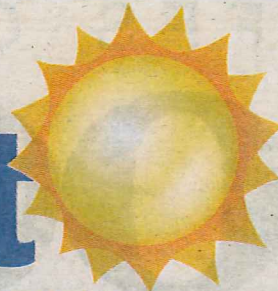


Good morning Coffs Coast



WELCOME TO ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE

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INSIDE TODAY

Damian is a national champion

Firmly clasping the trophy he won for being the national doubles champion for intellectually disabled players, Damian Phillips is excited he might now be going to Italy with the national team. For the full story turn to page 26 in sport.



TOMORROW

Meeting over more driv



HAZARDOUS: Firefighters at the scene of the emergency at Woolgoolga High School yesterday.
PHOTO: FRANK REDWARD

Powder scare closes school



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HALL**

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WOOLGOOLGA High School students had the day off yesterday after a

checked by paramedics and later released in good health.

Acting station commander at Woolgoolga Fire Station, Drew Armitage, said the duty inspector from Port Macquarie was called to oversee the operation.

"The school was quarantined and students and staff were turned away while samples were taken by police

Thrills aplenty for tennis ace Damian

By BRAD GREENSHIELDS

IT'S hard to know what the biggest thrill was for Coffs Harbour tennis player Damian Phillips recently.

It could have been claiming the national doubles title for intellectually disabled players with good friend and partner Senya Rudoy. Maybe it was playing in the finals at

Melbourne Park at the same time that the Australian Open was being played, so there was a good crowd to watch him.

Then again it could have been meeting former top 10 player Marin Cilic.

"That was pretty cool," Phillips admitted.

"He was practising at Albert Park where we were playing and the Tennis Australia guys were saying to him that he couldn't come over to give autographs or have pictures taken.

"He basically turned around and told them, 'I am going over there to do that whether you like it or not.'" Phillips, 21, said

he was happy with how he played in singles and doubles while he was in Melbourne.

He and his partner claimed the title by knocking off top seeds Zvi Schweitzer and David Burke in the final 7-6 3-6 6-4.

Modestly, the local gave a lot of credit to his partner.

"Senya is like a brick wall basically," he said.

"He's got a soft serve but when he rallies he holds his ground.

"He's pretty good to play with." Ironically, after losing the semi-final in the singles, Phillips found himself playing against Rudoy in the playoff for third and fourth. It was a match that Phillips claimed 6-2.

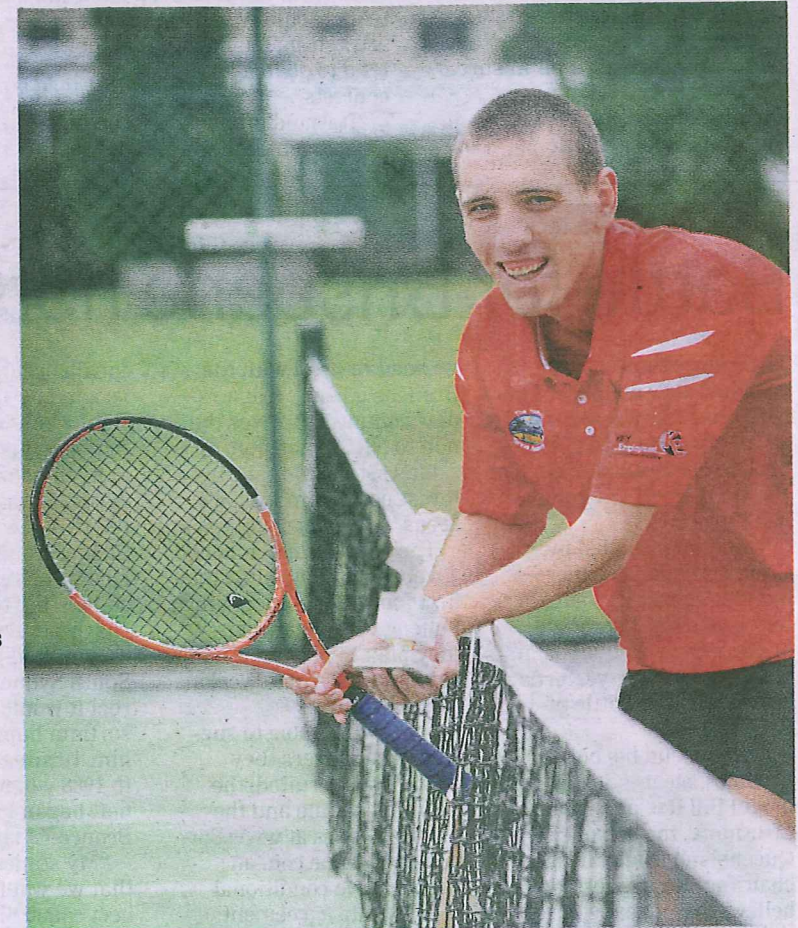
Such outstanding results aren't a surprise considering Phillips went down there determined to do better this year than he did in his first foray to the national championships 12 months ago.

"I made a couple of friends but I didn't talk to too many people this year," he said.

"I was really going down there to do well and I was just focussed on that."

The strong performances in Melbourne mean that Phillips has a good chance of travelling to Italy in September with the national team.

While waiting for confirmation of the overseas trip, he is working



THE SILVERWARE: Damian Phillips proudly displays his trophy for winning the national doubles tennis title.

PHOTO: BRUCE THOMAS

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BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE:

LIKE FATHER LIKE SON (PG)

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GNOMEO & JULIET (G)

Sorry No Free Tickets

Tue: 10:45, 2:45pm

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

(MA15+)*

*ID Required - Sorry No Free Tickets

Tue: 11:00, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15pm

127 HOURS (MA15+)*

*ID Required OSCAR nominated

Tue: 4:30, 9:15pm

HEREAFTER (M)

Tue: 1:45, 9:00pm

THE KINGS SPEECH (M)

OSCAR nominated

Tue: 10:45, 1:15, 6:45pm

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