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Go Tomas: Esperance South Coast Tennis Club members urge Tomas Berdych on to victory in tonight's Australian Open semi-final. Photo: TIM SLATER

Esperance gets behind Berdych

■ Tim Slater

Tomas Berdych will be carrying the hopes of Esperance tennis players onto centre court with him as he takes on Stanislas Wawrinka in the semi-finals of the Australian Open tonight.

The Czech player will be representing the newly formed Esperance South Coast Tennis Club through its involvement in the Australian Open Blitz competition.

The club also won the State level of the competition.

A group of players rallied outside the ANZ Bank yesterday afternoon to serve up a gesture of support for the seventh-seeded Berdych.

He earned the semi-final berth after defeating world number three David Ferrer in four sets on Tuesday.

It will be Berdych's first semi-final appearance in Melbourne after falling in the

quarter-finals in the past three years.

Club president Andrew Waters said his achievements had provided outstanding exposure for Esperance and the fledgling club.

Waters said the club would receive \$10,000 to help party if Berdych went on to win the tournament.

Club secretary Kathy Ashby and coach Selma Holthouse met Berdych during a visit to the Australian Open as part of the prize for being WA's AO Blitz State Club winner.

The club also won other prizes including a large flat screen television and iPad, signage for the club and a signed, framed photograph from the Australian Open.

Club members gathered more than two million points at the end of last year after only being formed two years ago.

The AO Blitz is an interactive

online competition run by Tennis Australia aimed at boosting interest in the sport, particularly at the junior level.

Ashby said it was thrilling to achieve WA's highest score.

Members completed online challenges to accumulate points for their club.

"One of the best things about the AO Blitz was that it created more tennis playing opportunities," Ashby said.

"We embraced the competition in an effort to increase awareness of our relatively newly formed club and the sport of tennis, which it did."

The AO Blitz was also an opportunity to fundraise for the National Breast Cancer Foundation and Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia.

Esperance finished 13th on the national town leader board.

It will be up against Echunga, in South Australia, which is supporting Wawrinka.

Golf deadline impacts fees

■ Mike Exell



The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is almost certain to miss out on \$250,000 worth of membership fees after a deadline to receive confirmation of funding from the State Government was delayed.

The deadline to receive confirmation of \$25 million in funding to build community facilities at the Kalgoorlie Golf Course was originally January 31. However, the city council voted on Monday night to push the deadline back to April 30. A permanent clubhouse must be built for the Goldfields Golf Club by January 1 as per the amalgamation agreement between the city and the three former golf clubs or the city will forfeit membership fees, which is worth up to \$250,000. Building a stand-alone clubhouse would not attract any State Government funding and the bill would have to be foot by city ratepayers.

City chief executive Don Burnett said Brendan Grylls' resignation as Regional Development Minister was the reason for the delay.

"We had plans to meet with Brendan Grylls, but after he stepped down our timeline for getting the confirma-

tion has changed," Mr Burnett said.

"It's important we meet with the new Minister Terry Redman and get his support for the project which is why we've had to delay the deadline.

"We have spoken to Wendy Duncan who said he has returned from leave so hopefully we'll be able to organise a meeting in the next couple of weeks.

"The Goldfields Golf Club has been very understanding on what's going on and they are supportive of what we're trying to do in the north-west sector."

The proposed community facilities will form an integral part of the city's north-west sector and will service the land developments at Green View and Karlkurla. The facilities will feature a community meeting hall, convention facilities, a restaurant and bar as well as an indoor children's playground and crèche. Goldfields Golf Club chairman Graeme Wilmot said the club was taking a diplomatic approach towards the latest delay.

"We know this move will delay the building of the clubhouse, but we know the council is talking to the State Government to try and organise funding," Mr Wilmot said.

"We have to be reasonable because if they can secure the funding then there will be less burden on the ratepayers to fulfil the council's promise."



Government of Western Australia
Department of Aboriginal Affairs

Aboriginal Lands Trust and Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council Vacancies

ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST

The Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) is established under section 20 of the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972* and comprises membership of Aboriginal people from across Western Australia.

The ALT is responsible for providing advice to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on Aboriginal land issues and undertakes a number of statutory functions in order to ensure the proper management of the ALT Estate including divestment of land, granting of leases and management of freehold property and pastoral leases.

The State Government is seeking to fill four (4) positions that will become vacant in the coming months and invites applications from knowledgeable Aboriginal men, women and young people to fill the positions.

