



Tori-Lee Pittman, 11, of Lyrup (front, right), Michelle Morris and Chloe Balshaw, both 13 and of Renmark, participated in tennis and other activities with professional ATP player Luke Saville at a Riverland Tennis Fun Day held at Renmark Tintra Tennis Club last Saturday. PHOTO: Morgan Burley

# Tennis fun day a Riverland ace

**JOE SCHWAB and HUGH SCHUITEMAKER**

OVER 70 young tennis enthusiasts had the chance to interact with professional ATP player – and former Riverlander – Luke Saville as part of a fun day at the Renmark Tintra Tennis Club last weekend.

Children aged between five and 15 from across the region attended the Riverland Come and Play Sport Fun Day on Saturday, run by the Project Six Foundation, in partnership with High Performance Tennis and the Renmark Paringa Council.

Riverland Lawn Tennis Association senior president John Pick said attendees in the first session took part in a variety of team-based activities and tennis drills.

“We had soccer, Australian rules, athletics and tennis activities all designed to challenge the children,” he said.

Project Six Foundation director Daniel Buberis was delighted with the children’s willingness to engage with the different activities.

“I was encouraged by seeing so many children trying new sports, including tennis and having a lot of fun,” he said.

“It was a really good experience, with the children working in teams and supporting each other.”

The second session saw children involved in tennis hitting drills and match play, followed by a strength and conditioning session with Mr Buberis.

Tennis SA 2019 Coach of the

Year Domenic Marafiotte, former Wimbledon and Australian Open Junior Champion Luke Saville and former touring professional Jack Schipanski put the children through their paces and passed on useful tips to the enthusiastic youngsters.

“Daniel then conducted a strength and conditioning session which saw the intensity level rise even more steeply,” Mr Pick said.

“He challenged the players in a range of exercises specific to the game of tennis.

“It was excellent for our players to get an understanding of the fitness, commitment and intensity required to play at a higher level.

“He drilled the children like a sergeant major and it was impressive to see our players embrace the

opportunity and respond positively to the session.”

Mr Pick said an exhibition between Saville and Schipanski, plus an opportunity for participants to experience the former Cobdogla junior’s serve, were highlights of the day.

“We had a tiebreak set between Luke and Jack, with all the children cheering and barracking from the sideline,” Mr Pick said.

“At the end we had four children face Luke’s serve.”

Mr Pick said the Renmark Tintra Tennis Club hopes to hold the event again next year, aiming to engage Riverland children of different cultural backgrounds and those not currently involved in sport.

“In partnership with Project Six we are trying to give opportunity to Riverland children to try tennis and involve children with the sport, across a wide range of cultural backgrounds,” he said.

“Many thanks to Project Six, High Performance Tennis, Tennis SA and Renmark Paringa Council for their support, plus the media, schools and club representatives.

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## Cobby kids too good on the table

A RIVERLAND primary school was victorious in boys and girls divisions at the School Sport State Table Tennis Competition in Adelaide last week.

Cobdogla Primary School claimed two gold medals at the event, held on Friday at the East Adelaide Table Tennis Club, with both boys and girls teams going undefeated across the day.

The girls side defeated Dominos Girls College 6-0 in the grand final, while the boys toppled Christian Temple College by the same score.

Cobdogla Primary School principal David Ness said students practiced during recess and lunch to improve on a second place finish from last year’s competition.

“Table tennis is practiced regularly at our school during break times as it has many proven



Cobdogla Primary School teacher Rod Hanna (back, left), with boys table tennis team members Jack C, Jack B, Max and Ryan, and girls team members Adele, Sophie, Mia and Summer, who all claimed gold medals at the School Sport State Table Tennis Competition in Adelaide last week. PHOTO: supplied

benefits, such as improving reflexes, mental alertness and speed of movement,” Mr Ness said.

“The school has previously accessed professional coaching through the Sporting School Program and this has supported the development of our players.

“Last year both teams finished second and I am proud that they have put in the effort to go one better. This achievement highlights our positive school culture, as students of all ages are given the opportunity to play table tennis in an inclusive environment.”

