

PRISON TOURNAMENT

Chess club teams check in with inmates

By Mark Sawa

Inmates at Junee's medium security facility plotted to take down royalty recently for the Check In Mate trophy.

The annual chess tournament pits some of the best chess players from the prison against teams from chess clubs across the region.

Recently the Canberra Chess Club, along with members of Albury and Wagga clubs, tested their mettle against some of the prison's toughest players.

Canberra Chess Club secretary Roy Teymant said it was an interesting experience.

"It is a medium security prison, some guys are in there for 20 years or for life or whatever, so obviously you can't start a conversation with, 'Well, what are you in for?'" he said.

"You've got to kind of talk around subjects. The conversation was general but you can't go into the specifics of the lives of the inmates."

All the tables and chessboards had been made by the prisoners while the tournament space, a converted gym, was adorned with artwork.

Mr Teymant said after the competition, some friendly games were played and chess club representatives chatted with the inmates.

"The prison had some quite respectable players," he said.

"They would be middle-level club players if they played in Canberra."

Meanwhile, Mr Teymant said chess books were presented to the prison.

"Books are the only way they can learn because they don't have access to the internet," he said.

Mr Teymant said if the Canberra



Canberra A Team player Stephen Priest defeats Canberra B Team player Roy Teymant at Junee Prison.

Chess Club was invited back next year he would happily go again.

Junee Prison activities co-ordinator Mick Perkins said the inmates really appreciated the visit.

He said he'd been surprised how

beneficial playing chess had been for the inmates.

It was the second year the Check In Mate trophy had been contested.

Canberra fielded an A Team and a B Team. The final order of teams was

Canberra A, Wagga, Albury A, Junee inmates, Albury B, and Canberra B.

Mr Teymant said the inmates performed very well, given they only had a limited number of opponents to practice against.

MAJURA PARKWAY

Bridge over river nears completion

The northbound section of the Molonglo River bridge on the new Majura Parkway is set to be finished within weeks.

Roads ACT director Tony Gill said the last segments of the section of the 250-metre bridge over the Molonglo River were going up over Morshead Drive.

"As this part of the bridge nears completion, a 32-metre-long guiding frame is helping place segments in their final location," he said.

"As each of the bridge segments are finished, they are installed and slowly pushed across the river at about seven centimetres per minute."

A height limit of 4.6 metres is to apply to all vehicles as the bridge goes up and safety arrangements are in place for workers and motorists.

The \$288-million Majura Parkway project, jointly funded by the ACT and federal government, is due to be finished in mid-2016.

GENDER DIVERSE GROUP RECEIVES CHARITY CASH

A Gender Agenda, a unique Canberra organisation devoted to supporting the rights of the sex and gender diverse community, has received a \$10,000 donation from The Green Shed.

The sale of unwanted items at The Green Shed not only prevents good items going to landfill, but sale profits have redirected more than \$200,000 to ACT charities. The next \$10,000 charity donation will be made to ACT Down Syndrome. It will be the 25th organisation The Green Shed has supported since it opened in 2010.