove shaft models in the late 1930's. Many famous local players endorsed Spalding. Don Budge who won the first Grand Slam in 1938 and Australian champion, Nancye Bolton both featured on photo decal models. Later, Pancho Gonzales was their most prolific endorsee. They acquired Alexanders in 1959 and even produced a Spalding Cressy model.





Pat O'Hara Wood was a top Australian player in the 1920's. Don Budge, from the USA, was the first player to win the Grand Slam in 1938 and was featured on models for the next 12 years. Frank Sedgman won his first Australian title with this Budge 'Top Flite' model in 1949.



**SPALDING**

PERFECTLY BALANCED \* BEAUTIFULLY FINISHED

The Perfect Partner  
**SPALDING**  
FOR TENNIS



**1940 RACKETS & TENNIS BALLS**



HEADING THE  
RACKET LINE FOR  
1940

Don Budge and Ellsworth Vines are the best two tennis players in the world to-day. Both play a fast, brilliant, all-court type of game that demands a racket of exceptional durability and outstanding playing qualities.

Both these champions used Spalding Australian Made Rackets during their respective Australian Tennis and both have selected outstanding Spalding 1940 models to bear their Autographs.

Before purchasing your new racket, ask to see these popular priced models. You'll find them a delight to handle and a pleasure to play with.

Young players are specially catered for by the Budge Masterbilt Junior.





Pancho Gonzales



Nancy Wynne Bolton



Owen Davidson

*Spalding*  
*Top-Flite*  
**RACKET**

and Some Famous Stars  
who use it

In 1917—the first year the Top-Flite was available to everyone—this remarkable racket flashed and volleyed and smashed its way to 34 important championships. It scored victory after victory, here, in England, in America and on the Continent—39 major triumphs in its first full season of tournament play!

*The Fastest Racket ever Made*

*A.G. Spalding & Bros.*  
(AUSTRALASIA) PTY. LTD.  
FACTORY • SUNSHINE, • VICTORIA

**AT ALL SPORTS STORES**

*Schlesinger* *Tilden* *Hunter* *Willard* *Hawkes* *M<sup>rs</sup> Abhurst* *Crawford* *Patterson* *Boussus* *Brougton*

# Spider Web Racquet Co.

(Melbourne)

Spider Web's owner William Respini was a cabinet maker by trade and the factory was located at 133 Wells Place, South Melbourne, or as it was then known, City South.. They originally produced archery and hockey equipment and moved into tennis racquet manufacture as the sport boomed in the 1930's and 1940's.

His son John advises, that he recalls William had to buy some racquets being made at the time and steam them apart to learn how they had been constructed so he could copy them.

The feature racquet, opposite is very rare and is the only one found within our collecting group. It was imported as a raw frame from Continental Europe in 1935-1937 and is made from English Ash. Spider Web decorated, strung and gripped the model in order to meet local production content rules. As an open throat it was somewhat scoffed at back then yet it really was very advanced given the design directions this way in the 1980's.



## DAVIS CUP PLAYER

**Proves Superiority  
of Latest Racket!**

*"...Fresh Lease of Life, Faster  
follow-through."*

*Say Tennis Critics.*

**Austin Too Good**

Austin achieved one of the finest performances of his career by defeating Crawford, thus maintaining his record of having won all of his first Davis Cup singles since Britain became holders of the Cup. The Englishman, who has not lost a singles since the Challenge Round was played at Wimbledon, was not because Crawford was not playing well, but because he was the better man now on the day.

It seems that he has found a fresh lease of life with his new racket, the playing surface of which is equipped by struts from the handle. The construction looks clumsy, but Austin contends that its lightened head enables a faster follow-through. In any case, it seems to have given Austin increased confidence, accompanied by a psychological advantage.

**ASK YOUR SPORTS DEALER TO  
SHOW YOU THIS RACKET.**

**For Greater Speed — Resiliency  
and Longer Life.**

**SPIDER WEB SPORTS PRODUCTS**

Wells Place, South Melbourne, S.C.4, Vic.

**The  
Speed  
Bat**

A high grade laminated Racket of Continental origin, designed for Professional players. The materials used are of the finest English Ash, the U-Strut and overlays being of the best Chrome. Lightly finished in Service Dune Lacquer and fitted with horse-hair grip. The advantages claimed are the elimination of throat weakness and perfect distribution of control.

Price—75/-

H.W. (Bunny) Austin is quoted in these ads,

however, he was using the Hazell Streamline

tri-shaft model designed along similar principles.



# Other Australian Companies

Whilst collecting, many other company names appear on racquets and often it is difficult to tell if they were actually made here, were a secondary brand from a larger maker or were retailer brands also made under special agreements. 1930's newspaper articles suggested that there were 26 or more Australian makers.

We do know some of them:

Addison Brothers VIC

Argus Rackets

Australian Commonwealth Rackets

Australian Racket Company ARCO S.A.

Campbells QLD

East Brothers

L.W. Dodge NSW 1920

Hartleys (retail)

Heffernan QLD

J.O. Anderson (personal make)

Krak Shot Racquet Company (Hedley)

Moon VIC

Moore A.H NSW 1890's-1900's

Olympic Racket Company

Sports Master

Stirling (likely Hedley's)

J.T Stevens & Rowe SA (1914)

Tasker's (post Hedley)

The Wimbledon Racket Co.

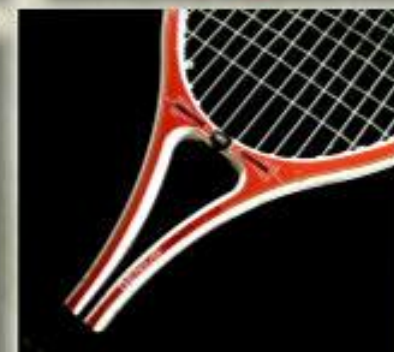
Waddell's NSW

Walbow NSW





In later years post wood, we saw the emergence of local stainless steel maker Arco SA, aluminium makers Master Qld and Gold Star, then major importing brands such as Emrik, Sfida, Stellar, Techmann and Fin. These companies were very successful in bringing quality Asian made racquets into the market basically forcing the big makers like Slazenger's and Spalding to also shift production off shore. The 1970's also saw a major change in racquet materials as wood gave way to metal, then wood composites, fibreglass, fibreglass carbon ceramic composites and finally 100% graphite. The market was flooded with racquets of all materials, shapes and prices. Master Racquets was the last local producer and they closed in the mid 1980's.



# Fan Favourite Racquets

Player racquets are naturally very popular as collectibles. Here are a few from the 1960's to 1980's era and some of the great champions who used them. My selection also includes models important to Australian history. This was an interesting 20 years which saw the transition from wood to graphite and oversize models.



Dunlop Maxply was used by a huge number of players over the decades. Rod Laver was the most prominent Dunlop player in the 1960's



Jimmy Connors used this Wilson T2000 for nearly 15+ years



Slazenger Challenge models won many tournaments in the hands of John Newcombe, Ken Rosewall and Margaret Court



Arthur Ashe won Wimbledon with the Head Competition 2



Donnay Allwood was a multiple Wimbledon winner thanks to Bjorn Borg



The last Australian made aluminium Dunlop Volley model endorsed by Evonne Goolagong & Tony Roche



Guillermo Vilas and the Head Vilas model





Mats Wilander and the Rossignol F200 Carbon



Pat Cash won Wimbledon with a Prince Magnesium



Johan Kriek won two Oz Opens with Rossignol.



