



# CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB INC.



Summer Season  
2015-16



**History making Season**

**We didn't grab the Flag but first time in the Grand Final for our Firsts!**



# SUMMER COMMITTEE 2015-16



## Executive:

President: Lance Blackley

Vice President: John Ferguson

Secretary: David Holland

Treasurer: Judy Williams

## Members:

Anthony Bowley  
Jo Campbell  
Joe Caruso  
Gavin Daniels  
Pia Dunkley  
Karen Dunn  
John Fairweather  
Russell Ferguson  
Stuart Holding  
Alan Gribbin  
Val Langworthy  
Brad Lark  
Peter Leslie  
Michelle Ogilvie

## Positions of Responsibility:

**Bar Manager:** Lance Blackley

**Canteen:** Kathy Daniels

**Registrations:** Joe Caruso

**Koreans:** David Holland

**Umpire Coordinator:** Russell Ferguson

**U16 Coordinator:** Michelle Ogilvie

**JL/LL Coordinator:** Mark Campbell

**T-Ball Coordinator:** Peter Leslie

**Grounds / Equipment:** John Ferguson

**Sponsorship:** Lance Blackley / John Ferguson

**Social:** Brad Lark / Pia Dunkley

**Webmaster:** David Holland

**Grants:** John Ferguson

**Uniforms:** Karen Dunn

**Chairman of Selectors:** John Ferguson

**Patron:** Graeme Ainscough

*My thanks to all contributors to this book and also to John Ferguson for many of the photos supplied.....*

*David Holland*

## ***THANK YOU TO OUR CLUB SPONSORS!!***





## Presidents Report 2015-16



What a great year it's been for the Cheltenham Baseball Club. A year full of challenges culminating in our first nine making the playoff's for the Division 1 Championship. Although losing, we can sit back and reflect what an achievement it was to even get there with what had to be the youngest and most inexperienced team in the competition. Just one player (the coach Adam) had ever played Div 1 finals previously.

But, it's not all about the first nine. Our second nine made the finals but unfortunately were not up to the task. Our third nine just missed out on finals on a technicality and our fourth nine were very young but gained valuable experience this season. The young side was ably assisted with a few old heads in Ron and Russ and the young players will be a lot better for it next season.

Our fifth nine led by Damon Pettit had a great season making the finals and again were a little under done in making further headway in their campaign.

The Masters looked like not making the finals however flicked the switch in the second half making the playoffs and putting up a very good performance in their game against the unbeatable Springvale Tomatoes who are all at least 10 years our junior. Not sure why they even bother playing in this comp.

Enter the Women's team for the first time in 20 years and after getting smashed in the season opening games showed their durability and progress by winning 3 games for the season and not being the easybeats by any means. Our season closing games saw us losing by 2 runs to the eventual runners up so bigger and better things next season.

The Under 16 & 18 State teams played very well this season but not quite good enough to make the playoffs whilst the under 16 Metro side were there but just didn't manage to advance in their finals campaigns.

Under 12's and Under 14's however were a different story and Cheltenham cleaned up everything on the table including the runners up flags as it was Chelt vs Chelt all the way.

And Teeballers just keep having fun along the way and gain experience as they grow up and into the baseball.

All said and done, Cheltenham Baseball Club were just 6 points off taking out Baseball Victoria's Club Championship. That's just 2 games of baseball somewhere throughout the season that could have seen us winners.

How did this happen? Apart from all of our fantastic and dedicated coaching staff we made a fundamental change this season by appointing one of Cheltenham's own - Adam Blackley, as the first nine coach. We stripped away the expectation of being responsible for the whole Club, a job that just can't be done by a single person. Adam was ably assisted by Matt Gourlay, Laurie Hall, and Russell Ferguson on game days and Andrew Gribbin also assisted as a training drill coach which saw the level of training increase significantly. We again brought in our International player in Bryan Kloppe. Although the Club funds Bryan for his trip out here, we only fund a minor component of his actual costs whilst he is here. The value we receive back from Bryan is sensational. Bryan is a very





## Presidents Report 2015-16



capable pitcher at this level and he also provides some great coaching through the junior ranks. Bryan wants to come back again next season so we will need to find a way to get him here again.

In addition, we appointed Ron Carothers as Head of Junior Development. Ron is a coach who has a very high level of technical knowledge; so rather than have Ron's skills directed towards just 9 or 10 players, this new role gave every junior level of baseball access to Ron throughout the season. A great move that will see a lot of young talent improve their skills and become better baseballers.

Cheltenham Baseball Club continues to have a large number of our junior players representing State and National Teams with Jack Dunn and Max Barrett in u18 squads, John-Paul Callil, Declan Croker, Ben Fierenzi and Cruiz Leech in the u16 squads, Max Barrett, George Callil, Jack Enciondo and Mitch Holding in the u19 National squad and Travis Blackley in the Brisbane Bandits and National Men's squad in the ABL and World's Baseball Classic Qualifiers.

In addition to this, we say farewell to at least 5 of our young players as they take up University Scholarships in USA Colleges. As others gain entry, we expect at least 3 or 4 more to make the journey into the College system.

Whilst this hurts the Club in losing great players in the short term, we wish every player every success and look forward to the day when they return to Australia and back to the Club. The Cheltenham Baseball Club will be a lot better when these players return as mature highly skilled players and future coaches of the Club. Our Club now provides pathways for our players and it all starts by the skills they gain on their journey through our junior system. This is a system that we are very proud of now and is only getting better.

