



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

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Life Members Day

Our 4th Annual Life Members Day is scheduled for Sunday September 14. Life Members Day has quickly grown to be one of the biggest and most important days on our annual calendar. The day is a celebration of the contribution to our Club of all members, especially Life Members, who have been recognised for their outstanding contribution.

Our Club has awarded only 15 Life Memberships in its nearly 60 year history, so we don't just give them away. These Life Members are: **"Nellie" Munn, Keith Prestney, Don Schuback, Lorraine McHattie, Keith Best, Monica Best, Bob Smalley, Moyra Maher, Helen Gerrand, Shirley McFarlane, Gary Schuback, James Maher, Bruce Carter, Jan Saville and Ian Flint.** What a fantastic contribution this group has made to the Sale Tennis Club. We wonder how many hours this represents in terms of time devoted to making ours a better Club.

Two of our Life Members are specifically recognised in the day's activities with the Women Playing for the Monica Best Memorial Trophy and the Men playing for the Ian Flint Memorial Trophy.

The day's activities commence at 12.00 midday with lunch followed by a hit of tennis for the more energetic and a relaxing drink for the more sensible. At the end of the tennis we will have afternoon tea, presentation of trophies and a monster raffle. The whole day is free. (With the exception of drinks because, with the Flint's in town, free drinks would require some sort of Government grant.)

Last year it was fantastic to see **Susan Jones** (nee **Best**) take out the Monica Best Memorial Trophy. Can she go back to back? Can **Steve Harrison**, our hard working former Club Captain and President, back up again for the Ian Flint Memorial Trophy? Or will yet another dark horse appear from nowhere and salute the judge? If you are not there you will never know. Mark Sunday September 14 in your diary and we hope to see a huge crowd of happy tennis fans turn out for another wonderful Life Members Day.

Players Auction

October is a busy month at Sale Tennis Club. In addition to the WHK Armitage Downie International now falling in October we have our regular annual player's auction. After a period in recess the player's auction has roared back over the last five years to once again be "as big as Ben Hur". This has coincided with a mini revival in our Saturday pennant numbers and the welcome addition of the Longford teams into our auction.

Players Auction day is Saturday October 25 with a bar-b-que tea from 6.30 pm and auction action from about 8.00 pm. (The date is a little later this year to accommodate the Pro Circuit event in early October.)

Master Auctioneer **John Elliman** again joins us to conduct proceedings. John has made this event his own over the last 5 years and he gets better every year. The Velvet Sledgehammer rules the podium and when he yells "Sold" he means it. No further correspondence will be entered into!!

Employee of the Month?

This month's nomination comes from the fatigued tennis player who was overheard as they left the court lament "Geeeezzzz I'm tired! I should have had more sleep at work last night."

Court 10 Now Number 1

Our two new show courts are nearly ready for play and don't they look fantastic. They are a credit to everyone involved in their creation. Unique in Gippsland, if not regional Victoria, the show court complex gives us an opportunity to showcase tennis of all levels to the absolute optimum.

It will be wonderful to see the Pro Circuit International players using the full length and width of this spectacular complex.

With the renovations to our two new show courts nearly completed some of our courts will be renumbered. In keeping with the standard of our new courts, the court closest to the Clubhouse, and the main show court, will now be known as Court 1. We have had to renumber Courts 1 to 10 to accommodate this but we are sure that you will agree that this now makes perfect sense and it will not take players too long to adapt to the new numbering system.