Ivan Lendl with the Adidas GTX Pro-T model



John McEnroe and the famous Dunlop 200G



Pete Sampras and Stefan Edberg with the Wilson Pro Staff



The Prince oversized models from 1979. Paul McNamee and Peter McNamara used these



Steffi Graf won a Golden GS using the Dunlop 200G



Boris Becker popularised the Puma PCS model by winning Wimbledon



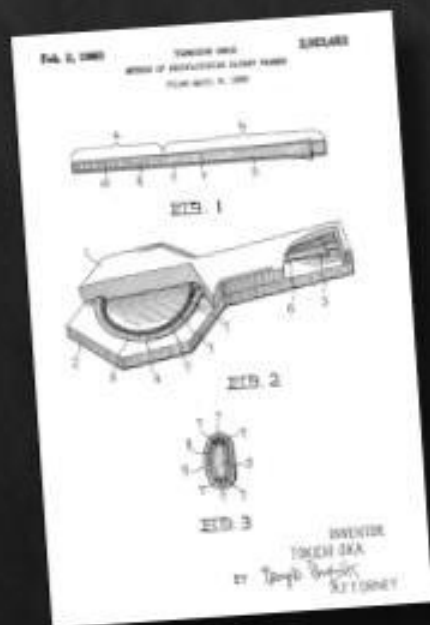
# The Exciting Transitional Era

While acknowledging metal racquets existed from the 1880's and then re-appeared again in the 1920's with metal frame /wood grip editions and even an all-aluminium model, the wood models dominated until the end of the 1970's.

The initial trend to metal was largely driven by champion players, such as Jimmy Connors, using these racquets to win major tournaments. However, via the automotive, skiing and space programme came experimentation with fibreglass and the all new, stronger than steel, expensive product called graphite.

The established makers were joined en masse by many ski companies and other start-ups looking to grab market share.

This section looks at the breakthrough models, while following pages trace back to a variety of unusual and odd designs that have motivated many racquet collectors.



This patented wood / fibreglass racquet dates back to 1956 by Japanese inventor, Tokichi Oka who used a punched wood core wrapped in fibreglass and heat cured. The USA patent was awarded in 1960 and the Air Speed was marketed then by multi sports US supplier Sportcraft. As you can see, 'made in Japan' and 'do not use a press'





1968 Wilson T2000 steel



1969 Centurian magnesium



1973 Volkl 100% fibreglass



1974 PDP 100% fibreglass



1975 Pro Group 100% graphite



1975 Dura Fiber metal, fibreglass & carbon



1976 Cannon 100% graphite



1977 Fanssteel 100% graphite



1977 Head XRC 100% graphite

# Unusual Racquets

Since the beginning of the game in 1874, manufacturers have attempted to create business through innovative design whether that be shape, materials, stringing style, adjustable tension, adjustable weight and adjustable length. The biggest racquets were marketed in the late 1990's. They were 32 inches long with 137 square inch heads. These were banned when the ITF introduced new rulings permitting a maximum length of 29 inches.

As a collector, I have therefore tried to limit myself to the more unusual designs, although I do enjoy owning a representative sample of racquets from the 1880's through to modern.

Naturally, Australian racquets are of keen interest as well and I particularly wish to find more of the 1930's weight adjusting designs over time.

I do hope you enjoy seeing these great models which are usually a highlight on display, as many enthusiasts have never seen them before. Not all of these are in my collection.



USA Kleinmann Craven adj. tension 1928



USA Craven adj. tension 1928



UK Hazell / Grays Streamline 1935-40



UK Lillywhite & Frowd Twinshaft 1939



Germany H. Hammer Rollmatic 1939



Kateb, France 1935, found in 2023 for the first time



USA Spalding Open Throat 1927



USA Godfrey patented stringing, celluloid finish 1929



France Darsonval range 1930's



Aust. Slazenger 1937



USA Narragansett 1940's



USA Split Throat



UK Reinforced throat 1890's



Aust. Spalding Top Flite 1931



USA Wright & Ditson Alum. wood 1933



France Gerard Sianne 1970



France prototype Allo solid cast 1946



USA Dayton 1923 -1940's design



USA Dayton 1950's -1980's design



UK Birmal Aluminium Cord Grip 1924





Japan Yonex 1975



USA Aequalis roller system 1981



UK Grays Streamline 1975



USA Spalding Orbitech 1992



Germany /USA MacGregor 1985



USA Rival 1993



Asia Uniflex 2006



USA Chris 5 Star 1988



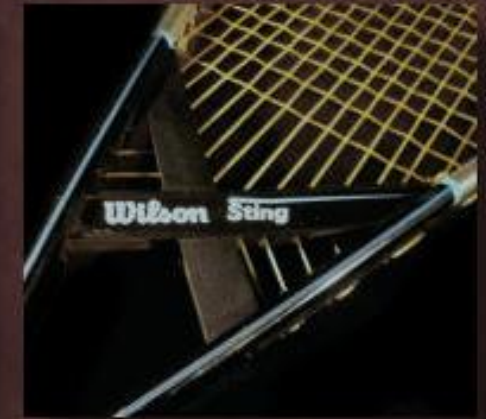
Sweden 2 in 1 removable frame 1969



Asia Danlo 3 way strings 1971



UK John Mott handmade alum. 1982



USA Wilson Sting alum. 1971



UK Dunlop Elite 1969



UK Slaz. Dunlop USA MacGregor



Euro. Santor S Pro 1972



Japan Yamaha Image 77L 1981



USA Pro Am Mag./ Alum cast 1969



UK Samuel Fox wood / stainless steel  
1946



Pro Kennex Micro & Snauwaert  
Hi Ten (1986-1990)



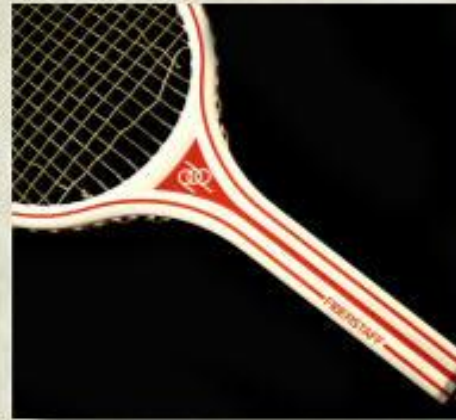
Head Legend & Classic extra long 1981



Blackburn Double Strung 1990



USA Tremont MAG-1 1977



USA PDP Fibreglass 1977



Germany Volkl Fibreglass 1973



Germany Fischer spaghetti stringing 1978



Asia Sp.in 1987



France Inesis Drast 55 2005



USA Wilson Jack Kramer Tribute 2010



UK Winsport 1992



Switzerland Mirac/ Myrac 1980  
Strings are coated into the frame



USA Bancroft Slingshot 1982



USA Dura Fiber composite 1976



USA Maynard an inflated tube holds the string bed in place under pressure  
1986. String section is replaceable