Off the field we always face challenges and this season was no different. The formation of the Little League saw a shift in the number of games played at the Club, thus lowering canteen income intake. We also had the installation of the irrigation system during the season and this and washouts impacted the number of home games we had, thus canteen and bar income were adversely affected.

On a positive note, Cheltenham Baseball Club's nomination for Community Group of the year was accepted by the Kingston City Council. A recognition of the great work that we do as a Community Organisation.

The Club was successful in the City of Kingston supporting two grants for funding for a junior Little League Diamond and funding for Lighting of the Main Diamond for u14 coverage. We believe that this funding will be delivered through the off season and hopefully the facilities are functioning for next season.

This of course will add further challenges for the Club as we have a proportion of the Club's contribution of funding in the bank. However, we will need to do some serious fundraising to pay off a debt that we will incur in the construction of these facilities. A percentage of these costs are "In Kind" contribution which means we will be calling on volunteers to assist with some of the works through some working bees however our main challenge will be a large fundraiser that we will announce after the new committee is appointed.



## Presidents Report 2015-16



Our sponsors have again provided some fantastic financial support for us. Platinum Post Tensioning has again made a major contribution and backed up by Bentleigh RSL, Bridgestone Tyres, Bendigo Bank, Hodges Real Estate and Urban Gardens. We also have a silent sponsor in Russell Ferguson who has allowed Bryan to stay with him in his apartment. This is a significant contribution by Russell and we seriously thank Russell for this.

If you use any of our sponsors don't forget to mention the Club as this assists us in resigning the sponsor for next season as well as directly providing additional funding from both Bendigo Bank and Hodges.

We induct Peter Leslie into the Club this year as a Life Member. Peter was nominated by Graeme Ainscough and seconded by Michael Trevorah. Peter joined the Club Committee in 2001 and has contributed his volunteer time, trade skills and with direct finance during this period and making a significant contribution. These are all the requirements needed to be nominated for Life Membership and we congratulate Peter as a most worthy recipient.

As Club president, I would like to thank all members of the Summer Committee who have again all contributed to a most successful year.

Lance Blackley

Club President, Summer Committee





## Little League / Junior League Coordinators Report



The Summer 2015/16 season saw a number of changes to the Junior Baseball Ranks which impacted on the quality of baseball some participants were able partake. The Friday Night Majors/Junior League competition was moved to Sunday Mornings in place of the defunct State and Metro Competitions. We saw the introductions of the Charter Academies on Saturday Mornings and an expansion of the Friday Night Minor League Competition.

The majority of Minors games would be played at Cheltenham with the Majors/Juniors playing home and away games.

The Mariners charter grew from 4 teams to a massive 8 teams and saw the introduction of Pakenham, St Kilda, Chelsea and Berwick. The concept of playing Regional baseball was expanded with the late introduction of Berwick and Pakenham but all clubs seemed to cope well.

We entered 3 teams in the Friday Minor Leagues, 2 each in the Sunday Major League and Sunday Junior League.

I would like to thank those who volunteered to coach the sides for the season, being;

### Minors

Mets – Brent Dunkley

Pirates – Brett Selacki

Cardinals – Jed Woodger assisted by Will Tucker

### Majors

Yankees – Val Langworthy

Giants – Gareth Finney, Ably assisted by Mark Campbell

### Junior League

Braves – John Fairweather

Indians – Brad Heenan

Given the Minor League, Majors and Junior League all featured Cheltenham vs. Cheltenham Grand Finals you would have to classify the season as reasonably successful on the field. Congratulations to the Pirates, Giants and Braves for taking out the respective Grand Finals, however thanks must go to all the coaches, players, parents and supporters because without your help we could not be the successful club we are.

Congratulations to those players who made the various All-Star teams. Although the junior League squad hasn't progressed to Nationals, I hope they enjoyed the experience and learnt from it. The Little League tournament is not too far away, so good luck,



## Little League / Junior League Coordinators Report



I hope that all players enjoyed the season and came out of it as a better player. I know I have witnessed the advancement of several players throughout the season.

Special Thanks must go to John Ferguson for setting up the grounds each week and for also running Wednesday night training along with Brian Kloppe and also to Kathy in the canteen and those who manned the bar during the season.

I would like to wish those players whose baseball journey has now finished in the little league ranks all the best in junior baseball next season.

This will be my last Little League report as Ben now moves onto Junior League. It has been a pleasure assisting everybody through the Little League transition and I look forward to seeing the further progress of our current Little Leaguers. Fear not as I will continue on next year as the Junior League Coordinator, but there are not as many teams involved, so it should be easier!!! ????

Until next baseball season, enjoy the winter ball.

Cheers,

Mark Campbell  
LL & JL Coordinator







## U12 MAJORS GIANTS – PREMIERS!



Where do I start? I guess by saying “What a Year!!!” To finish the home and away season on top was a fantastic achievement for the boys, and well deserved also.

The message to the parents at the start of the year – I do apologise for the essay! Was simply summed up in a few words. Listen, learn, have fun, and importantly ROTATION. The directive of the junior committee was for this policy and that suited me fine, as it’s the way I do like to coach the kids at this age. Sure, there are some more talented boys in our roster, but it was about giving each other a fair go, and to forget about the winning at all costs attitude. That may sound strange given that we only lost the one game for the season, but the players (and parents) themselves embraced the concept with such enthusiasm that the results really took care of themselves in the end, with EVERY player contributing something throughout the year, which as a coach is extremely pleasing to witness...

