

Australian Masters Championships

Individual Championship Report

Kim Schramm

The Individual events at the Australian Masters Squash Championships have concluded with 22 players crowned the best in Australia for 2019. Queenslanders dominated the National titles played across 3 venues on the Gold Coast between 2-6 September.

The mighty maroons won 11 Open titles whilst NSW and WA shared equal second with three titles each. Victoria had two Open Champs whilst Tassie, New Zealand and the USA each had one.

Former World #45 **Steve Finitsis (Qld)** won the prestigious Australian Masters Over 35 Men's Open title at his first attempt. Simon Carruthers (NSW) was runner up with Big Steve beating him 11-6, 13-11, 11-9 during the 5-person round robin match ups. However, the clash with arch rival Brad Freeme (Qld) provided the highlight in this event with Steve winning the see-sawing clash 11-4, 10-12, 11-9, 8-11, 11-7.



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• AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP •



The White Brothers



Six players from the Women's 35-39 and 40-44 age groups played in a round robin contest with **Kym Phillips (Qld)** emerging as the Over 35 Champion and **Melissa Martin (Qld)** the Over 40 Champ. It was a repeat performance for Kym who won the same title in Tassie in 2018. Melissa dominated her rivals to secure her 6th Aussie Masters Open title. She finished runner up in the Over 40 event at the 2018 World Championships so she is definitely a force in this age group.

Ten players entered the Men's Over 40 Open with the classy **Danny Woolbank (Qld)** winning all his matches in three including the final against last year's champion Grant Farrant (NSW) to secure his 4th open title in Masters.

Former W#1 **John White (USA but born in Qld!)** showed why he was once the best in the Professional World by destroying everyone including brother David White (Qld) in the Over 45 Open final. David gave it his best but John was



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just too good winning the "battle of the brothers" 12-10, 11-7, 7-11, 11-6.

Shannon MacNamara (NSW) was equally as impressive winning all her matches in straight in the Women 45 Open. She beat 5 other players in the RR event to take out her first Australian Masters Open title.

#1 seed **Peter Bastow (NSW)** was a cut above the rest winning all his matches in three in the Over 50 Open. He beat Marc Forster (Qld) 11-6, 11-6, 11-5 in the final to secure his first Master Open title.

It was great to see **Sue Davis (Qld)** win the Women's Over 50 Open title beating another multiple Masters Champion Sarah Nelson (NSW) in the final to win her 2nd Masters Open title. It has been a long time between drinks for Sue who won her first title back in 2008. She must have been glad to see the back of Sarah Fitz-Gerald! Sue was runner up to Sarah at the 2018 World Championships.



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The Men's Over 55 Open final was a top contest between **Peter Gilbee (Vic)** and Warren Miller (Vic). The field of 10 boasted two formidable former Masters Champions: Miller 10 titles and Dale Robbins (Qld) 9 titles. So, the expectations weren't high that a player with just one previous title would knock out those two on his way to a second. However, Gilbee had had other ideas beating Robbins in a tight 2nd round match 8-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-9 before beating the #1 seed Miller 11-8, 9-11, 11-4, 11-9 in the final.

World Champion **Sue Hillier (WA)** denied Sue Williams (Qld) her 3rd straight title with a strong performance to win in three in the Over 55 Open. It was Hillier's 6th Australian title. She made a clean sweep of 5 titles in the over 50 age group but she can't repeat that having missed last year's Championship. She was too busy winning World title #2!

Kelvin Smith (Qld) claimed his 5th Australian Masters Open title when he stopped Jim Mobbs



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(Qld) from winning his 4th title on the trot in the Men's Over 60 final. Kelvin simply had all the answers at the business end of each game emerging the winner 11-8, 11-8, 11-7.

Women's Over 60 Open Champion **Anne Richards (WA)** simply destroyed the field of 12 winning all her matches in three. In the process the former World Masters Champ chalked up Aussie Masters Open title #12. She has dominated this age group with 4 out of a possible 5 titles.

Wayne Seebeck (NZ) notched up his second Australian Masters Open title when he won the Over 65 event. He stopped #1 seed Michael Brown (Tas) from winning his 4th National title 11-5, 11-5, 11-7.

