



*Townsville Table Tennis Association*

*Est 1931*

## **TIGERS TALES**

*Newsletter: Vol 5 May 2026*

### *Newsletter*

---

The following is a summary of the events that took place at TTTA and elsewhere in the Table Tennis World during May 2026.

### *Around the Club*

---

The month started with lots of preparation for the Sturt Business Centre Townsville Open, being held on the May Day long weekend. Not just on the training tables, but also in the homes of some of our members families, making meals that would feed the players over the weekend.

More details about the weekend were emailed out to members recently and the full results are at the end of the newsletter.

The following weekend saw the Mackay Open being held, with 28 players from Townsville making the trip south to compete, which must be close to a record number attending.

For nearly half of our players, this would have been their first Mackay Open experience.

One observation by a Senior Mackay member, who quipped "14 players in the Over 70's and only 6 in the Under 17's is not a good sign for Table Tennis".

Full results from Mackay are at the end of the newsletter.

The Thursday after the Mackay Open, a group of members decided it was time to head overseas to check out the facilities of the Magnetic Island group.

After the Table Tennis, it was lunch at the pub with a few beers and Darts, until time to return to Townsville.



Chris G took the photo.

The Sunday tournament doesn't get much of a mention, but the last Sunday of May saw a turnout of 20 players.

The structure has changed over the last 12 months from a normal tournament with round robin groups and then knockouts, to a "Top Table" style system which the players seem to prefer.

By the time you get to read this, a strong contingent of Townsville players are about to take part in the World Masters in South Korea – Good luck and safe travels to them all.

### [Upcoming Tournaments and Events](#)

All the **QLD** Events will be held at the South Pine Sports Complex

World Masters – 5<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> June – South Korea

Australian Senior, Youth and Para Championships – 6<sup>th</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup> July - Goulburn NSW

**QLD** Veterans – 14<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> July

TTA QLD Tour – 22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup> August

Australian Junior Championships – 27<sup>th</sup> Sept / 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct – Moreton Bay

For all event dates, check TTQ website at [Events - Table Tennis Queensland](#) or our own Calendar at [Calendar and Events - Townsville Table Tennis](#)

### [Sausage Sizzles](#)

We have been given opportunities for fundraising at Bunnings Fairfield Waters as follows.

13<sup>th</sup> June (Sat)

26<sup>th</sup> July (Sun)

22<sup>nd</sup> November (Sun)

We hope to get a few more dates in 2026.

### [Trivia](#)

Most people still think table tennis is “just a game.”

The science says otherwise.

While some people are scrolling endlessly on their phones... the table tennis community is training one of the most powerful anti-cognitive decline systems you can build.

Yes — actual scientific research has linked table tennis with benefits for:

- ✓ Brain function
- ✓ Memory
- ✓ Reaction speed

- ✓ Executive decision-making
- ✓ Cognitive processing
- ✓ Parkinson’s symptom management
- ✓ Reduced risk factors associated with dementia and cognitive decline

Studies and reviews published in scientific journals have suggested that table tennis may help maintain brain health and could be a powerful strategy in preventing cognitive decline in older adults.

Why?

Because table tennis is one of the rare activities that forces the brain and body to work at high speed simultaneously.

Every rally requires:

- 🏓 anticipation
- 🏓 hand-eye coordination
- 🏓 balance
- 🏓 spatial awareness
- 🏓 decision-making under pressure
- 🏓 rapid motor adjustments
- 🏓 memory and pattern recognition

Your brain is constantly solving problems in real time.

This isn’t passive exercise.

This is neurological training disguised as sport.

Research into Parkinson’s disease has even shown table tennis programmes may improve motor symptoms, balance, cognition, and quality of life.

A lot of people only start caring about brain health AFTER decline begins.

The table tennis community made the smarter decision earlier.

Every training session...

Every footwork drill...

Every fast rally...

Every tactical adjustment...

You are not just “playing ping pong.”

You are challenging your brain in ways most people never do.

That matters.

Especially as we age.

So the next time someone laughs and says:

“It’s only table tennis...”

Smile.

Because while they see a small ball...

You know you are training one of the most complex combinations of cognitive speed, coordination, movement, focus, and decision-making in sport.

🏓 The table tennis community is different.

🏓 Sharper. Faster. Smarter.

