A DEAL IS DONE - IT’S DEFINITELY SHEPPARTON TO HOST IN 2016!

TSA President Reg Trevaskis and Secretary Pat Moloney have recently returned from another visit to Shepparton, where they again met with the management of Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club (SLTC) and representatives of Greater Shepparton City Council (Council).

The TSA Executive prepared a list of all of the duties that need to be completed to bring a Teams Carnival and Individual Championships to fruition. As advised on the TSA Facebook page, a deal has been negotiated between all three parties as to which duties will be undertaken by each, and the financial compensation package for SLTC to compensate and reimburse them for their contribution and efforts. In addition, the sponsorship contribution from Council has also been finalised. President Reg and SLTC President Malcolm Thiel say that the agreement is a "win-win" for both parties, and both also acknowledge the fantastic support that the event will receive from Council. The deal was announced at a media launch held on the SLTC courts on 24 September.

The major contribution that Council will make will be convert a large oval at Mooroopna (about 10 minutes from Shepparton) into 40 grass courts, as has been done before for Country Week. The TSA Executive have spoken to the Country Week organisers, who confirmed that the quality of the courts was "fantastic". Council will also provide shading, seating and a bus service between Shepparton and Mooroopna. They will also subsidise to half price, the first 80 tickets bought on the commercial bus service from Melbourne airport to Shepparton, and if you drive into town, you will see "Welcome Senior Tennis Players" signs across the main entrance roads.
Much of the "work" needed to make an event like this happen will be done by the good folk from SLTC, but under guidance and approval from the TSA Executive. For example, they will be responsible for compiling the player booklet, and the design and production of medallions. They will look after all of the catering and bar needs at both SLTC and Mooroopna, and the organisation of all of the social activities. One of the benefits of holding this event in a smaller centre is that costs tend to be lower, and it is planned for example, that the cost of the Friday night Presentation Dinner will be kept to a maximum of $65 per head. A night at the "trots" is also on the drawing board. The Opening Ceremony is planned to be held at the Shepparton Showgrounds, where State teams will assemble on the 100 year old grandstand (very safe we are assured!!) and then adjourn to the adjacent McIntosh Centre for drinks and nibbles.

The Executive believes that this has the potential to be a great event on our calendar. Shepparton has numerous attractions of its own, and is only 2 hours from Melbourne for those who want to go on to the Australian Open. Once again, we record our grateful thanks to SLTC and Council for their enthusiasm, cooperation and potential hard work. They are as excited as we are!!!