



**TABLE TENNIS CAIRNS** est. 1952  
(Cairns Table Tennis Association Inc. 1985) ABN 29 591 966  
396  
99 Sheridan St. Cairns Qld. 4870  
Phone - (07) 40 516 825  
Email - [cairns@tabletennisqld.org](mailto:cairns@tabletennisqld.org)  
www - [cairnsweb.com.au/pinapona](http://cairnsweb.com.au/pinapona)

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### **CAIRNS OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 8 & 9 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Australian table tennis 'legend' Paul Pinkewich (seeded number two) will attempt to win the 2007 Cairns Open Table Tennis Title. Paul first represented Australia at the age of 15, in a career spanning over forty years, his record is difficult to match in any sport.

Pauls CV in brief reads

- Holds three 'Commonwealth Championships silver medals'
- Five 'International Open titles'
- Thirteen 'Australian Open' titles
- Thirty two 'National Veterans titles'
- Over 'sixty State titles'.
- Represented Australia in no less than 'two hundred and eighty seven' test matches as playing Captain
- Commentator 1996 - present on ABC & SBS at 4 Australian Open Championships
- Media Liason Officer Sydney Olympic Games

He will be pitted against players many years his junior including the tournaments number one seed Alex Fischer (German Bundesliga player) the highest rated player in the country at this time. As well as Alex Fischer, highly rated players from around Australia will be competing.

Cairns hopes rely on locally 'adopted' player Seiji Furuya from Japan; the tournaments number eight seed favoured to meet Pinkewich in the quarter final stages. Vivian Tan from New South Wales, and 'Queensland's' own Peri Campbell-Innes (ranked 3 & 4 in Australia respectively) have by-passed the 'Women's Open' in an attempt to win the 'Open' against a very powerful male field.

Claire Campbell-Innes is favoured to take out the Women's Open Title. The leading Cairns male and female players Rod Perry and Gillian Lawrence will team up with the tournaments number one and two seeds Alex Fischer and Paul Pinkewich in the Men's Open Doubles and Mixed Open Doubles respectively.

There is a strong contingent of players attending the Open from New South Wales and Victoria. Townsville are sending 22 players to Cairns to compete in all grades. Including the number 6 & 7 ranked Queenslanders (Men) in the Open.

This is the strongest Cairns Open Tournament ever held.

Play starts 9a.m. Saturday 8th September, continuing Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup> September (Finals Sunday afternoon).

#### **Suggested questions**

1. Is it really possible for a 56 year old player to beat a 22 year old pro?
2. What is the Prize money? How does it compare with other Championships?
3. How many players are coming to the Cairns Open & how many clubs across the country will be represented?
4. What's happening the week before the Cairns Open to attract so many players from across the country?
5. What is the amazing deal you're giving Cairns residents who want to come & watch these world class table tennis matches?
6. What is the best time to see them play?

[editorial@tcp.newsltd.com.au](mailto:editorial@tcp.newsltd.com.au)  
[cairnsnews@winqld.com.au](mailto:cairnsnews@winqld.com.au)  
[localnews@seven.com.au](mailto:localnews@seven.com.au)  
[fox.liam@abc.net.au](mailto:fox.liam@abc.net.au)

reception@scbnetwork.com.au channel 10  
cairnssun@tsu.newsltd.com.au

**Manager Paul Uttley 4057-7671 mob 0403154559**

Berni Burgstaller  
President

**For further  
information  
contact Stadium**