

CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB INC
Summer Season
2008-2009



Rustlers

JUNIOR PRESENTATION
Friday, 20 March 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TEE-BALL

To Gabriela Taranto: As Tee-Ball Coordinator you look after approximately 40% of our player numbers. I would like to thank you on behalf of both the club and the parents for your work over the last 3 years. Thank you for your achievements over this period. You go out on a high with a fantastic win at the All-star day.

The main game at Tee-ball is to have fun. I hope this has been achieved and that everyone has had a good time.

To all the coaches, scorers, umpires and helpers - thank you for your efforts. We certainly hope to see you again next year.

JUNIORS

We fielded 16 junior sides this season. There have been a few hiccups along the way but, all in all, things have worked out. All the Friday night sides appear to be competitive, which is our main aim. The Sunday sides again have had their ups and downs, but that is the nature of competitive sport. Overall, the learning and development continues and we can only get better if everyone is part of the team.

Again to all the coaches, scorers, umpires and helpers - thank you for your efforts. We cannot do it without you.

SENIORS

It has to be said a successful year at senior level is to make the finals. 4 out of our 6 sides made the finals = a successful year. Hopefully we can win a premiership or two. At this level, it is a team effort to get all the sides filled on a week-by-week basis and be competitive. So to the "whole" team - thank you for your efforts over the year.

CLUB LEVEL

The following are some big positives from my point of view:

- The Club is financial
- Fees were not increased this year
- Well-attended coaches nights
- Peter Katz, along with many helpers, continued to help us with facilities eg. new pitching mounds
- Peter Leslie kept an eye on the grounds and liaised with the council
- John Ferguson & Ian Curnow - for the ground maintenance and diamond marking
- Bruce Fitzgerald and the Thursday night BBQ

Where to now?

- New committee members are required. We have at least 4 members who have advised that they are stepping down.
- We will need help at the end-of-season working bee
- Continued help to keep working on improving facilities
- If we can get approval from Council, we will be trying to improve the infrastructure around the club
- Tee-ball - the Committee will very shortly be reviewing our strategies around recruiting tee-ballers. This year we had 8 teams. We want to increase this to 10 by next year and have a goal of 100+ players the year after. This is a challenging target and any ideas that you may have would be greatly appreciated.

How can you help?

- Make yourself aware of what is happening around the club. The club website www.rustlers.org.au is a great source of information.
- Keep us informed of changes to email addresses.
- If you are able to do little things, the committee can focus on a few more big-ticket items.

I would like to thank our club sponsors:

**APC Logistics
Tarella Transport
K2 Baseball
Subway Dingley**

Anyone who may be able to help with sponsorship or fund raising, please feel free to contact me on BH 9275 2981 AH 9878 4338 or email carlilej@bigpond.net.au.

Personal thanks to:

- My family for the support and allowing me to do the job
- To the committee members who are taking a break, thank you for your support and good humor over the journey
- To all the people who have helped me with the bar this year
- To all the people I have obviously forgotten to thank

Yours sincerely,

John Carlile
Summer President
Cheltenham Baseball Club

LITTLE LEAGUE DIAMONDBACKS

Daniel Bailey
Max Bird
Kai Jacob
Marshall Stannus
Logan Tuki-Jones

Nils Bellarts
Elliot Cook
Riki Preston
Matthew Stenhouse

The Diamondbacks for the 2008/09 season consisted of a team of 9 players, including Elliot who joined us in Round 7, adapting well to baseball from his preferred game of golf. The team forfeited 3 times due to a shortage of players and borrowed players from other teams for another 4 matches. (Thank you to all those guys who filled in for the Diamondbacks.) With one heat draw and three washouts, the team has only played 8 full matches out of 15 rounds. The team had 2 wins, over the Hughesdale Panthers and the Moorabbin Panthers, and 2 draws, one of them a 14-14 draw against the Cheltenham Mariners.

On the batting side, almost all of the team got to home base at least twice. Matthew Stenhouse was our mainstay pitcher, pitching in 5 matches, with Matthew McKenna, Kai Jacob, Logan Tuki-Jones and Riki Preston also taking turns on the mound. Kai Jacob and Riki Preston also had turns as catcher.

With not much actual matchplay during the season, some players are still unsure of what the responsibilities of each position are, but I hope that everyone has enjoyed playing this season enough to come back next year and learn more about the game. (Just ask Ferg.)

Thank you to all parents who assisted with diamond preparation, coaching, scoring, umpiring and scorecard policing during the season. I apologise if any other contributions have not been acknowledged.

Coach - Lee Bailey
Team Manager - Tony Preston

LITTLE LEAGUE MARINERS

Ben Collins
Samuel Doree
James Fiore
Connor McLeod
Michael Natoli

Jesse Doree
Izaiah Elisaia
Samuel Hayes
Harry Holler
Jarrod Peake

Joining the club at the start of the season with my son Ben, the first thing I noticed was that so many people were lending a hand in the coaching of such a large group of young kids. Coming from a local cricket club for the last 5 years, it was refreshing to see. Peter Leslie was there, directing like a general in a major battle, he never seemed to get fazed by anything. Whether it was question from a young child, to an adult, he treated both with equal consideration. Also on hand, who gave me plenty of tips once she found out I knew nothing about the game was Kathy Whiteside.