🏓 And the science is beginning to catch up with what players have known for years.

That’s all for this edition, and until next month.

***The Tigers Tail***



# 2026 TOWNSVILLE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

## RESULTS

Event	Winner	Runner-Up	Third / Semi-Finalists
<b>Open Events</b>			
Men's Open Singles	Alan Walsh	Han Leung	Allen Shen / Jin Qi Low
Women's Open Singles	Taleisha Gaeta	Paola Lovera	Therese Chappell / Pippa-Louise Trass
Men's Open Doubles	Alan Walsh & Max Wellington	Venkat Vangavetti & Brendan Cahill	Goncalo Serra Gageiro & Michael Ruhl / Han Leung & Ken Leung
Women's Open Doubles	Taleisha Gaeta & Paola Lovera	Therese Chappell & Pippa-Louise Trass	Hannah Sunley & Angie Pace / Lkhamsuren Lkhanaa & Aarohi Achar
Mixed Open Doubles	Alan Walsh & Paola Lovera	Goncalo Serra Gageiro & Taleisha Gaeta	Mischa von Mellenthin & Therese Chappell / Safwat Boktour & Pippa-Louise Trass
<b>Rating Singles Events</b>			
Under 1700 Singles	Vincent Tjo	Michael Ruhl	Mischa von Mellenthin / Tarun Laghate
Under 1500 Singles	Safwat Boktour	Mischa von Mellenthin	Vincent Tjo / Anthony Domanti
Under 1300 Singles	Anthony Domanti	Tarun Laghate	Daryl Sterling J / Trent Day
Under 1100 Singles	Chris Georgalli	Robert Richards	Steven Whiting / Anne Sheridan
Under 900 Singles	Aarohi Achar	Yi Lin Jiang	Kiran Blackburn / Andrea Nicholson
Under 700 Singles	John Zhang	Dzidor Gavua	Yara Gavua / May Xu
<b>Rating Doubles Events</b>			
Under 1500 Doubles	Brett Sprunt & Tarun Laghate	Mike Summers & John Sherriff	Paul Uttley & Hannah Sunley / Pippa-Louise Trass & Safwat Boktour
Under 1300 Doubles	Harry Bligh & Morrie Bligh	Chris Georgalli & Ray Young	Anthony Domanti & Tony Bowman / Reinhard Lot & Santosh Magar
Under 1100 Doubles	Lilly Bradshaw & Aarohi Achar	Marty Chilton & Gary Mantell	Warren Wilkinson & Reinhard Lot / John Zhang & Jimmy Li
Under 900 Doubles	Aarohi Achar & Kiran Blackburn	Wayne Wornald & Marianne Orman	Noreen Fredericksen & Andrea Nicholson / John Zhang & Rex Lemoncito
<b>Veteran Events</b>			
Over 21 Singles	Brendan Gaeta	Lilly Bradshaw	Hannah Sunley
Over 30 Men's Singles	Safwat Boktour	Venkat Vangaveti	Goncalo Serra Gageiro / Kallum Trass
Over 30 Women's Singles	Pippa-Louise Trass	Hannah Sunley	Sharon Holden
Over 40 Men's Singles	Safwat Boktour	Venkat Vangaveti	Anthony Domanti / Doyle Liang
Over 40 Women's Singles	Pippa-Louise Trass	Sharon Holden	Angie Pace / Andrea Nicholson
Over 50 Men's Singles	Safwat Boktour	Anthony Domanti	Vincent Tjoe / Brett Sprunt
Over 50 Women's Singles	Anne Sheridan	Lorraine Granger-Brown	Angie Pace / Donna Abbott
Over 60 Men's Singles	Max Wellington	Vincent Tjoe	Thomas Woltmann / Gary Mantell
Over 60 Women's Singles	Therese Chappell	Anne Sheridan	Janice Kent / Donna Abbott
Over 65 Men's Singles	Max Wellington	Thomas Woltmann	Marty Chilton / Mike Summers
Over 65 Women's Singles	Therese Chappell	Janice Kent	Marianne Orman / Noreen Fredericksen
Over 70 Men's Singles	John Sherriff	Paul Uttley	Mike Summers / Harry Bligh
Over 75 Men's Singles	John Sherriff	Morrie Bligh	Harry Bligh / Clency Oxenham
Over 80 Men's Singles	Morrie Bligh		
Over 80 Women's Singles	Joan Summers		

