



**WILLIAMSTOWN**  
*baseball club*

*Annual Report*

SEASON 2023/24

# COMMITTEE & OFFICE BEARERS

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*President*

Chris Jackson

*Senior Vice President*

Jo Tyers

*Secretary*

Stewart Cassell

*Treasurer*

Jason McDonald

*Club Coach*

Chris Rickard

*Junior Coach*

Craig Evans

*Uniform & Merchandise*

*(Grounds Manager)*

Mitch Clement

*Events Co-Ordinator*

Nick Gray

*Junior Co-Ordinator*

Justin Chrimes

*Canteen Co-Ordinator*

Di Diblasi

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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The 2023/2024 Summer Season was in my mind one of the more successful seasons as a Club I have been involved in. While we did not see any finals qualification from our 6 senior teams, the goal the committee and senior coaching staff had set out at the start of the season was met. That goal was to "make the cut" for the mid season split and keep the senior team in the top level of competition for the season. Also we wanted to ensure we would be in the same division for the upcoming 2024/2025 summer season.

It was our second consecutive season fielded a Women's team. While at time we were short of numbers and we did have some challenges I would like to thank all who helped field a team consistently throughout the season. It was great to see the girls building on the solid foundation from the previous season and I think next season will see even more continued support.

This year after Michelle Coote tendered her resignation from the position of Junior Co-Ordinator to pursue a career at Baseball Victoria, Justin Chimes took on the challenging role of managing our junior program. Justin was helped immensely by Jo Tyers to field 3 junior teams along with the T Ball program. Junior recruitment is at the top of the list moving forward and we need to increase in particular the entry level junior numbers in the next couple of years. The committee is working on ways to achieve this, however if you have any ideas or would like to be included in these efforts please don't hesitate to reach out.

I would also like to thank the committee for the support over the season. It does require allot of time and effort so thankyou to the full team. Nick Gray has notified us that he will be unable to serve on the committee next season as he is away travelling for the next 12 months. Nick's service to the club both on and off the field has been enormous and I know it is always appreciated.

Sponsorship was down this year, however I would like to thank our sponsors, Epic Arena, 2nd Avenue Grocers and D'Asporto Pizza for their continued support. We had some successful fundraising initiatives across the season including, Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser, Social nights and Training BBQ's run by Stewart Cassell. As always I invite any of our members who might be able to assist in sponsorship or has any ideas on potential sponsors for the upcoming season to please reach out to me directly.

This year I was extremely privileged to be able to announce Craig 'Snorks' Evans as the latest addition to the prestigious life membership club. Congratulations again Snorks!

Each year we also award a best Clubperson, again this year it was two hard to single out one person. It was jointly awarded to Stewart Cassell and Matt Irwin. On behalf of the club I would like to thank the both Stewart and Matt on all the work they did to assist the improvement and smooth running of the club throughout the season.

Change is coming to the structure of the competition, while we have a reasonable understanding of this it has not yet been locked in stone. Some of the changes will introduce some new challenges but others will introduce opportunity for growth as a club, in particular for our junior program. The committee is meeting regularly throughout the offseason and will ensure we do the best we can for the club to take advantage of these changes and communicate with the members.

Lastly I would like to thank the volunteers, coaches, players, supporters, the "Old Farts Committee and families for there continued support of the Williamstown Baseball Club. I am extremely proud of the culture we have at our club and I look forward to a successful season ahead both on and off the field.

*Chris Jackson*  
PRESIDENT

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

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This season saw another change to the league with BV introducing a 16 team Premier League.

This consisted of last season's div 1 teams & 4 div 2 teams of which we were included. After playing each team once the league was split into 2 & we were fortunate to stay in the top 8. While we were competitive in most games, the 1sts ended the season finishing in 8th position.

This is the first time in a very long time that no senior team participated in the finals.

This season saw the women's team take the field again with quite a few new players who once started to gel together had quite a few wins. Thanks to Jason Lester for putting his hand up to coach the women's team. He has also indicated that he would like to continue next season.

We entered 3 Sunday junior teams & all of which played finals with the u12's winning the Grand Final. We also had a Friday night u12's team.