I told Peter I was keen to become involved, and next thing I know I'm an assistant coach with Tom Ellis being named the team coach with ten young and unique individuals called the Cheltenham Mariners. Those of you that know Tom will understand when I describe him as laid back and easy going, which the young Mariners took to easily. But Tom new his stuff - especially when it came to pitching.

The young Mariners were keen, everyone wanted to bat and everyone wanted to pitch. Funnily enough, no one ever wanted to get the balls when they were hit far away. Maybe that's why we lost so many. Then our season began.

Sam Hayes was the main pitcher and many a batter on opposition teams will remember him in the future if they haven't retired already. Jarrod Peake was his catcher for the first half of the season and did an excellent job considering how fast Sam sometimes pitched the ball. Bases and field placing were continually rotated by Tom depending - on who begged him the most. During each game it never ceased to amaze me how it looked like we were going to lose and somehow the boys gathered together and stormed home winning. By the end of the first half of the season I think we may have been placed on top of the ladder (then again, I could never find the website properly so I might be wrong).

After coming back at the end of January, we were informed that Tom would not be back because of other commitments. We wish him all the best for the future and thank him for all that he did for the team.

Enter new coach John Carlile. John was gracious enough to take over from Tom. I don't think the club wanted an ex-cricket coach who still didn't know the rules to take over the reins. We were grateful he took on the role.

Games from January onwards had been mixed with wins and losses. Team members because of other commitments could not always be there. Climatic temperatures certainly played its part. But with that, individuals seemed to shine when given the chance to pitch like: Sam and Jesse Doree, James Fiore and Michael Natoli. Ben Collins seemed to find his place when he was placed on second base.

The same could be said about Izaiah Elisaia on first base and Harry Moller on third base in recent times. Conner McLeod was totally dependable whether he was put in left field, outfield, centre or right field.

Whether we were winning or not, there was always plenty going on on the bench. Instead of one clown, we were lucky to have five and some of the incidents and comments that were made not only made me laugh, but anyone else in the area.

In closing, I would like to thank Tom and John for their time in coaching the boys and Fabian Fiore who also helped us out with a game one night. I would like to thank Peter Leslie and Kathy Whiteside for all their help and patience with me. And I would like to especially like to thank Michael Natoli's mum, Rachel, for scoring each and every week through the rain, the wind, the dust, and the heat. Without Rachel it just would not have happened.

Finally, I would like to thank the club for giving me the opportunity to be involved with the Mariners. I hope to do the same again next season in the U14's.

Coach – Tom Ellis & John Carlile
Asst Coach – Chris Collins

LITTLE LEAGUE PADRES

Max Barrett
Josh Goschnick
Ben McGaw
Samuel Michael
Ryan Taranto

Harry Bingham
Mitchell Holding
Charlie McGaw
Luke Sexton
Cain Whitehead

Friday night Baseball was back!! This year I was going to be prepared. This year I was one of the old timers; I wasn't going to be swayed or daunted by that seemingly endless wave of ex-teeballers, returning baseballers and new comers. This year I was ready. Or so I thought. I think that the first few weeks of Little League training is a bit like having your first child. You can read as many books as you like. Do as much research, ask as many questions, and be as prepared as you think you can be. And yet when it happens, it still hits you like a tonne of bricks.

We were lucky to have some very good support from some of the club stalwarts, John Ferguson, John Carlile and Ian Curnow made themselves available to help Peter Leslie's struggle through the mess of children that presented themselves. In the end, this was the team I was entrusted with:

Max Barrett: a new boy who hadn't played any baseball, started the season trying to catch the ball with his nose, and then trying to bat the ball with his face. He soon worked out that gloves and bats tend to work much better than parts of the anatomy. Despite this less than auspicious start Max improved his glove work and batting to a point where he was a very competent first baseman, caught a few games, and became a very strong clean up batter.

Harry Bingham: Made the transition from Tee ball into the world of Friday night baseball. Very confident fielder and was able to adapt to the ball being pitched to him very nicely. Some great improvement, and became more and more consistent at hitting his first baseman as the season wore on.

Mitchell Holding: One of our two state players and easily our biggest hitter. Mitch managed four home runs for the season (albeit a couple off coach's pitches), and a great slugging percentage, of his 14 safe hits to date only one of them was a single base hit. Mitch also was able to spend time catching for the Padres, this was a position he had never played until this season, and his improvement in that spot was great to see.

Charlie McGaw: the baby of the team, still only 9 years old and eligible for tee ball. Charlie was able to provide some solid fielding, and hitting. His ability to hit the pitched ball also improved through the year, as did his fielding. Developed a strange tendency of emulating the pitcher's throws when in the outfield. I think that was his way of getting his fielding timing right.

