

## WODONGA SNIPPETS

### Monday 21 January

Welcome to all 540 men and women in 102 teams who are participating in the 2008 Countrylink Australian Tennis Seniors Championships to be played at the Wodonga and Albury Tennis Centres. Teams will compete for the honour of winning their respective sections, which range from 35-40 years to 80+ years. Individual medallions will be presented to those in winning teams. Victoria currently holds the states' Teams Championship trophy, won in Perth in January 2007.

In the 35+ age group, there are 3 teams – South Australia men and ACT and NSW women, while there are 4 teams in the women's 70s and 4 in the men's 75/80 age group, with a team from South Australia in the 80+ age group. The oldest player is Neville Harrigan from Queensland, who is 85.

The opening ceremony at Wodonga Catholic College was well attended and we all enjoyed the comfort of the well-equipped facility. Hayden Rees managed his MC role with distinction, standing in for the Vic CEO, Maurie Broom who is recovering from a recent operation. We send him our best wishes, as we do also to Ward Hillier, World 80 doubles champion, who was suddenly hospitalised a few days ago.

See Lou Griffith and Fruit Bat below.



Michael from WIN TV filmed parts of the opening ceremony. How about watch the news at 6.30 pm on Monday night to see us in action – probably on about 6.45 pm. Also action from today.

Bit hard to find gossip or tit-bits of news on the opening night of our event. There were the usual few who offered to create some or who offered 'off' tales, which amused me, but were rejected.

John Edwards, President of Queensland Tennis Seniors, was telling me he had just come from being a volunteer driver for the last Australian Women's Hardcourt Championship held at Royal Pines. Next year this event will be combined with the men's event and will be held in the new tennis complex, under construction in Brisbane.

A happy group of New Zealand women told me they were 'on fire', having just been inspired by a few days at the Australian Open. However they did wonder if they needed to aspire to super-thinness and 180 kph serves



*Murray French, Tom Downie, Hayden Rees and Ian Roberts (l to r)*

Bert Faux, current round-Australia mobile home driver, is a new and proud grandfather to his first granddaughter, and wife Kathy is off gooning at the new arrival.

Rob and Mary Smith, SA, (below) had a hard time getting to Albury from Swan Hill. They 'googled' for directions and, carefully following these, they headed off towards Deniliquin on a bitumen road, which then led them on to a dirt road, then a muddy track, then slush as the roads deteriorated, especially with the recent rain. Finally a local told them there was no way they would have gone that way. Google can find the shortest way, but isn't cluey about local conditions.



Wanda Clothier, Vic, was all smiles with her two sons, Kale, 9 and Brayden, 6, despite the mishap of trying to set up her new tent in a Wodonga camping area and finding that she had left the poles behind. Someone came to her rescue and lent her a 3 person tent for Sunday night and new poles will be bought.



*John Walker and Barry Headland, Qld*

**Gillian Farrell, Tennis Seniors Victoria,  
tel 0409 853 745**

