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CAIRNS OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 8 & 9 SEPTEMBER 2007 & THE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE & INSURANCE ANNUAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2-6 SEPTEMBER 2007

Australian table tennis 'legend' Paul Pinkewich (seeded number two) will attempt to win the 2007 Cairns Open Table Tennis Title. Among a long list of achievements in the sport of table tennis, Paul holds three 'commonwealth championships silver medals'; five 'international open titles'; thirteen 'Australian Open' titles; thirty two 'national veterans titles'; and over 'sixty state titles'. Paul has also represented Australia in no less than 'two hundred and eighty seven' test matches in a career spanning over forty years, a record difficult to match in any sport.

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 Max Wellington and Paul Jones number 6 & 7 ranked Queenslanders in the Open. Among the Townsville contingent are fast rising stars of the sport David Fielding, Carl Blucher, Luke Blucher, Sean Chun Tie and Nina Zuchowski (all representing Queensland at the Junior National Titles later in the year). Local juniors Aled Hole, Jonathon Stokes and Steve Charlton will be playing in their first Cairns Open Tournament starting in the grade events Saturday 8th September at 9a.m. This is expected to be the strongest Cairns Open Tournament ever held. Play starts 9a.m. Saturday 8th September, continuing Sunday the 9th September.

Prior to the Cairns Open, the 'Public Service & Insurance Championships' are being held in Cairns from the 2nd-6th of September inclusive, starting at 2:30p.m. Sunday and continuing daily from 9:30a.m. This tournament has been held annually since 1952 and for the first time in Cairns. Local players Andrew Cavanagh, Seiji Furuya, Gillian Lawrence, Eddie Lee & Paul Uttley are included in the Queensland Teams. They will be up against very strong opposition from New South Wales & Victoria. Spectators are welcome for both these amazing table tennis events.

Suggested questions

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

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5. What is the
best time to
see them
play?

Berni Burgstaller
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