

Monday 6 December 2010

Mount Eliza's Andrew Rae receives Most Outstanding 35+ Tennis Senior

Andrew Rae of Mount Eliza, Victoria received the **Most Outstanding 35+ Tennis Senior Award** at the inaugural **Newcombe Medal, Australian Tennis Awards** in Melbourne on Friday night.

"I am very humbled to be recognised in such a famous auditorium as we are tonight," Rae said. "I have been playing tennis for 20 years, and had a lot of success, but it is very nice at my age to be recognised and acknowledged at my very honoured."

Rae, who has eight ITF Teams World Championship titles to his name including this year's title, is currently ranked for the 55+ category.

"I have won the last five consecutive World Cup competitions in the 55+ age group, and I will move into the 60+ year and I have played in all the World Cups and world singles and doubles titles that are available to me," Rae said.

"So this year has been my hardest year being the last year in my age division and I have done well to maintain my ranking," Rae added.

Rae commenced his tennis career at age 13 in Melbourne.

"I was quite successful as a junior and then I went to college in the USA to study in my 20s and gave up tennis for a got interested in seniors tennis at age 35, and have been active ever since," Rae explained.

The other finalists in the Most Outstanding 35+ Tennis Senior Award category were **Neville Halligan** (QLD) and **Carl** (Vic).

Rae had the honour of accepting the Australian Tennis Award from Tennis Australia CEO, **Steve Wood**.

Nominations for this prestigious award were received over a three week period from 15 October 2010 to 5 November with finalists, and the eventual winner, selected through rigorous process with specific eligibility and selection criteria.

The Newcombe Medal is the premier award on a night that recognises service to tennis at all levels - club, coaches, volunteers, community and officials.

The inaugural **Newcombe Medal** was also presented last night to Australia's most outstanding elite player, **Samantha** in recognition of the achievements of Australian tennis legend **John Newcombe**.

"I think it is a great honour," Sotosur said. "It is a really good initiative of Tennis Australia to put a night like this together everyone to celebrate our sport. So to be the first winner of the Newcombe Medal is very special.

"Tennis is such a huge part of our culture in Australia, we've obviously got a great history and we're trying to continue now.

"You can only have that with clubs around the nation.

"I think for them to get the recognition for doing their best - putting in new courts, updating facilities, and having and getting people out there playing is fantastic and getting recognition for that will help them strive and do more and whatever they can."

The winners for the 14 Award categories are as follows:

Coaching Excellence – Club

- **Brett Lennard**, ACT

Coaching Excellence – High Performance

- **David Taylor**, NSW

Coaching Excellence – MLC Tennis Hot Shots

- **Matthew Bull**, WA

Excellence in Officiating

- **Kerrilyn Cramer**, Vic

Junior Athlete of the Year (Female)

- **Ashleigh Barty**, QLD

Junior Athlete of the Year (Male)

- **Bernard Tomic**, QLD

Most Outstanding 35+ Tennis Senior

- **Andrew Rae**, Vic

Most Outstanding Athlete with a Disability

- **Daniela di Toro**, Vic

Most Outstanding Club

- **Gove Peninsula Tennis Club**, NT

Most Outstanding Tennis Community

- **Kendall Tennis Club**, NSW

Most Outstanding Tournament

- **Burnie International**, TAS

Volunteer Achievement Award

- **Ross and Allen Smythe**, QLD

Spirit of Tennis Award

- **Peter Luczak**, Vic

Newcombe Medal

- **Samantha Stosur**, QLD

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