

HICKS MOVES UP THE RANKINGS

Local player Matthew Hicks has moved up the Australian Rankings and is currently at 64 with a current World Ranking of 1439. Hicks has been playing the men's circuit at two tournaments recently at Mildura and Berri, South Australia.

At Mildura Hicks in the qualifying draw defeated Ryan Frawley who is ranked 296 in Australia 6/4 6/1, in the first round. In the second round Hicks defeated Kim Moellers from Germany 6/2 7/6. Hicks continued his good form in the third round defeating Chris Baskett (Australia ranked 100) 6/3 6/4.

By winning the third round match Hicks made the main draw and won his first round match 6/3 6/3 against Myles Blake, Great Britain, who has a World ranking of 870.

In the second round of the main draw Hicks met Erik Cavojka from Canada with a World ranking of 385 and lost in three hard fought sets 3/6 7/5 2/6.

At the Berri tournament Matthew had a bye through the first round of the qualifying draw, then defeated Robert Howe from Australia ranked 122, 6/3 6/2. In the third round Hicks defeated Ryan Thomas, ranked 66 in Australia, 6/2 7/5. Again Hicks made the main draw, however, ran into Michael Look ranked 19 in Australia, and lost 3/6 4/6.

Hicks continued his good form at Warrnambool over the long weekend taking out the Men's Open Singles, defeating the No.2 seed and State grader J Cowling from Melbourne 6/4 6/0.

Local players Romano Mataruga and State grader Carolyn McGann dominated the Ladies' Open at Warrnambool with Romano beating three seeded players on her way to the final.

In the final Romano played her fellow club member in Carolyn McGann and started well winning the opening set 6/4, however the more experienced McGann came home strongly to win the next two sets 6/2 6/1 and the Open Title.

FINALS TO CONTINUE THIS SATURDAY

Following the Long Weekend, Tennis Geelong finals will continue next Saturday with Preliminary Finals to be played in Seniors Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 15. Cut-throat semi-finals will be played in Sections 5, 12, 14, 16 and 17.

Preliminary finals in all 27 sections of juniors will be played this Saturday.

All Grand Finals will be played on March 26th for both senior and junior.

In the preliminary final of Section 1, Newcomb will be up against St Luke's Highton Uniting and will need to be in top form as St Luke's has State graders Vicky Stucky and Brianna Bateup along with Jeremy Palmer-Morgan in top form.

Newcomb will be relying on it's depth of talent with Greg Steele, David Kos, Chris Higgins and their star performed from the semi-final, Peter Cullen. In the line-up Newcomb is also well placed in ladies with Joanne Puckett and Sascha Bruenjes leading the way. Overall Newcomb with an even line-up should win and face Centre Court Blue in the grand final. This final will be played at Grovedale with Murray Surkitt the Referee.

LARA TWO-DAY TOURNAMENT FOR JUNIORS

The Lara Tennis Club will be conducting a junior tournament over two days during the School Holidays in April for Age groups under 10, 13, 15 and 18 for girls and boys. The event is open to all juniors with Round Robin Singles played on April 18 and Round Robin Doubles on April 19. A novice event has been included for juniors under 13 years of age who have not played competitive tennis. Fantastic prizes, lunch provided both days, snacks and drinks for sale. This will be a great holiday activity – only \$40 for two days.

To enter, contact Geoff Jenkins on Phone 5282 6214 and he will email an entry form to complete. This tournament is sponsored by the Bendigo Bank who are very supportive of junior tennis events.