

ST MARY'S INTO GRAND FINAL – JUST

In Section 1 Tennis Geelong Final on Saturday St Mary's just managed to hold on by 5 games with sets even against Grovedale Black and will now meet Newcomb in the Grand Final next week. The match was played in weather ideal for a tennis final with both sides at full strength for the encounter.

The match opened with St Mary's Peppe Scorpo and Carly McClelland getting the Saints away to an outstanding start by completely outplaying the Grove's Cameron Govan and Sara Earls in 1st mixed, losing only 1 game.

Grove hit back in 2nd mixed when Steven Muratori and Lisa Sherwell got home in a tight struggle over the Saints' pair of Peter Ficca and Melanie McClelland to level the match at one set all.

Grove took the lead in the match winning the ladies' doubles, however the Saints hit back hard in the men's doubles winning the set to love to open up a 5 game lead with two sets to play.

The remaining reverse mixed doubles sets were shared with Dale winning the 3rd mixed and the Saints the 4th mixed and the match 3 sets 29 games to 3 sets 24 games.

In a replay of last year's grand final St Mary's will play Newcomb, with Newcomb strong favourites for the flag once again.

SHOCK EXIT FOR LARA

In a shock result in the preliminary final of Section 2 on Saturday, Lara who along with Waurin Ponds had dominated this section lost to a much improved up-and-about Ocean Grove side by 6 sets to 3. With this loss, Lara has departed the finals in straight sets and the Grove will now meet Waurin Ponds for the flag next Saturday. The Grove team got away to an excellent start on Saturday with Jarryd Proctor and Megan Vicary and Josh Hudson and Ashleigh Cooke taking out the opening two mixed doubles sets over Xavier Christensen and Jacqui Watson and Daniel Peters and Robyn Cogan to open up a 2 sets 12 games to 5 games lead in the match. Lara hit back in the 3rd mixed with Cronin Taorei and Sandra Slade proving too strong for Grove's Scott Bibby and Julie Allwood.

The 1st ladies' and men's doubles were the highlight of the match and proved a match winner for the Grove side as they won both in hard fought tiebreak sets which broke the heart of the Lara players now down by 4 sets to 1 in the match and by 6 games.

In the final 4 sets Lara took out the 2nd and 3rd ladies while the Grove's men won both 2nd and 3rd men's doubles in fine style, losing only 3 games in doing so, and the match 6 sets 49 games to Lara 3 sets 39 games to reach the grand final. For the winners Jarryd Proctor and Josh Hudson won all their sets while for Lara Sandra Slade was outstanding winning all her sets in a losing side.

Section 1 Grand Final will be played at Grovedale (courts 5 & 6 modgrass) between Newcomb and St Mary's.

Umpires – Grovedale Black and St Albans.

Section 2 Grand Final will be played at Newcomb (courts 5 & 7 plexi) between Waurin Ponds and Ocean Grove.

Umpires – Lara and Bannockburn.

All Grand Finals for senior and junior sections will be played this Saturday.