We had three boys in the Mariners academy and they had outstanding years, particularly the twins in Cooper and Dylan Williamson. Believe me when I say no one had bragging rights at home this season as I could not separate their worth to the team with some amazing batting and fielding displays week in week out. The other member Ben Campbell also shined behind the dish showing a high level of skill in a job that demands a good deal of courage, and we saw this on display many a time.

For the others in the team, they all had tremendous seasons. It certainly wasn’t a year where the ‘academy kids’ dominated in every way. It was a combined team effort each and every week that saw us have the season we had. Travis was very consistent with his batting, also his pitching, and for something new some stints behind the plate also, so well done on taking on a new challenge. Big Ben ‘pants’ Tillbrook kept us entertained through the year with his sense of humour, and his enthusiasm toward learning. This resulted in him improving his batting, getting rid of that front foot cover drive, and becoming our regular, reliable first baseman. His out of the park home run in the Semi was testament to the way he was swinging toward the end of the season!

Quinn Estes was also a major improver this year whether he was asked to pitch, or play infield, he did it well, and without fuss. Another more silent improver was Lachy Stevens who showed he could swing a bat well, improve his general catching ability around the ball park, and adeptly take on the role at first base also.

Dylan Hind was a pleasure to coach; keen to listen, learning something each week, and putting time at practice into his game and the results showed with him improving his overall skills as the season went on. The same can be said of Cooper Hiddlestone. He sets high standards for himself on the field and it was pure joy to watch him celebrate one of his many RBIs he had for the year, where he did the team thing and moved others around the bases. Chris Tsakoumakis played his part also by chipping in at important times throughout the season. With a little more focus come game day, we should see some big improvement in him, as he has the talent to do well in the coming years.

As I’ve alluded to, there was no single standout moment, or player for the year. It was about the TEAM, and I thank the kids for taking on board the principles that I tried to instil into the playing group this year. I know every player ‘listened’ for the most part (I’m happy with ‘most’ :). I’m also



## U12 MAJORS GIANTS – PREMIERS!



sure that every player learnt something new of this great game we play, and I'm quite certain they had some fun in doing it, as did I. I certainly learnt a lot of things stepping up a level of coaching to the majors this year, and I thoroughly enjoyed the challenges it presented, although to honest, not the early Sunday mornings!!

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank a couple of people. First and foremost, Mark Campbell, who assisted each week, and thankfully stepped in to coach when I was on holidays. He was a great ally to have in the trenches, and helped in many ways with diamond preparation, and team admin roles also – so a big thankyou Mark.

Also, to Val Langworthy for doing a fantastic job on the Thursday night training sessions, keeping the guys challenged and making things enjoyable at the same time. It's not an easy process when you have a mix of players that also do academy-based training, and the subsequent multiple skill levels that come with blending those with the less experienced kids. So kudos to Val on a job well done this year, and seeing the improvement in her team players this year was gratifying for me also.

A big thanks to the parents for getting their kids to training on Thursday nights, and also doing the early morning rises come Sunday.... You should be getting a big hug from your child, or children in thanks also! Thank you also for helping out with the scoring duties. Most were doing it for the first time and I appreciate the effort in learning how to do it.

On a final note, congratulations to Cooper, Dylan, Ben, and Travis on making the All Star Mariners team, and what's also pleasing is the fact that Quinn, Chris, and Lachy also tried out, and made the Mariners development team. Both teams will be playing off in the State Championships in early April – so well done boys!

Regards

Gareth Finney





# LITTLE LEAGUE YANKEES



The 2015/2016 season promised much and delivered.

This year was tough from the outset as our numbers were stretched through injury and commitments putting a strain on our team. Each week saw us field eight for most of the season. The Yankees making it to the final was a great achievement. It just goes to show the talent, courage and determination these kids have got. They are going to be the future of the club in years to come.

The conclusion of the season saw the side finish in 2nd position. We then meet with Cheltenham Giants as our Grand final opponent. The game saw a tense battle at Farm Road with the Giants igniting the offence and keeping the Yankees hitters off balance. The final score was the result of some outstanding defence and quality pitching by the Giants. However it just wasn't our day.

The game was certainly no reflection of how the team played all year. As a team we had success and progress in many areas that I feel was unprecedented in other seasons that I have been involved in. A big congratulations to the players for their efforts and sportsmanship, you are all great ambassadors for Cheltenham, I value their contribution and friendship and I look forward to watching all of kids play for many years to come.

Finally I must thank all the parents for all their support. It was great to hear encouragement to the team on a weekly basis. This season certainly would not have been as enjoyable without your collective efforts. A special thankyou to Gordon Tribe for also assisting me and for being a great influence around the team. Kate Morgan for scoring and Dean Morgan for consistently umpiring.

Cheers

Valery Langworthy

Josh Tribe- Confidence, strength and maturity are all leadership qualities Josh showed this season. He will be a force in the under 14's in this coming season. Josh's contribution Pitching, hitting and fielding have made him an outstanding player.

Nick Bertucci – The on field leader of the side. His aggressiveness and outstanding natural hitting talent and desire to do well led to Nick being the most valuable hitter of the season.

Ben Morgan – Started the season slow with an ankle injury, but came back fighting strong. Ben's consistency with the bat has made him a solid leadoff batter who has also grown with confidence on the hill.