Next season looks like that both the senior men's 1sts & 2nds & women's team playing Saturday while the juniors playing Sunday morning & the men's 3rds & 4ths playing Sunday afternoon.

I would like to congratulate all the trophy winners in both junior and senior teams.

This year we were fortunate to land 2 Bunnings BBQ's which brought in just over \$3000.  
I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help out on both days.

After a lot of thought, I have decided to cut back on my club activities due to ongoing health problems. Unfortunately, one is doing the canteen for the Masters on a Monday night. I have enjoyed supplying the guys with something to eat after the games. With so many midweek games being played on a Tuesday night I have also decided to pull the plug on the training night BBQ. I will still continue to organize the Bunnings BBQ's.

I would like to thank club coach Chris Rickard for taking on the Umpire/Canteen roster which I know is not an easy task. I think this will be much harder next season with the possible change in playing days.

*Stewart Cassell*  
SECRETARY



# LEADER BOARD

## *Games Played*

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Laurie Treadwell - 850

Les Flower - 760

Glen Hardy - 614

Murray Hardy - 604

Ernest Poole - 576

Neil Pedretti - 557

Craig Evans - 517

Aaron Green - 508

Maxwell Wainstein - 500

Ray Baker - 483

Alan Moloney - 479

Ryan Camov - 469

John Humphries - 465

Daniel Chircop - 459

Michael Hurstfield - 415

Scott Meager - 389

Alan Kinnaird - 385

Peter Collins - 370

# TREASURER'S REPORT

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The headline for this year is the \$10,388 loss incurred this year.

Canteen income was up with over \$35,000 being taken. Real credit needs to be given to Di and her helpers for managing this and making it such a success. Having 2 Bunnings days really helped provide additional income with both being great contributors to club revenue. Income taken from fees was slightly up however higher expenses were the real contributors to the loss.

These included BV fees for regos and umpires in excess of \$14,000. The cost of maintaining an import this year cost in excess of \$20k. This figure was compounded by additional visa and travel costs along with car maintenance costs. Our senior coaching cost was also increased to \$12k.

WBC currently holds about \$55k in the bank due to previously profitable years so our situation is not immediately concerning. With quite a strong year in the field these costs can be justified however care has to be taken in coming years that we do watch our spending more closely.

We do need to seek sustainable and regular income streams from government or local community groups to assist with running the club and expanding our teams along with maintaining and improving our facilities.

As with last year having Winter and Womens teams has rounded the club into a much more sustainable model. Further investment is needed in these areas along with our junior program to bolster the future of the club and allow it to fit the model BV seems to be proposing as they try to take baseball into the future.

*Jason McDonald*  
TREASURER

# CLUB COACH

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On a personal aspect for me, I was delighted to be offered the position of club coach for a club that I played for some 20 years ago, my family has followed the Wolves as a club since that time. It was a big decision to take up the role to coach a club, it was new to me but the support I have around me with my family and the Williamstown leadership group allowed me to accept the position. Thanks to Chris J, Daniel C, Justin C and Aaron G for entrusting me in the role.

The pre-season we spent quite some time planning the season ahead due to the league structure changes, what they meant to the club and how our playing group would be affected. Pre-season training began and it was great to meet the playing group and realise their passion for the club and everyone was keen to get into the games. With the club included in the newly formed Premier League making up the top 16 teams in the State we were challenged from the outset for all our senior teams, playing against clubs we hadn't seen for many years and on grounds not familiar to most of our players.

By 10 games into the season, we had seen the arrival of our import player, Brayden Bebee who was a great addition to the team and the club. Our Firsts record was 4-6 with four of the losses being by 1 run. With a little luck on our side, we could have been sitting in the top 8 rather than just outside it. Following a rain out, the Firsts then won 3 of our last 4 games to finish with a 7-7 record and inside the top 8 to position the club in Premier League (prev. Div.1) for the second half of the season. This was a great achievement for the playing group, and it was great to see the smiles on the off-field followers and Life Members about the club who hadn't seen Williamstown in Div.1 since 2014/15 season. After the Summer break, we had the challenge of versing the top 7 clubs in Victoria each week. While we competed well each week there was no relief in the competition at that level and every game was high standard. The Firsts record after the break was 4-10 to finish tied in 7th place at season end, still a terrific result for the club to show that we can compete at that level. Congratulations Dennis Neal winning both the Summer League and Williamstown 1s MVP.

