

## DOMAIN tennis CHALLENGE



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

November 11, 2015

## Lleyton Hewitt to play exhibition match in Hobart

Australian tennis great and former World No.1 **Lleyton Hewitt** will play upcoming young Australian star **Thansai Kokkinakis** in an exhibition match in Hobart on **Friday 18 December, 2015.** 

It will be the first time Hewitt has played in Hobart and will be the last chance for Tasmanians to see him play before he retires after the Australian Open in January, 2016.

Hewitt is an Australian sporting icon, a winner of Wimbledon in 2002 and the US Open in 2001, 30 career titles, the most wins in Australian Davis Cup history and was the youngest ever World No 1, spending 80 weeks at the pinnacle of the game.

Just appointed as the new Australian Davis Cup captain Hewitt said "I'm looking forward to coming to Hobart to play Thanasi, it will be a good hit out for both of us leading into the Australian summer."

The special exhibition match will be played at the **Domain Tennis Centre**, "I've never played in Hobart before, but I have heard that the Domain Centre has probably the most picturesque outlook of any tennis centre in Australia, which will certainly add to the occasion", Hewitt said.

**Domain Tennis Centre Vice President David Morgan** said having such an exciting exhibition was fantastic for the Centre and for tennis in Tasmania.

"There is no doubt that Lleyton Hewitt is one the greatest Australian players we have ever seen. It is a major coup for us to have him play in Hobart, and will be the first time in 40 years that a former male World No 1 has played in Tasmania.

For Lleyton and Thanasi to fit this exhibition into their hectic schedules is much appreciated and I certainly hope that the people of Hobart and Tasmania come along and support the evening."

19 year old Kokkinakis is one of the major talents showing promise in Australian tennis, he has been a member of the Australian Davis Cup team the past two years, with Hewitt, and is currently ranked 71 in the world.

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"It's always an honour to step out on court and play against Lleyton, and with him retiring soon I'm rapt to have this opportunity to play him in Hobart. Even though it is an exhibition I know that Lleyton will be going hard and that will help my preparations for January" Kokkinakis said.

**Event Promoter David Drysdale** said that it has been a good 35 years since top level men's tennis has been played in Tasmania. "It is great that Tasmania has the Hobart International and some Challenger events, but it is long overdue for world class men to play here so having a legend and a possible heir apparent is tremendous."

**The Domain Tennis Challenge** will also feature a match between Tasmania's best ever player Richard Fromberg and young professional Harry Bourchier, with a "Kid 'n' Coach" match between local Domain coach Mickey Conallin and his 8 year old son Ethan, up against Lleyton Hewitt's coach Jaymon Crabb and 7 year old Cruz Hewitt.

"We want the evening to be fun, engaging and entertaining for all those that attend, with prizes for the public and music being supplied by Supanova DJ. We even have a special catered room that can be hired for 50 people with views down the court, and Lleyton and Thanasi will drop by to say hello. It would be a great unique Xmas party for a company" Drysdale said.

Drysdale said that the event would not be possible without the support of the Domain Tennis Centre, Swisse, National Pies, Bid Rhino, Wrest Point Casino, Weeding Party Hire, Boags, St Hallett Wines, Liveat and Tilford Auto Group.

**The Domain Tennis Challenge** will take place at the Domain Tennis Centre on **Friday, 18 December 2015** from 6.45pm.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online via Tixtas at <a href="http://tixtas.com.au/Home.aspx#events">http://tixtas.com.au/Home.aspx#events</a>

Corporate Boxes can also be purchased by contacting David Drysdale at ddrysdale@lleytonhewittmarketing.com or on 018210795.

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