Nic Volpe- Displayed enormous courage and versatility during the season. Putting the team before his body as he caught for a good proportion of the season. His dedication to the game is excellent.

Ryan Langworthy- Ryan was having a great season until he broke his elbow over Christmas. His inability to play certainly didn't keep him away from practice which enabled him to come back for the finals strong. He is defiantly one person who never gives and gives 110%





## LITTLE LEAGUE YANKEES



Genevive Beacom - As usual was a pleasure to coach and always showed enthusiasm. She was a hard worker all year and her strong glove hand was consistent at first.

Kellan Hill- The quite achiever who developed into a utility man and a strong hitter. A very versatile player who's enthusiasm and willingness never failed.

Thomas Hughes- It was Thomas' first year in the majors. His hitting and safe fielding made him the standout improver of the season. His application at training certainly carried over to the games. We even managed to get him onto the mound and smile

Nicholas G- A first year Majors player who stepped up each time he was asked. Nicholas achieved a lot and has grown in confidence. Nicholas has improved his batting and fielding tremendously and has a great positive attitude to the game.







## Little League Minor – Cardinals



It's a wrap!

It has certainly been a fun and interesting season! The boys did great and we finished with only 1 loss in the regular season and a place in the finals. An amazing effort for a team of players with mixed baseball experience.

Being a first time coach (and only a couple of years older than the boys), I was unsure what I was in for and just a wee bit worried. But..... the boys were a pleasure to coach and played hard every week making things easy for me. I believe we've had a successful season and the boys have learnt a lot. We spent hours together each Wednesday at training and Friday game day. The improvement has been phenomenal and the commitment to the team has been outstanding. I am really really proud of the team and their achievements!

The Cardinals roster –

Braeden Carey  
Jasper Cormick  
Jeremy Cormick  
Hayden Finney  
Mitchell Kitto  
Liam Kouchakdjian  
Thomas Murray  
Archer Oldham  
Max Oldham  
Josh Young  
and signed mid-season, Jack May



Coach: Jed Woodger  
Assistant Coach: Will Tucker  
Team Manager: Andrea Cormick



A few shout-outs are definitely needed.....

Andrea Cormick - THANK YOU - you were a great team manager, kept the boys under control (they were a rowdy lot!) and organised absolutely everything.

Will Tucker – my assistant coach on game day who also stepped in a couple of times when I was



## Little League Minor – Cardinals



away.

The scorers - a difficult job to learn. It was great to see a few of you put your hands up.

The umpires – Gareth and Tony. Thanks.

The parents and families who brought the boys down to training week after week and were there to support the Cards.

The Cheltenham Baseball Club - Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

And finally to Ferg, Ronnie, Bryan, Brent and Brett - your experience and support was invaluable and I learnt so much from you all.....thanks for that.

I wish all the boys the best and feel privileged to contribute a very small part to their baseball playing futures.

GO CARDS!

Jed Woodger - Coach





## Little League Minors - METS



The 2015/16 Summer Season started well for the LL Minor Mets against Chelsea with a convincing win; this was repeated with each of our outings against no Cheltenham teams. Our first challenge was in the third week when we came up against the Cheltenham Cardinals. This game could have gone either way as we ended the game in the third inning with three players left on base and going down 7-10.

Our next challenge came in week ten when we came up against the Cheltenham Pirates. This again was a good tight tousele with the Pirates coming away with the win.

Week thirteen – Pirates v Mets was our first game back from the Christmas break. This was a really interesting game with both teams neck and neck at the end of the second innings with the Mets scoring three runs in the first and an additional run in the second innings. Our second pitcher gave up a single to the first batter to then strike out the next three batters for a total of 19 pitches. At the top of the third inning the Pirates hit away and scored a further four runs, but due to time and game – we escaped with a draw.

This closed out our home and away season for the year and set up the Cheltenham Mets for an exciting finals season being third on the ladder with the Cheltenham Pirates on top, and the Cheltenham Cardinals coming second on the ladder.

Our first finals game saw us playing the Cardinals. The evening was very gloomy with the threat of rain being ever present (welcome to summer baseball), I think at one point of the game I actually felt the south easterly precipitation across my face. In the top of the first innings our lead off batters Eddie, Zach, Blake, Jye and Jedd all crossed the home plate with Ryan hitting a double and Nick pushing them all home. We then had Jye pitch 23 throws to finish the first innings 5 – 2 to the Mets. At the top of the second innings we had solid hits from our bottom order to have Yannis, Hugo, Ethan and Kayden all get on base for Yannis to cross the home plate and add an additional run to our score. The Cardinals batted through eight players to put four runs on the scoreboard to end the second innings 6 – 4 the Mets way.

This set up an exciting third innings for the Mets to have four batters come to the plate for no score. The Cardinals batted through eight players to add two more runs to their score to tie up the game 6 all.

In the top of the fourth innings the Mets batted through six players for Tamsyn to cross the plate and score our seventh run. Wow – top of the fourth and time and game was called so the Cardinals needed to score two runs to win. Jesse came in to pitch the last innings and threw 14 pitches to strike the first three batters and close out the game for a Mets win. This was an extremely exciting game with true team effort both with the bat and glove by both teams. Full credit to the Cardinals this game – great competitors with all players trying their best to win.