USA The Handler & Natural 1998 -2010



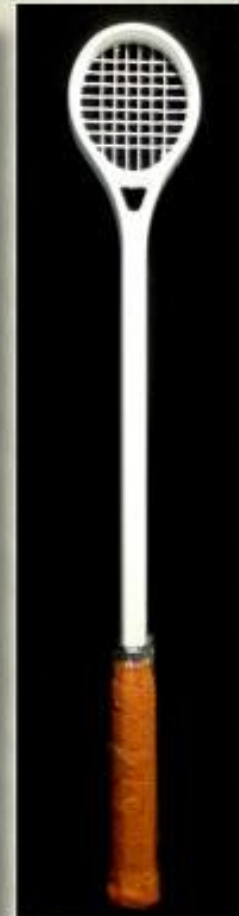
USA X45 2012



USA Gripper 1977



Swedish Erge 1983



Prince Promotional  
God Racquet 1992



Germany Neoxline 2002



USA Wilson Matrix 2011



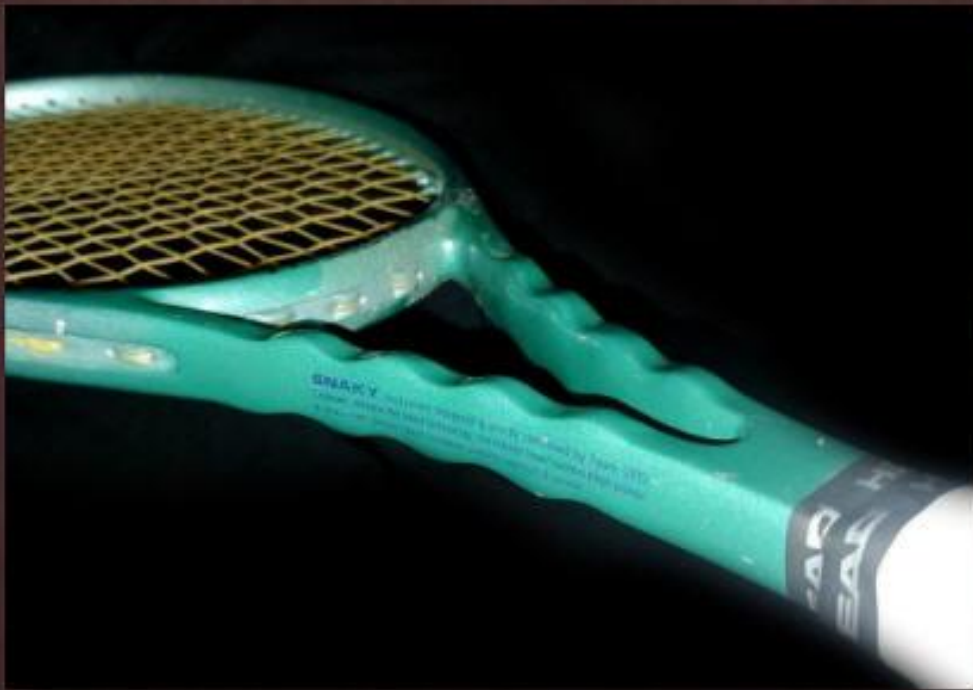
Asia Pro Kennex Delta 2012



Asia Rox Pro Delta Space T 1 1992



USA Prince Triple Threat Ring 1998



USA / Korea Zebest Snaky 1



Korea Wavex shaft & head 2001



USA Rox Pro Delta wrap around stringing 1990



Acro Adjustable Tension 1976



Range of tri-shaft models



Germany Adam Pro adj. length 1992



Austria Fischer adj. tension 1985



Austria Fischer 1992



USA Wilson Javelin 1986



Italy Pirelli Technort 1988



France Jeanrot foldable 1986



France Jenro dismantle version 2008



Germany Kuebler Phillips Moore 1980



France Lacoste Equijet 1988



USA Mad Raq stringing 1988



Germany Protagon adj tension 1992



# LIQUID ASSET!



**Dynaspot**  
THE ORIGINAL LIQUID TUBE

**EXPERIMENTALLY TESTED AND  
 CONFIRMED:** Dynaspot is able to  
 hold more tension (HIGHER VELOCITY,  
 GREATER ACCURACY, and LOWER  
 RISK of tennis elbow).

**LIQUID IN BASKET PROVIDES  
 STUNNING SIMILATION**  
 Dynaspot's built in fluid reduces when  
 it comes into contact. The acceleration  
 of the fluid mass releases back up to  
 20% more than conventional rackets.  
 The more mass, the more fluid.

**WORLD TENNIS** series "The Dynaspot  
 effect" caused a major disruption,  
 and caused players and fans alike  
 to react. "WORLD TENNIS" series  
 also gave an opportunity for fans and  
 press to see the effect.

**DYNASPOT RACKETS ARE BUILT TO  
 LAST.** To have a rack of rackets,  
 and the risk is made of a durable,  
 carbon fiber frame. Each racket is  
 individually serial numbered and is fully  
 warranted for one year. To demonstrate  
 this extraordinary performance, please call  
 1-800-441-3887 for a dealer near you.



USA Dynaspot oil filled tube 1987.  
 Weight transfer on contact with the ball  
 which is now illegal

USA Wilson Ultra 125 2016





France Gauthier G de G 1980's



USA Spalding Power Tech 1984



Asia Topway Dunlop 1988



USA Ojoe 2015



Asia Major Nazka 1990



France Major Octodiagonal 1984



Asia Deesse 1992



France Tretorn Speedgun 2005

# Tennis Advertising

*You too*  
WILL PLAY BETTER TENNIS  
WITH A  
**NEW**  
**ALEXANDER**  
CANE HANDLE  
*Cressy Perfect*

The new **HEMI** Cressy Perfect racket with a **GERMANY** CANE HANDLE, improved grip and superb balance. Strong with High-Blue Circle Tennis Strings.

*"They Last Longer!"*

Manufactured by  
**THE ALEXANDER PATENT RACKET CO., LTD.**  
LONDON    TORONTO    AUSTRIA

Use an  
**ALEXANDER**  
**RACKET**

**5**

**THE CRESSY PERFECT**

There's a  
**Chesterfield**  
FOR EVERY CUSTOMER...

Look for a name in its own handwriting, performance and value against Post Chesterfield... it pays!

**PLAYBAT**  
*the championship club!*

**TRUFLEX**

**TRUFLEX**

**TRUFLEX**

**TRUFLEX**

**Chesterfield**

The Quality Rackets manufactured and sold by  
**ROBT & GUY P.T.S. LTD.**  
OF GREAT BRITAIN, ENGLAND.

*The Right Start*  
for your Game

**PLAYBAT**  
*A Cup Winner*

Now used by a Leading member of the 1900 Lawn-Tennis Club.

Somebody Played Tennis:

- Full guarantee made.
- Excellent value at all times.
- Excellent value at all times.
- Excellent value at all times.
- Excellent value at all times.
- Excellent value at all times.

**Chesterfield**  
TENNIS RACKETS

GO BY THE STARS...play **Dunlop**

**Dunlop**  
TENNIS EQUIPMENT

**Dunlop**  
TENNIS BALLS

**Dunlop Maxply**

**Dunlop**  
SPORTS SHOES

WIMBLEDON WINNERS

**THE DUNLOP MAXPLY FORT**

The World's greatest racket used by the World's greatest players.

...you've got to start at the bottom.

OLIVER WING HEAD!  
AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION VICTORIAN IN HEAD  
OF KING NATHAN'S WING ON OLIVE RACKET!

TOP TO BOTTOM  
IT'S A COMPLETELY  
NEW, FASTER, HARDER  
HITTING RACKET!