Chelsea Rawnsdon Attends Tennis Victoria Future Leaders Camp

In a first for Sale Tennis Club **Chelsea Rawnsdon** has recently returned from attending the Tennis Victoria Future Leaders Camp in Anglesea. The Future Leaders Program is designed to help develop students' leadership qualities so that they can contribute to the administration and behind the scenes activities at their local clubs. The camp also provides an insight into a career in sports administration and volunteering in tennis with the chance to get experience in sports administration, team leadership skills and obtain some basic coaching skills through an Orientation to Coaching course. Chelsea took up the challenge of being among a group of young people and group leaders who she had never met before and excelled. So much so that if you have a copy of Victorian Tennis News magazine for August, you will find Chelsea front and centre in a photo of the group looking very much at ease. Well done Chelsea in accepting the challenge of something new. This program is open every year to all Club Members in Years 10 & 11 and we would encourage anybody who is looking for the challenge of a new experience to talk to a member of the Committee to see if they may qualify. For the full story of Chelsea's adventures please see her report at the end of this newsletter.

Night Pennant Grand Final Results

Our Autumn 2008 night pennant season has been run and won.

Monday Night

Monday nights were devoted to beginners coaching. It was great to see up to a dozen new players being coached by Nick and Rhett. Some of these players are now in our night competitions so the Monday night coaching has been a real success. Look out for it again next year as we try to encourage a whole new group to join in Australia's favourite sport.

Tuesday Night

Mike Riley has run another fantastic Tuesday night competition. With 10 teams Iron Mike has managed to blend a unique evening of tennis with a welcoming social twist. Well done again Mike.

Results for the final were:

Winners

Dips

Karen Deschepper	Susan Pape
Ron Erskine	George Waks

Runners Up

Hot Dogs

Heather Ronchi	Melissa Auld
Tim Rowe	Peter Pusmucans

The scores were level at 27 – 27 at the end of the requisite 6 sets. The winners were decided in tie breaker sets. With the scores still tied after the first men's and ladies tie breakers the combatants proceeded to the first mixed tie breakers and were still all tied up. The third tie breaker decided the affair with the Dips coming out on top. A great night of tennis and exactly what grand finals should be about.

Wednesday Night

Phil Todd is our Wednesday night co-ordinator extraordinaire. Phil now has his crew under full control and with 7 teams for Spring is looking forward to another great season.

Results for the final were:

Winners

Eileen Burge Kim Wilson
Ron Crawford (James Cooper) Daniel Luhrs

Runners Up

Sarah Jolly Debbie Cooper
Phil Jolly Steve Bolton

Thursday Night

Robin Lowe was again our Thursday night co-ordinator. He has been involved in Thursday nights for so long that he might just be able to do this in his sleep. He certainly looks that way most of the time!

Results for the final were:

Winners

Redback Raiders

Bree Kaandorp Jan Munckton (Kylie Fox)
Robin Lowe Darren Elliott

Runners Up

West End Warriors

Leanne Wilson Kylie Perkins
Brian Rawnsdon Gavin Ballinger

Spring season is now under way on all nights and we look forward to another great season of night pennant.

Working Bee

Our next working bee is scheduled for **Sunday, September 7**. With Life Members Day the following week, Saturday Pennant in four weeks and the Pro Circuit International two weeks after that there has never been a better reason to get cracking on our maintenance program and have our building and surrounds looking as good as possible. Last working bee there were over 50 jobs on our list. This time there may be even more and many hands make for light work. Please make an effort to come along and help our Club to help you. Work commences at 9.30am and finishes with a free bar-b-que and drinks at around 12.30pm.

WHK Armitage Downie International

Pro Circuit Sponsors Announced

Sale Tennis Club is delighted to announce **WHK Armitage Downie** as our Official Partner for the upcoming 2008 Tennis Australia Pro Circuit International. This event is now a hallmark tourism event for our community and brings a direct spend into the Gippsland economy of over \$400,000 during the eight days of the tournament. It is also a vitally important fund raiser for our Club.

WHK Armitage Downie is the largest accounting firm in country Victoria. It services most areas east of Melbourne with offices in Sale, Bairnsdale, Traralgon, Warragul, Pakenham, Dandenong, Braeside and Lilydale. WHK Armitage Downie has established a reputation for combining the understanding and personal service of a country business with the skills and resources of a city firm. The firm offers innovative, up-to-date services and business management advice in addition to providing a complete financial planning service, an independent finance brokerage and the traditional range of taxation services expected of a large accounting firm.

