

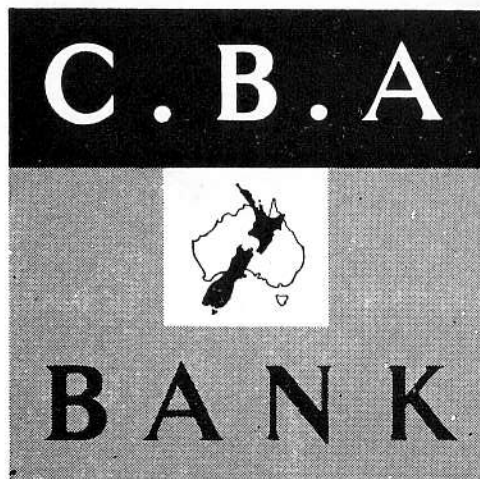
# ROTHMANS INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS



## NEW ZEALAND TOUR

JULY/AUGUST, 1969

PRICE 10 CENTS

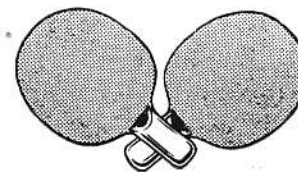


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## **ROTHMANS INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS**



# **Australia**

versus

# **New Zealand**

***New Zealand Tour By Combined Australian  
Men and Women's Team***

**July / August 1969**

## President's Welcome . . .



V. H. HURREY  
(President N.Z.T.T.A.)

THE Australian team is touring New Zealand in the 30th anniversary year of the first New Zealand team to visit Australia in 1939. The Australian team also give New Zealand an opportunity of greeting the first Australian women's team to tour New Zealand.

The exchange of visits has given both countries a series of contests which has a friendly rivalry competitive incentive which adds to the enjoyment. The men have met on 11 occasions in a series that has been played not only in New Zealand and Australia but also in other countries when attending World

Championships. The results show that Australia have been successful on 7 occasions and New Zealand on 4 occasions. The women have met officially three times, in Sydney, in Stockholm, Sweden, and Melbourne. Australia lead 3-0.

I extend a most hearty welcome to our visitors and also to the many people who will travel far and wide to see them play. I trust that the team will enjoy their travel through the North and South Islands and that they will take away many happy memories of their 1969 tour of New Zealand.

V. H. HURREY,

President, New Zealand Table Tennis Association.

## JULY—

Monday	28	v.	Auckland, at Auckland.
Tuesday	29	v.	Northland, at Whangarei.
Thursday	31	v.	NEW ZEALAND, at Hamilton.

## AUGUST—

Saturday	2	v.	NEW ZEALAND, at Gisborne.
Monday	4	v.	North Taranaki, at New Plymouth.
Tuesday	5	v.	Invitation Team, at Wellington.
Wednesday	6	v.	Invitation Team, at Waikanae.
Thursday	7	v.	Otago, at Dunedin.
Saturday	9	v.	NEW ZEALAND, at Christchurch.

## SUMMARY OF CONTESTS PLAYED BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

### MEN:

1	1954 at Aylesbury, England	Australia	3—2
2	1954 at Wembley (World Champs)	New Zealand	3—2
3	1960 at Whangarei	Australia	3—2
4	1962 at Melbourne	Australia	3—2
5	1962 at Sydney	New Zealand	3—2
6	1964 at Christchurch	Australia	3—2
7	1964 at Wellington	Australia	4—1
8	1964 at Auckland	Australia	5—0
9	1966 at Adelaide	New Zealand	3—2
10	1966 at Sydney	New Zealand	3—2
11	1968 at Melbourne (SEAPATT)	Australia	3—0

### WOMEN:

1	1963 at Sydney	Australia	4—1
2	1967 at Stockholm (World Champs)	Australia	3—2
3	1968 at Melbourne (SEAPATT)	Australia	3—0

## New Zealand and Australian Teams

### MEN: New Zealand

1954	R. V. Jackson (Auckland), G. A. J. Frew (Northland), M. L. Dunn (Wellington) and W. O. Jaine (Auckland).
1960	A. R. Tomlinson (Auckland), M. L. Dunn (Wellington) and B. A. Foster (Otago).
1962	A. R. Tomlinson (Auckland) and M. L. Dunn (Wellington).
1964	A. R. Tomlinson (Auckland), M. L. Dunn (Wellington) and B. A. Foster (Otago).
1966	A. R. Tomlinson (Auckland) and B. A. Foster (Otago).
1968	A. R. Tomlinson (Auckland) and M. W. Borlase (Wellington).

### Australia

1954	G. J. Jennings, L. Laza and W. Hodge.
1960	G. J. Jennings and M. Wilcox.
1962	M. Wilcox and V. Hirsch.
1964	M. Wilcox and M. L. Thomson.
1966	M. Wilcox, M. L. Thomson and C. McDonald.
1968	M. Wilcox, C. McDonald and M. L. Thomson.

### WOMEN: New Zealand

1963	Misses N. Davis (Northland) and N. J. Attwood (Northland).
1967	Mrs N. Traill (Northland), Miss D. L. Wade (Bay of Plenty) and Miss C. E. Johnson (Hamilton).
1968	Miss D. L. Wade (Bay of Plenty) and Mrs. C. E. Tadema (Hamilton)

### Australia

1963	Mesdames S. Javor and F. Smith.
1967	Misses L. Gilbert and J. Lane.
1968	Mesdames S. Javor and L. Nicholson, Misses L. Gilbert and M. Cleaves.

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## Pen Pictures Of Our Visitors

**GRAEME STIRLING:** Captain, age 28, from Melbourne, Victoria; occupation, Public Servant. Ranked No. 4 Victoria, No. 2 Australia. Represented Australia at World's Championships Yugoslavia 1965; Australian doubles champion 1965, Victorian mixed doubles champion 1958, 1962. Runner-up Queensland singles 1968. Uses a soft bat; defensive player with backhand loop and hit.

**LEIGH PASCOE:** Age 19, from Melbourne, Victoria; University student. Ranked No 3 Australia and Victoria. Australian Junior Champion 1964, 1966 and 1967; Victorian junior champion 1964; Australian singles champion 1965, at age of 15; Victorian singles champion 1966. Represented Australia at Worlds Championships Yugoslavia 1965. Queensland singles and doubles champion 1968. Brilliant soft bat all-round player.

**LYN GILBERT:** Age 21, from Ballarat, Victoria; Typist. Ranked No. 2 Australia and Victoria. Australian and Victorian champion 1962, 1963, 1965; Victorian mixed doubles champion 1965; South Australian singles champion 1965. Represented Australia at Worlds Championships, Stockholm 1967, and at SEAPATT Championships, Melbourne 1968. Victorian women's singles and doubles champion 1968; Runner-up Australian women's singles and doubles championships 1967-1968. Attacking right-hand soft bat player.

