

Finals reach a crescendo

LOCAL TENNIS Donna Schoenmaekers

It was semi-final week for Tennis Geelong Junior Pennant Girls sections and all results went with ladder positions.

Geelong Lawn dominated Surfcoast Torquay dropping only six games in the four singles sets before taking the match 6-0, while Beachside won both doubles after splitting the singles, finishing ahead 4-2.

Section 2 minor premiers Western Heights Uniting will face Drysdale after accounting for Geelong Lawn White.

Ladder leaders Western Heights Uniting and Surfcoast Jan Juc will play for the Section 3 premiership after Uniting took a 5-1 win over Hamlyn Park and Juc scraped over the line to win by one game.

Section 5 was almost a mirror of Section 3 with St Mary's taking a 5-1 over Surfcoast Torquay, but Waurm Ponds had a nine-game advantage over Drysdale in their match which tied three sets all.

In the Section 4 preliminary final, Ocean Grove will face Drysdale after a 4-2 win over Highton.

It was also semi-final week for Green Ball sections with only one real upset when Drysdale defeated Highton in the second semi in Section 1. Highton had both home and away wins between the teams, but with three good wins in the singles Drysdale had a three-game advantage at the end when the teams tied on sets. Geelong Lawn won the first semi 5-1 over Surfcoast Jan Juc.

Geelong Lawn and Surfcoast Bellbrae will face off in the Section 3 grand final after posting 4-2 wins over Grovedale and All Saints, and Geelong Lawn White and Green will play off after 6-0 and 5-1 wins over Barwon Heads and Clifton Springs in Section 2. Geelong Lawn will feature in all Green Ball finals next week,



Beachside: Jasmine Phillips, Pearl Thompson, Adele McNamara and Elyssa Mutton. (Supplied)

with Section 4 finishing on top.

There were three upsets in the Boys Sections with Section 1 minor premiers Geelong Lawn going down to Grovedale, Wandana Heights defeating Highton White in Section 6 and All Saints came through in Section 7 against Grovedale.

Clifton Springs and Geelong Lawn White posted convincing 6-0 wins in Sections 2 and 9 over Wandana Heights and All Saints, Geelong Lawn had a strong win in Section 8, while Grovedale Yellow, Lara and Geelong Lawn in Sections 3 will have a rematch of the first semi from last week.

The sun was out for preliminary finals day in Senior Pennant and it was an even day all round for the four Mixed sections.

Newcomb had the best win in Section 2. Coming from third, Newcomb started well

taking the first two mixed sets and this kept its nose in front with the doubles and reverse mix being split. Waurm Ponds was the only team making the most of a second chance in Section 1 against Grovedale.

The Ponds finished three games ahead with the match tied at three sets all. Wandana Heights Blue came from fourth to upset Drysdale in Section 4 and Newcomb managed to hold on in Section 3 after having a 3-1 lead going into the reverse mix, but with Clifton Springs winning both reverse mixed and tying the match on sets, Newcomb remained ahead by one game at the end.

The Open sections were more predictable with all favourites winning.

Surfcoast Torquay had a great day in singles with Michael Hili and John Stephenson dropping only two games for the two rubbers, setting them up for victory and a rematch with Wandana Heights White.

Minor premiers Moolap Black won the first singles and doubles, before taking the second doubles to go into the grand final with club rivals Yellow, and Lara took a clean sweep against Surfcoast Torquay in Section 4 to earn another crack at All Saints.

Section 1 Men saw Bannockburn end Grovedale's hopes coming from fourth to take a 5-1 win. The teams each won one of the first two sets but from there Banno took charge and earned their chance to face Newcomb next week. Western Heights Uniting won a nailbiter against Highton in Section 2.

The teams were level on sets and games going into the final two sets but with a 6-1 win offsetting a 7-5 loss, Uniting will now face Ocean Grove Blue in the final. Clifton Springs was the final team to make it through in Section 3 with a win over Hamlyn Park. The Springs went ahead three sets to one going into the final two, before Dante Nicholls and Andrew Vlahovic took the sixth.