The revised structure brought with it an increase in games with 29 regular season games, this created opportunities for players to move through the grades and fill gaps as unavailability's and injury opened positions across all our teams. Our Seconds, Thirds and Fourths had challenging seasons as they faced the Premier League clubs through the season by following the Firsts opposition clubs. Seeing young players like Roman, Jai, Oliver, Walter, Rivi, Luke, Chris moving up the grades with some seeing time in the Firsts is rewarding for everyone. More opportunities will open-up for our young players in the coming season.

I have a long list of thank you's for people that helped me and the playing group throughout the season. To Chris Jackson and his Committee, thank you for your support and Chris thank you for your work on field with the Seconds and team selections. Stewart Cassell, a huge thank you for everything you do for the club, scoring the 1s, communications to the members, BBQs it all takes time and effort beyond what we see, thank you. Aaron Green, thank you for your help especially early in the season as I learnt the playing group, all the best in your baseball retirement I hope you get quality time with the family, your welcome back anytime! Daniel Chircop for your help at training with the Drive Line program and running training when I couldn't attend. Caine Bergin and Mick 'Chef' Hurstfield thank you for your help at Senior training and with the juniors.

To Craig 'Snork's Evans (congrats on the LM) and Murray Hardy thank you for your work with the 3's and 4s teams. Jason Lester, thanks for the time you put into our Women's team at training and game days.

To Hiroshi, Yo and Dennis, Matt Irwin and Jo Tyers, thank you for your work with our junior teams.

Thank you to my wife, Julie, and my family for supporting me to do what I love... being at the ballpark around good people.

Looking ahead to season 2024/25, we know we have a lot of work to do to keep up with the top level and compete there again. Retaining and building up the playing resource within the club is key

We now know the calibre of the opposition and have a taste for that level of baseball.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon as we prepare for the new season ahead.

*Chris Rickard*  
CLUB COACH

# LIFE MEMBERS

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|      |                              |
|------|------------------------------|
| 1946 | William (Bill) Gravell       |
| 1946 | Albert (Bert) Colvin         |
| 1948 | Samuel Martin (Marty) Bowyer |
| 1951 | Colin Milne                  |
| 1953 | James (Sam) Thompson         |
| 1954 | Keith (Tiger) Eddy           |
| 1956 | Alan Woods                   |
| 1957 | William (Bill) Humphries     |
| 1960 | Robert (Pinto) Wilson        |
| 1963 | Ken Addison                  |
| 1963 | Ken Gunn                     |
| 1963 | George Halley                |
| 1963 | Norman (Nozza) Thomson       |
| 1970 | Max Wainshtein               |
| 1974 | Paul Collins                 |
| 1978 | Les Flower                   |
| 1979 | Ray Baker                    |
| 1979 | Rhona Pedretti               |
| 1980 | John Humphries               |
| 1987 | Norma Kinnaird               |
| 1987 | Neil Pedretti                |
| 1989 | Laurie Treadwell             |
| 1994 | Ernie Poole                  |
| 2000 | Alan Moloney                 |
| 2003 | Jennie Moloney               |
| 2003 | William (Bill) Hardy         |
| 2008 | Alan Kinnaird                |
| 2013 | Stewart Cassell              |
| 2013 | Glen Hardy                   |
| 2019 | Moirra Hardy                 |
| 2019 | Murray Hardy                 |
| 2020 | Roger Twist                  |
| 2021 | Mark Chircop                 |
| 2023 | Aaron Green                  |
| 2024 | Craig Evans                  |

# LIFE MEMBER

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This year I was extremely privileged to be able to announce  
**Craig 'Snorks' Evans**  
as the latest addition to the prestigious life membership club.