**MARY CLEAVES:** Age 21, from Victoria. Ranked No. 2 Australia and Victoria. City of Adelaide women's singles title 1967; Runner-up Victorian women's doubles and mixed doubles 1967. Represented Australia at SEAPATT Championships Melbourne 1968 at which she defeated Asian junior champion Y. Konno of Japan. Victorian women's doubles and mixed doubles champion 1968; Runner-up Queensland women's singles 1968. Left-handed, defensive, soft bat player.

**Manager:** Mr. EDDIE AMOS (South Australia).

**Chapron:** Mrs. E. AMOS.



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## **At Sea When War Was Declared**

The first tour undertaken by a New Zealand table tennis team was the visit to Australia in 1939 — 30 years ago and in an era in which many of the present-day stars know little about.

For that reason the tour record (which is not complete in the New Zealand Association's records) as known is presented in this programme.

The purpose of the visit was to place New Zealand on an international footing. An invitation had been extended by the Australian association, and the New Zealand side of four players left Auckland by the "S.S. Mariposa" on Friday, September 1, 1939, under the management of Mr A. M. C. Spooner.

The visit was made possible by a generous donation from Mr H. N. Smith of England, and the members of the team were: Messrs R. A. Algie (Otago), E. Boniface (Wellington), H. F. Boys (Auckland) and K. G. Cantlay (Auckland).

War was imminent as the team was about to sail and a declaration by the British Government was anxiously awaited by all members of the team, as the question of their departure was involved. However, they got away and strangely enough heard nothing after sailing time until Sunday night, September 3. Then passengers on the Mariposa knew of the declaration of war and heard a re-broadcast of the King's speech.

During the tour the team played representatives of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland.

### **ALGIE'S GOOD WIN**

In Melbourne and Adelaide the New Zealanders took part in the singles championships of those cities. R. A. Algie won the City of Melbourne championship with ease, defeating J. Thoms in the final in three straight sets. This was a fine performance as the general standard of play in Victoria was above that of any other State in the Commonwealth. It was also interesting to note that the State of Victoria had almost as many players registered as all of New Zealand.

Another success came New Zealand's way when Ken Cantlay, playing his best of the tour, won the City of Adelaide singles championship, defeating Hodge in the final 19-21, 21-18, 21-7, 21-18. With H. F. Boys as his partner, Cantlay also won the men's doubles of these championships, beating Hodge and Fryar in the final 21-18, 17-21, 16-21, 21-13, 21-14.

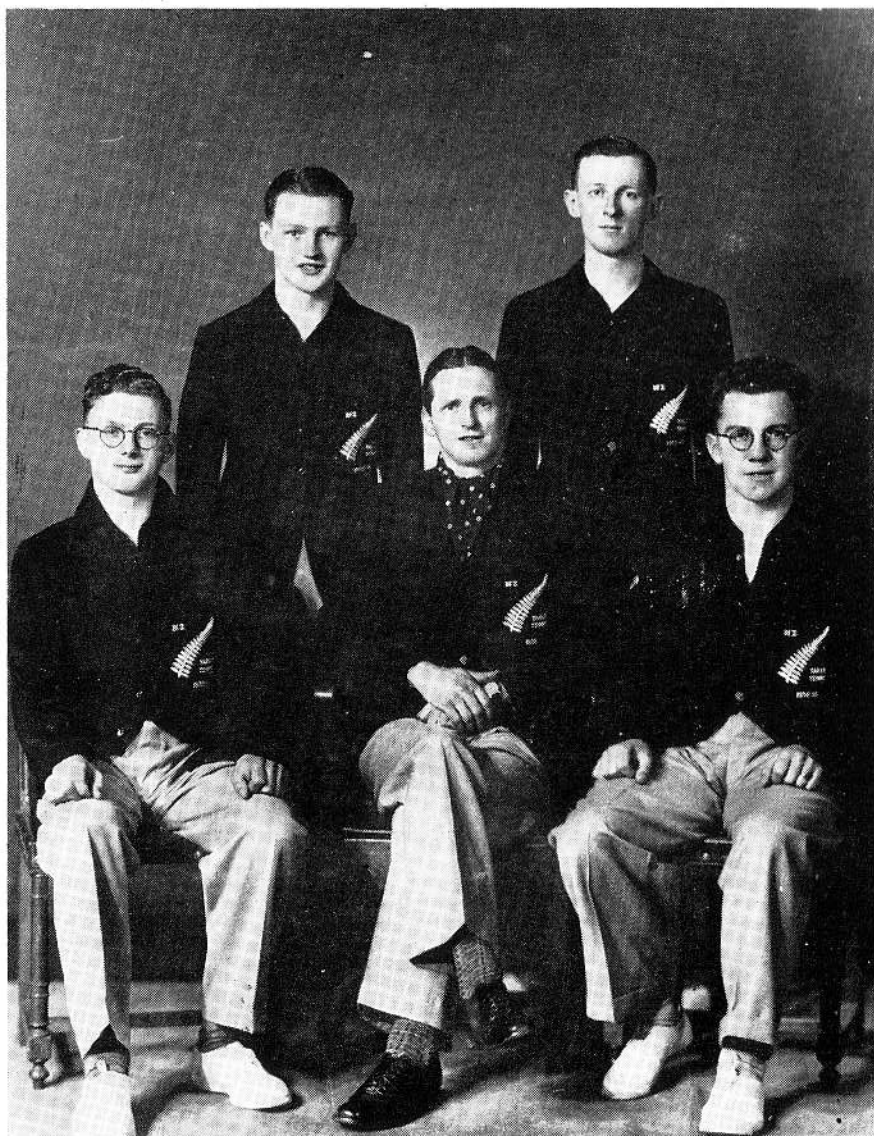
While in Melbourne the team saw an Australian rules football game at the famous Melbourne Cricket Ground. As a means of relaxation in Adelaide, the team played tennis on Adelaide's grass court with Don Turnbull, the ex-Australian Davis Cup player, and it is officially placed on record that Ken Cantlay "aced" this star. The team were made honorary members of the Adelaide Sports Club, and met those great Australian cricketers Don Bradman and Clarrie Grimmett.

Following the conclusion of the return contest v. New South Wales, a special exhibition match was staged in which I. Kelen (Hungary) beat fellow Hungarian M. Szabados, 19-21, 21-18, 21-14.

Results of contests played were:—

beat New South Wales 13—7 (sets)  
beat New South Wales 12—5 (sets)  
lost to Victoria 1—8  
lost to South Australia 501-514 (points)  
beat South Australia 7—3  
lost to South Australia 12—13 (sets)  
beat Queensland 13—8





Standing — Eric Boniface (Wellington), Ken Cantlay (Auckland).

Sitting — Russ Algie (Otago), A. M. C. Spooner (Manager, Auckland), Harry Boyes (Auckland).

1960 saw the first visit to New Zealand of an Australian team and the commencement of a regular inter-change of visits between the countries every two years.

The Australians Geoff Jennings and Michael Wilcox roared through Wellington, Hutt Valley and Palmerston North with 4—1 and 5—0 victories against what were considered strong teams. Before arriving at Wellington the Australians had successfully toured through the South Island with easy wins of 4—1 and 5—0 except against Otago where they won 3—2. Jennings went through undefeated while Wilcox lost a singles to Trevor Flint on the opening night; to Bryan Foster at Dunedin and to Ray Mercer at Invercargill. They lost a doubles against the South Island team and against Otago.

