

Catherine Hill Bay Tennis Court Renovation by Carmel Brown (CHB PA Publicity & Landcare)

2014 April 4 CHB Progress Association President Sue Whyte arranged a meeting with Coal & Allied; and Flowers Dr residents Helen, Graeme and Carmel also came. C&A are fine with renovating and then using the court. Geoff Rock will seek funding. More photos <http://catherinehillbay.org.au/tennis-court/2014-april/>



June 14 After the Landcare visit to the ridge near the former churches, Garry Stewart (Lakeside Dr Swansea Landcare) was shown the court by Sue Whyte & Carmel Brown. Garry was a NCC Parks & Gardens Jack of all trades and maintained clay courts.

'Poison weeds at 12ml: 1L water. Spray whole court inside fence. Don't pull out weeds as the clay is in layers and it will be disturbed.

Surface should be river gravel on hard clay. This is soft clay - not good.



Need road base clay - from quarries. Should take current surface off. Take a sample. Use large roller a lot after new gravel - rolling pushes stones down and should bring water to surface so its like mud and super smooth. Right clay type up near dam.

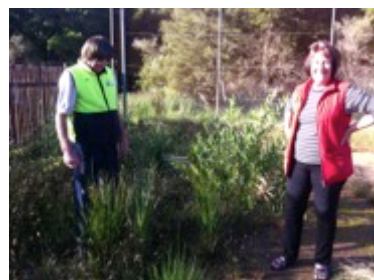
Spray early on a warm day so glysohate should work - often doesn't in winter. Will wait a month then mow dead weeds off on lowest setting and catcher on. If need to cut out a weed or repair hole, cut similar size core from outside lines ...need to keep clay layers and hopefully match them.

Then rake, and roll with big roller - should be full of water and heavy.' Garry cleared mud off and both moved ok. 'Roll, rake, roll, etc. Compact it. To turn, lean while roller moving. To reverse, push and then flick handle over - don't turn roller around!. Oil

rollers, sand and paint. Put bike tyre tubes around handles to pad.

Enough left of lines to restore. Sweep. If still have marker mix with lime and keep marking. Used to be canvas lines. Can't see a marker in the clubhouse. If true, see if any local sport clubs have a spare one.

Make a bagger from hessian bags nailed to board, rope handle. Bag before and after playing.



Needs seepage drain. 1' digger hoe to make trench 1 to 1.5' deep, add gravel, ag pipe, gravel.



Winder for net. Nut or whole unit needs replacing. Grease it. (Garry can weld if we get parts for a new one.)

In entry area – 'kids square', no clay surface. So dig up reeds and replace with native couch outside court.

Fence - need to get chook mesh or shade cloth and complete or we'll be chasing balls in the bush!
Key. We need to get a restricted lock and certain number of keys, keep a register. '

On **17 June** David Knock sprayed weeds; another day Garry came early, sprayed the weeds and left a sign up. He couldn't resist the challenge of restoring our court.

July – Weeds dead - Garry mowed with his ride on mower!

Aug 17 Garry said the court's ready for rolling. He'd done a bit and came looking for strong helpers! 'We need to roll - crush dead weeds, sweep off. Pick out any nodules etc left without disturbing clay layers. Then wet and roll till it brings the slurry up. Do this heavily once, now, then only lightly wet and roll needed the day before a game in future.

Then put the broom and bag over it, sweep off lines. They haven't in the past and there are stones in the lines. If the line gets too thick, it breaks- the hessian tears.

Can't spot the line marker thru the windows of the clubhouse. Need to find someone who's in a sport club and get them to borrow one!



Aug 23

CHB Progress Association Vice Pres. David Knock visits, takes net winder to repair.

