

## **Tennis Central Region**

### **Annual Halberg Trust Charity Tennis Tournament and Adapted Tennis Festival for Schools**

The Annual Halberg Trust Charity Tennis Tournament, held at the Renouf Tennis Centre in Wellington is well established and now into its 14th year. The tournament aims to raise funds for children with disabilities in the Wellington Region to participate in sport and physical activity, by providing funding for them to access sports opportunities, coaching and equipment that they might not otherwise afford. The total amount raised by donations, silent auction and raffles was \$4,630.00.

We would like to thank the mid-week section of Tennis Central and all other volunteers and staff who dedicated many hours to organise the event, source sponsorship, encourage entries and prepare the raffle hampers. Thanks also goes to the many and varied sponsors for donating such wonderful gifts and prizes.

Thanks also to Halberg Trustee Adrienne Olsen and Marguerite Christophers, Sport Wellington's Sport Opportunities Advisor for saying a few words and for supporting the event.

This year's event was particularly special because we held our inaugural Adapted Tennis Festival for school children with special needs from Wellington, Hutt Valley and Kapi Mana schools in parallel to the adult charity tournament. Thirty two children from twelve schools took part in a morning of fun tennis activities lead by a team of experienced and highly motivated tennis coaches.

We would like to say a special thanks to the coaches and helpers who gave their time voluntarily to coach and assist the players, without them, the event just wouldn't have happened. We would also like to thank the players, schools and parents for supporting the event and for bringing such enthusiasm on the day.

It was clear to all that this event was a huge boost to the children involved, giving them confidence, a sense of achievement and a great fun experience. Our aim is for this Adapted Tennis Festival to become an annual fixture on the Wellington region schools calendar in conjunction with the Halberg Charity Tournament, and that we can continue to provide more opportunities for children with special needs to participate in tennis.

**Press Release 02.05.10**