The night the Aussies played Wellington could not have been worse from the weather point of view. A howling southerly, driving rain and bitterly cold. The contest was held at the Winter Show, a rambling tin barn which is notorious for its coldness at any time, but when the elements add their fury, it's an ice-chamber. Only the die-hards and complimentary ticket-holders turned up, and a miserable crowd of 120 was all the Capital City could muster. Murray Dunn played Wilcox first and was never in the hunt! In addition to his all-round play, the Wilcox chop was something Dunn could not handle and for a player of his class it was pitiful to see him popping them up and it was heart-rending to see Wilcox putting them away so effortlessly. The scores, 21-9, 21-14, Rosselli did better against Jennings. He fought hard but there was no doubt about the winner. It was Jennings to the tune of 21-17, 23-21. Wellington with the seasoned pair Dunn and Crossley were expected to have no trouble to win the doubles. Wellington did win but only just, 21-14, 11-21, 23-21. Wilcox then beat Rosselli, 21-13, 21-14 and it was all over. Dunn did much better against Jennings and revelled in the fast open style of game. It was a splendid exhibition by both players and Dunn should have won. He had every chance after winning the first 21-14. Came from behind to level 20-all only to lose the second 21-23. Dunn faded completely in the third at a score of 10-21.

The Australians moved to Palmerston North to meet a strong North Island team which could easily have been the New Zealand team. The North Island lost 0—5. The North Islanders had every chance but there was no doubt that they were beaten by the better team. Again Wilcox played brilliantly. Although he favoured to run round after serving his chop, to be in position for his devastating forehand, he showed that he had good defence and that he could hit equally well on either wing. Wilcox was impressive. Although Dunn did better against him, he never looked really happy and it was universally agreed that Wilcox had his measure.

Jennings was the complete player using a good all-round game with variety to pick up points when he needed them and displaying a will to win when the pressure was on. Dunn could quite easily have beaten him. He led in the early stages but dropped his bundle round the 16 mark which is at the stage when you need to have your bundle well and truly wrapped to win.

Australia were perhaps lucky to win the doubles. The 21-4 win by the North Island pair, Tomlinson and Dunn, in the second game was a true indication of that particular game. The North Island pair led 16-2, 18-3. In the vital third game Australia lead 10-9 at the change. The North Islanders reversed the order of serving to take Dunn away from Wilcox and they led 19-18. Australia came from behind and with two nice edge balls they sneaked home 21-19 and so once again it was all over!

The scoreboard in order of the matches played read — Jennings



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beat Frew, 21-15, 21-19; Wilcox beat Dunn, 21-11, 19-21, 21-13; Jennings and Wilcox beat Dunn and Tomlinson, 21-17, 4-21, 21-19; Wilcox beat Frew, 21-17, 22-20 and Jennings beat Dunn, 21-18, 18-21, 21-18.

In the final contest of the tour at Whangarei the Australians achieved their major success when they beat New Zealand 3-2. Although Australia drew first blood when Jennings beat Foster, New Zealand seemed to have a glorious chance at the interval when it led 2-1.

Tomlinson, in downing Wilcox in straight sets, reversed a previous night's decision when playing for Auckland against the tourists. Tomlinson then teamed with Dunn to score an easy win in the doubles.

The two remaining matches were Wilcox v. Foster and Jennings v. Tomlinson and New Zealand's chance of winning at least one, if not both, of these matches seemed bright.

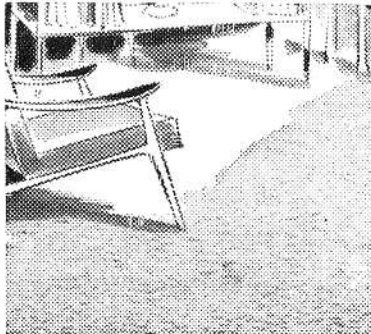
Tomlinson, playing for Auckland the previous night, became the first player in New Zealand to beat Jennings and he appeared to be in fine form against Wilcox.

Foster had played well against Jennings, he had an earlier win over Wilcox to his credit and the 16-year-old Australian gave the impression, both against Tomlinson and in the doubles, that he was losing a little confidence.

After the break, however, the Australians were completely dominant and won the last two matches in straight sets. Wilcox beat Foster, 21-12, 21-14 and Jennings beat Tomlinson, 21-19, 21-15. Jennings was undoubtedly the star player of the night. He was his best in a crisis.

The New Zealanders used bats covered with sandwich sponge rubber, while both the Australians operated with bats covered with pimple rubber. The New Zealanders were experimenting with sponge rubber too early and this had a telling effect. In addition the footwork of the Australians was vastly superior.





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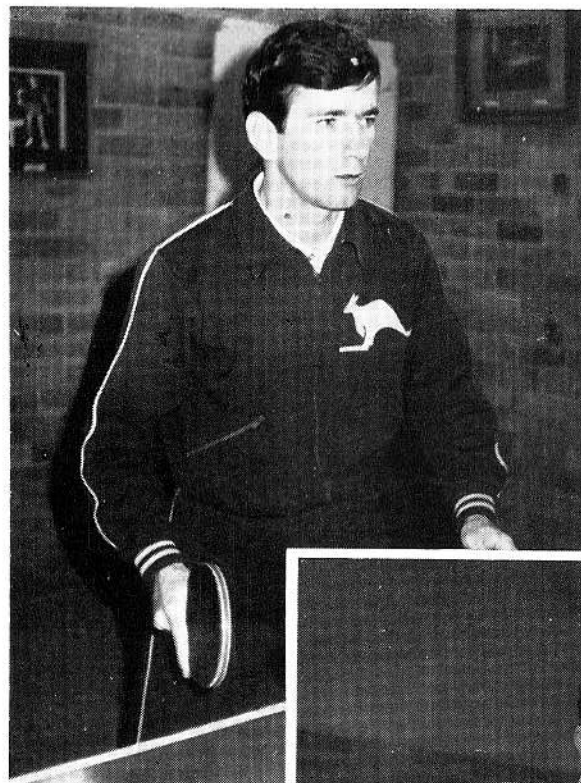
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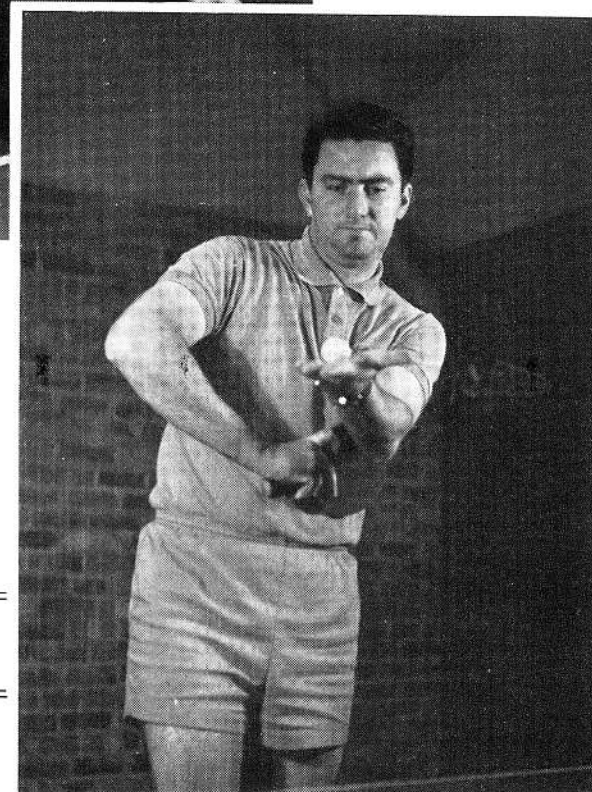
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## 1962 Test Series Even