**OLIVER**  
"THE CHAMPIONS CHOICE"  
Insist on an OLIVER

THE 1938  
**OLIVER**  
"Bluebird"  
hits a new high  
in racket design!

NEW! LIGHTER HEAD!  
NEW! WATER PROOFED!  
NEW! REINFORCED BOW!  
NEW! GLAMOUR STYLING!

PLEASE! FOR EXCESSIVE  
SOLDING WISDOM! SEE!  
BY HEDLEY'S AND HEDLEY'S SPORTS EQUIPMENT

A "BLUEBIRD"  
WAS USED TO  
WIN BOTH THE  
WORLD AND  
U.S. SINGLES  
CHAMPIONSHIPS!

Illustrated by the  
OLIVER RACKET COMPANY  
U.S.A.  
Racquets 214, South Australia

World Famous **DINNY PAIS**  
INSISTED on  
the BEST

**HEDLEY'S** built it

INTERNATIONAL  
WE CAN SERVICE ANYWHERE

New and  
Improved  
but still  
95/-

*The J. O. Anderson  
New Wimbledon Model*

From the material available which the "J. O. Anderson"  
and "Hedley" rackets are made, it is evident by the  
best material available of the most modern construction.

It has a stronger frame than the previous "J. O. Anderson" model and the  
head has been greatly improved by the use of a carbon head.

Despite the extra weight it remains as one of the lightest and best  
rackets ever made in the history of the game.

H. A. PARKER & Co. Pty., Ltd.,  
SOLE AUSTRALIAN AGENTS

The Winners of  
the N.S.W. Men's  
and Women's  
Singles used  
SPALDING  
racquets.

**SPALDING**  
The World's Best Tennis Equipment

**SPALDING**  
Davis Cup  
HARDCOURT  
RACKET

Available in men's right and left

**SELL THE BEST - SELL SPALDING**

Tennis balls made by Spalding were used exclusively  
in the 1932 Davis Cup Challenge Round.

Slazengers

This is the racket chosen by Australian  
Tennis Stars for the 1940 DAVIS CUP

Slazengers Challenge Racket

**THIS**  
is the CHALLENGE Year

FOLLOW THE AUSTRALIAN STARS...  
AND  
IMPROVE  
YOUR  
GAME  
WITH

Slazengers  
**CHALLENGE**  
RACKET

# Tennis Balls

Credit is given to Charles Goodyear for inventing the rubber vulcanization process in the 1850's which led to the uncovered India Rubber ball that was bouncy enough to be played with outside on grass or other surfaces. In the 1870's experiments with hand sewn cloth covered rubber balls then led to a more enjoyable pace. In Australia, through the 1880's uncovered balls were adopted in Victoria on asphalt courts while NSW preferred the covered balls. It wasn't until visiting player W.V.Eaves insisted in 1891 that covered balls were best and the local associations became consistent.

Australian Tennis Ball manufacture began in the early 1900's, with Dunlop, famous for the automotive tyres being the first. However quality was deemed questionable and imports of Ayres (UK), Slazenger (UK) or Wright & Ditson (USA) balls were more popular. That changed and in the 1920's when Barnet Glass and Spalding entered the market with a quality ball endorsed by various local tournaments and associations. In the 1930's Ormiston, Swift and Slazenger commenced local production so the market was hotly contested. A very rare Grooved Ball was created by Slazenger UK from 1925 to 1938.

Swift designed a world first, one piece ball around 1936 and this led to some export success up to 1946.

Coloured balls were being offered by Slazenger in the early 1900's although white balls remained the preference up to 1972 when the optic yellow ball was adopted. Over in the USA red balls were used on cement courts and other hi viz orange and purple balls were sold in the 1970's.

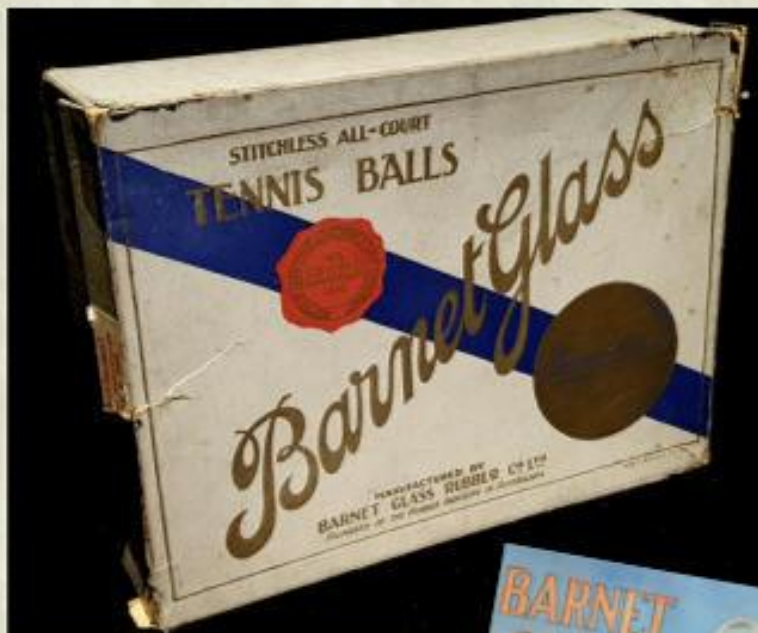
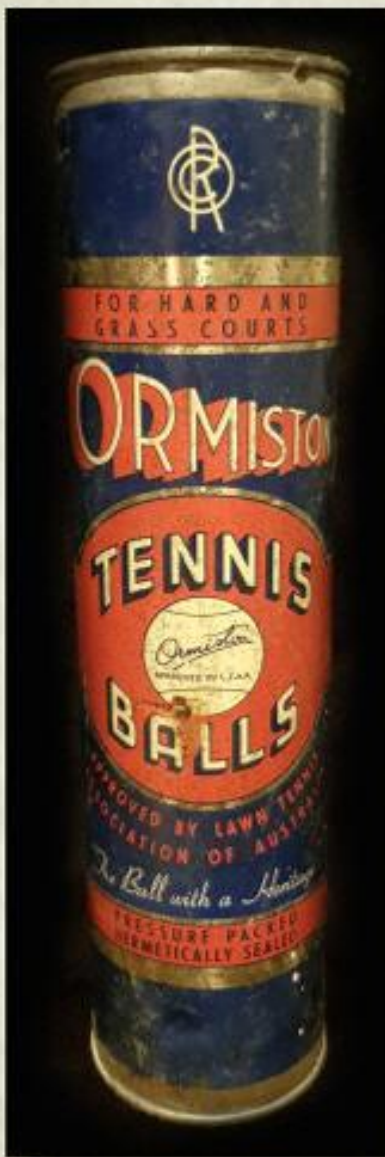


Wax protection



Production in the Spalding factory in Victoria





It is great to find early sealed tins and boxes with or without balls. Those sealed with new balls inside or new wax paper wrapped or coated are most desirable.

In World War 2 ball recycling was promoted due to shortages in material.



Swift were the first to promote a one-piece ball, where the normal process joined two halves.

# Tennis Ball Holders

From the graphics on the boxed tennis sets, dating from the 1880's, we can see the use of special ball holders with some from early ads incorporating racquets.