Peri Stavropoulos with a bream. (Supplied)

Outer harbour producing the goods

ON THE BITE Peri Stavropoulos

The fishing this week has been on the improve with snapper starting to show up in numbers from the outer harbour.

Typically early season fish love an oily bait such as pilchards, sauries and salmon. Fishing tide changes is another key actor when chasing these early season fish.

Calamari have been on the chew around the Bellarine with Clifton Springs and Point Richards holding lots with hoods to 38cm, a great size for this area. Size 3.0 jigs are ideal and at the moment they seem to be eating most coloured jigs.

Around the corner to Queenscliff and the XL calamari have seemed to have shown up in the bight with anglers getting amongst some of the action out there landing some big squid. Size 4.0 jigs is the best way to target them, if fishing the deeper water than a heavier weighted jig in a size 3.5 will work well too.

Down the west coast the barrel tuna bite has remained consistent with Portland and Port MacDonnell producing some top fishing. Trolling skirted lures such as JB's in a 8 to 10 inch size is proving to be lethal.

The west coast estuaries have been providing some great fishing over the past weeks with eps and bream all on the chew. Casting Vibes, Deep diving hard bodies and soft plastics are all accounting for plenty of fish.

Most fish (especially the eps) are pretty small but if you remain persistent there are certainly some good fish cruising about.

This weekend is the opening of the Victorian trout season and there is heaps of hype and excitement.

The Otways is always a popular location to have a go for some wild trout as it's less than a two-hour drive from just about every spot. Some systems worth having a go at are The Aire, Bahram, Cumberland River and Smythes Creek. Small shallow running lures are the best things to throw in here.

The Goulburn River has had a top up of those mega rainbow trout. Drifting worms or power bait works well for them but the best method again is casting lures and pink is a very good colour for them.



Left: Hannah, Emily, Ben, Xander, and at front, Tobias, Olivia, Anoop, Jaxx, Mark, Jacob and Noah. Right: Olivia, Xander and Mark in a close race.

(Pictures: Ivan Kemp) 343149



All aboard for new Little Aths racers

Corio Little Athletics Centre is a vibrant hub of activity on Saturday mornings during spring and summer.

Athletes aged five to 16 compete in events appropriate for their age, learning to run, jump and throw, gain self-confidence and make new friends.

"Little Aths provides a welcoming, fun environment for young athletes of all abilities, catering for those who just like to be active and have fun through to those who qualify to compete at state and even national levels," new president Marty Sanders, who has four athletes of his own, said.

"For athletes who might not feel comfortable in a team sport, little athletics is perfect and each athlete is supported to achieve their own personal best."

Athletes of all abilities can participate, and if special assistance is required, events at centre level can be modified for individuals. For example, lowering heights or weights of equipment, using an elastic high jump 'bar' etc.

Athletes do not have to compete in any event they do not feel comfortable to do. The centre will do whatever it can to have all athletes enjoy their experience. Athletes with disabilities may need to be classified to compete at higher levels.

Families take turns helping with their own athlete's events, such as raking sand, picking up throws equipment, replacing the high jump bar etc.

"Adults usually find they enjoy being up close to the action and Saturday mornings quickly become social outings for the whole

family," Marty said.

The centre has a free come and try day on Friday September 29 (public holiday) from 10am to noon. Competition begins on Saturday October 7.

Five clubs compete together at the centre, not against each other - Corio West, Corio South, Bell Park, Golden Plains and Lara.

All clubs are welcoming new members and it does not matter where you live, or which school you go to, which club you join. It might even be the colour of their uniform that decides for you.

Athletes who choose to compete in region and state events all proudly compete together as Team Corio.

Contact Meridith at 0412 166 760 or corio@lavic.com.au for more information.