New Zealand and Australia each won one "test" when Murray Dunn and Alan Tomlinson toured Australia in 1962. The first test, played in Melbourne, went to Australia 3—2 and the second, in Sydney, was won by New Zealand by the same score. Australia was represented by Victor Hirsch (Victoria) and Michael Wilcox (New South Wales) in both encounters.

The first test in Melbourne found New Zealand losing the first three matches to give Australia an unassailable lead, then fighting back to take the last two, with perhaps a little of the pressure off. Hirsch beat Tomlinson (his only single win of the series) in the opening match and then Wilcox beat Dunn in a marathon, 21-18 in the fifth. The Australians took the doubles after losing the first two and being down 2—1 after the first three games, then the test was completed by Dunn beating Hirsch and Tomlinson beating Wilcox, both in four.

The closeness of this contest whetted the appetite for the second test and that was even more of a thriller. The score see-sawed at 1—0, 1—all, 2—1, 2—all before New Zealand won the last match. Wilcox opening proceedings in commanding form to beat Dunn at 21-19 in the fifth, but Tomlinson hit back to dispose of Hirsch, also in five games after trailing 2—1. The doubles went to New Zealand in very easy fashion, the only three-game match of the series. Australia equalised again when Wilcox beat Tomlinson in a tense struggle, 21-18 in the fifth, but Dunn came away from Hirsch in the final match to clinch the test.

The test lost at Melbourne was the only defeat suffered by the New Zealanders on tour. The big surprise of the tour was the defeat of Hirsch the Australian champion by Dunn the New Zealand champion. The New Zealanders opened their tour by being eliminated from the City of Melbourne championships, which was won by Hirsch.

The first shock for Australia came shortly afterward when at Geelong Dunn beat Hirsch. This was on the eve of the first test and must have given Dunn confidence, for he repeated the result in the test. Dunn again beat Hirsch in the second test.

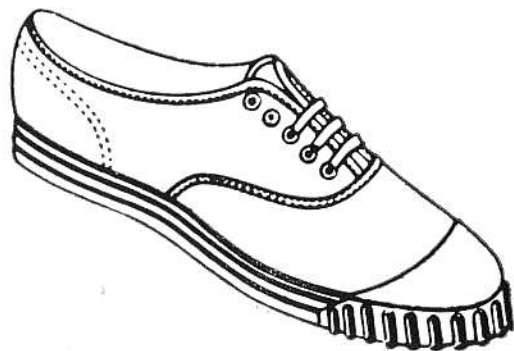
There were some doubts about Tomlinson's form before he left New Zealand. Tomlinson effectively silenced his critics by beating at some stage or another every Australian leading player. This was something Dunn could not accomplish.

The New Zealand team played 5 provincial and 2 international contests and competed in invitation tournaments and the New South Wales State Championships. The team won all the provincial contests halved the international contests; Tomlinson won the invitation tournament at Conulla, New South Wales, and the New Zealand pair won the New South Wales State Championships doubles.



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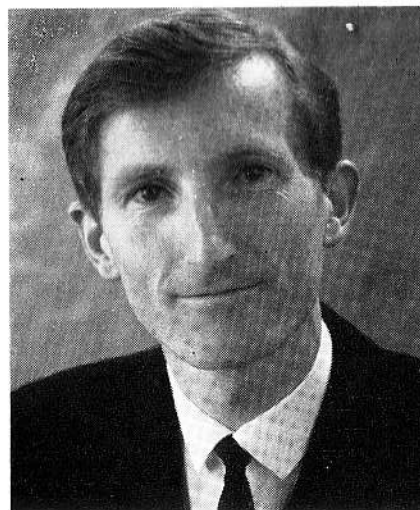
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MURRAY DUNN (Wellington)



ALAN TOMLINSON (Auckland)



VICTOR HIRSCH (Victoria)

# Programme

**AUSTRALIA:** Men: Graeme Stirling and Leigh Pascoe

Women: Lyn Gilbert and Mary Cleaves

**NEW ZEALAND:** Men: .....

Women: .....

## Event 1 MEN'S SINGLES:

..... v. ....  
Umpire ..... Winner .....

## Event 2 WOMEN'S SINGLES:

..... v. ....  
Umpire ..... Winner .....

## Event 3 MEN'S SINGLES:

..... v. ....  
Umpire ..... Winner .....

## Event 4 WOMEN'S SINGLES:

..... v. ....  
Umpire ..... Winner .....

## Event 5 MEN'S DOUBLES:

..... v. ....  
.....  
Umpire ..... Winner .....

## Event 6 WOMEN'S DOUBLES:

..... v. ....  
.....  
Umpire ..... Winner .....

INTERVAL

## Event 7 WOMEN'S SINGLES:

..... v. ....  
Umpire ..... Winner .....

## Event 8 MEN'S SINGLES:

..... v. ....  
Umpire ..... Winner .....

## Event 9 MIXED DOUBLES:

..... v. ....  
.....  
Umpire ..... Winner .....

## Event 10 WOMEN'S SINGLES:

..... v. ....  
Umpire ..... Winner .....

## Event 11 MEN'S SINGLES:

..... v. ....  
Umpire ..... Winner .....

## RESULT OF CONTEST:

..... beat/lost to Australia  
by ..... matches to ..... matches

## Clean Sweep To Brilliant Australian Youngsters In 1964

The third series of contests with Australia took place in New Zealand in June 1964 when an Australian team of Michael Wilcox (New South Wales) and Murray Thomson (South Australia) toured the country, playing three international contests and 13 provincial contests.

Apart from the international contests played at Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland, the itinerary embraced associations where it was considered a visit by an international team would serve to stimulate greater interest and development. As a consequence the Australians did not play against the strong provincial centres of Auckland, Wellington and Canterbury. While it was hoped that this policy achieved its objective, it was doubtful whether the string of 5-0 victories to Australia helped the sport nationally.

The Australians won the three international contests by a progressively wider margin each time: 3-2 at Christchurch, 4-1 at Wellington, and 5-0 at Auckland. In all three encounters the visitors had the issue beyond doubt after the first three matches by leading 3-0. In the provincial contests the Australians scored a clean sweep of 5-0 in every contest and their superiority was so marked that they lost only three games out of a total of 195 played — one each in doubles matches against Otago and Northland and the third by Wilcox in a singles match against S. Galloway of Manawatu.

