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For Immediate Release

Maccabi Australia

Inaugural Maccabi Australia Rudi Roth Sports Scholarship Awarded



The winner of the inaugural Maccabi Australia Rudi Roth Sports Scholarship was announced at the closing ceremony of the 33rd Maccabi Australia Junior Carnival held in Melbourne last week and Maccabi Australia is excited to announce NSW Junior tennis player Lara Kaplan as the recipient.

Whilst Lara was unable to attend the ceremony to accept her award in person, Rudi was able to surprise Lara when she was in Melbourne competing a few weeks ago with a visit and presentation court side.

Her award win was a well kept secret until the Closing Ceremony of the Junior Carnival as this was seen as a fitting audience to make the announcement to – an audience to be inspired by a young girl's sporting success.

During his short address to the 550-strong audience, scholarship sponsor, Rudi Roth explained that he hoped to inspire the Junior Carnival participants to dream big and seek out sporting success. With many of his grandchildren competing in the Carnival, Rudi was particularly proud to have the award announced at the Closing. "Having my grandchildren stand with me to present this award, shows the generational impact that Maccabi and sport has in our community" explained Rudi in the lead up to the Ceremony.

2014 was an outstanding year for Lara, capped off with her selection in the NSW under 12 state team that recently competed in Melbourne for the National States Tournament. Lara is ranked 2nd in NSW and 5th in Australia in her age group.

Rudi, a former Maccabi Squash Club President and captain will make a single grant each year to emerging athletes to assist them on the path to achieving at an elite level. Having overcome Rickets at age 12, undergoing six operations and then re-learning how to walk, Rudi was not sure he would ever walk, let alone succeed in squash at the highest level. To this end, Rudi is keen to support emerging athletes, with their eye on elite status.

Barry Smorgon OAM, President of Maccabi Australia "reminds all Jewish sports persons that the scholarship will be offered again in 2016 and applications will be open by October 2015. Maccabi, whilst connecting the community through sport is keen to recognise, reward and contribute to the development of sport excellence."

Any questions relating this statement to be directed to Barry Smorgon, via the Maccabi Australia office on 03 9563 5865

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