One of the students said both sides were “very proud” to walk away victorious from the competition.

“We are very proud of our achievements,” she said.

“Going home with gold medals around our necks was truly a good feeling.”

## Table tennis top four locked in

WITH only one round remaining in the Renmark Table Tennis Association season, the top four is locked in after last week’s matches.

Crushers have clinched the minor premiership, and they will face Batters Up in the qualifying final, while Desperados will meet Double Fish in the elimination final.

Last week’s matches saw Batters Up record a dominant 14-4 win over Desperados, while Double Fish secured a hard-fought 10-8 victory against Dad ’n Dave.

### RESULTS

#### Double Fish 10 d Dad ’n Dave 8.

DOUBLES: S. Watson/P. Haenen lost to D. Nitschke/P. Rogers 11-9, 6-11, 11-7, 14-16, 9-11; S. Watson/D. McAllister lost to D. Nitschke/D. Shaw 10-12, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 9-11; P. Haenen/J. Haenen d P. Rogers/Lee 11-8, 17-15, 11-5; D. McAllister/A. Morris lost to D. Shaw/C. Balshaw 11-6, 8-11, 11-7, 4-11, 8-11; J. Haenen/A. Morris d Lee/C. Balshaw 11-9, 6-11, 11-8, 13-11. SINGLES: S. Watson d P. Rogers 11-7, 11-3, 11-7; P. Haenen d D. Shaw 11-3, 11-9, 11-7; D. McAllister lost to D. Nitschke 4-11, 5-11, 9-11; S. Watson d D. Shaw 11-5, 11-8, 11-5; P. Haenen

lost to D. Nitschke 7-11, 9-11, 9-11; D. McAllister d P. Rogers 11-9, 6-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-6; D. McAllister d D. Shaw 11-8, 12-10, 5-11, 11-8; P. Haenen d P. Rogers 11-7, 11-7, 11-8; S. Watson lost to D. Nitschke 3-11, 9-11, 9-11; J. Haenen d C. Balshaw 11-2, 11-2, 11-1; A. Morris lost to Lee 1-11, 5-11, 3-11; A. Morris lost to C. Balshaw 6-11, 4-11, 10-12; J. Haenen d Lee 9-11, 12-10, 11-6, 11-9.

#### Batters Up 14 d Desperados 4.

DOUBLES: N. Stoeckel/G. Haby d B. Williams/B. Talbot 11-9, 11-9, 11-9; N. Stoeckel/S. Walladge d B. Williams/B. Heuzenroeder 6-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-5, 11-5; G. Haby/L. Webb lost to B. Talbot/J. Schwarz 12-10, 11-7, 5-11, 11-8; S. Walladge/A. Ward d B. Heuzenroeder/A. Walladge 11-7, 11-9, 11-7; L. Webb/A. Ward d J. Schwarz/A. Walladge 11-9, 11-4, 11-8. SINGLES: N. Stoeckel d B. Talbot 11-3, 11-6, 13-11; G. Haby d B. Heuzenroeder 3-11, 11-4, 11-8, 11-2; S. Walladge lost to B. Williams 6-11, 6-11, 7-11; N. Stoeckel d B. Heuzenroeder 11-7, 11-6, 11-8; G. Haby d B. Williams 11-8, 9-11, 4-11, 11-6, 12-10; S. Walladge lost to B. Talbot 3-11, 6-11, 6-11; S. Walladge d B. Heuzenroeder 12-10, 11-9, 7-11, 11-6; G. Haby d B. Talbot 11-8, 11-7, 11-6; N. Stoeckel lost to B. Williams 5-11, 10-12, 11-4, 11-5, 11-13; L. Webb d A. Walladge 11-4, 11-13, 12-10, 11-6; A. Ward d J. Schwarz 11-7, 11-5, 7-11, 12-10; A. Ward d A. Walladge 11-6, 11-6, 11-0; L. Webb lost to J. Schwarz 6-11, 5-11, 1-11.