A newspaper account of the first test played at Christchurch read:—"The lightning speed of the Australian pair M. Wilcox and M. Thomson won them full control of nearly all the games and when beaten they extended their New Zealand opponents to five games.

Wilcox won the opening singles when he dismissed A. R. Tomlinson in four games. With the New Zealander pushing occasionally, Wilcox had the chance to introduce his loop drive and concentrate it on Tomlinson's backhand and to take the first game 21-15. In the second Tomlinson covered his backhand, had less difficulty in returning his opponent's loop drive and won 21-15. During the third and fourth sets Wilcox again forced back Tomlinson to take the two games, 21-13, 21-18.

The next singles was between Thomson and New Zealand's M. L. Dunn. The Australian gained a 9-1 lead but Dunn closed the gap to 9-7 only to suffer another run by Thomson which gave him the game, 21-11. During the second set Dunn corrected his mistakes and hit continual backhands to win 21-10. Thomson then increased the chop he was imparting and forced Dunn into errors and took the match, winning the third and fourth sets 21-16, 21-18.

The doubles match was dull compared to the singles witnessed, with both sides making bad mistakes. However the Australians soon had the game in hand by the many changes in the direction of their drives.

At this stage the test was firmly in the hands of the Australians. They had won three of the five rubbers, but the best games were yet to come.

When Dunn defeated Wilcox it was the first time after six straight defeats at the hands of the Australian champion. The first set went to Dunn who was attacking brilliantly on his backhand and forcing his opponent well back from the table. The next two sets, however, went to the Australian who was retrieving some nearly-impossible drives and attacking whenever the opportunity arose. Dunn then once again dominated to take the fourth and with both players hitting hard, the New Zealander forced his way to victory to win the deciding game.

The final singles match saw New Zealand's second victory when Tomlinson defeated Thomson in one of the most spectacular games of

the night. With the aid of his loop drive the New Zealander quickly won the first game 21-18. During the second set Thomson introduced his backhand loop drive to win 21-10. A close contest then resulted with both players looping and attacking at every opportunity, but Tomlinson finally took the upper hand and won 21-14 in the final set.

In the second test at Wellington the draw brought Wilcox and Dunn to open proceedings. Dunn settled down quicker, his attack was accurate and he led all the way to run out winner in the first game in quick time, 21-14. In the second game Wilcox, using his chop to greater advantage, made some grand openings, hit some sizzlers and his quick tattoo of wrist half-volleys never failed. Wilcox retained the initiative throughout the game and was never headed to win 21-15. The New Zealand champion was full of business in the third game and had a good lead at 10-5, 13-7 and although Wilcox whittled the lead down at 14-11, 16-14, Dunn did not surrender until 17-18 in favour of Wilcox. It was an amazing recovery by the Australian. His loop drive always worried Dunn and he gained points when he wanted them with simple services-variations. A lead of 18-17 was good enough and Wilcox went on to win 21-18. In the fourth game there was only one in it—Wilcox. He led all the way to win 21-16. So Australia were 1-up and again Wilcox demonstrated his superiority over Dunn.

Tomlinson wondered what had hit him in the first game with Thomson and the crowd gasped with amazement at the agility and colossal cheek of the South Australian youngster in hitting flat winners from all angles. The attack never stopped and the service changed at 5-0, 7-3, 9-6, 13-7, 17-8, 20-10 and game to Thomson in four minutes 21-10.

Thomson still continued his run in the second game, chasing everything, using his backhand loop to good effect, not too often but always with success. He was prepared to trade hits, showed remarkable anticipation and was still firing away down centre and to both wings. Tomlinson held the "Kangaroo" at 8-7 but never afterwards and a 21-12 win to the Australian was clear-cut.

Tomlinson tightened his game in the third and Thomson slowed down. He made a number of errors and Tomlinson had a good lead at 15-10 and 20-15 to deservedly win at 21-17.

In the fourth and last game, Thomson was still not playing with the fire of his first two games, but nevertheless still made the crowd gasp with the clean winners he hit and his control close to the table. A 21-18 win to the Australian put his country 2-up and looking very confident.

The weakest player in the doubles was the New Zealand champion Murray Dunn. He had no idea of controlling the loop drive or chop of Wilcox. Neither combination looked convincing although the Australians gave the appearance of greater determination. Occasionally Wilcox hit screamers by counter-hitting and Thomson was prepared to chase the hopeless ones. Winning the first two games at 21-17, 22-20, the third game left no doubt as to the ultimate winners when the Aussies led 10-0 and finally 20-10 to take the game and match 21-10.

With the pressure off, Wilcox and Tomlinson battled on for the third singles and if anything pointed to the superiority of Wilcox, this game did. He had lost his air of fighting for every point and played carelessly. Tomlinson led 20-14 and Wilcox waving his bat hit one on. It was one of those shots with the thought, "Well, I can't win now. I might as well flash at this one!" On it went for a winner. Then he won a few more, but still not expected to win, 20-16, 17, 18 — greater concentration, more like table tennis, 20-19, 20-all. Tomlinson led 21-20 which Wilcox saved, led again at 23-22 and again Wilcox stayed there. Then Wilcox had a turn and finally hit a clean winner to take a





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remarkable scoring game at 26-24. Wilcox won the next two games and the match.

New Zealand scored its only success when Dunn beat Thomson in a sparkling three games, 21-18, 21-15, 24-22. Dunn kept to the attack, never letting Thomson dictate the trend. His backhand worked well and he deserved the victory. So the evening ended with a face-saving display for New Zealand.

The selectors brought in Otago's Bryan Foster, replacing Alan Tomlinson, in the final test at Auckland, but the change had no effect. Australia improved on their 3-2 victory in the first test and 4-1 win in the second to complete a clean sweep of the test series against New Zealand with a 5-0 victory at Auckland.



BRYAN FOSTER (Otago)



MURRAY THOMSON and MICHAEL WILCOX, 1964.

## Double Test Victory For New Zealand In 1966

Alan Tomlinson (Auckland) and Bryan Foster (Otago) achieved New Zealand's greatest success when, while on tour in Australia in 1966, they won the two international contests played. New Zealand beat Australia 3—2 at Adelaide and repeated the success at Sydney by the same margin. This was New Zealand's first success against Australia since the biennial exchange of visits commenced in 1960. New Zealand won because of the combination Tomlinson and Foster achieved as a doubles team and because Tomlinson was in top form to win both his singles in the two contests.

The tour opened with the first test in Adelaide. The first rubber was sensational as Alan Tomlinson beat Cliff McDonald, 6-21, 21-18, 21-16, 6-21, 21-8. McDonald, hitting with deadly accuracy, had the answer to all Tomlinson tried in the first game. What a change then as Tomlinson produced a continuous full-blooded attack. The harder McDonald hit the ball the harder it came back at him. McDonald rose to great heights and tried everything — to no avail as Tomlinson steam-rolled his way to a win. McDonald began confidently in the third and soon both players were hammering away in almost non-stop attack. But Tomlinson proved steadier under pressure towards the close of the game to win 21-16. Then McDonald repeated his effort of the first game to win the fourth game 21-6! Tomlinson took the initiative in the fifth, sailing into everything and giving McDonald no chance. He opened up a big lead to run out winner 21-8.