Modern reproduction of the Racketstander



# Tennis Ball Cleaners

Early lawn tennis courts would get quite muddy, so there was a need to keep the white cloth balls looking respectable. From the early 1900's there were twist style hand cleaners, as below. For more lavish homes and clubs the fence mounted or free standing style multi ball cleaners featured.

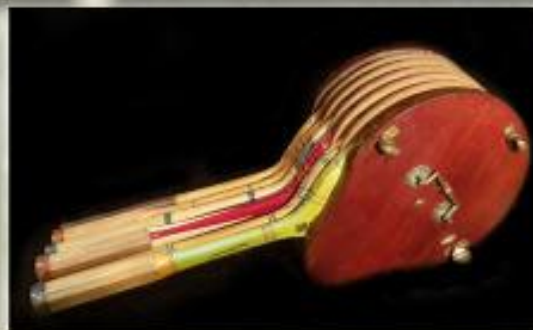
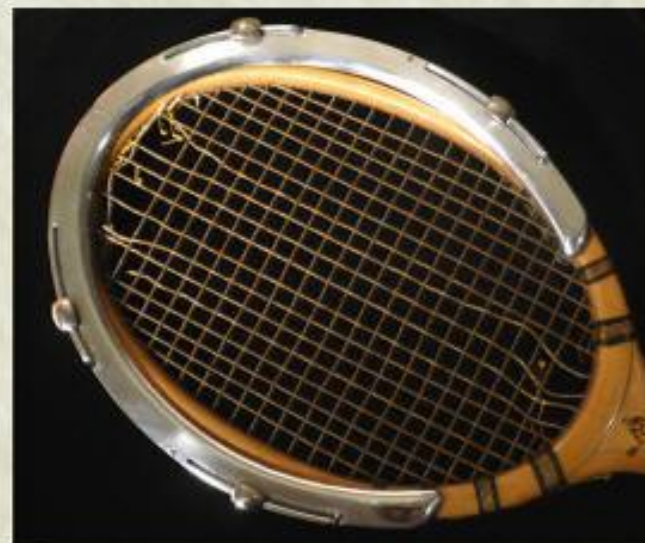


# Tennis Presses

Tennis presses have also evolved over time. They are used to prevent a wooden racquet from warping and come in different shapes with various locking devices and materials including wood, plastic and metal. Most were designed for a single racquet but at times multi racquet holders were used by retail stores, players and clubs.







# Tennis Ball Machines

Although many think of Rene Lacoste and his mechanical ball machine in 1927, the more advanced, electric powered JEPSON TENNIS MACHINE GUN was probably designed even earlier. The local inventor, Percy Jepson had these ready to sell in 1928 and organised major retailers to demonstrate the units instore plus he also approached major tennis clubs. Examples also went overseas to the USA but the firm only survived until the mid 1930's. Jack Crawford enjoyed practicing with it for hours at a time. There were other Australian attempts at ball machines dating back to 1922.

**MACHINE-MADE TENNIS**

We have mechanical hares, and cricket machines for fielding practice. Now the latest is a tennis machine, which serves 200 tennis balls on the same spot, and at any angle required by the player. The machine was invented by Mr. W. Jepson, a tennis player and engineer of Melbourne, who demonstrated it in the French tennis stars before leaving Melbourne.

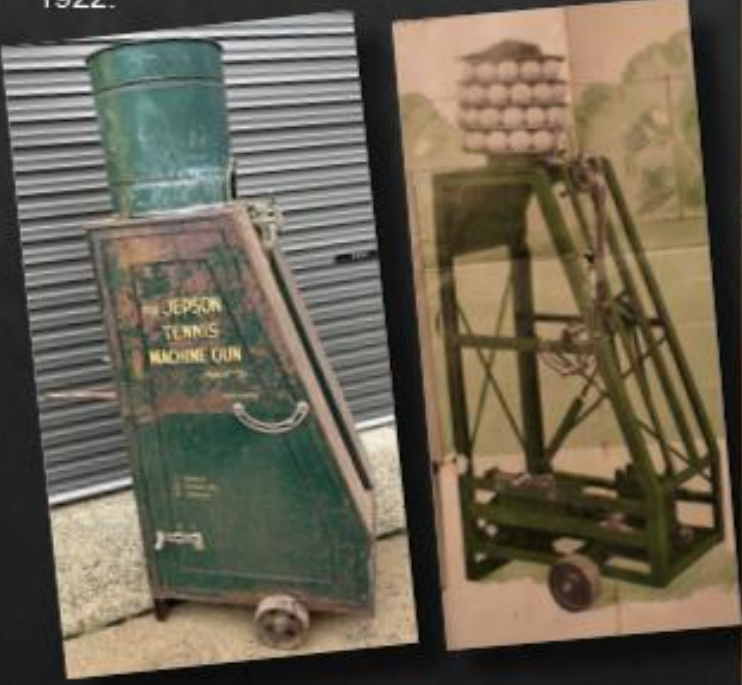
**THE JEPSON MACHINE GUN.**

The Jepson tennis machine gun, like all useful inventions, is simple. It is trouble-proof—works electrically—and is fool-proof.

Equipped with a high-class electric motor, which only needs oiling once a year, its working parts require little attention. It is fitted with a specially-designed gear box, with phosphor bronze gears, which are mounted on ball bearings running in oil. All moving parts are made from the world's best materials, thus ensuring years of reliable and satisfactory service. The ball container holds 48 balls. The machine is encased in a strong riveted steel frame mounted upon two trolley wheels. The frame is sheathed with best quality motor car sheet steel paneling, done in



Mr. W. Jepson, Jack Crawford and "Hurry" Rice



## The Jepson Tennis Machine Gun

**CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS**

**PRACTICE YOUR WEAK STROKES WITHOUT A PARTNER**

The machine makes the stroke in the proper way when the Tennis Machine Gun is set in motion. It is a mechanical device which will serve you in the same way as a partner who can play with you. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way.

**RETURNING THE SERVICE CORRECT TIMING**

The machine makes a stroke in the proper way when the Tennis Machine Gun is set in motion. It is a mechanical device which will serve you in the same way as a partner who can play with you. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way.

**WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY ABOUT THE MACHINE**

W. C. L. (LONDON)

"I would like to see the machine in the hands of all tennis players. It is a wonderful device for practice. It will play the stroke in the proper way. It will play the stroke in the proper way. It will play the stroke in the proper way."

The Mechanism of the Tennis Machine Gun

**TENNIS CLUBS**

The Tennis Machine Gun will serve a club in the same way as a partner who can play with you. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way.

**PROFESSIONAL COACHES**

The Tennis Machine Gun will serve a professional coach in the same way as a partner who can play with you. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way.

**PRIVATE COURT OWNERS!**

THEir TIME IS NOT WASTED IN WAITING FOR A PARTNER

The Tennis Machine Gun will serve a private court owner in the same way as a partner who can play with you. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way. The machine will play the stroke in the proper way.

Illustrations with the Jepson Tennis Machine Gun in actual play will be given to all Tennis players interested in this wonderful invention.

First class F 2501, write us call

## THE JEPSON TENNIS MACHINE GUN

5th Floor, CAPITOL HOUSE, Swanston Street  
MELBOURNE

Phone F 2501 Phone F 2501

Amazingly a unit was found in 2023 (Melbourne)

The brochure flips open to reveal the inner workings (left)

# Tennis Stringing Devices

From the very beginning tennis racquets were hand strung and tightened using awls. Similar to a musical instrument a string could be plucked to see if the pitch was at the target tension.

