

Helping youngsters develop love of tennis

13 December 2018 - Mid Canterbury Tennis coach Andre Van Rooyen loves nothing more than seeing youngsters pick up a racquet for the first time and watching them quickly develop new skills.

The South African born coach teaches tennis at 18 primary schools around the district and has done so since moving here from Nelson in 2016.

He brings his enthusiasm and knowledge to the school playground and uses some modified equipment to introduce and help youngsters get to grips with the game.

His focus at schools is mainly on pupils in Years 3-6.

Keen players are encouraged to extend their skills further at the Mid Canterbury Tennis Centre on Oak Grove, where coaching is directed and ability focused. The next step from there is playing regular matches and joining one of the district's 16 clubs.

Andre Van Rooyen explains the principles of serving to Year 4 Hampstead School pupils Joseph Vakanounga, Tyler Manson, Ryan Prichard, Tangi Tepaki, Bradley Carson-Price, Muqtasid Mohammed and, front, RicJaLe Heke.

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