

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Thirty-two players lined up to have a shot at winning the boys singles title at the Secondary Schools residential champs. After a series of hard fought pool play matches the quarter finalists consisted of Richard Simpson (1) v Naoki Tsuda (16), Luke Elsen (13) v Conor Broughton (11), Jessi Drake (4) v Henry Craib (6) and Waldo Myburg (15) v Jerry Goh (2). Third seed Hayden Blackler was the highest ranked player to fall in pool play, beaten 17-15 by Conor Broughton. All quarter final matches were over in straight games with Simpson, Elsen, Drake and Goh completing easy victories.

In the first semi-final Simpson continued his excellent form he had shown throughout the teams' competition beating Elsen in straight games 11-6, 11-4, 11-4.

The second semi-final between Drake and Goh was a nail biter with Drake winning the first game 11-9, Goh taking the next two 11-9, 12-10 before Drake took it to a decider winning the fourth game 12-10. The deciding game didn't start well for Goh with Drake jumping to a big 9-3 lead and despite Goh winning the next 3 points to close the gap it was Drake who mixed strong defence and attack to win the fifth game 11-6 and move into the final against Simpson.

In the final it was top seed Simpson playing steady table tennis to take the first two games 11-7, 11-8 before Drake's solid all round game returned to win the next 11-7. Despite staying in touch with Simpson in the fourth game Drake was not able to get in front and Simpson held on to take the game 11-9 and his first singles title.

The girls' title race saw defending champion Moe Nakamura (1) against Louise Travaille (2) in one semi-final and Meghan Sutton (3) against Mary Engelbrecht (6) in the other. Both matches were easy victories with Nakamura winning 11-3, 11-3 and Sutton winning 11-3, 11-1.

Nakamura had easily beaten Sutton in pool play and her dominance continued in the final with Nakamura defending her title 11-4, 11-4.