Other devices and stringing machines were designed to help improve speed and accuracy, while helping to prevent the head of the racquet from becoming misshapen.



*Tennis Racquet stringing! revolutionised!*

**The "NO-AWL" RACQUET STRINGER**

**As usual — Foy's again "First with the Newest!"**

*only Foy's have it!*

... This line is the "NO-AWL" RACQUET STRINGER — it is a machine that strings any make of any shape of racket and stringing all kinds and tensions associated with hand-stringing.

... The "NO-AWL" RACQUET STRINGER cannot alter or affect the size of the racket frame ... no awls are used ... frames will warp or distort ... get holes and are enlarged ... gives equal distribution of stress round the frame ... it prevents rackets from being damaged ... it saves expense.

... The "NO-AWL" RACQUET STRINGER takes groundwork out of the racket ... it strings a racket to an even "postage paid" on every line — and will give a tension from anything up to an 80 lb. strain.

Have your racket strung by Foy's and you'll have a stringing job that's "NO-AWL" — it's the "NO-AWL" RACQUET STRINGER.

See the "NO-AWL" RACQUET STRINGER at work in Foy's Magazine Window — see how it revolutionises and makes racket-stringing a perfect job at last.

**SIMPLEX RACKET STRINGING VISE**

The simplest and most practical vise on the market. The only vise that has complete throat protection. Price \$10.00. Send for Catalog, for Awls and Stringer's Tools.

**SIMPLEX TENSION STRINGER**

This newly invented tool makes it possible for anyone to string a racket perfectly. The danger of warping and pulling rackets out of shape is reduced to a minimum—for the SIMPLEX TENSION STRINGER measures the tension of each string as it is placed in the racket and assures each string being of equal tension. Easy and simple to use. Price \$10.00.



**DAVIS CUP PLAYERS WATCHING the "ACE" machine at work**

Australian, American, Swedish and Indian Davis Cup Players have had their rackets strung and restored by the "Ace" Stringing Machine, and unanimously declare its superiority. One member said he had seen the machine before in Sweden, where it was accepted as the new method of stringing rackets.

Done away with the use of Awls.

The use of awls for stringing the frame is the biggest cause of racket damage. The force with which they are used into the frame the moment of getting the string over the barbs and pulling the string tight. The "Ace" Machine works the string in the frame and automatically adjusts the string tension and automatically adjusts the string tension and automatically adjusts the string tension.

**Ready for its 11th Re-stringing**

Over 100 in perfect condition.

See Demonstrations Daily between 12.45 and 1.45.

**STRACHAN BROS.**

The Modern (and only) FLOOR MOUNTED Tennis Racket Stringer and Awls.

The 'No-Awl' was marketed in 1937. Others including a drop weight solution and portable units appeared from the 1940's into the 1950's. Oliver produced a very popular floor model and Urect-It created an electric bench top model.



**Sensational News!**

**MACHINE STRING TENNIS RACKETS**

STRACHAN BROS. the recognized expert hand stringers for the last 25 years, have now changed to MACHINE STRINGING for their reasons:

1. All racket makers in America, England and Europe use MACHINE STRINGING.
2. Each string is EVENLY TENSIONED to a degree not attainable by hand.
3. HIGH TENSIONS achieved without risk to frame or gut.
4. LINGER LONG in gut and frame.
5. SPECIAL TENSION gauge accessories perfect stringing by setting up in 15 seconds.

See Demonstrations Daily at any Time. Call and see the Remarkable Machine in Action.

**STRACHAN'S RECOMMEND**

BENTLEY'S Super Chromastabilized and BENTLEY'S Super Nylon Gut in New Racquet and Restoring.

After getting the Year Best New Racket at Rackets in New York by Machine.

**STRACHAN BROS. Pty. Ltd.**

5th FLINDERS LANE — Telephone: MB 1410

(Between Whitehall and Queen Streets — under the "New Sign")

*The Modern Machine-String Tennis Racket Experts*



# Tennis Trophies

Collecting trophies adds to the look of any display cabinet and while most of the precious major championship trophies remain guarded, some impressive major tournament and 2nd tier event editions do appear. Of course, there were many tournaments back in the day and the real treasures are finding very early ones, highly detailed tennis themes or those engraved or linked to famous championship players.



The more elaborate designs can still be very expensive simply because they are very uncommon.

The rectangular cigarette box and the trophies above were won at the Victorian or New South Wales Championships and were bought via online auctions. The top one was perpetual until retired by two Aussie greats shown receiving them. Other greats won this event so it's a precious keepsake.



# Tennis Retailing

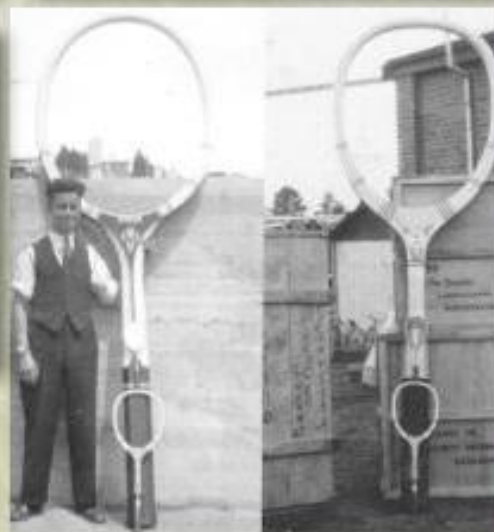
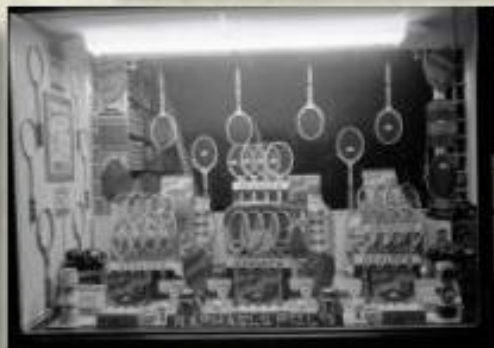
The Australian Racket Manufacturers Association (ARMA) in the late 1930's was a cartel controlling quality and price points for 1 to 5 star models so you can find reference to this on Alexander, Dunlop, Slazenger and Spalding models.

Retail shop fronts were fabulous and racquet holders and point of sale are amazingly rare to find, especially the oversized jumbo versions.



**TENNIS PLAYERS**  
you can now identify the GENUINE GRADE and VALUE of a Racket

**5-STAR RACKETS ARE USED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE AUSTRALIAN DAVID COP TEAM**  
MANUFACTURED EXCLUSIVELY BY DUNLOP - SPALDING - SLAZENGER AND ALEXANDER



Some of the huge models adorning retail stores next to some of my various editions.

# Player Autographs

Collecting autographs has remained an extremely popular pastime since the early days of tennis as seen on the earlier pages showing the Davis Cup album and the author's player signed 1912 book.

Another facet is to also find racquet models players used to win major titles and to a lesser extent other tribute models which carry photo decals and signatures.

We have been so lucky many champions from the 1950's and 1960's attend tennis functions to sign these various items in person. Others we trust are genuine.