Murray Thomson led early from Bryan Foster but lapsed and Foster led 18-14. Thomson came back with some flashing drives to reach 20-all, then scraped home 23-21. Foster played doggedly in the second game and displayed a good backhand attack. With a break midway through he won 21-17. Playing a tight game, Thomson won the third 21-18, then cut loose to win the fourth 21-12. Full score to Thomson (Australia) 23-21, 17-21, 21-18, 21-12.

The new pair of McDonald-Thomson were not successful against the Kiwis, who won 21-18, 21-15, 21-16. Tactics played a big part in the New Zealand victory, but they tore the Australians' game apart and proved much superior.

McDonald gave a magnificent display of power table tennis to crush Foster 21-13, 21-15, 21-17. He was relentless in attack.

Two-all and Tomlinson v. Thomson. The match began with counter-attack, but Tomlinson blazed away to win 21-13. Thomson hit better in the second game, but Tomlinson counter-hit and forced errors from Thomson. The Kiwi won 21-17. Thomson staged a reversal in the third, attacking fluently and defending stubbornly. He won 21-12. Tomlinson rose to the occasion and swept to a 16-8 lead in the fourth. Thomson threw caution to the winds and hit winners everywhere. He recovered to 14-18, then 20-all. But that was the end as Tomlinson crashed away two vital smashes to take the game and match to put New Zealand 1-up in the series.

In the second test at Sydney, New Zealand won 3—2 to win its first ever series. Michael Wilcox put Australia in the lead, winning the first rubber from Bryan Foster 21-16, 21-18, 10-21, 21-19. Foster played steadily early and led 10-3 as Wilcox hit erratically. Wilcox steadied and using a drop shot to force high returns hit strongly to lead 14-13 and 18-14. Wilcox hit again in the second but was down 11-14. He served and looped well to just get up. Foster hit more in the third game, led 9-6, then 16-9 as Wilcox made hitting errors. Foster made several spectacular ballooned returns. Wilcox was steadied in the fourth and the score stayed close. Wilcox used drop shots well to get from 15-17 to 18-17, but was then passed by a fine backhand before winning.

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Alan Tomlinson then levelled for New Zealand, beating Cliff McDonald for the second time in the series, 21-18, 21-13, 14-21, 21-23, 21-15. Tomlinson, with strong attack, dictated play in the first two games as McDonald was very tentative. The third game saw much speedy counter-attack. The fourth was mainly fast backhand to backhand play with Tomlinson making the most mistakes. Tomlinson played with a lot of luck in this game, scoring many of his points from nets and edges. Down 6-9 in the final game, McDonald reached 14-16 with attacking play but from that point his backhand half-volley proved expensive and he succumbed the game and match at 15-21.

The crucial doubles rubber was in doubt until the last point. The New Zealanders were fortunate to win the third game, perhaps, and it, more than any other, was the test match winner. McDonald-Wilcox began well in an aggressive mood but the Kiwis swept to the attack to win the second game. Foster in particular hit some good backhands. Wilcox and McDonald were patchy early in the third game with the Kiwis strong in both attack and defence. Down 9-17, Wilcox and McDonald clicked and with hard hitting and often unplayable serves from Wilcox, recovered to lead 20-19 only to lose the next point to an edge. Play was fast and furious after 20-all with the New Zealanders just edging home at 24-22. New Zealand lost the fourth but led through most of the final game, winning the last point when Foster hit a sidespin forehand almost parallel with the net, far away from McDonald's despairing grasp.

Tomlinson clinched the test when he beat Wilcox 21-18, 13-20, 22-20, 18-21, 21-17. After losing the first game Wilcox came back well to take the second and reached 20-17 in the third. At this point he produced a spin serve which Tomlinson had been missing consistently all night. This time, however, Tomlinson managed to control it sufficiently to get a very fine edge ball. Wilcox delivered another of the same sort which Tomlinson replied with an unplayable net ball. Thus encouraged by fate, Tomlinson took the next three points for a 2-1 lead in games. After the rest period, the Sydneysider came back fighting to win the fourth. Tomlinson produced his best form in the fifth to lead 20-14. Wilcox won the next point and with a vicious serve-loop combination reached 18-20. However, by this time the rallies were becoming longer and eventually Wilcox counter-hit one off to give Tomlinson the game and match at 21-18.

With the test match won, the final match lacked interest and McDonald, after a shaky start, settled down to beat Foster with a steady attack, 15-21, 21-14, 21-17, 17-21, 21-17.

In addition to the international contests, the New Zealanders played in the South Australian Open Championships, competed in invitation tournaments and in representative contests with Victoria and New South Wales. The team had remarkable successes with wins against leading Australian players and losing only to New South Wales in the representative contest.