Ben McGaw: One of our Metro players. As he has been in the past, a very efficient lead off hitter who seemed to get on base more often than not, and a very quick and effective infielder. Ben was also able to have a pitch for us this year, and whilst new to that skill, showed some potential there. Also the owner of a two run homer, (OK, OK, coach's pitch) against strong rivals Sandy Brewers.

Sam Michael: Our second state player, Sam will be an under 12 again next season. Went from one of the younger kids last year nervous when placed at first base, or catching to being asked to support this year's young guys. Gave us a very competent pitcher, a role he had never played before. He showed good improvement at that position. Had a career game against the Mariners, striking out their first 8 batters, but then I was "forced" to drag him when he let his state teammate Michael Natoli hit the ball, but only to be thrown out at first. His batting and fielding also improved during the season, which assisted his play in the Sunday games.

Luke Sexton: A teeballer again making in the transition to baseball. Whilst probably one of the quietest boys I've ever coached, Luke quickly established himself as a handy fielder, and consistent hitter. Only challenge Luke has is to be a little louder in the field when calling for balls, being run over by Sam or Max when chasing a fly ball isn't a lot of fun.

Ryan Taranto: The famous Taranto name has been associated with Cheltenham Rustlers forever it seems, and we were lucky to have the youngest and most energetic of the Taranto clan in our team. The boy, who owns the smallest strike zone in history used it to advantage, and was able to get himself on base very regularly. He's known as the king of the coach's pitch for some reason. In the field, a dynamo, full of energy and encouragement but who, unfortunately also wins the award for "Most Times Falling Over When Fielding Groundballs". Also gave us good pitching, most games 19 pitches of unrestricted joy and enthusiasm.

Cain Whitehead: Last year Cain was a 9 year old who was just happy to be part of the team, this time around Cain was an active member of the group, involved in the fielding and also managing to bat a respectable percentage. Cain was also able to pitch, and demonstrated that famous Whitehead tendency of asking if he was pitching before every game. Not that I'm suggesting he got that off older brother Joel (one of last years Padres), but I can't recall Dave Whitehead ever asking me if he was going to umpire before any of our games this year...

This season has been a great success for the Padres, the older players were able to expand and consolidate their skills and the newer boys' improvement and understanding of the game was fantastic to watch. The team's demeanor throughout the season was something the boys can be proud of. Against the stronger teams they would rally and support each other. Against some of the weaker teams the boys were able to maintain their discipline and focus, and not allow games to degrade to wild uncontrolled chaos.

There were a couple of key goals we set at the start of the year. At this age winning and losing is not important, but what was important to me were: (I) the way the boys conducted themselves during games and training, (II) we get some improvement from the boys, (III) we all enjoyed the year in a safe comfortable environment. I was proud of the boys' conduct all season.

I would also need to thank all the parents for their help during the season. Stuart Holding whose official title of Team Manager was really just a front, apprentice groundsman (ever seen him following Fergie around with a wheel barrow full of bases?), coach, driver... his list goes on. Lance McGaw, for helping wherever it was needed, umpiring (which he really loves), coaching, drinks waiter you name it. David Whitehead, for umpiring not only home games, but also half the away games. Craig Sexton, for doing the base coaching. Paul Barrett, for his help in warming the boys up, and at trainings. Jodie Quincy-Bingham for her back up scoring (under sufferance of course). Big, big thanks to Gabbie Taranto, who would find a way to ensure all three of her boys were at the right grounds (2 baseball, 1 cricket), and then come and score (many weeks alone too). We also had some boys come in and help out when numbers were down, thanks to David McCarthy, Josh Goschnick, Michael Leslie and Logan Tuki-Jones for filling in at various games this year. And when Michael played we even scored an umpire in Peter Leslie, thanks again for that. Also for Kathy Whiteside's and Peter's tireless efforts, which made our five Little League teams a success. And I would also like to give John Ferguson a big heart felt thanks. Blokes like John are the heart and soul of the club. As a coach to roll up to games and have grounds already laid out with cones, flags, and scorer's tables was fantastic, and made life so much easier. There are a few other clubs that could do with that kind of commitment and dedication to their juniors.

Coach – Stell Michael

Asst Coach – Lance McGaw

LITTLE LEAGUE PHILLIES

Luke Buckthorpe
Stephen Clarke
Joshua Desperles
Mark Digby
Matthew McKenna

Declan Chittenden
Jak Cummings
Andrew Di Giovambattista
Michael Leslie
Nicholas Yangos

First of all, I would like to thank you for letting me coach a great bunch of guys. Thanks to the parents who make it possible by doing all the drop offs and picks ups twice a week. There is no doubt that the skills of all the team have increased significantly over the season and hopefully their enjoyment of the game has increased too. My goal was to give every player an opportunity to try each position where possible and hopefully they enjoyed this chance. I know that we have won more than we have lost and I hope each player will be inspired to come back for another year. A special thanks to Graeme, for backing me up when I was unavailable (or even when I was available), and to Peter for giving me the opportunity.