By the Mets beating the Cardinals we moved into the Grand Final. The Pirates beat the Sandy Kings thus setting up a Chelt v Chelt Grand Final. We are now at the pointy end of the season with the semi-final done and dusted and the Mets playing the Pirates for the ultimate chocolates – a premiership win. Since Christmas the Mets Assistant Coach Rhys Fairweather has been commanding game day with





## Little League Minors - METS



the responsibility to do batting line up, field positions and game day reports. With a flawless record to date since Christmas – this game culminated the whole years learning's for the team to 90 minutes of baseball and thirteen players deciding if they wanted to finish the season well, or finish the season as premiers.

Our first innings at bat was a four at bat effort for no score. The Pirates batted through seven, great fielding efforts by both Jesse and Ryan in this innings helped restricted the score two runs. Top of the second innings saw the Mets bat through another five players for no score, the Pirates faced Jedd with Ethan catching the first two innings and Jedd finished the innings three up three down for eleven pitches and two infield fly's for no score and the Pirates still two runs up 2 - 0.

The Mets bottom batting order then got onto base with Yannis, Hugo, Ethan, Kayden, Eddie, Zach, Blake and Jye all getting safe hits with no outs to score five runs and end the top of the third innings. All of a sudden the Mets have jumped on the Pirates and finished with a 2 -5 score line at the top of the third innings.

Blake came in to pitch the third inning with Nick catching. Five batters managing to bat through with two scoring over the home plate and two being struck out at the plate and one being on first base. This set up Kayden to come in to pitch with two outs, Mets leading by one run and a runner on first. Kayden threw a strike, the crowd goes wild, he then throws a ball and there is a hush over all the Mets fans, next pitch is thrown and it is hit through to the second baseman, Tamsyn knocks the ball down, picks it up and steps onto the second base and the game is done.

What a great effort by both teams – thankyou Pirates for such an exciting game to end the season.

To finish the season report I would like to thank our Team Manager Faye for the updates, shirt selections, etc., the Mets families who all scored and umpired our games each week. Our seamless, stress less end to the week would have been very different without everyone helping out.

Finally thankyou to Rhys as Ass Coach for the Mets and to the kids – I hope you all continue your baseball pursuits and become as good as you all can.

Brent.







## Little League Minors - PIRATES



The fantastic Pirates, I would dare to say, had an excellent summer season.

With the foundation set up by Jo Campbell, the Pirates were set for a great season. We started a little slow, getting to know each other as a team.

We had some of the old Pirates from last year: Ben, Jordan, Thomas, Sascha, Kye, Aras and Riley.

Then the team gained our new players: Nandra, Austin, Tate, Tyler, Jeromy, Alex and Danny.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution that Alex and Danny made to the team even though it was late in the season, and for that reason were not able to play in the finals.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution that Riley made to the team and we were all sad to hear he would not continue the season.

The team came together under the careful guidance of Andrew and myself during the season, showing the most amazing determination and focus when the team was down in runs and looked like losing, they lifted their game and pulled together to win.

Team performance improved as the season progressed, and team member's skills were becoming instinctive in the field to the point of getting the ball from the outfield to first base for out.

Catches by the pitchers, catches by outfield and the infield were some of the highlights for our team.

Improvements and confidence at the home plate by most of the team was fantastic, and continuing practise will sharpen their skills even more.

These Pirates should be so proud of themselves – they were UNDEFEATED this season!! A great effort wouldn't you say? These boys I believe would be valuable players in any team at the Rustlers Club.

As a final comment my thanks goes to Jo Campbell for giving me the opportunity to coach such a brilliant little team.

PS I promise not to heckle you this summer.

Over to You Jo

Thank You

ARHHH Go the pirates No1 next year

Brett



# T Ball 2015-16



What a great summer season we've had at Tee-Ball 2015/16.

We welcomed back some experienced players who provided excellent leadership and mentoring to new team members. An exciting group of young players also joined us and it was great to see them progress and learn the game over the weeks.

All the players have improved their skills over the season and have enjoyed playing the game. It was great to see the kids cheering on their team-mates, sliding into bases (whether it was necessary or not), and often surprising themselves with catches.

The season was a great success and a huge thanks to the coaches, Joey , Val, Richard and Adam . A big thanks to our sponsor Bendigo Bank.

Peter Leslie

T Ball Coordinator

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## T Ball - CUBS



We've had another great season of Cubs baseball at the Cheltenham Baseball Club. All players improved gradually throughout the season. Basic skills such as base running, fielding, and batting have all improved.

I had the advantage of having 6 returning players from last year. Lucas Tucker improved all his skills and became our most dependable player at bat and in the field. I put that down to good coaching ☺. Ethan Joseph's hitting improved greatly and he was our Mr. Hustle. Kai Leitch improved all his skills and was amongst our strongest hitters along with Ethan and Lucas. Harry Lanaway improved all his skills with hitting being the most improved. Harry also made some great plays in the field. Skye Baker-McDonald improved her fielding, but her hitting had the greatest improvement. Angus Sustek improved his hitting to the point of having the team's most smooth swing. He didn't hit the hardest or the farthest, but he made consistent contact. Newcomer Asa Rungen lit up the field with his smile and his great attitude. He learned the basic skills and competed hard. Nice little swing for a newbie. Mature aged newcomer Ella Tucker went from being timid at the plate to giving it an all mighty wack. Her fielding skills improved also.

All players had great enthusiasm and were easy to manage. It was a pleasure helping them to become better, more confident players. Thanks to all the parents for helping out when needed. I hope to see everyone back at the club next year.