Sept 20

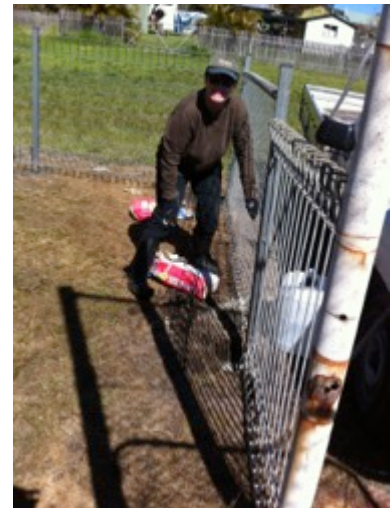


Garry and Carmel tried out the tools to restore the surface, removed the old kids' square fencing, put it out for Council pick up next day, and built a new fence. Panels cut, poles in, panels in place. Garry has a double garage and yard full of treasures – everything we needed!
More photos <http://catherinehillbay.org.au/tennis-court/2014-september/>



Sept 28

Garry has mowed again, incl kids square – new fence panels can be removed to drive ride-on in. We tried rolling and bagging - needs to be wet. Finished fence and new gate. Pulled loose old nails out of walls. Need gal paint for fencing.



Need to poison reeds in kids' square and transplant native couch from area outside.

October 13 Garry made an attachment for the roller so it can be towed! Court now rolled. More photos <http://catherinehillbay.org.au/tennis-court/2014-october/>

Need line marker and see what it uses or just use brickies lime.

Need short surveyors pegs to put in near fence so always mark out correctly.

Need a couple of boards about 3 m long for replacing deteriorated ones on walls

Oct CHB Progress Association meeting. Garry and Carmel presented on work to date, tabled report with photos, and asked for decisions!

We can fix the guttering but if the guttering or fascia are to be painted or oiled, that's easier when the guttering's down. Guttering was usually painted inside and out to protect it.



The club house was cream/white; verandah wall still is. The roof was probably painted with silver roofing paint that faded to grey. Buildings back then usually had dark green or red roofs, later dark blue. Which? We don't have a clubhouse key yet, so we haven't checked the roof...does it leak?

If you want to oil the walls instead, the fascia could be pale green or light brown matte. Oiling means sanding first - belt sander along the grain and hard to do in the curve. Would need power from a house. Painting white just means scraping off old paint. (No decision – members to seek Heritage advice.)

Some of the new fence is gal spray painted. We need to buy a tin and do the rest - stops rust.

If you can't find the club house key, we can get a locksmith out to replace lock without damaging the door. (Agreed).

Middle Camp residents were letter boxed by David, asking for involvement. PA to discuss insurance etc. with Coal & Allied.



Oct Garry fixed guttering, as it's not on properly now, and it can be removed for painting later.

Dec Sue organised a locksmith to replace Clubhouse door lock barrel and provide keys.

Dec CHB PA AGM held in the Tennis Clubhouse!

Letter box drop responses were from 2 people who are already involved. No online discussion forum! No reports back from heritage experts people knew.

Preserve wood w/o painting to maintain external heritage look and feel. Difficult – deteriorated already. Verandah wall mostly painted still – cream; removing this and other traces would be expensive and very dangerous – lead. So decision is to paint – take a flake to paint shop and get a 3-in-1 paint same colour, do 2 coats Carmel to get paint required.

Residents Linnie and Dan will donate a tank they don't need! Garry will measure and adjust tank stand to right height for gravity feed; install asap to catch rain so court can be watered while rolling. (Since meeting, local resident Darren, from Billabong tanks, offered to donate a pump and 90mm piping, so tank stand is lower. Then easier to clean leaves off the inlet screen; not at eye/head level when players are running backwards).

Asbestos in wall linings? Sue will check for grants to have an assessment.

Dan mentioned batteries. This could run a 12v kettle and lights? Solar panels? David can install and cable. LEDs inside? Security lights.

Replace 2 or 3 external boards with knot holes or too deteriorated? Stairs and handrail are not safe. Ramp? Garry will do and PA will reimburse Garry.

Windows - Swansea Men's shed joiner – Garry asked: can't help. Local resident and builder Scott has offered to help.

Court surface is now restored but not playable until lines are remarked. Requests for a local sports club to help were not successful. Can a line marker be borrowed? None online. If not, Garry can paint using stencil (boards). Previously marking was done with lime after bagging and not swept, so little stones are in the lime lines there. These lines are breaking up when rolling. So new marking should replace them - but not removed yet to save remeasuring. Lime or paint? Paint won't give a puff of dust when a ball hits. Carmel will see paint shop for advice.

