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Rain or No rain, Classic Clay Reigns!

Most of Australia is in the grip of a long term drought, and eminent scientific organisations such as our own CSIRO are forecasting significant long term reductions in rainfall.

In response, many businesses are starting to plan for a different future. A future with less water or at best, availability at a much higher cost.

“Tennis clubs must begin planning for a future without water” says President of Heatherdale Tennis Club, Doug Terrill.

Terrill went on to explain, “There is over 2500 red porous club courts in Melbourne using 1.5 billion litres of water each year. And many courts are due for replacement over the next 10 years.

In preparing our club’s long term plan we looked at future upgrade, and ongoing maintenance costs for our 8 red porous courts.

We were also in the middle of water restrictions. Our local community and our own members were astounded at the volumes of water necessary to maintain the traditional courts.

And don’t forget the cost of water, and that red brick dust that blows away in the wind or is washed into our drainage systems and waterways”, said Terrill.

Members made it clear! Traditional waterless alternatives such as synthetic grass and concrete style hard courts were not an option.

Members wanted the best of everything. A slow court, comfortable on the body, pleasing to the eye, free draining in winter and requires no water in summer.

Enter Classic Clay -Australia’s Premium Synthetic Clay Court.

After much research and a player survey the club applied for and received a Victorian Government

Grant from “Smartwater”, a program set up by Water Companies to foster water saving demonstration sites across Melbourne.

By demonstrating the benefits of Classic Clay the objective is to assist the conversion of 35% of Melbourne’s courts to Classic Clay over a 10 year period, saving 500 million litres of water every year.

Ninety five percent of participating members gave the new surface an overall satisfaction rating of good, very good or excellent.

Members particularly liked the court’s bounce (consistency, speed and height) and player comfort attributes (movement, temperature, lack of sun glare and lack of dust)

Our analysis so far indicates that while the courts are initially more expensive than a traditional upgrade of red porous courts, longer term savings in water, red brick dust and maintenance will more than offset the initial costs.

Some forward thinking Local Councils have already identified Classic Clay as an ideal way to partner with local tennis clubs to save water

The Club

Heatherdale Tennis Club is located in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. It has 8 Classic Clay tennis courts, over 80 teams competing in 8 different competitions and is visited by over 5000 members of 100 clubs each year.

Need further Information?

Contact Doug Terrill, President Heatherdale Tennis Club 03 9873 4567

If your club would like to try Classic Clay at Heatherdale:

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