Go Cubs,  
Joey Tucker





## T Ball - PIRATES



The 2015/16 Pirates has been a team to remember. Coming into the season, most players were playing for the first time. They Pirates took to learning the game with joy, enthusiasm, and the talent and potential of the group is clear. Starting from a first game where a few weren't sure which was their glove hand, by season's end, players were asking to dispense with the Tee and hit full tosses.

The thing I was happiest with as coach was how keen all the kids were to learn. Most weeks we had 10 players. At the end of every game, they couldn't wait to find out who player of the game was. I am proud to say that effort translated to results, and everyone had a good enough game at some stage to win one.

Helping this group learn to play the game has been a privilege, and I hope that each and every one of them is proud of the considerable progress they've made. I hope all elect to continue with T-Ball and rookie ball as the case may be. Much thanks to all the parents for their willingness to get involved at the bench, and special call out to the Williams who regularly got involved on the field from umpiring, to collecting bats as they flew in many and any directions!

Richard Elton







## T Ball - YANKEES



The 2015/2016 Yankees T Ball team are defiantly the future stars of Cheltenham Baseball.

This crew improved in all areas during the season and their commitment and enthusiasm where outstanding and a credit.

Each week we had all the kids turn up enthusiastically to not only the games but also training. As a result the Yankees team have improved with the bat and also on the field.

The kids bonded together from the outset and have made some great friendships.

Every player tried their hardest in any position and their willingness to learn was refreshing.

The season and games where fun, creating self-esteem and confidence, seeing the smiles on the faces of the team certainly was a highlight of each week.

Especially when someone caught a fly ball or had a solid hit.

To all the boys, thank you for a most enjoyable season, you defiantly taught me how to have fun playing ball.

To the parents thanking you for all your help, your kids where certainly a pleasure to coach and I hope to see them back next year.

Cheers

Valery Langworthy





## Junior League - INDIANS



This year saw the Cheltenham Rustlers with two u/14 sides split evenly at the start of the year. Both of the sides were dominant all season. The only game lost by the Indians all season was unfortunately the Grand Final ☹. The other Cheltenham team also only lost one game to the Chelt Indians team.

When I started the season with these boys I could already see that it was a talented side and was going to be dominating the comp from the start.

Our pitching for the year was mainly done by Jed W (ERA1.00 14.0 INN), who put in a stellar performance all year. He was very ably backed up by Shelby R (38 K's) and Will T.(ERA 1.75) We also had Conor M who threw the ball extremely hard for his age; and showed that when on and pitching well he was unstoppable.

The catchers were Fraser P and Kieran M they shared the load all season. It was a terrific year for both of them and it was great to see their skills develop and really take control of the game.

Our offence was the biggest positive point of the year with 6-12 players batting over .400. The team had 15 home runs and this meant that we were going to outscore most teams. As a team our average for the year was .426, we collected 107 hits and 124 RBI's everyone on the team had at least a RBI!!

I would like to thank Ronnie Carothers for being my go to guy all year and for helping me train these kids, I know how valuable it is to have a bloke of his calibre around, he being one of my former coaches.

And to Al Tanner for coming every Thursday night and watching and teaching my pitchers every week, he is a wealth of knowledge and great to have him.

Also my scorer Mia, and main umpires Simon and Stu, thanks for your efforts much appreciated.

It has been an absolute pleasure to coach these kids, and look forward to following their baseball careers ☺

**Brad Heenan**







## JUNIOR LEAGUE BRAVES



This year I coached the Junior League Braves. The Braves were a great team this season due mostly to the fact that it consisted of a great group of kids who were keen to listen, learn, improve and perform in all aspects of the game of baseball. A large help to our team was the input of our Mariners players. These players made my life a lot easier by assuming the role of the leadership group, often running warm ups and assisting the more inexperienced players.

On the field we were competitive finishing second in the regular season and ultimately winning the premiership against the very strong Cheltenham Indians. The Braves had a good mix of strengths, a good dose of spirit and a lot of support for each other and I'm sure this made it a fun season for all involved.

I really hope that all our players will continue with baseball in the future because they can all go on to bigger and better things. Each player put in and extended themselves throughout the season and they all did it with a smile on their face. I thank them for that. I'd also like to thank all the parents who helped with Diamond set up and everything required to get a team on the field. Special thanks also to my assistant coach Rob Zimmerman as well as Brad Heenan, Ronnie Carothers, Steve Earle and Sara Cullen for their extra assistance with coaching, umpiring and scoring.

Yours in baseball,

John Fairweather



## U16 Coordinators Report



We entered two teams into the Under16 competition, one State and one Metro. Our coaches for these teams were Kable Hogben – State and Jack Ogilvie – Metro. Kable returned to the USA before the end of the season so Adam Leech stepped in to coach the remainder of the season.

We had mixed results for the season with State finishing 6<sup>th</sup> and Metro finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unfortunately, Metro were defeated in their semi final against Bonbeach (grand final winners) and with the finals having no second chances they were out of the running for a berth in the grand final.

We started the season with 19 players, welcoming two new players to the club, Nick iida-Reed and Kosei Liu. Jake Harrowell was originally sitting out the summer season but returned to round our numbers off at 20.

Victorian state trials were run again this year with our Under16 group having good representation.

Congratulations to:

John-Paul Callil      Victoria Blue

Ben Fierenzi          Victoria White

Cruiz Leech          Victoria White

Declan Croker        Victoria White

I would like to thank Kable, Adam and Jack for coaching this season. They all did an outstanding job.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who assisted in scoring, setting up diamonds, helping out on game day, training sessions or any other jobs which helped to make this a successful season.

