

Ian Kent

35 years as a Squash Player, Administrator, and Venue Owner/Operator.

Ian started playing squash thirty five years ago at the Lower Plenty Squash Centre then run by Len Steward, and became extremely passionate about the sport.

Ian is also a very successful self taught commercial builder, being Managing Director of his own building company, Kent Bros. Pty. Ltd., which has been in business for nearly forty years.

So put these two great passions of his together it was no surprise to see Ian purchase the freehold of the then Templestowe Squash Courts in 1994, which he renamed the Westerfolds Sports Centre.

Ian's vision was to do a total renovation of the centre which included the swimming pool, increase the number of squash courts from seven to eight, plus incorporate a cafe into the complex, all of which he completed in a relatively short period of time, with the centre becoming one of the best squash venues in the state.

Ian's daughter Olivia took over the management of the centre in 2001, plus the family in 2017 acquired and re-opened the Knox Squash and Racquetball Centre which they have transformed nearly back to new and renamed Westerfolds Bayswater.

Although an extremely busy businessman with his building company, plus being heavily involved in the Child Care and Aged Care industries, Ian accepted a position onto the Victorian Squash Federation (VSF) Board in 1998 as an Observer, then was elected its Vice President in 1999, before being elected as the President in 2000, a position he held for the next very successful ten years.

During Ian's reign as President the VSF hosted numerous state, national, international and world championship events including the Melbourne 2001 International Squash Festival, the world's largest ever squash event comprising twenty events over twenty eight consecutive days in October of that year, the 2006 Commonwealth Games Squash Competition, the 2002 World Masters Games Squash Competition, the 2005 World Deaf Squash Championships, the 11th successive Australian Open Squash Championships, plus a myriad of other events, virtually all of which attracted large media coverage for the sport.

Ian also presided over the award winning Squash and Racquetball in Schools Program, continuing a very successful partnership with the Victorian Institute of Sport, and attending to the financial security and development of member venues and clubs.

Ian has also been a very big supporter of encouraging juniors into the sport and personally supported numerous S&RV junior programs and events, and not just at his own venue.