

TENNIS

EVERYONE HEADS TO COURT

GRAND SLAM SPURS PEOPLE TO HAVE A SHOT AT GAME

Fiona Brady

IS all the hype about the Australian Open inspiring you to dig your racket out of the back of the cupboard and hit the courts?

You're not the only one.

Tennis Northern Beaches president Joel Goodwin said the Melbourne grand slam always inspires a wave of enthusiasm for his favourite sport.

"It is great for business," he said.

"I think people get enthused. They come down and hire a court or book their son or daughter some lessons.

"People usually stick around and persevere with it."

Mr Goodwin has been a tennis coach for more than 20 years and runs a tennis academy based at Avalon, where he is currently running holiday camps for children aged from five to 15.

"They are all grouped according to their age and standard," he said. "They really enjoy themselves and make new friends."

Mr Goodwin said tennis is a game "you can play for a lifetime".

"You can keep playing until you're a senior," he said. "There aren't many sports like that."

"Tennis is also a good social game, although you can make it as competitive as you like."

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- Joel Goodwin

"It gives you an all-round workout".

Mr Goodwin took over as president of Tennis Northern Beaches in May last year.

He said the organisation was the "voice of tennis in the area" and represents more than 20 local tennis clubs and tennis centres.

It also runs open tennis competitions for juniors and adults throughout the year and they are always looking for new players.

"All the competitions start from February 1 so people should contact their local club or coach to enter," Mr Goodwin said.

Although there are plenty of juniors playing tennis on the northern beaches, Mr Goodwin said it was harder to get "time-poor" adults on to the courts.

In an effort to attract them, they shortened competitions from four hours to two hours.



Joel Goodwin coaching Emily McSkimming and Jude Bonello.

Picture: ANNIKA ENDERBORG