

# Media Release



*Monday 28 November 2011*

## *Newcombe Medal finalists announced*

Australia's newest Grand Slam champion and World No.6, US Open winner Samantha Stosur, leads the field of finalists for the second annual Newcombe Medal, to be staged at Crown Palladium on Monday 5 December.

Stosur was the inaugural winner in 2010, the first time the tennis community gathered to recognise not only the player of the year with the Newcombe Medal, but the entire tennis community through the Australian Tennis Awards.

Joining Stosur in contention for the Newcombe Medal are Wimbledon quarterfinalist, rising Davis Cup star and the only teenager in the ATP's top 45 Bernard Tomic; Perth's Matthew Ebden who broke through to reach the quarterfinals at the Shanghai Masters, and Jarmila Gajdosova who achieved a career-high ranking of 25 during 2011 after reaching the third round of Roland Garros and Wimbledon and shining in Fed Cup competition.

The Newcombe Medal, Australian Tennis Awards recognises service to tennis at all levels - club, coaches, volunteers, community, officials and players. The evening's top prize, the Newcombe Medal, is awarded to the year's most elite player and is named in honour of Australian tennis legend John Newcombe.

"The inaugural Newcombe Medal night last December surpassed my expectations," Newcombe said.

"It was great to see Sam Stosur be the first recipient of the Medal, and what pleased me more than anything was the number of administrators and volunteers who were recognised from around the country.

"This year is going to be bigger and even better. I can't wait," he added.

Sam Stosur, Australia's top player and world No.11, is also looking forward to this year's event.

"The Newcombe Medal, Australian Tennis Awards is a really good initiative for tennis," Stosur said.

"To have a night where all the Australian tennis community can come together and celebrate the sport is very important and will only add to its growth in the future.

"Tennis is such an intrinsic part of our culture in Australia and it has a great history. Recognising those who are doing their best for the sport, now and in the past, will only develop this rich history further.

"I was extremely honoured to be the first winner of the Newcombe Medal in 2010 and I am looking forward to attending the event at Crown next week," Stosur continued.

In 2011 the night will also feature a showcase of Australian entertainment including a headline performance by popular performer Guy Sebastian.

Newcombe Medal, Australian Tennis Awards, Finalists:

**Newcombe Medal**

Finalists: Matthew Ebden (WA), Jarmila Gajdosova (Vic), Samantha Stosur (Qld), Bernard Tomic (Qld)

**Coaching Excellence – High Performance**

Finalists: Matthew Limpus (Qld), Anthony Richardson (Qld), David Taylor (NSW)

**Coaching Excellence – Club**

Finalists: Clint Fyfe (Qld), Peter Lumsden (Vic), Peter Owen (Vic)

**Coaching Excellence – MLC Tennis Hot Shots**

Finalists: Danielle Borle (Vic), Wesley Horskins (Vic), Helen Rice (SA)

**Excellence in Officiating**

Finalists: Donna Kelso (NSW), Tom Sweeney (Vic), James Tucker (Qld)

**Female Junior Athlete of the Year**

Finalists: Naiktha Bains (Qld), Ashleigh Barty (Qld) – Wimbledon Junior Champion

**Male Junior Athlete of the Year**

Finalists: Jason Kubler (Qld), Luke Saville (SA) – Wimbledon Junior Champion

**Most Outstanding 35+ Senior**

Finalists: Glenn Busby (Vic), Alan Hocking (Qld), Andrew Rae (Vic)

**Most Outstanding Athlete with a Disability**

Finalists: Keegan Oh-Chee (NSW), Ben Weekes (NSW), Kelly Wren (NSW)

**Most Outstanding Tennis Club**

Finalists: Geelong Lawn Tennis Club (Vic), Parkes Tennis Club (NSW), Sale Tennis Club (Vic)

**Most Outstanding Tennis Community**

Finalists: Barwon Region (Vic), Bendigo Tennis Association (Vic), Tennis Gove (NT)

**Most Outstanding Tournament**

Finalists: Cliffs Esperance Tennis International (WA), Love 'N Deuce North Shore Open (NSW), McDonald's Burnie International (Tas)

**Most Outstanding School**

Finalists: Griffith East Public School (NSW), Middle Years Tennis School at Box Hill Secondary College (Vic), Yarra Valley Grammar School (Vic)

**Volunteer Achievement Award**

Finalists: Colin Ackland (Qld), Tom Hancy (Vic), Wendy Saville (NSW)

**Spirit of Tennis Award**

Recipient selected by a panel appointed by Tennis Australia

Watch live streaming of the 2011 Newcombe Medal on Monday 5 December 2011 at

<http://newcombemedal.com.au/> and on [YouTube](#).

Sam Stosur promo video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1TiwgV1qyw>

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[www.newcombemedal.com.au](http://www.newcombemedal.com.au)

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