Craig has played over 500 games for the Club and has been instrumental in bringing our junior players through the seniors ranks coaching the 3's senior team for many years. He has also been a significant contributor off the field over his many years at the club. He is always the first to put his hand up when help is required. Congratulations again Snorks!





# CANTEEN REPORT

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It is with teamwork that makes the canteen a success during baseball season. Without the valued help from players and their families and friends, the canteen wouldn't be operational and taking in much needed revenue for the club. Huge thanks to all!!

It has been an absolute pleasure getting to meet many members and their families via the canteen portal.

A big thankyou to the Rickard family for their generous donations of food, lollies, drinks and canteen products throughout last summer season.

And last but not least, a big shout out to Second Ave Grocers in Altona for their generous ongoing weekly contribution of bread rolls to the club.

Looking forward to a bumper season in  
2024/2025.

*Di Diblasi*



# T-BALLERS & U12 FRIDAY NIGHT

It may not have been a successful season according to the score books but our Fri night Under 121s succeeded in so many ways. For most of them it was their first season playing a game.

Despite a few tears here and there, each and every one of these kids shone as they all improved their batting, running, throwing and catching.

Our competition featured older experienced players but our kids persevered and became competitive.

With Dan Collison and Jai DiBlasi training the kids on a Tues evening and Rob DiBlasi on game night, it was a collective effort by the coaches and all the parents. Looking forward to the 2024/2025 season.

*Di DiBlasi*





# U12s Metro

After a good Season in 22-23 with most of our players bottom age U12's and making it to the finals in the Metro league. The 23-24 season with predominately the same group now with a season playing together were unstoppable. They went through the regular season undefeated and comfortably advanced to the Grand Final. Led by Andrew "Fish" Fisher on games days with Justin Chimes as the team manager the team fought a very tough win against Geelong in the Gran Final to walk away with the clubs only premiership for the Summer Season.

Matt Irwin worked all year with the young Wolves at trainings during the week and the continued growth of all the players was great to watch first hand. The entire team always gave great effort and where open to learning and improving all season.

Big thanks to the parents who assisted with Scoring all year as well as the coaches and team managers. Les Flower who made sure the ground was always set up and in pristine condition for all our home games. Lastly thanks to the parents who got the kids to trainings and games all year, its an early start and sometimes cold and wet but we managed to field a full team for all games for the season.

Great job to the kids winning the premiership something they will remember for a very long time!



**Coaches**  
Andrew Fisher,  
& Matt Irwin  
**Team Manager**  
Justin Chimes  
**Scorer**  
Jim Bell

**MVP AWARD**  
OLIVER CHRIMES

**COACHES AWARD**  
TOMMY KENNEDY



# JUNIOR CLUBMAN

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**Congratulations to Jai DiBlasi**  
recipient of this years  
Ned Baker Junior Clubman Award.

Jai has been an exceptional junior clubman this season both on and off the field.

He has helped out with multiple teams this year, getting a game in nearly every senior division as well as cementing himself as a highly regarded player in the U16 State side. Also representing Victoria in the Australian Youth Championships.

When not playing himself, he has helped Matt Irwin & Dan Collison with U12s/TBall coaching on a Tuesday night, as well as aiding coaching of the Friday Night U12s.

Plus you can find him helping out at the canteen or umpiring a game or two!

Thanks for all you do, Jai we love your enthusiasm.



# U16s STATE TEAM

Wolves under 16s finished the regular season strongly in 3rd place of the competitive State League West, but lost a hard fought semi final against Research at Research, a difficult opposition to beat at home.

Like any other season, this squad displayed great depth and teamwork, where we could confidently call upon a handful of players to step on the mound and rely on any one of our hitters up and down the line-up to get us a big hit in important situations.

Huge improvements were seen amongst these players, especially with most players commencing their senior baseball careers this season. We look forward to continue watching their growth as baseball players and as people next season.

