

Tennis Hits the Shores

This summer Melbourne is set to discover an innovative new way to keep fit, have fun and enjoy the summer sun. Paul Mapley, the Creative Director/Founder of Beach Tennis Australia has introduced Beach Tennis onto the Melbourne foreshores just in time for summer, with a long-term goal of the game becoming one of the country's biggest sports.

"Beach Tennis is going to be the next great sport, it is so much a part of our Australian Culture," Mapley claims.

Beach Tennis is a hybrid of tennis and beach volleyball, following the tennis scoring system without advantage on deuce. The game can be adapted onto many surfaces but is predominately played on a 16 x 8 metre sand court with a 1.7 metre net.


As a sport it is only producing positives in Australia. It is cheap, encourages outdoor participation, is good for your health and is injecting life back into tennis.

"Kids that don't play tennis are having a go at Beach Tennis and then considering playing land tennis because they have so much fun," Mapley says.

The sport is currently seeking public awareness through 'Come N Try' days held at Albert Park beach every Sunday morning. The morning fun session has drawn in over 200 participants between the ages of 12 and 80 years old.

Because it is played on sand, the sport can be more suitable for older players who find other surfaces too harsh on their joints, warranting the game's slogan: "A game for all, not just, for some."

For those wanting to witness why the sport is the latest craze,



Beach Tennis: the perfect way to relax in the sun.

Beach Tennis will be displayed at Fed Square during the Australian Open. Some of the world's best Beach Tennis players will be in action, including world champion Bertrand Coulet.

Mapley is expecting the spectators will like what they see: "It's just serious fun," he enthuses. ●