

WARRNAMBOOL 2009 REPORT

The Easter Holidays mean only one thing for the coaches of the Victorian Tennis Academy – time to conquer the Warrnambool Junior Classic. Another fantastic group of students were assembled, prepared to put themselves on the line to match the achievements of previous teams. The attitude, spirit and determination of the team is clearly demonstrated in the picture below taken after the first training session together in Warrnambool. The blue army was an intimidating force.



The trip from Melbourne was a peaceful one with all students behaving impeccably. This behaviour and sportsmanship was evident throughout the trip and is shown in this photo of Lachie and Dakota taken after a hard fought singles match. Both players had given their all but were still happy and great friends at the end of the match. The tournament director in Warrnambool made mention of this great attitude during the presentations. For this all players should be as proud as their coaches.





This great behaviour was complimented by some superb tennis. The combined efforts of VTA students resulted in 6 champions and 6 runners up winners in main draw events. Just as importantly there were several semi finalists and consolation event winners through the week – all players had performances that impressed the coaches. Calum, Kipp, Seb and George are pictured after an all VTA final in the 10&u boys doubles.

One of the most important aspects of the tour was the support all the VTA team mates gave to one another. Players went out of their way to sit together and cheer one another on; often it inspired our players to win matches that were in the balance. Students who were on their 3rd trip gave great support to young first timers and vice versa. This camaraderie was the inspiration for the tremendous success of the trip.



In addition to the wonderful experiences on the tennis court, players also enjoyed some great nights playing “spot light”; Ric’s great BBQ’s; “chatting up” the local girls at the aquatic centre; some great games of footy; some fast paced fun runs; classic catches in the adventure park; fuelling up on toasted sandwiches for lunch at the tennis centre and spending a small fortune on mixed lollies each day. All these highlights give students great memories to take home with them.



With all the fantastic performances during the week both on and off the court – awarding the Team Player of the Tour was very difficult. Ultimately the experienced duo of Mimi Gibson and Shaun Kenley received the accolade. Mimi won a further 3 events to match the 4 she won last year – making her the most successful player in the 6 years we have been going to Warrnambool.

Shaun, on his 3rd trip to Warrnambool showed why he was selected as team captain for the trip – leading the way off court motivating and supporting the team. Both players thoroughly deserve to have their name engraved on the prestigious trophy donated by the Denton Family.

To view a full catalogue of pictures click the link below:-

<http://picasaweb.google.com.au/victennisacademy/Warrnambool2009#>

Thanks to Michael Cook for his job as official photographer.