Coach – David Buckthorpe
Asst Coach – Graeme Chittenden

LITTLE LEAGUE YANKEES

Lucas Anderson
Jack Daniels
Koki Fukusaku
Yoshiya Mori
Alex Warren

Koji Campitelli
Ashley Flynn
Riley Ghent
Dylan Morrison

The Cheltenham Yankees had a solid year winning more games than we lost, even though many weeks we only had 8 players. Everyone in the team contributed during the year and every single player was a valued member of the team. If there had have been a finals series like in past years we could have really shaken things up. I would like to thank Brett for helping me this year and to my dad who scored for us when he could and to all the parents that helped out along the way, all your efforts were much appreciated.

Riley Ghent: played solid defence all year making all the plays in the infield. He always swung the bat hard, plus never stopped talking in the field and encouraging his teammates.

Alex Warren: he was always late, but always made up for it in the game with lots of timely hits and making important outs in the field all year long

Yoshiya Mori: he was probably our most improved player throughout the season. He was always willing to learn and showed great respect to the coaches. He pitched on a few occasions and every time he did his job by throwing strikes and getting the outs.

Koji Campitelli: Koji was one of our stronger players for the year, being a reliable hitter and a consistent reliable pitcher who was also very versatile in other fielding positions. He was a delight to coach, and has a big future in baseball.

Jack Daniels: Jack was a great player all year for us and was a handy catcher. Jack also swung the bat well throughout the entire season even hitting a grand slam. Jack was always very enthusiastic towards the game and put in 100% for the team.

Ashley Flynn: Ashley got off to a great start for the season winning our coveted subway award for an outstanding opposite field double against some quality pitching. By the end of the season he was holding down key positions for me in the field and doing a fantastic job

Dylan Morrison: had a slow start to the year but once he got his confidence up with his ability he started performing at the level Brett and myself knew he could. Dylan became solid in the batting box and whenever he was on the mound he was going to throw more strikes than balls.

Koki Fukusaka: Koki was one of our better players for the year, batting at number 3 in the order and the ability to be able to switch hit is unbelievable for someone of his age. He was very strong in the field wherever we put him and threw good strikes when we had the chance to pitch him. Koki could achieve anything in baseball and everyone out there should watch this space.

Last but not least, **Lucas Anderson:** Lucas was very reliable all year round with both bat and glove, he got important clutch hits when we needed and made the big plays in the field. Lucas has the potential to be a good pitcher in years to come and just needs that little boost in confidence that he can do it.

Co- Coaches – Matt Carlile & Brett Curnow

LITTLE LEAGUE STATE

Peter Bailes
Mark Digby
Koki Fukusaku
Mitchell Holding
Samuel Michael
Riki Preston

Koji Campitelli
Jack Enciondo
Josh Goschnick
Michael Leslie
Michael Natoli

It was a damp overcast morning when a new bunch of hopeful Sunday baseballers rolled up to tryouts. The word had got around, ages had changed again and a larger number of boys who would have been walk-ons to the little league state team were no longer eligible, and would be playing under 14s. This left the door open to a new generation of young baseballers to step up and wear the white and blue on a Sunday with pride!!!!

After a few weeks we had enough kids to fill both the State and Metro Little League teams. The talent was there to be seen and in the end, eleven little warriors were selected to represent Cheltenham in the under 12 state league competition. Training was intense yet fun for the kids, with both teams doing their pre-season together initially. Once both teams had been settled and coaches allocated, the teams started breaking off and forming their own identities. The state league team was made up of the following players:

Koji Campitelli: A smart player who showed his class very early on in the piece. A very skilled batter and fielder whose steady play behind the plate has been the foundation of our defence all year.

Koki Fukusaku: A newer boy who transferred from Sandringham this year, he impressed very early with his consistent pitching and fast moving around the ground. He has the advantage of claiming not to understand most instructions except one. "You're starting on the mound today Koki."

Jack Enciondo: Stood out at tryouts due to his very smooth sunglasses. He proved to be a very steady first baseman, and a more than adequate hitter, leading our slugging statistic, and very high up in our RBI count.

Mark Digby: A versatile player, who gave us good play at catcher, first base and in the outfield. He was also a very consistent hitter of the ball who managed to get himself on base very frequently.

Mitchell Holding: Another new boy to Sunday baseball, Mitchell was able to provide us some consistency at the #3 batting spot, and was very high in our slugging percentage also. Mitch was introduced to catching this season and showed a real aptitude for crouching behind another baseballer narrowly avoiding being brained by a 30 inch long piece of metal whist catching a ball.

Josh Goschnick: A big hitting fast throwing machine who makes the trip from way down the peninsula to play with the Rustlers. Some very big hits, and showed some real improvement in his fitness during the year. To see him attacking the ball in the outfield at full stride is a sight to behold.

Michael Leslie: One of the two babies of the team he turns 11 in March and has a year of under 12 eligibility still. One half of our dynamic pivot, very quick in the field, a nice lefty hitter, and showed a very consistent pitching action, which was used throughout the season.

Sam Michael: The other baby of the team, also turning 11 in March, joined with Michael Leslie to form the aforementioned pivot. Very good in the field, led the team in assists and non-1st base or catcher put outs. An intense competitor who, when not fielding, spent his time nervously chewing his glove.