We look forward to working with the team from WHK Armitage Downie to bring a truly professional event to Gippsland.

Our confirmed sponsors as at the date of this newsletter are:

Official Partner

- WHK Armitage Downie

Major Sponsors

- Australian Drilling Service
- Australian Technical College Gippsland
- John Elliman Real Estate
- Macalister Prestige Homes

Supporting Sponsors

- Ace Radio Network – 3TR FM & 3GG
- Churchill Maintenance & Fabrication
- Dahlsens Building Centres
- EJ & AL Graham Electrical
- McDonalds Family Restaurants
- National Australia Bank
- Sale Shopfitters
- Turnbull's Hire Drive
- Wellington Shire

Negotiations continue with several other sponsors who will be announced in the next newsletter.

Volunteers Needed

With less than six weeks until we host our third Pro Circuit International planning is in the advanced stages. We now need volunteers to help out in various roles. What do we need? Helpers in the kitchen to assist our kitchen wizards Karen and Karen (Deschepper and Pollett), set up helpers on Saturday October 12 to get all in readiness, bus drivers all week, people to stock the player eskies each morning and put out the umbrellas and chairs, assistance with the Saturday night player sign in meals, court monitors, bar staff, raffle sellers and a dozen other tasks. Chris Deschepper (Ph: 5143 1319) is again co-ordinating this mammoth task. There is a volunteers list on the notice board so if you have a free hour, a free afternoon or a free week please get your name on the list or call Chris and help to ensure that Sale retains its reputation as an outstanding host club for the Pro Circuit International.

Friday Night Spectacular

With the complete upgrade of our new show courts it will be possible to run part of the Pro Circuit event under lights. The plan is to have a Friday Night Spectacular. We can have a Men's Quarter Final and the Open Men's Doubles Final under lights on Friday night. The objective is to open up the event to people who have had their enjoyment of international tennis ruined by their need for ongoing employment. So on Friday October 17 come on down to the Club, enjoy a meal, a drink and a great night of tennis and socialising and you will not hear a single "Quiet Please".

The Grand Finale

The Men's Final will be on Sunday October 19, commencing at around 1.00 pm. The last two years have provided some spectacular tennis and there is no reason to think that this year will be any different. Perhaps we will see a rising star who will go on to win a Grand Slam. Perhaps we will see a more seasoned campaigner who is looking for ranking points to rejoin the professional circuit after injury. It could even be a Sale Tennis Club member!! Read on.

Wildcard for Two Sale Tennis Club Players

Sale Tennis Club will again be given two wildcards into the 2008 qualifiers event. Last year Nick Board and Brett Carter represented us. They won through after our own version of a qualifiers event. This fantastic opportunity is on again. The qualifying try outs will be on Friday September 12 commencing at 5.30 pm. So if you fancy pitting your skills against some of the best in the world (even some of the qualifiers have World Rankings in the top 1000!) this will be your chance. You must be a financial member of the Sale Tennis Club and, at the risk of sounding sexist, you must be a male.

2009 and Beyond

For those girls who are feeling more than just a bit ripped off we hope to be able to address this in 2009 with Tennis Australia working with us to potentially present a women's event in 2009 as well as the men's. We could then offer our female members two wildcards also. How good would that be! As with most of these things it is a matter of commercial realities or more bluntly, money. The cost to host a dual event is very high, \$33,000 in total, and it takes a lot to raise this sort of cash. However discussions have commenced and we are hopeful of a successful outcome.

WHK Armitage Downie Pro Circuit Raffle

All members have been mailed a raffle book containing 25 \$1 tickets. A successful raffle will really assist our fund raising effort in relation to our Pro Circuit costs.

Winners of our Pro Circuit Raffle will be drawn after the Men's Final on October 19. We wish to thank our raffle sponsors for their generous support.