1949/50 Adrian Quist & Lew Hoad



1950's Australian Rex Hartwig



Frank Sedgman won major tournaments with an Oliver Bluebird



1950's USA great Jack Kramer



1940's Australian Bill Sidwell



1958/59 Ken Rosewall & Neale Fraser



1970's John Newcombe



1960's Neale Fraser



1960's Mal Anderson



1980's Bjorn Borg



1970's Mark Edmondson



1920's & 30's Pros Kozeluh & Kinsey



1959 Wimbledon players autographs



Signed balls Laver Connors McEnroe



Multi signed large ball Williams & Co



1970's Rod Laver



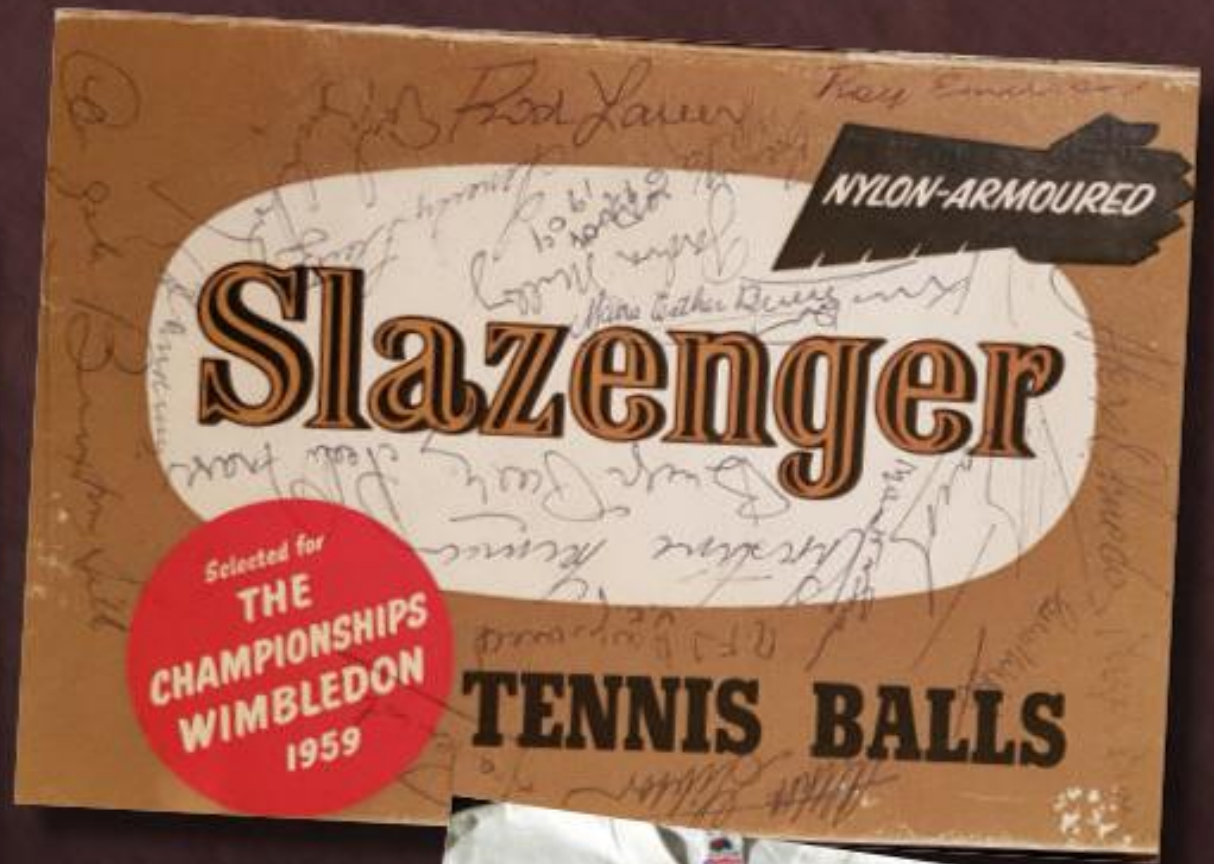
1970's Evonne Goolagong Margaret Court



1980's Pat Cash



1980's John Alexander



1959 Wimbledon Finals  
Player Dinner function  
signed box by winners and  
participants

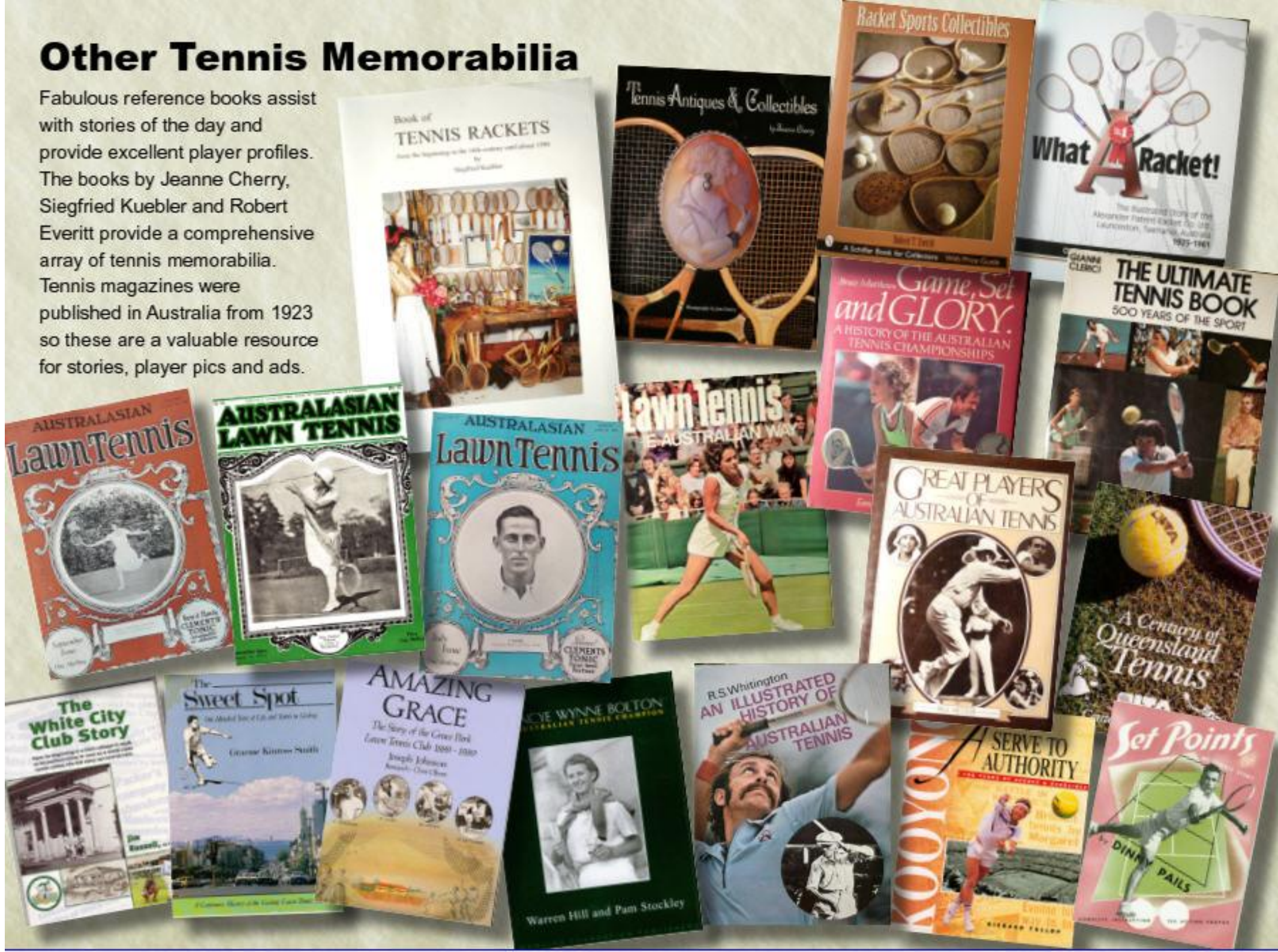


Above: From a 1988 Opening of the new Tennis Centre at Melbourne Park.  
Right: Signed T Shirt .....all the big names ( you should turn the book upside down)



# Other Tennis Memorabilia

Fabulous reference books assist with stories of the day and provide excellent player profiles. The books by Jeanne Cherry, Siegfried Kuebler and Robert Everitt provide a comprehensive array of tennis memorabilia. Tennis magazines were published in Australia from 1923 so these are a valuable resource for stories, player pics and ads.



