Ball rolling on new courts

WORKS are on track for the redevelopment of the Wodonga Tennis Centre. Specialist contractor William Loud started works on the site last month to start laying the court surface.

The project will upgrade 10 clay courts to Plexicushion surface.

Preparation works, including tree and fence removal, were completed earlier this year along with improved drainage and lighting works.

Contractor William Loud, which prepares courts for the Australian Open, has started the initial works which include laying a 17cm base of fine crushed rock ahead of a 3cm layer of asphalt later this month.

The asphalt will need to cure for up to a month before the Plexicushions layers are laid.

The Plexicushion, which will be done in stages, needs up to 24 hours between layers and 10 layers are needed on each court surface.

This process, which will turn the former clay courts into the instantly recognisable blue surface, which will take up to 30 days, weather permitting.

The contractor will complete the project by line-marking the courts.

The Plexicushion surface makes for a smooth, uniform surface, and is easy and economical to maintain, requiring no bagging or rolling.

The centre upgrade is a partnership between the tennis centre and the council with funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria.

Wodonga Tennis Centre president Sandra Griffin said earlier this year the upgrade would have a major impact on the club’s calendar.

“This project will make a phenomenal difference in allowing us to operate for 12 months of the year,” she said.

“At the moment we have little activity in the winter and these new courts will allow our members to keep playing and also allow us to attract more tournaments and events to the city.

“So it will not only be good for the tennis centre but will also mean a boost for the community as well.”