

Speaker: Club President, Terry

The environment that we've been working on for probably the last 15 years is a friendly, welcoming environment. So everyone feels like this is a great place to come.

Speaker: Player, Tess

I love that our club's so family oriented and everyone knows each other and everyone's friends.

Speaker: Club President, Terry

If new people come in, we introduce ourselves and that's the starting point.

Speaker: Coach, Wayne

When I first started playing wheelchair tennis, nobody wanted a bar of a wheelchair tennis player. Until I came to Safety Bay, when I came to Safety Bay, I spoke to Shane, the head coach, and he said, "Yeah, I'll try it, I've never done it before, but I'm willing to give it a go."

But when they came down here, it made you feel like welcome. Everybody wanted you to come here, they wanted to play with you.

They treated you as a tennis player, right, rather than somebody with a disability.

Speaker: Club President, Terry

About 10 years ago, we had a member, he did our first strategic plan. That strategic plan really got us starting to think about quite a few things and inclusion was one of those things.

Speaker: Coach, Madeleine

It means being able to support to the best of our ability every single person that comes through our front gates. And that's regardless of age, gender, ability, disability, absolutely anything. If it helps get someone through and onto the court or even spectating, it's going to make a difference in that person's life. And I think that's what's important here and that's what we do very well.

We have not once turned someone away from those front gates.

Speaker: Coach, Wayne

As a club, we need to respect each individual person, take them as they are. Don't try putting anybody into a box of, "This is what you are, this is what you are." Treat everybody exactly the same as you would anybody else.

Speaker: Club President, Terry

We don't want anyone going away from the club, feeling that they've had a bad experience at Safety Bay.

Speaker: Coach, Wayne

If they say they're gonna be inclusive, then they need to have somebody that has a disability of what they're trying to do, whether it's low vision, whatever disability, whether it's autism, you know, they need to get somebody in that sector to come to the club to see what needs to be done to make it easier.

Speaker: Club President, Terry

If they haven't got a strategic plan, get one.

You need that written down and get it written into your strategic plan with some goals, some steps of where to go, and then make that a focus in your committee meetings, in your club meetings, so that you're just one step at a time, you get there.

Speaker: Coach, Madeleine

But it doesn't matter how small the act is, simply doing or being there for the people who need it the most is going to make a really large impact. Do what you can with the capabilities that you've got now to be able to encourage those changes at a smaller level.

Speaker: Club President, Terry

We've got a bit of a plan to start up like a Mums and Bubs day, so that new mums can feel that they can come here with their baby and be looked after.

Speaker: Coach, Wayne

If you have somebody that comes in a wheelchair, you have somebody that has walking sticks or walking frames or whatever, adjust to that person.

Speaker: Player, Tess

It's also great for all the younger kids to see people like Wayne, who are these amazing athletes in wheelchairs, and it just becomes normal for them.

Speaker: Coach, Madeleine

The fact that you don't have to be a player, you can just be a lover of the sport, you can come down, you can watch, you can assist as well, we're always taking on volunteers.

Speaker: Club President, Terry

Society is diverse, so I think basically all clubs should reflect society. We're open to the public club and so yeah, we should be open to everybody.