Winder for the net – David is getting a stainless steel replacement. Garry will repair holes in net.



Working bee? Autumn, April agreed: Painting outside with 3-in-1 paint, installing tank, (update – just pipes and pump), installing any lighting and panels. 1 day.

Then local girls Melaleuca and Mirabelle planted the lilly pilly from Landcare in the kids square, for shade when they're older!

Dec 13 Measured Linnie and Dan's tank, trimmed tank stand posts. Darren and Garry decided on pipes, taps, pump locations. Garry made the

stand; Carmel transplanted the couch squares.



Dec 14 We have a key to clubhouse now. Found gas bottle and hose with fitting but out of date. Pulled cupboards out - not fixed to walls. Cleared out mice nest - half a bin of leaves and waste.

Hole around sink pipe is too big - not cut properly so vermin get in there. Ice cream lid over hole in wall - hole kicked into wall?

Put mouse poison packet under sink. Need to pack up chairs each time so easy to clean.

Strong urine smell in corner - could have been a possum inside wall as stains on inside wall. Garry will bring gas water boiler to clean up bee. Hole in ceiling from dropping crowbar when they put new roof on?

White laminex table unsafe - could collapse.

Wooden chairs need joins reglued.

Kids books include Mr Do Bee Songbook from Romper Room.

Looked at sink fittings. Need to see how Darren will do pipes before

repairing. Net is fine – just needs mending by Garry.



Tank will need a few blokes to manoeuvre out of Linnie and Dan's yard and bring over here. Photos of the building repairs needed <http://catherinehillbay.org.au/tennis-court/2014-december/> Windows, boards. Pipes will be 90 mm now; were narrower. Fence - coat with diesel? Needs nailing, some new boards. Fence above was chicken wire. Needs new pole near wall about 5m with 4" dia. Cement. Garry can make missing bracket. 2 rolls of 2m x 19 m cyclone wire if possible or chicken for both ends of court. Roll of 8 gauge fencing wire.

Dec 20. Garry trimmed wood with resident Tony's saw, then he and Dan screwed down tank stand boards, connected. They and Dan's guests moved the tank, and put in temporary tap and board to attach pipes to sink onto later. No photographer!
Later, Darren improved the piping.
Caught the Christmas rain and almost full!

Dec 29. All good: couch growing with extra waterings.

2015

Jan 2. Garry made dumpy pegs, placed near fences. Line marking without a marker: board template! Photos <http://catherinehillbay.org.au/tennis-court/2015-january/> and of clay Garry collected from up near the dam. Grass trimmed!



Net repaired, winder not back but a bolt and nut Garry had hold it!

Photos by Garry of Linnie and Melaleuca having the first hit! Dan and Garry discussed putting a ramp in instead of the steps – better access. Resident Scott will help with woodwork on walls and windows.

Jan 3 Garry found the handle he kept from the old Swansea pensioners' boat ramp, to finish the winder, and finished the net repairs.



Jan 5 Rained, so Garry rolled court, then finished marking lines with the boards. And cleaned cupboards! He declared us ready for a tennis day!



Jan 25 Cleaning bee – Linnie and Lulu, Bligh and brother Voss, Garry and Carmel. Drinks by Eleanor again ☺
<http://catherinehillbay.org.au/tennis-court/2015-january-cleaning-bee-january-25th/>





Jan 26 Australia Day Tennis, barbecue, bushtucker salad, Coronation chicken, a sponge cake and Pimms punch!





<http://catherinehillbay.org.au/tennis-court/2015-january-australia-day-tennis-barbecue-and-inaugral-meeting/> for photos.

Then the inaugural Tennis Club meeting.

President: Linnie Ross;
VP & Publicity – Carmel Brown;
Sec – Clarita Norman;
Treasurer – Dan Wheatley.

Garry was presented with Greg Ray books of early Newcastle photos – and life membership!

