



What's Real Tennis?

Real Tennis has its origins in Europe and started as a form of handball played by monks in the cloisters of monasteries in the 11th century. It has evolved over the centuries, although the game's main features – the court, the rackets, balls, scoring system and other rules – have changed little since around 1600. Its modern offspring, lawn tennis, only began in 1865!

Today the sport is played in the UK, USA, France and Australia. In Australia, there are courts in Hobart, Ballarat, Romsey and two courts at the Royal Melbourne Tennis Club, with new courts due to open in Sydney in late 2024 and in Glen Iris Valley in 2026.

The sport is played by people of all ages. Players love the challenge of mastering the game's tactical and physical challenges, and the sport's top players are exceptional athletes. Robert Fahey, the former World Champion, learned the game in Hobart in the 1980s and is acknowledged as the greatest player of all time. The first ever Women's World Champion, Judy Clarke, was also Australian.



Australia vs Great Britain, RMTC

Today, the game offers great opportunities to young players, with a thriving youth program and the chance to represent Australia in our national youth team in biennial matches against GB and USA. There are also Australian youth championships, and many young Australian players travel to compete in national and world youth championships around the real tennis world.



Kieran Booth from Melbourne, World No 1 amateur

Want to give it a try?

The Royal Melbourne Tennis Club (RMTC) is located in Richmond and has two real tennis court, squash court, pool, gym and excellent social facilities. The Club has a thriving youth membership and offers an outstanding program for keen players, led by some of the world's top real tennis coaching pros.

The Club offers 'try real tennis' sessions for potential new young members and these offer you the chance to see the game played at a high level, as well as getting out on the court and learning the basics. You will also meet other young members and learn about the Club. For those with potential to become top youth players, we also offer Real Tennis Scholarships.

The RMTC Youth Tennis Scholarship Program 2025

Supported by the RMTC Foundation, the *RMTC Youth Tennis Scholarship Program's* goal is to actively help build a pool of quality young real

tennis players at RMTC, of which our members can be proud, and who will be the standard-bearers for the Club's next generation of top players.

This program is designed to attract and develop promising young players by offering them an elite Real Tennis Scholarship. The successful applicant(s) will receive a personalised twelve-month training plan created by our Pros, which can include support for court time, lessons, membership fees, apparel, travel to tournaments, and equipment. Candidates must be aged between 16 and 25 years of age. To join one of our 'try real tennis' sessions or for more information on how to apply for a Scholarship, please contact our Club pros, ph 9429 9788, email pros@rmtc.com.au.



Melbourne world top ten player, Jo See Tan.



RMTC Foundation, Royal Melbourne Tennis Club, 18 Sherwood St, Richmond 3121.