

AUSSIE OPEN TOUR 2009

Every year we are lucky enough to have the best tennis players in the world visit Melbourne for the Australian Open. The event is the biggest in Australia and the atmosphere generated by thousands of fans from all over the world is truly unique. Thirteen of the Victorian Tennis Academy's most enthusiastic students took the opportunity to visit Melbourne Park to watch some world class tennis and experience all the excitement of a grand slam event, they are pictured here in front of Rod Laver's statue before we went in.



First stop was Margaret Court Arena where we were lucky enough to watch 2007 runner up Fernando Gonzalez [who eventually made the ¼ finals this year.] The huge Chilean crowd supporting Gonzalez created a World Cup soccer type environment. Angus Tighe [pictured left inside the packed stadium] was impressed by Gonzalez's powerful forehand, although it was his own powerful forehand that was on show at the "Wii Tennis" later in the day.

Last year's finalists Ana Ivanovic and Maria Sharapova form the backdrop for this photo of Charlie, Amy, Zoe, Christina and Mimi. The highlight for the girls was watching Marat Safin practising before his match. The chance to witness great players from just a few feet away is the greatest benefit of such trips. Only from close up can you appreciate the athleticism and power of these awesome athletes.



Of the many highlights for a wonderful day was the boys [not the girls] receiving bag full's of Garnier products and visors. We hope they come to their first lesson looking smart with sculpted hair styles.