2018 World Champion **Gaye Mitchell (Tas)** survived a scare in her semi-final against Khris Wiaceck (WA) blowing a 2 game to love lead to ultimately win in five to secure her place in the Over 65 final. She then had a tough encounter with Freda Walker (NZ) before claiming her 11th National Masters title in four: 11-7, 11-6, 5-11, 12-10.



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Brian Cook

It was a case of Masters Open title #24 when **Brian Cook (Qld)** won the Men's Over 70 Open. The five times World Champ was too strong for Vic Thomas (WA) winning the final 15-10, 13-15, 15-6, 15-11. Nobody has a better record than Brian in Australian Masters competition. Brian has won a National title in every age group commencing with his first in 1987.

Robyn Prentice (Qld) won an epic encounter against Marilyn Kennedy (Qld)

in the Over 70 contest. Robyn won her 7th Open title by beating Marilyn 15-9, 12-15, 18-16, 15-13. Marilyn had also won 6 previous titles. Robyn was co-chair of the organising committee so this victory was possibly one of her proudest and finest moments in squash. Robyn still gives so much to squash so her achievement is thoroughly deserving.



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The Men's Over 75 Open title was taken out by **Mike McDonald (NSW)**. Securing his 10th National Open title wasn't easy. He beat 3 times champion Tom Slattery (Vic) in the semi before clinching the title with a gutsy 15-7, 15-10, 12-15, 11-15, 15-11 win against the 2017 champion Brian Lyons (Vic).

Robyne Bamberry (Qld) claimed her 13th title when she won all her matches in three in the Women's Over 75 Open. In the last match of the 5-person round robin Robyne beat last year's winner Pam Moran (NSW) to secure the title. Denise Storey (Qld) finished runner up.

Dinny Hurley (Vic) won his 15th National title in fine style when he took out the 4-person round robin for the golden oldies! Dinny remained undefeated taking home the Men's Over 80 trophy. It was also his 3rd title on the trot. Peter Zillmer (Qld) finished runner up.



Robyn Prentice



The Women's Over 80 and Women Over 85 events were combined to create a field of 5. **Jan Whackett (Qld)** added the Over 80 trophy to her ever expanding cabinet. She has now won 15 Masters titles. By winning the Over 85 title **Eileen Barnard (Qld)** has taken her collection to 13 National Masters trophies

What do you do when you run out of opponents? Well you win your age group for a start and then you challenge yourself by taking on the younger men!

Chas Renner (WA) won the 90+ Open title to add to his 8 other National titles. Most people would be happy just to get to 90 let alone be playing squash. Hats off to the evergreen champ from WA. You are an inspiration!

Congratulations to all the winners and we look forward to seeing you all again at the Australian Masters titles in 2020!



2019 Australian Masters Results

2019 Australian Masters Squash Championships

Award	Awarded to	Award	Awarded to
Men 35 Open Winner	Steve Finitzis	Women 35 Open Winner	Kym Phillips
Men 35 Open Runner Up	Simon Carruthers	Women 35 Open Runner Up	Samantha Strachan
Men 40 Open Winner	Danny Woolbank	Women 40 Open Winner	Melissa Martin
Men 40 Open Runner Up	Grant Farrant	Women 40 Open Runner Up	Monica Maguire
Men 40 Open Third	Cameron Penna	Women 45 Open Winner	Shannon MacNamara
Men 45 Open Winner	John White	Women 45 Open Runner Up	Lyndal Amer
Men 45 Open Runner Up	David White	Women 45 Open Third	Rhonda Bottacio
Men 50 Open Winner	Peter Bastow	Women 50 Open Winner	Sue Davis
Men 50 Open Runner Up	Marc Forster	Women 50 Open Runner Up	Sarah Nelson
Men 50 Open Third	David Mutimer	Women 50 Open Third	Carolyn Ashworth
Men 55 Open Winner	Peter Gilbee	Women 55 Open Winner	Sue Hillier
Men 55 Open Runner Up	Warren Miller	Women 55 Open Runner Up	Sue Williams
Men 55 Open Third	Trevor Loughran	Women 55 Open Third	Janelle Briggs
Men 60 Open Winner	Kelvin Smith	Women 60 Open Winner	Anne Richards
Men 60 Open Runner Up	Jim Mobbs	Women 60 Open Runner Up	Biddy McFarlane
Men 65 Open Winner	Wayne Seebeck	Women 60 Open Third	Marisa Zavattaro
Men 65 Open Runner Up	Michael Brown	Women 65 Open Winner	Gaye Mitchell
Men 70 Open Winner	Brian Cook	Women 65 Open Runner Up	Freda Walker
Men 70 Open Runner Up	Vic Thomas	Women 65 Open Third	Khris Wiaceck
Men 70 Open Third	Warren Gilmer	Women 70 Open Winner	Robyn Prentice
Men 75 Open Winner	Mike McDonald	Women 70 Open Runner Up	Marilyn Kennedy
Men 75 Open Runner Up	Brian Lyons	Women 70 Open Third	Kaye Jackson
Men 75 Open Third	Tom Slattery	Women 75 Open Winner	Robyne Bamberry
Men 80 Open Winner	Dinny Hurley	Women 75 Open Runner Up	Denise Storey
Men 80 Open Runner Up	Peter Zillmer	Women 80 Open Winner	Jan Whackett
Men 90+ Open Winner	Chas Renner	Women 80 Open Runner Up	Joyce Barnett
		Women 85 Open Winner	Eileen Barnard
		Women 85 Open Runner Up	Aileen Smith