1st Prize

Wilson Australia and **Howard & Schuback Mega Sports** present a tennis kit fit for a professional. Featuring a Wilson K Factor tennis racquet, as used by Roger Federer, a Wilson "Federer Limited Edition" Super Six tennis carry bag, tennis socks and Wilson tennis balls as well as 4 tickets to the 2009 Australian Open this pack will have tennis lovers in raptures. Many thanks to Wilson Australia and the fantastic and friendly team at Howard & Schuback Mega Sports who helped to bring Wilson on board. Phone 5144 4545.

2nd Prize

Two Nights Accommodation in **The Esplanade Resort & Spa**, 1 The Esplanade, Lakes Entrance. Featuring 4 ½ Star Luxury Apartments & Motel Rooms, Restaurant & Bar, Day Spa, Tennis Court and Outdoor and Indoor Heated Pool & Spa. Resort accommodation at its finest in Gippsland's most popular holiday destination. Phone 03 5155 3533.

3rd Prize

His and Hers **Garnier Beauty Goods** Packs. Garnier are a long time supporter of tennis in Australia and very kindly agreed to provide sponsorship for our WHK Armitage Downie International raffle. Garnier make a large range of high quality skin and beauty products for both men and women. Garnier – Take Care.

4th Prize

Free Standing Wine Rack from **Chris Webster Interiors**. Scott Haggis from Chris Webster Interiors has provided a beautiful free standing natural timber stained wine rack. Chris Webster Interiors are great supporters of our Club and we hope that our members support them when it comes time to purchase furniture and bedding. Phone 5144 4222.

5th Prize

Bis Cucina Dinner Voucher. Jess Lazzaro and her professional team at Bis Cucina wish to welcome you to her award winning restaurant. Featuring the best of local produce served in contemporary surrounds by highly trained staff and complemented by an outstanding local and national wine selection you will love Bis; one of regional Victoria's leading restaurants. Phone 5144 3388.

All members with a raffle book are asked to return them to the Club no later than **October 11** so that we can make sure that we round them all up and no one misses out on one of our great prizes. We ask that you make a big effort in relation to this as accounting for upwards of 350 raffle books is a huge task and we only have a small band of devoted members looking after this important project.

Sunday Men's Competition

The Sunday Night men's competition this year was played on a Monday night, having previously been played on Wednesday nights and before that even Sunday nights. Clearly old habits die hard! **Chris Deschepper** rounded up enough players for six teams of four and the fun began, or at least it would have if everybody had turned up. The first few weeks suffered a little at the hands of a few players who could not seem to read the draw. However, once they learned to read, the whole affair took shape very quickly and the competition heated up. The tennis was (surprisingly) good and the on and off court spirit was exceptional.

Results for the final were:

Winners

Bourbon Boys

Mark Elliman

Peter Reeves

Ivan Best (Norm Cooper)

Phil Todd (John Patten)

Runners Up

Whiskey Warriors

Nick Board

Wayne Dennis

Josh Deschepper

Phil Mein

In a classic tense grand final match the Bourbon Boys finished 3 games ahead at the end of four sets. This competition has proved very popular with both senior players and the aspiring juniors who got a taste of senior pennant. Well done to Chris for rallying the troops.

Saturday Pennant Hit Ups - Seniors

Player lists are up in the Clubhouse for all seniors who would like to play Saturday pennant. If you would like to play Saturdays you need to get your name up very soon.

In a change of format for 2008 the Saturday Pennant hit ups will be on a single day. All senior players intending to play on Saturdays are required to attend (or have a note from your mother) on **Sunday August 24**. Club Captain **Murray Fitzclarence** will organise everyone who turns up into some sets which will give our selectors a chance to grade old and new players into happy, winning teams. If you have any queries in relation to Saturday Pennant please give Murray a call on 5144 5715.

Junior News

If you're planning to play Saturday morning pennant this season (beginning 4th term), you need to come along to the Registration Practise days.

When:- Sunday 24th August at 9am
 Sunday 31st August at 9am
 Friday 5th Sept at 4pm
 Saturday 6th Sept at 9am

Registration Forms must be submitted by no later than 6th September.