*Hiroshi Narasaki*



## **Coaches**

Hiroshi Narasaki,  
Caine & Jacob Bergin

## **Team Manager**

Sarah Le Fevre

## **Scorer**

Sarah Bergin & Micky  
Stojanovski

**BATTING AWARD**  
OLIVER BERGIN

**COACHES AWARD**  
THOMAS  
STOJANOVSKI



# U18s METRO

The team started with looking like having 11 players, but this changed due to 2 players deciding not to play, so we had a core 9 players.

The season was a tough one with a number of injuries occurring & another player stopping to play mid season.

The outcome was that all players played hard with having 2 wins & a draw, placing them in 4th spot & playing the top side, Essendon in a semifinal. With only 7 players available for the game, it was a tough game but the players that were playing gave all that they could. The days after this game we were told we would be playing in the grand final due to Essendon playing 3 players from their under 16 side without permission from BV as the rules state. This was appealed by Essendon & the pennant committee agreed with Essendon & we were told on the Friday before the grand final that we were not playing.

I would like to congratulate Zack & Rivi for equally winning the MVP & Athena for winning the coaches award.

I would like to thank the amazing team manager Jo Tyers for all the work she has done for this side, but the entire club.

I would also like to thank Jammo for being there weekly coaching the side & Jenni for scoring throughout the year.

Go Wolves

*Mick Hurstfield*



## Coaches

Ian Jamieson &  
Mick Hurstfield

## Team Manager

Jo Tyers

## Scorer

Jenni Hurstfield

## MVP AWARD

RIVI ZRADVESKI  
ZACK HURSTFIELD

## COACHES AWARD

ATHENA KOULIS

# JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVES

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**Roman Coote and Oliver Bergin  
with Daniel Chircop (Coach)**

The Australian High School Championship  
Maribyrnong Sports Academy.

MSA finished 2nd in the senior division.



**Roman Coote**  
U16 National Squad



**Oliver Chrimes**

Twins Baseball Charter  
Australian Little League  
Development Championships

Silver Medalist



**Jai DiBlasi and Roman Coote  
with Daniel Chircop (Coach)**

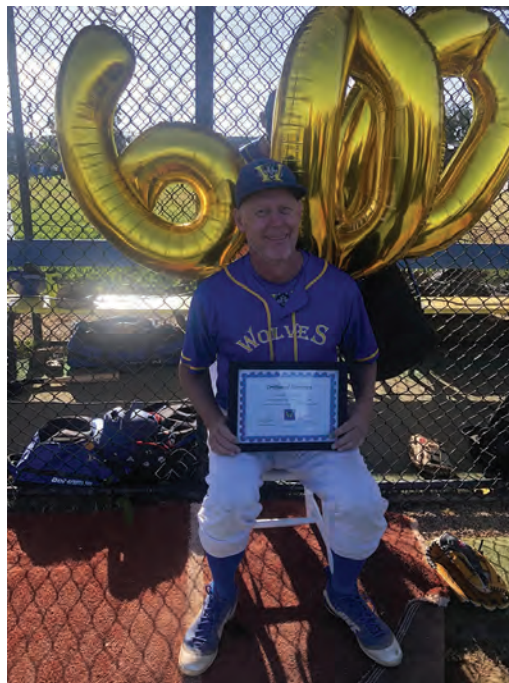
Victoria U16s  
Australian Youth Championships



# MILESTONE GAMES

## WELCOME TO THE 600 CLUB

Glenn 'Rednut' Hardy & Murray 'Muzza' Hardy



## WELCOME TO THE 500 CLUB

Craig 'Snorks' Evans & Aaron 'Greenie' Green



# VSBL AWARDS

## PREMIER LEAGUE MAJOR

Congratulations Dennis Neal  
on receiving the George Heron Medal in Premier League.



What an amazing season! You should be very proud of your outstanding accomplishments and the contributions you made to your team and club all summer long





# MASTERS

Another fun season in the masters in 2023/2024, we had a good number of players throughout the season, great support from our supporter base, some great games and some good wins. In the end we almost made the finals finishing 5th on the ladder, only missed this by a few percentage points.