Michael Natoli: A fast outfielder who could also provide support at shortstop. Very quick at centre field and around bases. Had a knack for hitting in base runners when at bat.

Riki Preston: Another new player transferred from Sandy. Gave us good fielding, hitting and also able to pitch. Also surprisingly refreshing to find a child who only needs to be asked once to pick up bases or cones.

Peter Bailes: A cricketer who came across and impressed with his speed in the outfield, strong throwing arm, and very consistent batting. Peter quickly settled in as a high order batter and an integral part of the team. Unfortunately Peter suffered appendicitis, one week before the end of the season. Prematurely ending his playing for the season. But true team man that he was, quickly moved to Batboy.

The season started with a Round Robin and results were very positive. The day set the tone for all season; success is not only measured by the final score. The growth and development of these young adolescents, whilst having fun was a target, which Coach had set for himself. He achieved this excellently. All season the boys were worked hard, and were taught many newer skills.

The final result was very pleasing, finishing second on the ladder behind the red Waverley beast. We split the first two games against Waverley, and the third game was called early due to some lightening, unfortunately the team was down at the time it was called so ended up losing the regular season series 1 to 2 to them. Our other challenging team was Doncaster.

Regardless of the finals result the season has been a huge success, the boys had the luxury of having a skilled and knowledgeable coach, who was not one of the boy's fathers. This is a rare luxury in junior sports, and all thanks goes to Brad for his dedication and time spent developing the team. He was ably supported by Stuart Holding who managed the team, Pedro Enciondo and Tony Preston's scoring prowess. Special thanks to Peter Leslie for risking excommunication from the Leslie family by having the courage to umpire games. Then call what was described by the rest of the Leslie brood as a "dubious" ball on Michael's pitching. Brave, yet foolish. I think he lived to tell the tale as he was seen a few day later, still walking, but skin taunt and a sickly looking grey. There was also some bloke who would throw baseballs at the kids during warm up, as the coach idly chatted to his mates.

Coach – Brad Lark

Asst Coach – Stell Michael

LITTLE LEAGUE METRO

Stephen Clarke
Ashley Flynn
Ben McGaw
Luke Porter
Ryan Taranto
Alex Warren

Jack Daniels
Kai Jacob
Matthew McKenna
Matthew Stenhouse
Logan Tuki-Jones

Upon being appointed coach, the focus was for the boys to enjoy the game and be competitive. Well they have certainly achieved this goal and it makes me very proud to be their coach. Who would have thought that at the end of the season the Cheltenham Metro Under 12's would finish 2nd on the ladder? It was a huge achievement considering our first few games were a learning curve for all involved.

It has been an absolute pleasure to see the team thrive and meet the challenge that was presented to them every Sunday Morning. They all played a vital part in achieving where we are today and played together extremely well, supporting each other like team players should. Some amazing pitching, fielding and batting has taken place over this season - each and every team player should be proud of themselves. It has been an incredible journey and I am grateful for being there along the way to see these boys improve beyond any expectation.

Special thanks go to Peter Warren, Rick Porter and Roslyn McKenna.

Coaches - Lance McGaw & Phil Taranto

UNDER 14 BRONCOS

Samuel De Rose
Connor Doody
Alexander Marshall
Rhys Pierce
Georgia Smith

Timothy De Rose
Michael Fiore
William Mason
Marcus Ryan
Hikaru Yokota

The Broncos have been a fantastic team this summer. We have all had great fun and greatly enjoyed each other's company. This was a team that was full of kids with good game sense. It gave me confidence to let them play their own game and only need to step in once in a while to calm them down. They all knew that we played hard but fair and shared our successes as a team. Some learnt that if you forgot any protective gear (a box) you only got to play in the outfield, much to their disgust. They only forgot once!

Everyone contributed something different to make us a very versatile team. Sam De Rose hit a great home run. We had Rhys, Georgia, Marcus, Will, Sam pitch through the season. Connor, Hikaru, Sam and Tim catch for us. We thank the versatile and enthusiastic Alex for bringing his Marshiness with him each week to inspire the team to greater things. And the hidden talent of Michael (I can't play 3rd base because I can't throw it to first) Fiore, who could throw to first very well, and bat a runner in under pressure.

Thanks to Miffanwy for scoring all our games, and to Koji for umpiring most of our home games. A special mention to John Ferguson for the ground preparation every week. It was most welcomed and noted by all. Thanks everyone for the effort and commitment to the team. It was a pleasure to coach the Broncos this season.

Coach – Steve Smith

UNDER 14 BRUMBIES

Justin Aron
Jack Enciondo
Jackson Ghent
Brandon Stenhouse
Lachlan Whiteside

Adam Asi
Emily Fitzgerald
Adrian Marcon
Stefan Taranto
Travis Williamson

With three sides this year being divided into even teams it was a great opportunity for all the players to step up and show us the skill and ability that the boys truly showed us this season. On behalf of the team we would also like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents for supporting the team each week and stepping up to score and umpire. For with this cunning support, the boys have really been able to show us their full potential and how they really can play accomplished baseball. Shown in our team on Base avg. of **.547**.

