

## Tennis hub a positive spin for Queensland

**I**N Queensland's golden era of tennis in the 1950s and 1960s, anyone in a regional town or a bush community who said "I want to go down to Milton" was immediately understood. Either they were a promising tennis player, keen to be noticed by those who ran the game in Brisbane, or they wanted to watch a world-class tournament like the Davis Cup. Since that time, tennis has advanced around the world as a popular sport but has gone backwards in Queensland, not only with the demise of the Milton courts but many other city and country courts as well.

Like Florida, the hub of many tennis centres in the US, Queensland's climate lends itself to tennis almost year-round. This is why the \$60 million tennis centre project, which will be at the heart of the redevelopment of the old Tennyson power station site on the Brisbane riverfront, is such a positive development. Also welcome is the \$10 million funding the State Government is making available for new and improved facilities in regional Queensland and tennis development programs.

In Brisbane, a major tennis facility is long overdue, and the 17 proposed courts, with surfaces ranging from clay to hardcourt to grass, should help draw quality tournaments to the city. They and the development programs might even help fast track the careers of promising Queensland players to follow in the footsteps of Rod Laver, Wendy Turnbull and Pat Rafter.

More importantly, the Brisbane and regional facilities will encourage children and adults to come out and play a game that is enjoyable for people of all ages, abilities and fitness levels.