Special thank you to Grant (aka Ralph) for stepping up this year to score for us, what an amazing transformation this year have you seen his score sheets. Will be great to have you back on the park next year. Thank you to Tready and Twisty for your regular support, advice, and banter, always keeps it interesting and us on our toes. Les thank you for the looking after the field for us. And lastly Stu, thank you also for looking after us and feeding us each home game. Thank you for all the support doing this for us over the many, many years and I am sure you are looking forward to get your Monday nights back. Your support is appreciated by all.

We celebrated an amazing number of key game milestones this season. With Rob Diblasi with 100 games, Greg Diblasi & Paul Detering with 200 games, Ian Jamieson with 350 games, Craig Evans with 500 games, Glen & Murray Hardy both with 600 games. Outstanding milestones for the Williamstown Baseball Club and shows the commitment and support to the club.

Our end of season photo is attached. Congratulations to Rednut on the MVP an outstanding year both on the mound and also with the bat. Congrats also to Rob Diblasi who won the batting with 462, excellent efforts.

See you all soon for our season opener in October 2024 for our 2024/2025 season

*Paul Detering*



**Coaches**  
Paul Detering

**Scorer**  
Grant McKell

**MVP AWARD**  
GLEN HARDY

**BATTING AWARD**  
ROB DIBLASI (.462)

# WOMEN'S TEAM

What an eventful and transformative season for the women's team! We are so grateful of the committee's unwavering support in ensuring the women's program continues for another year. We welcomed Jason Lester, whose leadership and fresh perspective have been instrumental in shaping our team's dynamics and performance. We were also thrilled to have Assistant Coach Spencer Tyers return for another season. His experience and dedication provided invaluable support to both players and Jason. Shout out to Head Coach Chris Rickard for stepping in Jason's absence!

We were very fortunate to have the majority of the 2022/2023 return for another amazing season. Unfortunately, we faced a significant challenge with player numbers being short this season. In response to the shortage, we were grateful to have several fill-in players step in. Their contributions were crucial in keeping the team competitive and ensuring that we could field a lineup of 7 to 8 for most of the games. We successfully brought in new players who have shown great potential. Their enthusiasm and fresh energy have been a welcome addition to the team, and we look forward to their continued growth and contribution in the coming season.

We appreciate the proactive recruitment efforts from everyone throughout the season. Despite the wash outs and forfeits, we managed to end the season on just shy of 50% wins - massive improvement from 2022/2023 season!

Throughout the season, the fun and enthusiasm shown by our players and supporters have been remarkable. The positive energy has been contagious and made the season truly special. Thank you to all the players, coaches, volunteers, and committee members for your commitment and hard work. Bring on 2024/2025!

*Mary-Anne | Maz/MaryLou*



**Coach**  
Jason Lester

**Scorer**  
Jennie Moloney

**MVP AWARD**  
ATHENA KOULIS  
MARYANNE LANOUE

**BATTING AWARD**  
RENAE LIDDELL  
(.636)



# UNIFORM & MERCHANDISE

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On behalf of the playing group I would like to thank the old farts committee for taking care of pretty much all of the ground and equipment maintenance. Field is always looking sharp, ready for "The Show".

In regard to uniforms the club is well stocked with game day merch, all prepared for the upcoming season.

This season the club used a new supplier, Team Style for Richardson fitted and adjustable baseball caps. Then continued to use Starsub Apparel for our warm up tops and game jerseys.

Jo Tyers designed some off field merchandise for the club, was great to have some new hoodies and my favourite the raglan shirts available. Thanks for all your hard work Jo.

Uniforms were also available from the canteen this season as well as the online store. This did make life harder to track the stock levels. But it made it easier for customers to purchase. Thanks to Di DiBlasi and everyone who helped in the canteen over the season for your assistance.

Look forward to seeing everyone back for the upcoming season.



