



THEY CAME AND THEY PLAYED!!

The National Come Play! Open Day was, by all accounts, a huge success throughout the Tennis Central Region.

25 clubs (an increase of 50% from 2009) reaching from Taranaki to Wellington opened their doors on Sunday 14th of February 2010 to welcome people from all walks of life who fancied trying out tennis on Valentine's Day!

The aim of the **Come Play! Open Day** initiative was simple, to attract **new players** to the game and gain **new members** for local clubs. Over the past few days, good news stories and photos have been trickling in from around the Region.

Wanganui Tennis Club welcomed over 70 visitors through their gates, and so far have signed up 9 new members. Said Maree Keelty, Wanganui Tennis Development Officer, *"The club was happy with the way the day went, everyone left with a smile on their face and a membership form in their pocket!"*

Maungaraki Tennis Club had a great turnout, largely due to the efforts of their committee in spreading the word around local schools, homes and businesses. Said Kerstin Maslin, Maungaraki TC Secretary, *"We had a fantastic Open Day, with 45 new visitors and 10 new members signed up already. We were enthused by the number of families who came along and played together. A great effort by all and we are pleased with the results!"*

Tawa Lyndhurst Tennis Club offered some great incentives such as half-price membership for anyone who signed up on the day and even a prize draw for two lucky visitors to win a free junior and free senior membership. Needless to say, membership registration forms flew out the door! Another exciting outcome at Tawa's Open Day was the initiation of a wheelchair tennis programme for a group of budding local players which is planned to begin in the near future under the direction of Head Coach Francis Glover.

Whitby Tennis Club co-incided their Open Day with the unveiling of their shiny new court surfaces. Porirua Mayor Jenny Brash did the honours of cutting the ribbon with a junior member before getting the Open Day under way. Whitby TC volunteers generated a real carnival atmosphere with ball machines, fastest serve competitions, coaching, table tennis and even an ice cream van, all of which encouraged a huge number of new visitors and members to drop by and support the club.

Talavera Tennis Club in Wellington, Masterston Tennis Centre in the Wairarapa and Waiwaka Tennis Club in New Plymouth reported an increase of 3, 5 and 7 new members respectively.

Stokes Valley Tennis Club and Wellington Tennis Club also put on a great show with plenty of Grasshoppers Tennis for children and the opportunity for visitors to play alongside their talented junior and senior members who encouraged everyone onto the court for a hit - no matter how rusty or inexperienced. Stokes Valley definitely won the prize for best sausage sizzle!

Feedback questionnaires have been sent to all participating clubs to help Tennis Central gain an understanding of the benefit and impact that this initiative has had on tennis in the Region. However, early reports demonstrate a resounding thumbs-up for the ***Come Play! Open Day*** to remain a fixture on club calendars in 2011.

Tennis Central and Tennis NZ wish to thank and congratulate all of the participating clubs and their volunteers for their efforts in making this year's ***Come Play! Open Day*** a huge success.

For more information on the ***Come Play! Open Day*** or for any club related advice contact:

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