

The History of the Glenly Tennis Club

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As Albury expanded north in the 1920s the local progress association held a meeting at the home of Mr and Mrs Ernie Stanton, on the corner of Stephen and David Streets, to discuss the formation of a tennis club.

Ernie donated land for two courts fronting Stephen Street and also the cost of one court. The Glenly Tennis Club was formed and named after the old Stanton home in Rutherglen.

Fundraising euchre and dance parties took place on Stanton's large verandahs and working bees were held at the courts. The Zerbst family, of Buckingham Street, lent their horse and cart and Charlie Miles, who lived nearby, made countless trips to Nailcan Hill to collect gravel. One load was so heavy, a wheel buckled inside out. After seven months, two courts were opened in October 1928 and a daughter of the president, Jacob Brann, of Sylvania, Fallon Street, served the first ball.



The Umpire's Stand at Glenly Tennis Courts

By the end of that year, the club took out a bank loan and purchased adjoining land. Fourteen months after the first subscription there were 70 members – 90 per cent were from the immediate neighbourhood.

In November 1929, the clubhouse and courts, now numbering four, were opened officially with a prestigious guest list, an exhibition match and celebrations extending into the evening. The clubhouse was praised for its "convenience, especially in the serving of afternoon tea." A croquet green was part of the complex along with a practice wall with a white line painted at net height. Fundraising continued and five-pound debentures were issued, repayable in 1946!

Glenly flourished until WWII when members enlisted and weekend tennis fell away. After the war, the community rallied again to clear the chest-high weeds. Among the energetic workers were George and Ivy Purtle. Ivy had joined the club as a young woman in 1929.

In the 1970s, council rates became a heavy financial burden, so the club sold the Stephen Street land in 1979 and negotiated with Albury council for land at Glen Park, Glenroy, where the club continues to thrive.