Brandon Stenhouse - Brandon this year has been an absolute victor for our team, with a batting avg. of **.382** his bat was a great part of his game and thus far his pitching effort and commitment this year was tremendous!

Stefan Tarranto - Stefan this year I believed started off with a great season hitting and pitching. He started off the season getting a lot of hits to his name, building to an excellent batting avg. He was very aggressive with the bat and his eye and his hand coordination was fantastic;

Emily Fitzgerald - Emily is a coaches' dream, a girl that puts in the yards at training every week, and a girl that puts in her immense skill into every game and a girl that was very valuable to the team this year. Emily had a golden glove down at 2nd base and when she stepped up to the plate with a batting avg of **.286** and on base avg. of **.655** was a tremendous asset to our success this year.

Jack Enciondo - Jack this year took the challenge to apply himself to a level of baseball that was more advanced for his age, and has played brilliantly. Jack played a wide range of positions and gave great heart into his pitching. And also stood the team up with his batting, achieving an outstanding avg. of **.500**

Lachlan Whiteside - Lachlan was a pleasure to coach; it was great to have a player with such high baseball intelligence. He pitched well, fielded excellently and hit even better. Great Season this year bud!

Adrian Marcon - This year Adrian has really stepped up in his overall game. His batting was a great assist to his game and with some more experience can become a tremendous hitter.

Adam Asi - Performed well all year with enthusiasm and had a lot of fun with the guys. Made some big catches in the outfield and swung the bat aggressively. Will need to improve his strike zone in order to have a more successful hitting season. Great work this season.

Jackson Ghent - Jackson started the season off a bit slow. But as the season got older Jackson became a really good player getting a few very good hits, Jackson played a range of positions this year and made some fantastic plays. Thanks Buddy.

Travis Williamson - This was Travis's first year at Cheltenham, and he took it like a pro. He was confident in the field as well as in the batters box. I hoped he enjoyed the club because if he continues to improve like he has this year, he will be a player to watch in the future. It was a pleasure to coach such a polite and coach-able young kid.

Justin Aron - Justin joined our team late in the season, but was committed from his first at bat. He batted to an avg of **.400**, and fielded excellently. Thanks for the commitment and excellent baseball.

Coach – Andrew Rizzi
Asst Coach – Pedro Enciondo

UNDER 14 STIRRUPS

Liam Bell
Andrew Curry
Zak Palmer
Callum Tate
James Van deBeek
Joel Whitehead

Josh Burland
Jack Dear
Thomas Snowden
Ryan Taylor
Jack Warner

At the coach's meeting at the beginning of the season, success for junior teams would be to win half their games. I can happily report that in the 11 games we have played so far the Stirrups have had 5 wins, 5 losses and 1 draw. To summarise the season - it was all a matter of attitude. Apart from one game, the result of the game was determined by how we performed in the first innings. If we were ahead we won, behind we lost and of the five games we lost we did not score in the first innings in four of those games while we conceded 17 runs. If we played with the enthusiasm we showed glimpses of (remember the double play against Malvern, the 2nd innings against the Broncos and the whole game against the Brumbies) we were more than capable of beating the top sides. I spoke of the importance of quality training to all players many times and it is those players who trained well who have been rewarded for their efforts and received trophies.

I thank all the parents who helped score and umpire and to the family and friends who supported the team. Matt's help every Friday night made my preparation so much easier and I am sure the team enjoyed his contribution and company.

Well done guys on a successful year!

Coach - Shayne Harvey
Asst Coach - Matt Harvey

UNDER 14 STATE

Justin Aron
Samuel De Rose
William Mason
Rhys Pierce
Stefan Taranto
Hikaru Yokota

Kane Bode
Adam Love
Zak Palmer
Brandon Stenhouse
Lachlan Whiteside

Pre-season trials were held for player selection for the Under 14 State team for 2008/2009 - 11 players became the base to launch the season. The focus was for the boys to develop as baseballers, with an eye on playing in the finals. With all boys consistently at training a steady improvement could be noticed (especially from the extra hitting sessions) as the season progressed, not to mention the boys' inner confidence in themselves and each other as a team. This confidence was highlighted throughout the season as we found ourselves 3, 4, 5 runs down in games, to fight back and take the points. Our final home and away record was 9 wins, 3 losses, and 2 draws to finish in 4th place. Our 3 losses were to the sides that finished 1st and 2nd - who both fielded very strong teams. We achieved our goal of finals but unfortunately went down to Newport in an extra innings nail-biter in the semi final. All boys can be very proud of their efforts throughout the season. Of the 11 boys in the team, 4 were top age and 7 were bottom age; this places us in good stead to have another crack at finals baseball next year. Thanks to all the parents who came along to support the team each week (and training), the boys probably don't say it, but they appreciate that you are there to cheer them on ... win, lose or draw.