*Mitch Clement*

# SENIOR FIRSTS

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## **Coach**

Chris Rickard

## **Scorer**

Stewart Cassell

**MVP AWARD**  
DENNIS NEAL

**BATTING AWARD**  
JASON MCDONALD  
(.296)



# SENIOR SECONDS

A challenging year for 2nds this year unfortunately not making it to the finals. Whilst our best was good enough to challenge the top sides we lacked consistency across the course of the season. The step up to premier league introduced some stronger competition and depth we had not been accustomed to previously. I would like to thank Emmo who stepped up to help me out managing the team this season in particular while I was away for 5 week mid season. What was pleasing was we had 24 different players through the 2's team for the season, including introducing some of the junior talent we have at the club at various stages of the season. We have an exciting and talented bunch of juniors coming through the ranks and it was great to see them start to get exposure to the 2nd's team.

One thing I can say is we were competitive in most outings. A big thankyou to all the players for the year, in particular the senior guys who offered allot of support and guidance to the younger guys throughout the year.

Lastly, I would again like to thank the entire coaching group, many hours are spent each week selecting teams and discussing our options, planning trainings etc... Also to all the volunteers throughout the club, be it scoring, umpiring, running the canteen, coaching a team, ground maintenance or any of the other many jobs that require doing. It would be impossible to have a successful club like we do without this work from the volunteers. I look forward to a strong pre-season and season for 2024/2025

*Chris Jackson*



**Coach**

Chris Jackson

**Scorer**

Jennie Moloney

**MVP AWARD**

COOPER RICKARD

**BATTING AWARD**

MITCH CLEMENT  
(.444)

# SENIOR CLUBMEN

## *Frank Bowyer Memorial Trophy*

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Each year we also award a best Clubperson, again this year it was two hard to single out one person.

**It was jointly awarded to Stewart Cassell and Matt Irwin.**

Stewart did a mountain of work as he does every year as the clubs secretary but also organizes all the trophies, runs the training night BBQ's, Scores the seniors and organizes our Bunnings BBQ's along with a mountain of other work.

Matt is one of the first guys to put his hand up when we need something done or a volunteer for a task, he trained the U12 team who went on to win the premiership this season and is also a on field contributor to the 1's and 2's.



On behalf of the club I would like to thank the both Stewart and Matt on all the work they did to assist the improvement and smooth running of the club throughout the season.

# SENIOR THIRDS

For a team affectionately known around the club as “the kindergarten”, there sure are a lot of high school kids getting around. The literal translation is obvious given the age of the core of this team, but figuratively, these kids are ready to graduate. This season the 3rds saw 5 of the junior cohort promoted to the 2nds – some for extended looks in what was a fairly dramatic level up in competition with the club promoted to the Premier League.

I'd like to thank the entire senior playing and coaching cohort for all the big and little things they do to help the kids out at practice and on game days. Thanks in particular to Mick Hurstfield for assisting on game days and stepping in for me when life gets in the way, thanks also to Liam Simpson for showing leadership and providing a veteran presence well beyond his years. I'd like to also congratulate Dennis Neal for his stellar year and for taking home the league MVP award – as a club we couldn't hope for a better role model.

As some are already aware, after 12 seasons as 3rds manager I have made the decision to step down from the coaches role to spend a little more time around home. I won't for a second say the job is done because it never is, but with the next core group of juniors a few years away and the current group well positioned to be competitive senior baseballers I feel the club is in a great shape. I'd like to wish the team and my successor the very best.

*Craig Evans*



**Coach**  
Craig Evans

**Scorer**  
Ed Popinski

**MVP AWARD**  
TOBI YAMAMOTO

**BATTING AWARD**  
JETT POPINSKI  
(.409)



# SENIOR FOURTHS

The 4s in the 2023/24 season was a mix of experience & youth (some playing their 1st season). Whilst we fell short of making the finals we were very competitive.

There were plenty of highlights for the season include Patrick and Donovan (father & son) taking the field together. Oliver's attempted in-the-park homerun only to be cut down by the Willy sniper between 3rd & home. Jacobs wheels that nearly saw him single on every infield hit and a game winning catch in shallow centre (he was fielding in right field) noone else is making that play. And who could forget the look on Maryannes face when she was told she could catch.

Thanks to Gus & Ed for their work on the mound and Greg with a little assist from Maryanne for catching.

Snorks for the occasional assist with players helping out with 2 games and for your coaching of the 3rds and developing the kids over the last 10ish seasons.