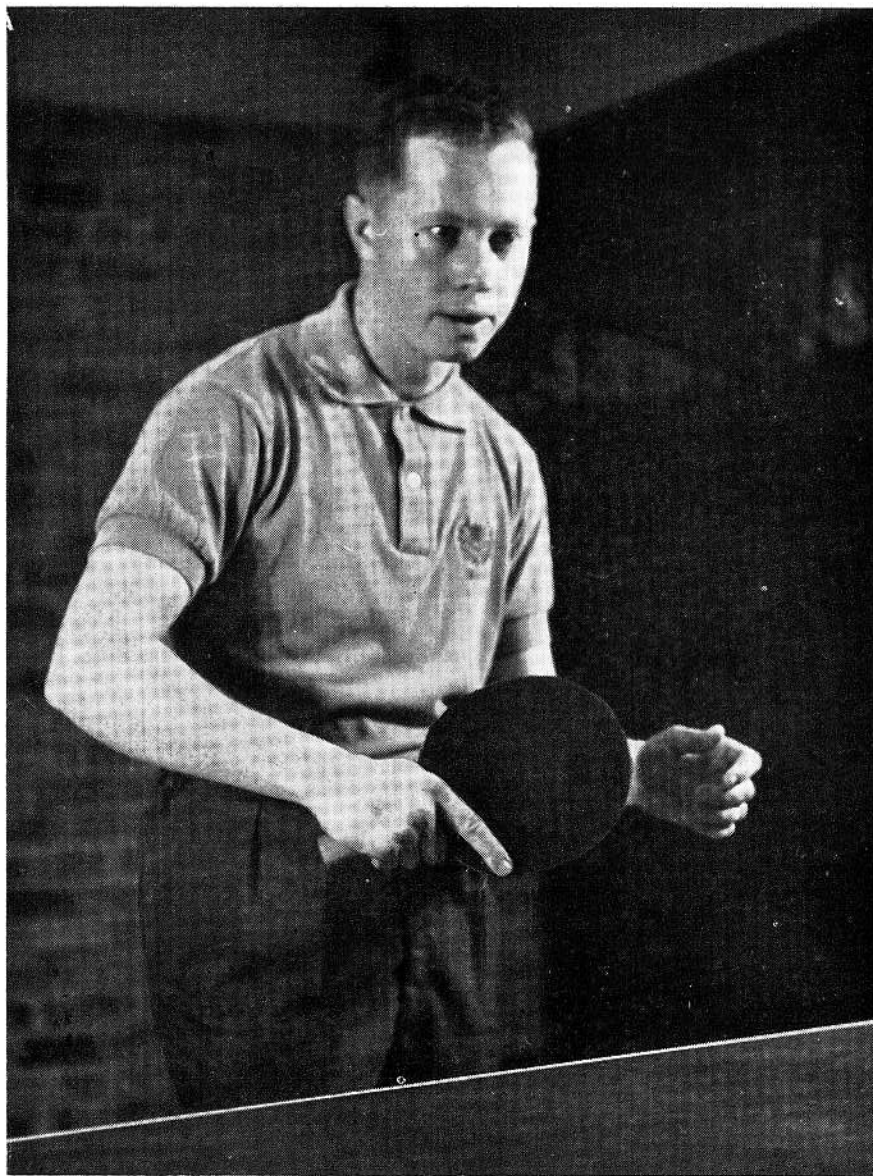
## 1968 SEAPATT Tournament

New Zealand met Australia in the men's teams section of the South East Asia Pacific Area Table Tennis Championships held at Melbourne, Victoria, on 8-15 April and were soundly beaten 3-0.

Alan Tomlinson in a lively match with Michael Wilcox, the current Australian champion, could not get the breaks he strived for and lost 17-21, 19-21. Murray Borlase found Cliff McDonald, a previous Australian and New Zealand singles titleholder, a hard opponent to get past and McDonald's forehand attack carried the day, 21-6, 21-13.

In the doubles the Australians, Wilcox and Thomson held on to win 21-18, 21-18.





CLIFF McDONALD (New South Wales)

## Australia Lead In Women's Contests

For the first time the 1969 tour is one by a combined team of men and women, and it is the first time that an official Australian women's team has visited New Zealand. But on two previous occasions a team of New Zealand women have toured Australia. These two teams although not officially selected have comprised the leading ranked New Zealand women players and on both occasions had a New Zealand team been selected the women taking part in these tours would have earned selection.

The first team, consisting of Misses M. M. Hoar, B. C. Packwood and Mrs J. E. Magorian, with Mrs G. E. Buckler as Manageress, visited various States of Australia in 1957, playing representative contests and exhibition matches. The team was undefeated, winning by wide margins. Although every endeavour was made by the Manageress to obtain a contest against an Australian team, the Australian officials showed no interest and the trial of strength remained unresolved.

However, the New Zealanders competed with great success in the Australian National Open Championships, with the New Zealand champion, Miss M. M. Hoar, winning the women's singles and with Miss B. C. Packwood the women's doubles event.

## N.Z. Women's Team — Australian Tour 1957



L. to R.: Barbara Packwood (Auckland), Mary Lane (Tasmania), Gwen Buckler (Manageress, Auckland), June Leathley (Otago), Margaret Hoar (Auckland).



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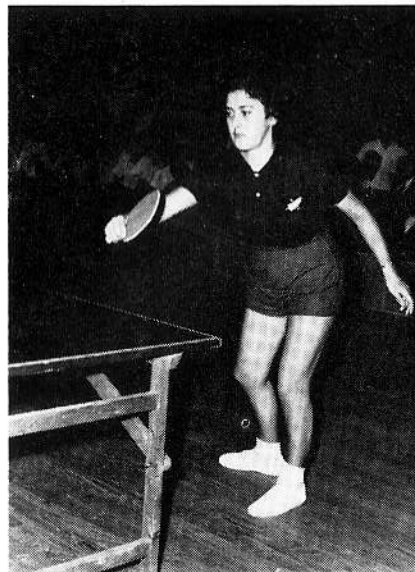


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Although New Zealand girls had competed before at an Australian Championships, this was the first time that three of New Zealand's top women players had participated at the same championships and as the championships were played immediately following the New Zealand Championships it was an opportunity to gauge the relative strength of the playing standard of women in Australia and New Zealand. Despite the fact that one of the leading Australian women was absent overseas, the result was rather conclusive in favour of New Zealand when three New Zealanders reached the semi-finals of the singles and two of the final four pairs in the women's doubles were New Zealand combinations.

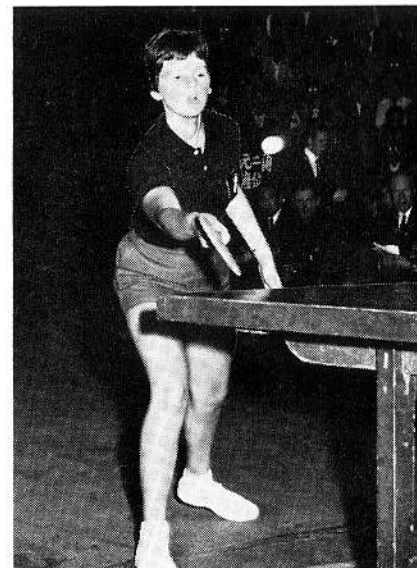
## **\*Australia Win the First Test**

In 1963 the biggest invasion of an Australian table tennis tournament by New Zealanders took place when eight Kiwis competed at the 1963 Australian Championships at Sydney. Amongst the players were Neti



**NETI TRILL**

**N.Z. v. Hong Kong, 1961**



**NORMA ATWOOD**

**N.Z. v. Hong Kong 1961**

Davis and Norma Attwood, currently ranked No. 1 and 2 in New Zealand, who were sponsored by the Northland Association. With the support of the New Zealand Association agreement was reached with Australia for the playing of the first women's test contest.

Only 51 people watched the test between New Zealand and Australia, emphasising that the public in Australia were not interested in watching women's sport.

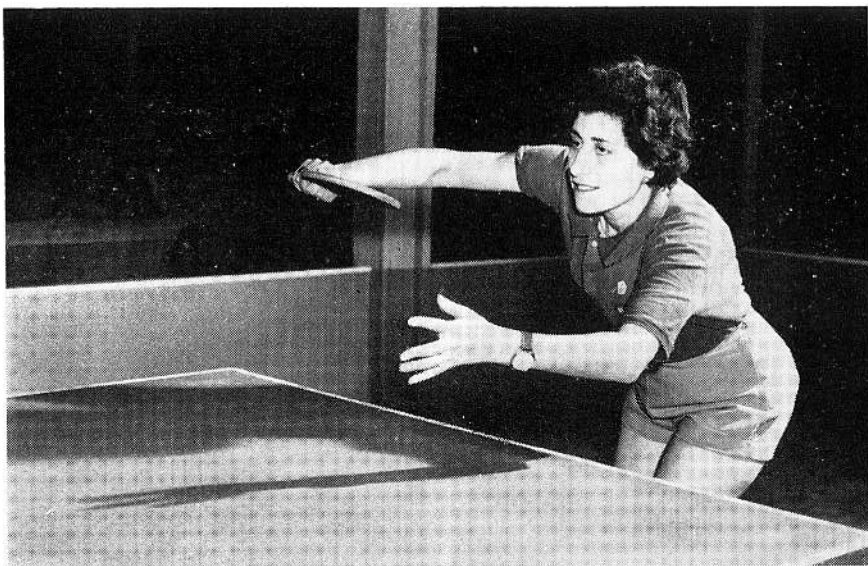
The test took place at the Burwood Centre, Sydney, on 16 September and resulted in a 4—1 win to Australia. Australia won the four singles, but lost the doubles.