If you feel you cannot commit to a permanent team but would like to be placed on the fill-in list then please feel welcome to come along to the practise days and make sure that you complete a fill-in registration form.

Please also mark your calendar for the following dates:-

Meet the teams' night:- Friday October 10th (5pm - 6:30pm)

First Pennant match:- Saturday October 11th

Any queries? Please call Louise Trett (Junior Secretary) on 51445769.

Winter Night Competition Results

The winter junior night tennis is over and we would like to thank all players and parents who braved the cold wet weather and made this competition possible. The season was stretched out longer than planned due to wash outs and was completed in the first week of August.

The results were:

A Grade

Big Bad Bagdahtis - **Matt Coridas / Lachlan Coleman** def Screaming Sharapova - **Olly Collins / Paige Wilson**

B Special

Terrific Tomics - **Jacob Simic / Sam Sokor** def Dazzling Davenports - **Annie Lothian / Isabel Lothian**

B Grade

No scores yet recorded as 1 of the players in the Grand Final has broken his arm; match not yet completed

C Grade

Vicious Volleys - **Tim Van Emmerik / Charlie Rossetti** def Perfect Prince - **Gil Aitken / Ambrose McCall**

A special mention to Sam Sokor who has won 2 consecutive pennants in 2 different grades. If this trend continues we might need to include senior players to give young Sam some competition in the coming years.



COACH'S CORNER

Term 3 is halfway through now and all players participating are doing very well to brave the cold, wet weather. Many students have been ill and are reminded to contact us to organize make up lessons for missed classes.

Topspin Tennis will be holding a holiday clinic in the September school holidays for all players who want to intensely work on their game. Any players interested please contact us at nick@topspintennis.net.au

Equipment

It has recently been brought to my attention that the racquet I have been using is the incorrect weight for me. I have always thought the racquet felt different to the one that it replaced, even though the specs on it were the same. It weighed the same but the swing weight (weight distribution) was 28g lighter and therefore was causing a lot of miss hits. All players should check that their racquets are suited for them in the lead up to the summer season and also if you use more than 1 racquet, that both of them are exactly the same (string tension, grip size, etc.). For any advice on racquets or strings please don't hesitate to contact Nick at nick@topspintennis.net.au

Midweek Ladies News

Our Ladies Committee had their Annual General Meeting in June and the following ladies now make up our Ladies Committee.

President – **Jenny Luke**

Secretary – **Carmel Elliott**

Treasurer – **Robyn Hughes**

Committee – **Sandra Pritchett, Karen Pollett, Karen Deschepper, Debbie Krusic, Tania Woods and Debbie Iseppi.**

Well done to all of these ladies for volunteering to assist with the organisation of our Mid Week Ladies activities. This is not always an easy job but if no-one does it no-one gets to play. When it is your turn please make the effort to help out!

This season it is also Sale Tennis Club's turn to be the SHTA Ladies Committee. The SHTA Committee ladies are:

President - **Emma Nowak** – Stratford

Secretary – **Karen Deschepper**

Treasurer – **Tania Woods**

Recording Officer – **Sandra Pritchett**

The 2008 Spring season is well under way with the Sale girls doing well so far in the chilly conditions however after 6 weeks some teams have only played 2 matches having had 3 washouts and a bye. No doubt the girls are looking forward to the weather turning and the sun coming out.

Tennis Explained

(Tennis as explained to the uninitiated)

Tennis is a game played by two or four players. Two players is called singles. Four players is called doubles. An umpire can "let" your second service be your first. Love fifteen does not mean that you are a very friendly person. Love thirty does not mean you own a harem. If you win one point, you get fifteen points; win another, you get thirty; win another you get forty; but if you don't win any all you get is love. If you win a game it does not mean that you have won a set. If you win a set it does not mean that you have won the match, but if you have won the match you have won game, set and match. What a racquet!