Overall a competitive season that saw the club stay in DIV 1 which was a fantastic achievement. Hopefully we all return next season and make a push for the finals across all grades in DIV 1.

Thanks to the rest of the coaches for their help with training. The committee, helpers and the Old Farts for their ongoing contribution to this fantastic club.

*Murray Hardy*



**Coaches**  
Murray Hardy

**Scorer**  
Moira Hardy

**MVP AWARD**  
MURRAY HARDY

**BATTING AWARD**  
JACOB POOLE  
(.636)



# SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES



**Harper Rickard**  
debut with the  
Melbourne Aces



**Jennie Moloney**  
Team Australia v Hanwha Eagles



**Harper Rickard & Daniel Chircop**  
Team Australia



**Chris Rickard, Rolando Curiel, Harper Rickard, Yo Takehara & Roman Coote**  
All Stars V Melbourne Aces



**All Star Cheer Squad**



**Harper Rickard, Daniel Chircop, U12s Sunday Metro team**  
Team Australia V Hanwha Eagles



# GROUNDS & FACILITIES REPORT

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Once again, the ground and batting tunnel facilities at Greenwich Reserve were utilised to full capacity with junior and senior games on the "Martin Bowyer Field" and "Ray Baker Junior Field". The netting on the safety screens in the batting tunnel were replaced and additional netting installed to provide 4 areas of participation at once in the facility.

The ground held up well during the year except of a couple of worn areas at Third and first base. After the Council responded to our request to replace the backnet on the Junior diamond and the final cost required to satisfy the requirements of Council the project was abandoned, and a small extension of height was completed. However, this is only a short-term solution to a long term problem that has to be addressed along with the aging back net on the main diamond. It should be noted that the overall cost of maintenance of the fields and associated facilities for the year was more than \$ 6000 this year and each year increases with the increase in all products required to have the fields in the best condition.

Before the 2024/25 season commences the safety screens utilized on the main field for live batting practice need repair /or replacing, which is an expensive exercise.

In closing thanks to those who assisted during the year and I again stress the point that the field belongs to the players so please look after it after use. That means raking sweeping the basepaths after practice and games. Look after the batting tunnel, don't leave your rubbish on the floor. Put the gear bags in the areas designated. Not on the floor.

Council hopefully with scarify the infield immediately after the last winter game. This will give us a great surface with no lumps and bumps to start our summer campaign.

*Les Flower*





# EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

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As Jason will explain our social events and fundraising efforts are crucial to the running of the club. I would like to acknowledge all who assisted in the planning of the Events and Fundraising with a special mention to Jo Tyers for assisting in organising all the events and Stewart Cassell who managed two Bunnings BBQ's this year raising alot of money for the club.

This year we were unable to hold the horse racing night unfortunately so the Trivia Night was one of the main social events for the club. This is a great night and inclusive of juniors and junior families held at the club rooms. The event was very successful and I would like to thank all those who donated prizes for the event this also helped make the night successful.

The other mainstay in the social calender is the Sponsors and Life Members Day, held every year to show our appreciation as a Club. This was well attended and again the teams ran out in the heritage uniforms. It was great to see so many of our life members attend and enjoy the day

This year the U12's both the Friday and Saturday Metro teams were invited to run out with the Melbourne aces and Australia games. It was amazing to see the excitement in the future of the club and all the kids had a great time and I am sure it is an experience they won't forget.

Before the break we held a Family Christmas dinner after the last home game for the year and this was also well attended, it was a nice way to finish up the first half of the Season before everyone had a break over Christmas.

Lastly we had the Junior and Senior presentation nights. Both nights were very well attended and I would like to congratulate all the award winners for the Season. A special thankyou to Epic Arena who always look after us for the Junior Presentation night and again all those who assisted in the organising of both successful events.

In Summary we had a good year off the field, however we still need to look at ways of improving and more opportunities for Sponsorship and events to assist in raising funds for the running of the club. We don't have a huge amount of social events and I would like to also see the attendance increase on the ones we do have scheduled in for the upcoming season.

*Nick Gray*

# SPONSORS

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