

23 February 2005

Ms Sally Garden  
DIB  
207a Elgar Road  
SURREY HILLS VIC 3127

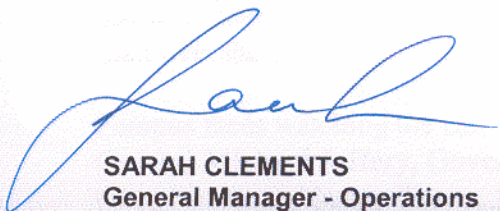
Dear Sally

On behalf of the Australian Open Operations team, I am writing to thank you sincerely for your invaluable contribution to our most successful event ever. The event attracted the highest attendance figure in history of **543,873** patrons.

I have attached our post-tournament Media Release for your interest, and will send an official Fact Sheet to you as soon as it is available.

Preparations for Australian Open 2006 are well underway!

Kind Regards

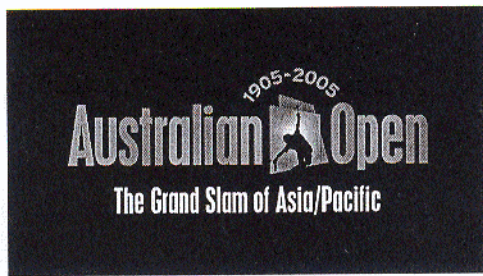


**SARAH CLEMENTS**  
General Manager - Operations



**KIA MOTORS**





## Media Release

**Sunday 30 January 2005**

### AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2005 – THE FINAL WORD

The Centenary Australian Open exceeded all expectations with tennis records being broken both on and off the court over an exciting fortnight of memorable action.

With attendance for the final day still to be added, the Centenary Australian Open 2005 has already broken the magic **half a million visitors** mark for an incredible sixth year in succession with a current running total of 524,600 - already over 18,500 up on the same point last year.

The Centenary year also saw an all-time record attendance for any tennis event when on Saturday 22 January **60,669** fans flocked through the gates at Melbourne Park.

On court **Joachim Johansson** and opponent **Feliciano Lopez** served a total of 72 aces in their third round match setting a world record for any men's main draw singles match. **Johansson** then went on to set another all-time record on Sunday in his fourth round match against **Andre Agassi** serving 51 aces – the most for any one player in a men's main draw singles match.

On court, the fastest serves of the tournament were recorded by Aussie **Chris Guccione** and American **Andy Roddick** (231km/h) and women's singles champion **Serena Williams** (199km/h) and over **2384 rackets** were strung using over **26km worth of string**. Over **42,000 tennis balls** were used over the fortnight.

Famous faces watching the action included Governor General of Australia His Excellency Major General **Michael Jeffery**, Governor of Victoria His Excellency **John Landy**, Premier **Steve Bracks**, **Greg Norman**, **Kostya Tszyu**, NBA Coach **Phil Jackson**, **Shane Crawford**, **Bec Cartwright**, **Olivia Newton-John**, **Geoffrey Rush**, **Eric Bana**, **Collette Dinnigan**, **Kate Cebrano**, **Eddie McGuire**, **Baz Luhrmann**, **Stephanie McIntosh**, **Jason Akermanis**, **Shane Warne**, **Andrew McLeod** and **Kate Kendall**.

The official Australian Open website ([www.AustralianOpen.com](http://www.AustralianOpen.com)) powered by IBM, has been a hit too with more than **2.8 million different tennis fans** from 187 different countries logging on so far during the fortnight, a 64% increase on the same time last year.

Favourite player profiles on [www.AustralianOpen.com](http://www.AustralianOpen.com) among the fans saw glamorous Russian **Maria Sharapova** take over from **Kim Clijsters** who topped last year's poll, followed this year by women's singles champion **Serena Williams** and local favourite **Alicia Molik**. On the men's side, World No.1 **Roger Federer** topped the list above Aussie **Lleyton Hewitt** and Russian finalist **Marat Safin**.

And making it all happen behind the scenes were over **4400 members of staff**, including **306 ballpersons**, **348 umpires**, **193 courtesy car drivers** and **61 statisticians**. A fleet of **88 official cars**

