

# TENNIS EAST GIPPSLAND

## 2008/09 DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORT

### Tennis Delivery to Players with a Disability

A five week program was undertaken for Bairnsdale Specialist School as a forerunner to new initiatives in the 2009/10 year.

Whilst professional coaches are encouraged to assist with these programs, it is not essential that the person delivering the sessions must be coaches. I would be pleased to hear from tennis players across the Region who can spare time to deliver 5 x 45 minute sessions. It is a very satisfying contribution. Some funding can be made available from the RDO expense budget.

### Hot Shots Challenges

This program is the best method of introduction to tennis in decades.

Originating in Sweden under another name, it has swept through Europe, and involves reduced sized nets (four can fit on one end of a full sized court), small racquets and low compression balls.

It was intended to conduct a session at each of the four Junior Circuit Lead-in tournaments in 2008/09, however, weather and availability construed against us and only two were offered at Lakes Entrance and Sale.

Lakes Entrance was a phenomenal success on 5 mini courts with 20+ pre-pennant/pre-tournament standard players participating. And we conducted the session in the car park! These converted into 6+ coaching pupils, and even attracted 2 adults to membership of the club.

The format is completely flexible, however, our approach was –

- Start with getting the kids to hit balls as hard as they can against a fence (the boys loved this!);
- Taking the kids away from the fence, challenge them to hit over the fence (of course, none could!);
- Have an adult supervise each court of four players just having fun;
- One court utilized in a “basic coaching” format.

We are assessing the continuance at the Junior Circuit Lead-in tournaments, and together with the Regional Council, we are offering to conduct a session at your club pre-summer season Open Day. **First in, best dressed!**

### East Gippsland Dahlsens Teams Challenge

Ninety-six players from Bairnsdale, Maffra, Orbost and Sale competed in two sections in 10/U, 12/U, 14/U and 16/U age groups in a magnificent day of tennis.

This year's Challenge will be held at Bairnsdale on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

### Tennis Delivery to Remote Schools

Coaches have conducted programs at remote schools of Swifts Creek (9 weeks with average 30 students) and Orbost (9 weeks average 15 students). Further contact will be made by these coaches to ensure continuity of the Program.

I undertook further programs at Lindenow South (5 weeks average 17 students), Meerlieu (5 weeks average 14 students).

### Indigenous Program

#### Scholarship

Five sessions were conducted at each of Bairnsdale West PS (average 15 pupils) and Bairnsdale PS (average 12 pupils) from which two pupils were selected for scholarships involving coaching, equipment, membership and pennant.

#### OTC Program

Delivered with Bairnsdale coach (Amanda Dundas), for indigenous adults and adolescents 15 years and older.

**Julie Glynn – RDO**

24/5/09