Calendar of Events

*	August 24	Junior Pennant Hit Ups – 9.00am
*	August 24	Saturday Pennant Players Hit Up – 12.00pm
*	August 31	Junior Pennant Hit Ups – 9.00am
*	August 31	Cavalier Homes Junior Tournament - Traralgon
*	September 5	Junior Pennant Hit Ups – 4.00pm
*	September 6	Junior Pennant Hit Ups – 9.00am
*	September 6	Junior Pennant Registration Forms Required
*	September 7	Working Bee at Sale Tennis Club 9:30 am start
*	September 14	Life Members Day incorporating Ian Flint Memorial and Monica Best Memorial Trophies
*	September 22 -25	Traralgon Junior Open Tournament
*	October 4	SHTA Senior Pennant Commences
*	October 10	Junior Meet the Teams - 5.00 to 6.30pm
*	October 11	SHTA Junior Pennant Commences
*	October 12 - 19	WHK Armitage Downie International Tournament
*	October 19	Regionals, Open & 18/U – Night Tournament
*	October 21	Dahlsens Junior Teams Challenge - Bairnsdale
*	October 25	Players Auction from 6.30 pm
*	October 26	Sale Cup – Greenwattle Racecourse
*	November 2 -3	John Fitzgerald Cup 13/U Boys – Ballarat
*	November 15	Foundation Cup 13/U Girls – Bairnsdale
*	November 23	TEG Junior Points Tournament
*	November 23	Club Championships Commence
*	November 30	Club Championships Conclude
*	December 7 – 8	Ambassadors Cup 15/U Boys & Girls - Horsham
*	December 13	Christmas Break-up & Club Championship Presentations
*	December 13 -14	10/U Cup – Kooyong
*	December 14	TEG Junior Points Tournament

Have You Heard the News?

Do you have any news that you would like to include in the next newsletter? Just let us know at theelms@netspace.net.au or phone Robin on 5144 7582.

Email Addresses

We are extremely keen to get all of our newsletters and Club communications out by email. We had a large number of emails "bounce" last newsletter. If you have not yet provided your email address, or have changed your email address, please advise us immediately at theelms@netspace.net.au and please tell your friends to do the same thing.

**Sale Tennis Club Inc, Stephenson Park, 51 Guthridge Parade,
(P.O. Box 659), Sale, 3850. ABN 61 525 038 097**

Chelsea Rawnsen reports on

Tennis Victoria Future Leaders Camp - Anglesea

This trip began on Monday the 30th of June. I was a little bit nervous going with total strangers all by my self to meet all sorts of new people. I was actually lucky enough that I got a ride down to the camp with the leaders from Tennis Vic. I got to know them before I got to our camp in Anglesea. The leaders were quite friendly so by the time I got there I was just a little bit more comfortable than I was at the start of my journey.

When we arrived at the camp there were a few other kids there that I got to meet which was pretty exciting but it was pretty quiet which was weird because I am really not a quiet person. We sat down ate lunch and played a few card games while we were waiting for the other kids to arrive. When a few more kids arrived we all sat down in a rather small tearoom at the camp. I tried to make conversation but a lot of these kids were shy. We all sat in the room looking at each other in an awkward silence until all the other kids we were waiting on showed up. Once we were all there, we were given a brief brush over of what we were doing on the first day, we were given our rooms and got all our stuff organised.

The first activity we were set to do was our Orientation to Coaching course. It was very cold and started to rain so we couldn't go down to the tennis courts. Luckily there was a big gym at the camp we stayed at. We all got our racquets and walked up to the gym. We were all still pretty quiet, as we still really didn't know each other. We were introduced to the guy taking our coaching course from Tennis Vic. His name was Nick. The first thing we did was play a few games that involved talking, communication and team work, so that everybody would get to know each other. Then we did warm up activities and learned how to take a warm up in a coaching lesson and what kind of activities to do when we take warm ups. Once we were all warmed up, half the group was told to take a seat and watch whilst the other half was to be given a coaching lesson by Nick.