Congratulations

**Watch out for the special 2019 ASP
Australian Masters Magic Memories ... out soon!**

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Award	Awarded to	Award	Awarded to
Men 45 Div 2 Winner	Darryl Ball	Women 45 Div 2 Winner	Wendy Beard
Men 45 Div 2 Runner Up	Andrew Chen	Women 45 Div 2 Runner Up	Allison Douglas
Men 45 Div 2 Third	John Alamanos	Women 50 Div 2 Winner	Kay Giacomantonio
Men 50 Div 2 Winner	Aaron Matthes	Women 50 Div 2 Runner Up	Susan Smith
Men 50 Div 2 Runner Up	Troy Morecrott	Women 50 Div 2 Third	Cate Hardy
Men 50 Div 2 Third	Greg Murphy	Women 55 Div 2 Winner	Michele Hedge
Men 55 Div 2 Winner	Bevin Sturm	Women 55 Div 2 Runner Up	Cathy Aust
Men 55 Div 2 Runner Up	Jorge Freije	Women 55 Div 2 Third	Sue Landy
Men 55 Div 2 Third	Ross Francis	Women 60 Div 2 Winner	Melissa Elliott
Men 60 Div 2 Winner	Graham Baker	Women 60 Div 2 Runner Up	Helen Watkins
Men 60 Div 2 Runner Up	Eddie Estevao	Women 60 Div 2 Third	Shane Lamprey
Men 60 Div 2 Third	Alan McRorie	Women 65 Div 2 Winner	Lynne White
Men 60 Div 3 Winner	Geoff Selby	Women 65 Div 2 Runner Up	Christine Bennett
Men 60 Div 3 Runner Up	Paul McKerlie	Women 65 Div 2 Third	Jo Files
Men 60 Div 3 Third	Robert Scott	Women 65 Div 3 Winner	Dianne Elliot
Men 65 Div 2 Winner	Les Makarucha	Women 65 Div 3 Runner Up	Candy Crear
Men 65 Div 2 Runner Up	Kelvin Carmichael	Women 65 Div 3 Third	Aileen Garner
Men 65 Div 2 Third	Bruce Walters	Women 70 Div 2 Winner	Leslie Obstoy
Men 65 Div 3 Winner	George Kovacs	Women 70 Div 2 Runner Up	Ruth Knight
Men 65 Div 3 Runner Up	Roger Lennard	Women 70 Div 2 Third	Julie Smith-Kingston
Men 65 Div 3 Third	Stephen Barrow		
Men 70 Div 2 Winner	Jim Langby		
Men 70 Div 2 Runner Up	Anthony Webb		
Men 70 Div 2 Third	Ed Jennings		
Men 75 Div 2 Winner	Bob Hood		
Men 75 Div 2 Runner Up	Bernie Collins		
Men 75 Div 2 Third	Ray Allan		

Congratulations

<https://amsc.australianmasterssquash.com.au/2019-home/>