Youth / Junior Events			
Under 21 Men's Singles	Allen Shen	Mischa von Mellenthin	Trent Day
Under 21 Women's Singles	Taleisha Gaeta		
Under 19 Boy's Singles	Jin Rui Low	Luqman Ihsan-hess	Trent Day / Hon Yee Han Leung
Under 19 Girl's Singles	Taleisha Gaeta	Manasee Sivayoganathan	
Under 17 Boy's Singles	Jin Rui Low	Muhammad Ihsan-hess	Trent Day / Luqman Ihsan-hess
Under 17 Girl's Singles	Aarohi Achar	Manasee Sivayoganathan	Hannah Woo
Under 15 Boy's Singles	Hon Yee Han Leung	Jin Qi Low	Muhammad Ihsan-hess / Kevin Xu
Under 15 Girl's Singles	Janice Fan	Fernanda Yu	Aarohi Achar / Manasee Sivayoganathan
Under 13 Boy's Singles	Allen Shen	Kevin Xu	Lim Liu / Kiran Blackburn
Under 13 Girl's Singles	Janice Fan	Aarohi Achar	Fernanda Yu / Hannah Hu
Under 11 Boy's Singles	Hin Chai Ken Leung	Lim Liu	Dzidzor Gavua / Advik Tiwari
Under 11 Girl's Singles	Hannah Hu	Aari Raj	Ajna Prasad
Junior Development Singles	Richy Han	Rafael Ruzicka	Ryan Li / Levi Morris
Age Single Events			
Junior Doubles	Jin Qi Low & Jin Rui Low	Taleisha Gaeta & Manasee Sivayoganathan	Kiran Blackburn & Advik Tiwari / Aarohi Achar & Janice Fan
Over 30/40 Doubles	Michael Ruhl & Goncalo Serra Gageiro	Tarun Laghate & Brett Sprunt	Warrun Wilkinson & Hannah Sunley / Safwat Boktour & Pippa-Louise Trass
Over 50/60 Doubles	Robbie Richards & Anthony Domanti	Dennis Fox & Shane Chellis	David Hockings & Terry Morato / Ray Yung & Therese Chappell
Over 70/80 Doubles	John Sherriff & Mike Summers	Harry Bligh & Morrie Bligh	Reinhard Lot & Tony Bowman / Clency Oxenham & Paul Uttley

### Mackay Open Results

Open Event	Player	Partner	Result
MOS	Alan Walsh		Winner
MOS	Max Wellington		S/Final
WOS	Paola Lovera		Winner
WOS	Andrea McDonnell		R/up
WOS	Therese Chappell		S/Final
WOS	Pippa-louise Trass		S/Final
MOD	Alan Walsh	Safwat Boktour	Winner
WOD	Therese Chappell	Pippa-louise Trass	Winner
WOD	Andrea McDonnell	Rosalie Brooks (G/Coast)	R/up
XOD	Alan Walsh	Paola Lovera	Winner
XOD	Safwat Boktour	Pippa-louise Trass	S/Final
<b>Aged Events</b>			

030M	Doyle Liang		S/Final
030W	Pippa-louise Trass		Winner
030W	May Xu		S/Final
040W	Pippa-louise Trass		R/up
050M	Safwat Boktour		R/up
050M	Doyle Liang		S/Final
050W	Andrea McDonnell		S/Final
060M	Max Wellington		Winner
060W	Andrea McDonnell		Winner
060W	Therese Chappell		R/up
065M	Max Wellington		Winner
065W	Therese Chappell		Winner
065W	Marianne Orman		S/Final
075M	Harry Bligh		S/Final
080M	Harry Bligh		Winner
U13G	Ajna Prasad		S/Final
<b>Rating Events</b>			
U1600	Doyle Liang		S/Final
U1400	Doyle Liang		Winner
U1200	Lily Bradshaw		S/Final
U1000	John Zhang		S/Final
U800	John Zhang		Winner
U1600 DbI	Safwat Boktour	Pippa-louise Trass	S/Final
U1000 DbI	Marianne Orman	Donna Abbott (Mky)	S/Final
U800 DbI	Rina Gaeva	Sebastian Gaeva	S/Final