

NEWCOMB TEAM TO BEAT

Newcomb at home to Grovedale Black on Saturday in Section 1 Tennis Geelong proved they should again be hard to beat for this season's flag with a 4 sets to 2 and 13 game victory over Grove Black.

Although losing, Grove Black still retains top position after 3 rounds, with Newcomb in second.

Newcomb started strongly winning both opening mixed doubles sets with Joanne Puckett and Greg Steele defeating Steven Muratori and Sara Earls and Michelle Price and Chris Higgins proving far too strong for Alex Olney and Lisa Sherwell.

Newcomb had a nine game advantage after 2 sets, however lost the ladies doubles and 3rd mixed in a tiebreak before running out winners 4 sets 34 games to 2 sets 21 games. Higgins for Newcomb had a day out winning his 3 sets and losing only 5 games in the process.

ST MARY'S INTO THIRD

St Albans was at home to St Mary's in the other Section 1 clash and found St Mary's with Peppe Scorpo in outstanding form winning his 3 sets and with strong backing from Paul Field and Melanie McClelland outplayed St Albans to win 4 sets to 2.

Clare Burns for St Albans was a standout winning the ladies doubles with Angela Oldham and 4th mixed with Matthew Allen to win the only 2 sets for St Albans.

Overall St Mary's too strong winning 4 sets 30 games to 2 sets 20 games.

LADDER AFTER 3 ROUNDS – Grovedale Black 15 points, Newcomb 11, St Mary's 11, St Albans 9, Grovedale Yellow 2.

WAURN PONDS AND LARA MAKE STATEMENT

In Section 2 competition of Tennis Geelong on Saturday, top sides Waurnd Ponds and 2nd placed Lara have cleared out on top winning 7 sets to 2 in their respective matches.

The Ponds, with Ben Rankin in fine form winning his 3 sets and with support from veteran Michael Mullen and a strong ladies line-up of Emily Rankin, Joanne Mullen and her daughter Nicole, proved too strong for 4th placed Ocean Grove to win 7 sets 50 games to 2 sets 33 games.

For the Grove, Scott Bibby win the Grove's only 2 sets for the afternoon when he partnered Julie Allwood to take out 3rd mixed and with Jarryd Proctor won 2nd men's in a strong effort.

Lara was away to Western Heights Uniting and recorded a 7 sets to 2 win against the bottom team. For Lara, Daniel Peters and their ladies led by Jacqui Watson along with Robyn Cogan and Sandra Slade were in great form winning their 3 sets. The Lara ladies conceded only 5 games in ladies' doubles.

Jeff Smith was Western Heights' leading player winning 2 of his 3 sets teaming with Carmel Addlem to win 2nd mixed doubles and with Matthew Wrigley won 3rd men's' doubles in a tiebreak. Final result – Lara 7 sets 52 games to Western Heights 2 sets 33 games.

In other games Geelong East Uniting at home surprised 5th placed Bannockburn to win 5 sets to 4 and by 9 games. The East men of Mark Govan and Jason McCallum (winning their 3 sets) and Brad Verfurth dominated the match winning 2nd and 3rd mixed and the 3 men's' doubles conceding only 2 games in 3 sets. The Burn's ladies kept them in the match when Sarah Round Ida Durran and Carol Dodds won all 3 ladies doubles, however East with their men in fine form won 5 sets 46 games to 4 sets 37 games.

In the final match in Section 2 Torquay 6th was at home to Grovedale 3rd and won the opening two mixed doubles and 1st men's with Sam Rogers winning 2 of his 3 sets for the afternoon. However, it was short lived as Torquay with Ben Hardy and Linda Muratori in good form winning their 3 sets for the day and Linda with Donna Schoenmaekers and Belinda Veenstra taking out all three ladies doubles, won the match 6 sets 49 games to 3 sets 39 games.

LADDER – SECTION 2 – Waurin Ponds 28 points, Lara 27, Grovedale 18, Ocean Grove 14, Bannockburn 14, Torquay 13, Geelong East Uniting 10, Western Heights Uniting 8.

IN BRIEF

The Barwon Region was represented at the Alicia Molik Cup recently by juniors Jayson Tomicic, James Thorne, Olivia Ryan and Taylah Mielcarek. This was a Round Robin event for 12 & Unders that was held at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. The event run by Tennis Victoria attracted 16 teams from both Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria. David McLennan from the Barwon Region said the level of tennis was of a high standard and the Barwon team performed well to finish in 10th position overall. The highlights for the players were playing at Kooyong and meeting Alicia Molik.