Hope to see you all next  
Summer 2016-17!

Michelle Ogilvie  
Under 16 Co-Ordinator







# Under 16 Metro

Coach – Jack Ogilvie



The under 16 squad was filled with a mix of kids. Some had played a long time, for some it was their first season. I would like to say it was a great privilege to have coached each and every one of these young men, to watch them all grow into some great players as each game passed. These young men went 9-4 for the season with a total of 15 different players in the side. Although we had many different players in the side, the team chemistry was never really affected. Thanks to **Ben Sexton, Declan Croker, Fraser Parsons** and **Keely McKeown** for filling in for me this season. Thanks to all the parents for your help and bringing the kids to the games every week. Special thanks to **Russell Ashen** and **Darren Hiddlestone** for being my scorer and assistant coach this year, couldn't have been as successful as we were without you all.

**Jacob Watt** – Jacob was one of my go to players with an enthusiastic attitude towards the game, always wanting that bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> 2 out full count on him. Jacob could handle pressure well on the mound and threw 5 wins for the boys and also hit a couple of home runs. Great season Jacob.

**Luke Ashen** – Luke loved to talk and was integral to the boys staying on task when batting. Luke was a player I could place anywhere on the field and would play it very well. Luke hit .575 for the season, on just missing out on the batting average. He has a very aggressive base running style that fit well with my own style, even somehow getting a bunt home run. Very impressed with Luke and he has a great attitude towards the game.

**Gus Cohen** – Gus was a player I've never seen before, so it took me a bit to see where he would best suit to play. Gus fit well in the short stop position on making 3 errors there for the season. He also has a bit of an arm on him, and after 2 outings on the mound, he decided to shut Berwick down with a 10-0 shutout. Gus is a player that is full of surprises and was a pleasure to coach this season, well done mate.

**Kosei Liu** – Kosei is new to the game and took him a few games to get comfortable. However, he was ALWAYS one of the first to training on Tuesday and even Thursday training. This was perfect as his progression throughout the season was outstanding, he became very reliable in the outfield catching most balls that came out to him. He really stood out to me in the semi final against Bonbeach as he went 2-3 and never stopped fighting in the box. Very happy with the season mate, from where you came from to now just shows everyone that hard work pays off. Congratulations bud.

**Nicholas Iida-Reed** – Nick is another new one to baseball, however he quickly grabbed my attention in the batting box after the first few games. His approach was perfect, always fighting and managing to hit 5 triples, 3 doubles and 4 rbi's for the season. Nick also threw 4 games for me and he went really well especially towards the end of the season. He was a guy I could rely on to throw strikes and make the other team swing the bats. Nick was always on time to both games and training and his progression really improved and again, shows the others that hard work pays off.

**Thomas Ogilvie** – Thomas is a guy I've seen play baseball a few times, even thrown with him too. He has a very laid back approach to the game and would often have me worried when he was in the batting box. However, he definitely had one of the best bats in the team, hitting .586 for the season, taking out the batting average. He always managed to drive in runs for me and had a very solid glove at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. I was really harsh and blunt towards Tom during the season as I knew he could always play better and give me more than what he was, but it's because he's my brother and I just wanted to get the best out of him. He has an arsenal of skills behind him thanks to Colin Upfil from his 6 years of tee-ball with him, and I'm sure he will have greater success in the future.

**Fraser Hiddlestone** – Fraser was my main catcher this year, as anyone who has seen him play knows he has got a lot of potential. After the half way mark in the season, Fraser's arm had developed as I hoped it would and was throwing bullets back to the pitcher and even throwing 2 people out on base. Fraser is also nicknamed 'King of



# Under 16 Metro

Coach – Jack Ogilvie



walks' as he had 27 walks for the season, and didn't even have a batting average until game 3. Fraser then decided he wanted to become a hitter towards the end of the season and pulled out some clutch hitting in close game. Very impressed with your season buddy, looking forward to what you can do in the future.

**Nathan Spragg** – Nathan is a quiet kid and always wanted to play outfield, no matter how much I nagged him to come into second base. Nathan managed to hit the biggest triple I've seen in a while, and I'm sure if the fence was regulation would have been a good 5 feet over. Again Nathan is full of surprises and manages to put the ball in play and score me some runs. Nathan progressed and handled himself well in the field and was an absolute pleasure to coach. Never complained, listened and took everything you tell him on board. Was a pleasure to coach you Nathan, good luck with the future.

**Shelby McKeown** – Shelby is a solid player at 3<sup>rd</sup> base and a clutch hitter. I batted him further down the order than he was use to, which worked well for the team as he was able to score runs with deep outfield hits, or hard hit ground balls. I never knew what I was going to get from Shelby when he came to the game, but he always managed to surprise me. Thanks for the season Shelby.

**Austin Rosenthal** – Austin has played a couple of seasons and was very raw at the start of the year. He is very capable on the mound throwing tons of strikes and making the other team use the bats. Where Austin really shone to me was at centerfield with his quick speed and great glove, he was able to get most cheap hits from the other team and save many runs. Austin is a very polite boy and got along well with all the other boys. Austin was a delight to coach and is one of the kids that I would gladly coach again. Thanks for the season bud.

