

# Port Phillip

## Leader

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2006

NEWS



Paul Mapley, hoping for a smashing success with beach tennis.

Picture: DAVID SMITH N37CK112

### Mixing it up to lob on the beach

TENNIS coach Paul Mapley is trying to serve up something different for people who love sport on the beach.

Mapley said beach tennis was a hybrid, incorporating elements of tennis, beach volleyball and badminton, but had its own equipment and rules.

The game is played overseas, particularly in Italy, but Mapley said Melbourne was its home in Australia. "You could say we are born on

the bayside. We have been piloting the program since December '04," he said.

"We wanted to determine if the game could be played all year round in Melbourne and the only problem was in relation to the rain."

He said the game could be played by people of all ages, competitively or socially. "We've got 400 people on our database who have taken part, but usually between 25 and 35 participate at each of our sessions."

Mapley was part of the Australian team that finished fifth in the world championships played in Italy last year.

» **Mapley Beach Tennis** takes place at Victoria Ave, Albert Park, opposite the Beach Hotel on Sundays from 9.30am-1pm and Mondays from 6.30pm-dusk. First-timers play free of charge. For more information, go to [www.beachtennis.com.au](http://www.beachtennis.com.au) or phone Paul Mapley on 0418 522 008