Nick told us that in the two coaching lessons he was going to be two different personas, the half that was sitting down had to observe which persona Nick was actually using with the 1st group. Then we swapped over so the 2nd group was being coached and the 1st group observed Nick's second persona. Both the groups had been coached and then we had a group discussion on the two different personas that Nick had put on and what kind of persona you should have when taking a coaching lesson.

After this we discussed planning a coaching lesson and what activities you should run in a coaching lesson. We were put into groups of 3-4 and were given sports equipment and had to make a game that was relevant to tennis and to warm up hand eye co-ordination throwing, catching running etc. This course went for 3 1/2 hours and, by the end of it, I knew everyone and had made some good mates, which was good.

We had free time until dinner, so this was our chance to get to know one another better. I had a walk around and spoke to everyone a bit and got to know them all a lot better. We went and had dinner in the dining room, and after dinner, we had a little bit more free time to chill, then we had a trivia night and, yeah my team lost. We put the tennis (Wimbledon) up on the big projector screen, watched that and then went to bed.

The next morning we woke up went to the dining room and had breakfast. By this stage of the camp we were all loud and talking heaps which was very good because everybody was starting to show their true colours. Once again we ran through the plans of what we were doing for the day.

Our first activity on Tuesday was the low ropes course. We were split into groups of three or four people and completed the low ropes course as a team. A few people had good stacks that were extremely funny but nobody got hurt which was good. I really enjoyed the low ropes they were fun.

We went back to the dining room and had lunch. We talked about our project that we are doing when we get back to our Clubs, and Mel (one of our leaders) gave us ideas that we can use on our projects. We can make an Internet site, run a tournament, have a tennis fun day etc. I intend to organise a fun day and a mini tournament in the very near future. I have already started planning it.

Our next activity was the high ropes course. I did every single bit on it. It was a really, really, fun activity to do. A few people were a bit scared and weren't going to do it but with a bit of encouragement from the group they got up and had a go. It was very adrenaline rushing and very exciting.

After the high ropes course, we went on the giant swing. There was only a few people that went on this one. Of course, I did it! This was one of the highlights of my camp I thoroughly enjoyed the giant swing. After the swing we walked down to the tennis courts and had a hit of tennis and played around the world. We walked back to camp and had some free time to relax. I had made good mates with everyone on the camp by now, so nobody at all was shy, everybody was out of their shells. We went to the dining room and had dinner and a chat.

We were sharing the camp with Noah's Ark Specialist School. After dinner we did an activity with them. I felt lucky to be working with these special people. They were actually quite funny people and I loved doing the activities with these kids; it was very rewarding. Our team won this competition as well, which made me rather proud and happy. Working with Noahs Ark School was the highlight of my trip. I had so much fun. We watched the tennis again and went to bed.

When we woke up the next morning, I was pretty sad that it was my last day with all these cool people I had made mates with. Our activity on Wednesday was called the adventure duathlon. It was canoeing around in a big river that was like a circuit and we had to collect stuff along the way and somebody had to get out of the boat and run for a bit. It was good fun, except for the fact that it was cold, and I fell in a few times.

After this activity we had lunch, said goodbye and everybody went their different ways. Even though I had only known these people for 3 days it feels like I had known some of them for years. I have made mates I won't forget about, that made me laugh and were bright people that were all so very nice. I think, because we were all similar personalities and were all sporty people and all were loud, we got along like a house on fire. I still keep in contact with them through mspace, msn and phone messages luckily.

I had an awesome experience on this camp and will never forget it. I highly recommend that others do it because I had the time of my life and will never forget it. I have picked up all sorts of skills from this camp that I can use in the near, or not so near, future.

To graduate from this camp we must complete our project successfully and write a report with evidence of the project and graduation is at the Australian Open 2009 and we are given three tickets for free. I cannot wait to graduate to catch up with all the kids from the camp again.

Chelsea Rawnsen