The teams were:—

Australia: Mrs Suzy Javor and Mrs Fay Smith.

New Zealand: Miss Neti Davis and Miss Norma Attwood.

In the opening match, the Australian champion Suzy Javor repeated her victory in the final of the Australian singles, when she beat the New



SUZY JAVOR, Australian Champion 1958-1960, 1962-1969;  
Victorian Champion 1957-1968.



FAY SMITH (New South Wales)

Zealand champion, Neti Davis, 21-11, 21-13. Suzy Javor hit like a rocket and with Neti Davis unable to keep her chops low enough, the Australian blazed her way to a brilliant victory.

Norma Attwood found Fay Smith too steady in defence and two or three high smashes missed at crucial stages cost her the match at 21-18, 21-17.

Two down with three to go, the New Zealanders kept in the contest with a good win in the doubles, 20-22, 21-12, 21-18. The more experienced, the well-knit pairing of Davis-Attwood was too strong for the Javor-Smith combination.

Neti Davis was confidently expected to beat Fay Smith in the next match to level the rubber. But she just could not get enough of her drives to find the mark. The remarkably steady defence and her sharp sudden hit which the Australian displayed wore the New Zealander down and Australia clinched the rubber with a 21-16, 15-21, 21-14 win.

The final match made the evening, with Norma Attwood showing her true form against Suzy Javor. Played at a fast tempo, it was a terrific contest which could have gone either way and only Suzy Javor's great sense of balance, speed and determination enabled her to get home at 21-16, 21-19.

#### Australia 3, New Zealand 2, at Stockholm

Australia and New Zealand women met in a teams contest at the World Table Tennis Championship held at Stockholm in 1967. Detailed results were (New Zealand players mentioned first):—

Neti Traill lost to L. Gilbert, 18-21, 17-21.

Dawn Wade lost to J. Lane, 15-21, 16-21.

Neti Traill and Cath Johnson beat L. Gilbert and J. Lane, 13-21, 21-17, 21-18.

Neti Traill beat J. Lane, 21-18, 21-12.

Dawn Wade lost to L. Gilbert, 21-23, 22-20, 14-21.

New Zealand was away to a bad start losing the first two singles. Both Neti Traill and Dawn Wade appeared to be nervous and lost many points through their own errors.



DAWN WADE  
(Bay of Plenty)



CATHERINE JOHNSON  
(Hamilton)

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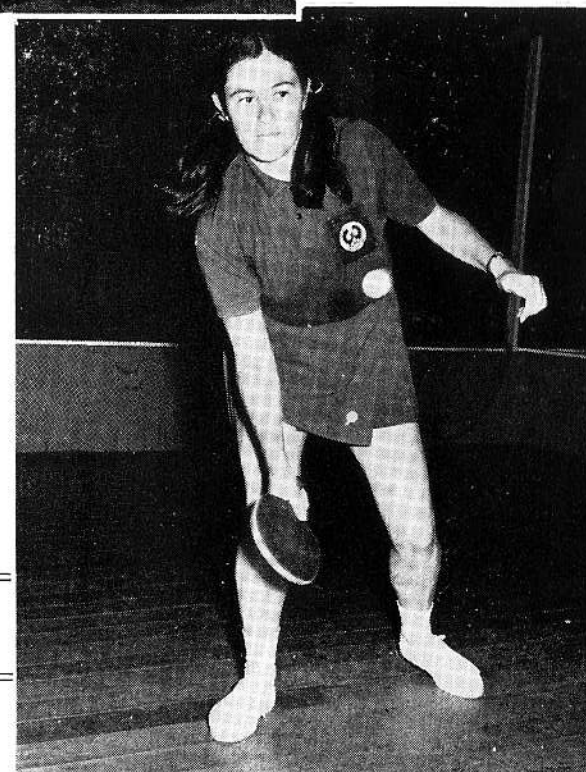
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**JOAN LANE**  
(South Australia)

A similar pattern was displayed in the first game of the doubles before the New Zealanders steadied themselves to win the next two games and the match. Neti Traill brought New Zealand back into the contest with a good win over Joan Lane.

In the final singles, the Tauranga girl, Dawn Wade, went down fighting. In the second game, after narrowly losing the first 21-23, she made a championship recovery from 13-20 down to win nine points in succession to take the game 22-20. Dawn, however, was unable to maintain this winning streak and lost the final game and the match 14-21.

## 1968 SEAPATT Tournament

At the South East Asia Pacific Area Table Tennis Championships held at Melbourne, Victoria, New Zealand Women's team opened its first match against Australia with Cathy Tadema (nee Johnson) playing Suzy Javor—eight times Australian Women's Singles Champion and holder of eleven successive Victoria women's singles titles. Cathy started off nervously from her service being 1-4, and 3-7 down, fought back to 9-11 but again became impetuous and was 9-16 down and lost 11-21. The second game started off with the same pattern, 1-4 and 3-7 down, but then Cathy began to hit with more control and direction trailing until she evened the score at 15-15. Keeping up the pressure the New Zealander took the second game at 21-18. The third game also started along the same lines as the first two and after Cathy had been down 3-7 she took over the lead at 11-9. In a game of changing fortunes the New Zealander was down 13-17, to recover at 17-17 but to finally be beaten 18-21.

Dawn Wade was matched against Lorraine Nicholson, the Australian women's singles champion in 1961 and winner of four national women's doubles titles. The Australian was too consistent with the New Zealander not being able to penetrate the defence and after trailing all the way in both games New Zealand lost 11-21, 13-21.

Australia rested their two singles players from the doubles substituting Mary Cleaves and Lyn Gilbert, two promising 20-year-old girls. The New Zealanders combined very well and quickly established a 12-3 lead, but as the game progressed the Australian pair settled down to play better table tennis and reduced the lead to 15-10 and 16-14. However New Zealand held on to win the first game 21-17.

The second game went point for point all the way, 5-5, 10-10, 15-15, 18-18 and with victory in sight the New Zealand pair made some impatient attempts to score the necessary point only to fail and lose the game 19-21.

This success was most encouraging to the Australians who went for their shots in an aggressive manner in the third and final game, and at the change of ends led 10-2. Although the New Zealanders staged a minor comeback to 14-17 they could not overtake their opponents and Australia won the game and match at 17-21, 21-19, 21-17.



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