# Tennis Collectibles





# Tinling Tennis Dresses

Ted Tinling played at Wimbledon and was a regular hitting partner to the 1920's French super champion, Suzanne Lenglen. He even became the Wimbledon tournament player ambassador for many years. His love for tennis and the players was endless and when he began his fashion business, tennis was a major opportunity. In the 1950's, almost by accident, he created a media storm by supplying Gussie Moran with a pair of laced knickers. The photo hungry media grasped at this and the Wimbledon establishment was shocked by the frenzy. While Ted's career was blossoming he became a virtual outcast from Wimbledon due to anti fashion attitudes. He supplied a majority of lady players with dresses designed with their own personalities and tastes in mind. This included new fabric combinations, hints of colour, patterns and trimmings. He even designed Frank Sedgman's tennis shorts. In the 1970's, he took on the role as official supplier to the pro ladies Virginia Slims tour where more colour and pizzazz was permitted and wanted.

Tinling tennis dresses range from the simple to fully adorned or embroidered styles. Whether they have tennis patterns in the design or if they belonged to players, they make for a wonderful addition within Tennis Fashion displays.



Gussie Moran wearing lace knickers in the 1950's



Famous player worn dresses: Billie Jean King, Betty Stove, Nancy Richey and Rosie Casals



Australian Judy Dalton was also a member of the original Virginia Slims tour.



From the Virginia Slim ladies Pro Tour days, these Tinling dresses belong to Australian player Cynthia Doerner. Some were designed to sparkle under night lights for better impact on TV.



Perhaps Ted's most viewed dress was designed for Billie Jean King in her defeat of Bobby Riggs in the infamous "Battle of the Sexes" match in 1973. Riggs beat Margaret Court first forcing King to uphold the Women's game.



Intricate detail is a feature in some dresses. These were worn by Australian, Madonna Schacht



Retail dress designs

# Collecting Community

Meeting other collectors, led to the formation of Tennis Heritage Australia (THA) in 2011 which now numbers some 30 people. We also have connections with USA, UK and Euro Tennis Collecting groups and the major Wimbledon and Newport tennis museums.

Building a tennis collection has been enjoyable with most items bought from online auctions overseas, opportunity shops and local antique stores. Discovering rare items and researching stories, building a tennis history website ([www.tennishistory.com.au](http://www.tennishistory.com.au)) organising displays and 'show and tell' meetings all helps to preserve and promote the history of our great game. Meeting past players, hearing their stories, having them sign items and being invited to the 2013 China Open, Beijing and then in 2018 to the Hong Kong WTA Open to showcase our tennis collections to the local Chinese fans has been amazing fun.

To the great camaraderie and support of special friends Keith Jenkins, Denis Tucker, Clyde Smithwick and Brendan Gall, plus all those I have met locally and through Facebook. I am truly grateful to you all for the support, shared information and pictures, some of which are used in this book.



Rippon Lea Open Day exhibition on their grass court (Melbourne)



Meeting US collector & author  
Jeanne Cherry at RSY 2011



Rod Laver at his 2013 book launch  
(Melbourne)



Frank Sedgman at his 2014 book launch



2nd THA National Meeting Rex Hartwig (Albury) 2018



Denis, Margaret Court, Ken Rosewall & Keith  
Sydney Tennis Museum Lunch 2012



Multi Australian Ladies Champion, Thelma Long  
Sydney Tennis Museum Lunch 2012



First THA Vic. meeting at the MCC Library 2011



1st THA National Meeting, Aldo Romeo USA guest at Denis Tucker's Museum 2015



Denis, Janet Young, Keith, Lesley Bowrey and Judy Tegart Dalton at Kooyong



THA at the Royal Melbourne Tennis Club (Real Tennis)



THA NSW group with a lovely Alexander display. Peter and Sue (left) are relatives of the Alexander Racket Co. 2013



Neale Fraser at a Davis Cup Foundation AGM at RSY 2016 signing a Slazenger P4 Promatic



THA set up quite a few displays at Kooyong for various charity day tennis events



Fred Stolle signing racquet at a DCF lunch MCG



Evonne Goolagong at Kooyong



Neale Fraser, Billie Jean King & Pat Cash



With Rex Hartwig & Brendan Gall



With Wilma and Ken Rosewall



With John Alexander



With Pat Rafter



Stolle, Roche, Newcombe & Emerson



With Boris Becker



With Mark Philippoussis



# Overseas Exhibitions

Beijing: China Open 2013



Denis Tucker and Keith Jenkins at the 10th China Open



## Hong Kong: WTA 250 2018



Keith and I looking the part i

Hong Kong 2018 at the WTA Open.  
Special guest Li Na (middle).



Jess was our co-ordinator both visits

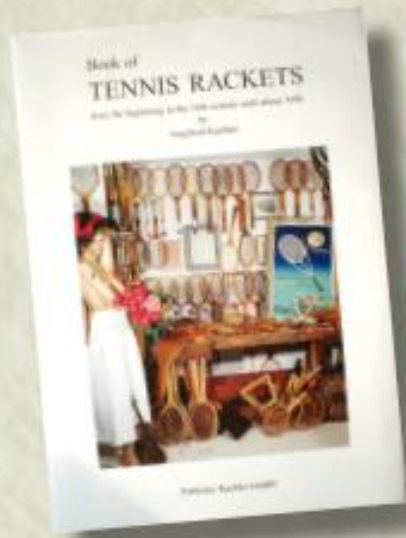
## Hong Kong: ATP 250 2024



With Tournament Referee Ed Hardisty



## Overseas 2016



Meeting Siegfried Kuebler with Urs Peter Inderbitzin & other Euro Group members (Ger) 2016. I have enjoyed helping Sigi with additional information for post book supplements. His book is a 'must have' bible for tennis collectors. Stayed with Urs Peter.



Wimbledon Museum 2016 with Matthew Glaze,  
Alan Little & Anna Renton

Manfred Schotten owns a successful sports antiques business in the Cotswolds. It was sheer chance I walked past his shop and luckily he showed me his amazing tennis collection.

Meeting two highly regarded historians and collectors, Robert Holland and Chris Elks on the lawns at Fairlight Ampton Rd. Edgbaston when Harry Gem and friend Augurio Perera played their version of lawn tennis in 1865.



Tennis display at Beijing for the China Open 2013

