

Successful Tennis Central Tournament Held in Wanganui

The Wanganui Tennis Club hosted two most successful Junior tournaments last Friday, and during the weekend. The AMI Tennis Central Primary Schools' tournament was held on Friday, and involved pupils from schools in Taranaki, Wanganui, Manawatu, Wairarapa, Hutt Valley and Wellington. The tournament was organised to select Tennis Central's team which will participate in the North Island Primary School competition. Paige Hourigan won the Girls event and Kyle Butters was runner up in a closely fought Boys' three set final against Kiranpai Pannu. As a result of these performances, both Wanganui's Paige and Kyle (who are New Zealand 12s representatives at the forthcoming Australian Junior Tournament to be held in Melbourne), and Wellington's Kiranpai (also a New Zealand 12s representative) have been selected for the Tennis Central team.

Other Wanganui Juniors who performed well were Tim McKenzie who just lost in a consolation semi-final of the Boys' Open to Liam Wilby, who is a 12s New Zealand non travelling reserve; Kirsten Boothway and Kate Russell were 3rd and 4th in the Girls' Intermediate Consolation Playoff; and Georgia Millward who was runner up in the Girls Intermediate Consolation final. In the Boys' year 6 and Under, Sam Russell was runner up in the final

Over the weekend, the Tennis Central Invitational Junior tournament was held to enable the selector to decide who will represent Tennis Central in the forthcoming National 12s, 14s and 16s Teams events. Both Wanganui's Paige Hourigan and Kyle Butters decided to play up one grade and participate in the 14s competition. Kyle turned the table on Friday's loss to Kiranpai Pannu, and defeated him in straight sets in the final. Paige almost succeeded in defeating the older Shanni Temata Frost, but after winning the 1st set, she lost the next two sets. As a result of their weekend performances, both Paige and Kyle will be selected to represent Tennis Central at the age group nationals.