Congratulations go to our team award winners and also to Sam De Rose for hitting a Grand Slam against Essendon, Justin Aron for selection in the Victorian Under 14 team, and to Adam Love, Brandon Stenhouse, Hikaru Yokota & Justin Aron who were selected in the Southeast Region Little League team.

In closing I would like to thank Daniel Ward-Bourton and Chris Love who made coaching much more fun and easier throughout the season. ~~There are high expectations on us to back up this years effort next year,~~ As a coach and father I was pleased to see the boys bond as a unit, spending time outside of baseball together; going to the movies, beach, golf, and who can forget Lovey's BBQ.

To those playing winter baseball, train and play hard, propel yourself in your baseball and life. It's been a great pleasure this year, thanks for all your support.

Coach – Dave Stenhouse
Asst Coach – Daniel Ward-Bourton

UNDER 14 METRO

Andrew Curry
Jack Dear
James Fiore
Alexander Marshall
Marcus Ryan
Jack Warner

Timothy De Rose
Connor Doody
Michael Fiore
Jojo Ofosu-Amaah
Ryan Taylor
Joel Whitehead

The word significant springs to mind when trying to explain the level of improvement this team has made over the course of the year. During the first game of the year against a very strong Melbourne side our boys made every possible mistake that can be made in a game of baseball, having said that there are a few points of note:

We had a team that had never played together, in fact some of the boys had never played, two coaches that were not really qualified for the job and had never seen many of the boys play before hence fielding positions were all over the place. After a bumpy first few weeks we established our strengths and weaknesses and with the help of a committed John Carlile who conducted (thankfully!) Tuesday night training, the improvement was rapid.

Firstly the pitching staff, Tim De Rose, Jack Dear & Conner Doody. These guys really are the backbone of our team and performed exceptionally well, all are fighters and handled the inevitable pressure situations impressively.

Catching duties were handled in the main by Ryan Taylor and Michael Fiore, both these boys were fantastic and were relentless at making sure they were in control all year. Not much gets past these two!

Our Infield, Joel Whitehead, Jack Warner, Alex Marshall and Connor Doody. There is clearly some talent in this group, some amazing plays and very few errors; Alex at first base was rock solid. Joel and Jack in the middle infield should be very proud of their efforts and were at times awesome to watch. Connor is the definition of a team player and if you put a bat in his hands, watch out!

The outfield has seen the most satisfying level of improvement, Andrew Curry, Jojo Ofosu-Amaah, and Marcus Ryan. It has been a pleasure to watch these boys grow both in the field and with the bat; all have made significant contributions and major plays just when they were needed. I can clearly remember during the second last game of the year hearing the coach of Melbourne cry out in frustration "how the hell did he catch that" after watching Jojo take a right field catch that had to be seen to be believed.

In conclusion, as coaches we can initiate some level of control over the game but in reality we are spectators watching the efforts of the boys on the field, as far as the under 14 metro team is concerned it has been a pleasure to be part of their season and every team member should be extremely proud of their contribution.

Coaches – Fabian Fiore & David Whitehead

UNDER 16 STATE

Adam Burdett
Dean Cooper
Thomas Davidson
Scott Jansen
Ben Leslie
Matthew Wilson

Yoshiki Campitelli
Brett Curnow
Nicholas Fitzgerald
Daniel Lapa
Angus Macquire

We started the season well, winning our first 3 games and we finished with another 3 wins. Unfortunately we only managed to win 1 more game during the season. The boys kept putting in each week, win lose or draw and they should be congratulated for that. We finished the season 7th, but with 6 of our players still U/16 next season that wasn't too bad a result. Congratulations to Scott Jansen and Ben Leslie for making the State Side, Dean Cooper and Matt Wilson for making the 2nd State Team and from the tournament, Scott and Matt for being offered VIS Scholarships.

I would like to thank all the guys for the season and all their parents for coming along each week and supporting all the players, not just their own.

Thanks to Bruce Fitzgerald for being my assistant, even when Nick went up to the U/18's because they were short of players. Junior Co-ordinator, Peter Leslie; U/16 Co-ordinator, Steve Campitelli; Umpire, Peter Burdett; Scorer, Robyn Hogben and general helper Ian Curnow (don't give me a title, just give me a job).

Lastly I would like to thank Roxanne Hogben for coming along to nearly every training and game and helping me wherever she could, especially with the pitch counts.

Coach – Trevor Hogben
Asst Coach – Bruce Fitzgerald

UNDER 16 METRO

Jennifer Aaron
Thomas Davidson
Chris Mahdi-Forsberg
Michael Mitchell
Jordan Russell
Michael Williams

Anthony Blaskett
Dylan Day
Anthony Mether
Jack Ogilvie
Shane Vertigan

I would hope that the players in the Under16 Metro team would share my disappointment in falling short of a playoff berth this season. The early promise of the side was unfortunately unfulfilled finishing the season with a 6-7 result and 5th position on the table.

The signs at the start of the season were very positive, but with injury, loss to other sport and the requirements of the State team it became apparent that we would have difficulty fielding a team; fortunately the Moorabbin Baseball Club found themselves in a similar position and a combined team was entered following the first round.