The term of appointment will be for a four (4) year period.

Further details on the role and responsibilities of the ALT can be obtained by contacting:

Mr Jamie Strickland
Chief Land Officer
Department of Aboriginal Affairs
08 6551 8000

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council (WAAAC) has been established by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs under section 18.1 of the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*.

The WAAAC is a peak statutory advisory body that provides expert advice to the State Government on a range of strategic policies and initiatives affecting the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia.

Six (6) positions on the WAAAC will become vacant in July 2014.

The State Government is now seeking applications from knowledgeable Aboriginal men, women and young people from across Western Australia to fill the Council vacancies.

Terms of appointment will be for a three (3) year period.

Further details on the role and responsibilities of the WAAAC can be obtained by contacting:

Ms Lucy Gunn
Executive Director, Community Development
Department of Aboriginal Affairs
08 6551 8000

APPLICATION PROCESS

If you are interested in this opportunity, please submit a completed application form that includes a Police Clearance, a two page resume, a one page statement outlining your interest in becoming a member, your professional and personal expertise and any previous experience you may have in a similar capacity.

Selection and remuneration of members will be in accordance with Public Sector Standards. Please note that applications that do not include a Police Clearance will not be considered.

Application packages are available through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs website www.daa.wa.gov.au or by emailing the Executive Officer, ALT/WAAAC at Kate.O'Connor@daa.wa.gov.au or by contacting the Secretariat on (08) 6551 8000.

Completed applications can be lodged electronically at Kate.O'Connor@daa.wa.gov.au or sent to: Executive Officer

ALT/WAAAC Membership Applications
Department of Aboriginal Affairs
PO Box 3153
East Perth WA 6892

Applications close 5pm 19 February 2014.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Report indicates reduction in sniffing

■ Michael Dulaney

A new report reveals the introduction of low aromatic fuel has led to a significant decline in petrol sniffing in a number of Aboriginal communities across Australia.

However, the news was not as positive for the Goldfields, with the number of sniffers identified by the report increasing compared with studies conducted in previous years.

The interim report, released by the Darwin-based Menzies School of Health Research, found the number of sniffers in the Goldfields increased from 30 in 2008 to 51 in 2011-12.

The result was largely attributed to a single community with access to regular unleaded petrol.

Report co-author Professor Peter d'Abbs said the introduction of low aromatic fuel had helped reduce the prevalence of petrol sniffing and the social and beha-

vioural problems associated with it. "The decline our research has revealed is hugely encouraging, however, much work remains to be done to stamp out petrol sniffing," Prof d'Abbs said. "The introduction of the Federal Petrol Sniffing Prevention Program, including the roll-out of low aromatic fuel, has seen significant reductions in petrol sniffing and associated harms in regions where low aromatic fuel is available."

on the requirements of contractors Sime Building and Construction.

The jetty has been open to the public over the summer holiday period since December 23.

Repairs a step closer

Repairs to the Neils Hansen Basketball Stadium roof are one step closer after the Kalgoorlie-Boulder City council approved quotes for the work. Repairs will be made to the lower amenities roof and access safety points to the main stadium roof will be installed in addition to any extra repairs deemed necessary. The stadium was due to be re-roofed over Christmas but the quotes received were significantly more than the amount budgeted for.

Tenders were officially declined at Monday's council meeting after the City had meetings with the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Basketball Association, which was happy with the proposed repairs.

Working as one

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"This does not take into consideration the visitors during the day and damage to property as people are trying to seek shelter.

"We also have 17 pending applications that have been lodged with us from the end of 2013 until today.

"They are deemed pending as our clients usually have no access to identification or income statements and are homeless, and a large number are not being supported by any known agency."

Despite the difficulties, the heads of several organisations lauded the collaboration between stakeholder groups to try and find a way forward following the closure.

IN BRIEF

Esperance crash death

An 84-year-old Esperance man has died after the car he was driving crashed into a large tree about 10km west of the town on Tuesday night.

A police spokesperson said the man was driving a Subaru station wagon when it left the South Coast Highway about 9.30pm. Emergency services rushed to the crash but the man died at the scene. He was the sole occupant in the car.

Anyone with information about the accident should call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Tanker jetty closure

The tanker jetty will be closed temporarily from next Tuesday while landscaping works continue on the headland.

An alternative route across the construction site will be erected as the project progresses.

The Shire of Esperance will provide updates on when the jetty will be reopened, depending