



MEDIA RELEASE

21st September 2005

KIA PRO TENNIS TOUR EVENTS CONFIRMED FOR BAIRNSDALE AND SALE

Bairnsdale and Sale have received yet another major boost with Tennis Australia awarding Tennis East Gippsland two Futures Tournaments as part of the Kia Pro Tour to be staged in 2006.

The additional events will be held in conjunction with the earlier allocated Australian Money Tournaments.

Lead-in events have been added to the Australian Money Tournaments which will see some of the best Australian and international players gracing local courts over 21 days.

The tournaments to be held at Sale and Bairnsdale Tennis Clubs are as follows:

Venue	Dates	Classification	Prize Money
Bairnsdale TC	20 – 26 March	Futures, Kia Pro Tour	US\$15,000
Sale TC	27 March – 2 April	Futures, Kia Pro Tour	US\$15,000
Bairnsdale TC	28 – 30 March	Lead-In Event	AUD\$2,000
Bairnsdale TC	31 March – 2 April	Australian Money Tournament	AUD\$15,000
Sale TC	4 – 6 April	Lead-In Event	AUD\$2,000
Sale TC	7 – 9 April	Australian Money Tournament	AUD\$15,000

Tennis East Gippsland encompasses the Wellington and East Gippsland shires, and these events add further strength to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two shires in June.

East Gippsland Mayor Cr Jane Rowe said news of the two new tournaments was fantastic.

“The initial events provided a great boost for tennis in the region but tournaments at the Futures level provide a real business and tourism opportunity for our community,” she said.

“Work has already started for the first event in Bairnsdale so that we can properly showcase our city and the region,” she said.

Wellington Shire Mayor Peter Gault said: “Hosting these tournaments is great news. We will be attracting top players to our area and they will be great role models for our young people and indeed the whole community. These players are renowned for their dedication, fitness and healthy lifestyles, which are terrific qualities we can all aspire to.”

“The tournament is certain to attract a great deal of interest and support from the people of Wellington, East Gippsland and from much further afield.”

Tennis East Gippsland president John Glynn particularly acknowledged the foresight and financial contribution of both shires in so strongly supporting these major events, and recently gave an insight to the Bairnsdale Chamber of Commerce & Industry on the enormous economic benefits coming to the region.

In their first year, the Australian Money Tournaments are classified as 500+ bed events with a dollar spend of \$108,000 and the larger Futures Tournaments are 1200+ bed events and a dollar spend of \$350,000. The end value of the events can be up to five times this amount.

“We had hoped that we might get to this stage in 2008 or 2009,” Mr Glynn said. “With the confidence shown by Tennis Australia in bringing our aspirations forward we need to make



this first year an outstanding success in both Bairnsdale and Sale to realise on my expectation of the annual return of the tournaments for many years to come.”

The Kia Pro Tour is an integral part of Tennis Australia’s player development program. It provides valuable prize money and ranking points for hundreds of up-and-coming professional players in tournaments directly below the ATP and WTA events.

The 2005/2006 Kia Pro Tour comprises 24 men’s and women’s international tennis tournaments held in five States and one Territory across Australia from September 2005 through to April 2006.

For further information about the Kia Pro Tour, log on to www.tennisaustralia.com.au

Enquiries regarding sponsorship and marketing opportunities should be directed to the Tournament Director on email at manager@tenniseastgippsland.com or telephone 0409 529 167.