Jennifer Aaron started the season well but unfortunately other commitments made her unavailable and she could only manage 3 games.

Anthony Blaskett gave the team a boost when he came into the team; he had an excellent season holding down the tough role of shortstop, had two of our wins as pitcher and batted .593.

Tom Davidson, before his jump to State, was a large part of the teams' early success, Tom is a very solid player with sound fundamentals, and he was outstanding as catcher and won the batting average with .714.

Dylan Day worked hard all season, his energy as catcher and second base was terrific, although his batting numbers were not exceptional, with his great attitude I'm sure he has good things in store.

Chris Madhi-Forsberg added a great option to our pitching depth, his left arm relief was of a high standard and Chris could be relied upon to come in and through strikes. For Chris to take the next step he needs to work harder at working harder.

Anthony Mether is blessed with a lot of tools, speed, a strong arm and batting power. Once he learns to control all his gifts a little more he will be a wonderful player. Anthony finished second in the batting and had a slugging average of 1.200 with 2 HR.

Michael Mitchell proved to be an extremely valuable team member, performing admirably at the difficult job of Third base and batting over .400. Michael just needs to add consistency to his game to become a fine player.

Jack Ogilvie has been the mainstay of this team; his work ethic has been outstanding. Jack was thrown around the diamond as catcher, SS, and 2nd base, but it was his pitching which helped the team most. Jack's willingness to throw strikes earned him 3 wins.

Jordan Russell was one of the few players who played every game; his solid defence at 1st base and OF was high quality. Jordan started the season with some powerful hitting and when he can keep that standard for an entire season he will be a force to be reckoned with.

Shane Vertigan was the enigma of the team, occasionally brilliant Shane put up decent numbers, and if he had fully committed to the team I'm sure both he and the side would have been the better for it.

Michael Williams joined the team late and while still U/14 he held his own at the U/16 level. Michael has a few rough edges but he attacks the game well and is prepared to do the hard yards, which will see him become a very valuable player.

Good luck to Hayden Milburn who had to retire after 2 games due to injury.

My thanks to John Carlile & the Committee, Stewart Mills (Moorabbin Coach), Linda Mether (Scorer) and Michelle Ogilvie (she did everything else!). Also to all the parents who pitched in when needed to help and Connie (she knows why).

Fight the Sun

Coach – Colin Upfill

Asst Coach – Stewart Mills

Thank you to
John Ferguson and Ian Curnow
for the immaculate ground preparation

Thank you to
Marty Shevelove
Journalist for Leader Newspapers
for turning our weekly reports into wonderful reading material!

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for generously printing the Presentation Books

Thank you to
Connie Upfill
for being the best MC!

Thank you to
Andrew Mason
for the Friday night BBQ's!



CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB AWARD WINNERS – SEASON 2008/09

Little League – Diamondbacks

MVP	Riki Preston
Coach's Award	Logan Tuki-Jones
Most Improved Player	Kai Jacob

Little League - Mariners

MVP	Michael Natoli
Encouragement Award	James Fiore
Coach's Award	Samuel Hayes

Little League – Padres

MVP	Sam Michael
Batting Award	Mitchell Holding
Golden Glove Award	Ben McGaw

Little League - Phillies

MVP	Michael Leslie
Best Team Man	Mark Digby
Most Improved Player	Declan Chittendon

Little League - Yankees

MVP	Koji Campitelli
Batting Award	Koki Fukusaku
Coach's Award	Yoshi Mori

Little League – Metro

MVP	Matthew McKenna
Batting Ave .520	Stephen Clarke
Pitching Award	Luke Porter

Little League – State

MVP	Koji Campitelli
Pitching Award	Koki Fukusaku
Coach's Award	Mark Digby

Under 14 – Broncos

MVP	Rhys Pierce
Coach's Award	Marcus Ryan
Encouragement Award	Georgia Smith

Under 14 – Brumbies

MVP	Brandon Stenhouse
Batting Avg .500	Jack Enciondo
Coach's Award	Travis Williamson

Under 14 – Stirrups

MVP	Andrew Curry
Batting Avg .650	Zak Palmer
Coach's Award	James Van De Beek

Under 14 – State

MVP	Justin Aron
Batting Avg .444	Sam De Rose
Coach's Award	Zak Palmer

Under 14 – Metro

MVP	Connor Doody
Golden Glove Award	Jack Warner
Coach's Award	Ryan Taylor

Under 16 - State

MVP	Angus Macguire
Batting Avg .483	Scott Jansen
Coach's Award	Brett Curnow

Under 16 - Metro

MVP	Anthony Blaskett
Batting Avg .792	Tom Davidson
Coach's Award	Jack Ogilvie

Grand Slam Award

Jack Daniels
LL - Cheltenham v Sandringham
31-Dec-08

Sam De Rose
U14 - State Cheltenham v Essendon
12-Dec-08

Shut Out Award

Luke Porter
LL - Metro Berwick v Cheltenham
2-Jan-09

