

THE 61st PAT PEARCE TENNIS CARNIVAL

On Easter Friday at 7:30am, most teenagers would be in bed catching up on their sleep. However, 16 representatives from Eastern Region Tennis were already warming up enthusiastically at Eaglemont Tennis Club for the 61st Pat Pearce Tennis Carnival.

Four associations (including Eastern Region Tennis) participated in this year's carnival. The other associations were Waverley Tennis (WDTA), North Suburban Junior Tennis Association (NSJTA) and the carnival hosts - North Eastern Junior Tennis Association (NEJTA).

This year our team consisted of:

15 & Under Boys

Alister Mills (Emerald TC), **Will Tarenidis** (Heatherdale TC), **Joshua Reid** (N Ringwood TC) & **Harvey Wilson** (Wonga Park TC)

15 & Under Girls

Erin Ronge (Donvale TC), **Eve Humphries** (Doncaster TC), **Serena Wang** (Greythorn Park TC) & **Ellie Rogers** (Box Hill TC)

13 & Under Boys

Clement Chan (Doncaster TC), **Joel Goldie** (Ferry Creek TC), **Chris Vines** (Heathmont TC) & **Aaron Cartledge** (North Balwyn TC)

13 & Under Girls

Grace Staindl-Dymond (Ferry Creek TC), **Ruby Smith** (Willison Park TC), **Lize Smit** (Canterbury TC), & **Emma Wong** (Templestowe Park TC)

The opening ceremony started at 8:00am followed by team photos. Our ERT players were keen to begin and our first opponent was WDTA. WDTA has always been a strong opposition and our players got off to a slow start with our doubles, losing 3 out of 4 very close matches. However, our players didn't give up and clawed their way back to within winning reach. Unfortunately, we went out of steam and lost by a very small margin with WDTA defeating us in total games and sets.

The scores for WDTA vs. ERT were:

Waverley 13/u 19 sets & 145 games def ERT 13/u 8 sets & 105 games

Waverley 15/u 10 sets & 90 games def by ERT 15/u 16 sets & 129 games

The next day, ERT faced the host team, NEJTA and this time, our players took hold of the opportunity and won most of their doubles matches. We ended up having a good win with both 13/u & 15/u winning in their respective groups.

The scores for NEJTA vs. ERT were:

North Eastern 13/u 8 sets & 85 games def by ERT 13/u 16 sets & 110 games



Ruby, Aaron, Lize and Eve warming up

North Eastern 15/u 9 sets & 85 games def by ERT 15/u 18 sets & 134 games

The third and final day of this year's carnival commenced with an exciting Easter eggs hunt. Afterwards, ERT played against North Suburban Junior. With their confidence gained from their previous win over NEJTA, our players had an outstanding performance against NSJTA - dominating and winning both their age groups.

The scores for NSJTA vs. ERT were:

North Suburban 13/u 4 sets & 61 games def by ERT 13/u 20 sets & 135 games

North Suburban 15/u 6 sets & 76 games def by ERT 15/u 21 sets & 146 games

Overall, Eastern Region Tennis finished 2nd in the whole tournament. Furthermore, a huge congratulations to Serena Wang, who was the winner of the Girls' 15/u trophy – a commendable feat! As usual, our players demonstrated sportsmanship, bravery and constant support of their team mates. Throughout the carnival, not only did our players strengthen their tennis experience but also developed valuable friendships for years to come. Also, a big thank you to all the parents' involvement and their wonderful support during the tournament.

The next Pat Pearce Carnival will be hosted by Waverley Tennis.



ERT team manager, Fran Absolom, congratulating the team



Serena with the Girls' 15/u winners' trophy



Joel and Ellie showing their support by preparing the courts



Our Eastern Region Tennis representatives for the 61st Pat Pearce Tennis Carnival, 2015