

## Trends in tennis<sup>©</sup>

While many sports in Victoria are in decline, tennis has reversed the trend and is recovering ground it lost in the early 1990s. Information provided by Tennis Victoria and from data collected in recent research by **@leisure** for Cardinia Shire, indicates that:

- participation in tennis declined by 32% between 1989 and 1996, but between 1996 to 2000 increased by 16%
- tennis is popular in both metropolitan and regional areas
- participation in competition tennis is declining
- participation in casual or social tennis is increasing
- junior participation is increasing
- club membership is declining
- more flexible working hours have resulted in a wider distribution of preferred playing times
- an increasing range of leisure activities is vying for player's time
- the total number of clubs is static, however, new clubs are being established in development areas
- many club facilities have fallen behind community expectations
- players now demand high quality playing & support facilities
- the number of private residential tennis courts is increasing
- the preferred playing surface is lawn, followed by red porous, sand-filled artificial grass and acrylic resin
- there is a growing trend for new facilities to be built as part of multi-purpose developments
- participation in tennis remains inexpensive
- public liability claims at tennis facilities are increasing.