



Tennis served well

Marco Monteverde

ASHLEY Cooper's greatest tennis achievement is yet to come.

The man who in 1958 won three of the four Grand Slam championships – only the French title eluded him – will get the ultimate satisfaction in 2009 when Queensland's new tennis centre is opened at Tennyson.

The Tennis Queensland president, who turns 71 in September, said the centre would give the sport a face and focal point for the first time in Queensland since the closure of the famed Milton venue in 1999.

"There has been nothing

for our kids to aim for," Cooper said. "Queensland kids could in the past aim at playing on the centre court at Milton. Now we'll have the three Grand Slam surfaces (grass, clay and rubberised hardcourt) represented at the new centre. It'll be unique and a great place to train kids on."

Cooper said it was "wonderful to be recognised" by being made an Officer in the Order of Australia.

"It's a great thrill. I've certainly spent a bit of time trying to do my best for tennis," said Cooper, who became a member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1991.