**Jake Harrowell** – Jake is kid I've seen play many times and when I found out he wasn't playing I was stunned. After a chat on the phone he was eager to come and play when his school commitments where over with. Jake is a great middle infielder and was able to role doubles with ease between Luke and Gus. Jake had a great approach in the batting box and would usually waste a lot of the pitchers count for me. Jake you are great player and I hope to see you continue your performance in the future.





# Under 18 State



It was both an honor and a pleasure to coach Cheltenham's Under 18 team this season.

We had a group of very respectful and hard working young men who represented our club well in the state competition.

Although we finished up with a 6-7 record, I feel like we performed amongst the best in the league with five of our losses coming to the top two finishers on the ladder and despite our injury afflicted lineup. In the end we were not quite ready to overtake the very strong Waverley A and Springvale teams, who we faced an unusual amount of times in the draw. With that being said, I would like to give an individual report on all of our players.

**Sam Michael** was our team MVP, leading us on the mound and at the plate. Sam finished with a .514 batting average and pitched the majority of our innings 35.2 with a 2.99 ERA.

**Michael Moore** was our teal game MVP and he made a highlight reel of catches in centerfield and also was a great stopper on the mound while serving as the team's closer.

**Michael Leslie** wins our Coach's Award for his positive attitude and for pitching with guts all season long. He pitched 22.2 innings for a 3.61 ERA and his craftiness often reminded me of my own pitching game.

**Max Barrett** was an offensive force recording a .391 batting average for us in the mornings while pitching strongly for the firsts in the afternoon.

**Jack Daniel's** wins our Gold Glove award for being our most valuable defensive player behind the plate. He threw out 6 runners stealing and had an impressive .978 fielding percentage.

It was always a good feeling to see **Matt McKenna** come up to the plate with runners on. Matt hit .371 for the season and led our team in stolen bases with five.

Although he missed a major part of the season with an injury, **Jack Dunn** jumped right back into the mix with a competitive fire that every coach loves to see. He was reliable to come in and get a strikeout on the mound and always wanted to be right in on the action.

**Gianni Caruso** was one of our most exciting players to watch and even when he missed a sign, would come through with a clutch hit to make his coach happy in the end.

**Angus Octigan** is a hard worker and does whatever is required to help the team. He did a great job for us in right field and was our most versatile player whenever I needed someone to play a different position.

**Jak Cummings** always has a good attitude and was also willing to do whatever the team needed of him.





# Under 18 State



**Matt Holland** was one of our hottest hitters to start the season and is another one of these many players who deserves a coach's award.

**J.P. Callil** filled in for one game for us and even though he was playing up, he fit right into our team and will be a force in this comp in the upcoming years.

**Sam Hayes** sustained a season ending injury after our first game but would have been a major help in our outfield.

I would like to thank all of my players and their parents for all of their hard work and support this season and a special thanks to Dave Holland for scoring.

Bryan Kloppe  
Coach







# Firsts



First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my other coaches, Matty Gourlay, Laurie Hall and Russell Ferguson - all three bring different qualities that give us a good mix.

This season has been the most enjoyable season I have ever had at the Rustlers. Taking on the coaching role was a new challenge for me this year and it was a little overwhelming for me at first but it's been very rewarding and I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys to be around.

This year's team was a lot younger than in previous years and I don't think we were looked at as a threat by the rest of the competition but we did the two things well that you need to do to keep you in games. We pitched well and we played good D.

Bryan Kloppe was Mr Consistent, he would always get you to at least the 6th innings and we would always be in the game. You can't ask for anything more than that and as a manager he just made my job so easy.

So our pitching was consistent throughout the year, it was our hitting that was kind of the unknown. In the first couple of games, runs were hard to come by. We might have scored about 5 runs over the first 4 games but we were 2-2, which you have to be happy with. After that the boys had made the adjustment, Benny had got himself locked in. George and Rut were locked in most of the year and were making the other teams pay for their mistakes.

I had to go overseas for 2 weeks and while I was away the boys had 2 wins and a loss. One of those wins was against Essendon and Bryan had thrown a complete game. I think this was also the game where we got our little team motto "shake the tree". Every time we scored a run or we were even building pressure on the other team, you would be hearing someone yell out 'shake the tree' and it got the boys up and about. It was our thing and we ran with it.

We played two games in a row against Sandy, both were good games that could have gone either way. We won the first game and they beat us in the mid-week game but even though we lost the game, we had this real sense of belief that we were going to win. If it was a 9 inning game we probably would have but it was great to see these boys going out and expecting to win.

One thing I noticed this year was that there were two blokes who really stood up as leaders. They were at every training session helping out throwing batting practice, helping the outfielders and just giving tips to help guys' swings. Sometimes it only takes 'keep your weight back' or 'get your foot down early' and it made a difference to quite a few of the guys so thank you to Andrew Gribbin and Ben Leslie.

We went in to the Christmas break about a game over 500, I think Blackburn were about 3-4 games clear of us but we continued to play good baseball and Blackburn continued losing and all of a sudden we are getting a sniff.

We played a midweek game out at Doncaster and it was a thrilling game that came down to the wire. Kloppe came in to a loaded bases jam with the winning run on second base. He got a ground ball double play to win us the game in his first relief appearance of the season, just proving that he can do it all. After the game we found out that Blackburn had lost again. This to me was when our finals started. We were playing Blackburn next up and it was the game to decide whether or not we would make it. Blackburn had



# Firsts



smashed us the two previous games so we owed them one.

We played a great game all round, we had hot bats and George was making great plays and Max came in and shut the door on them. It was as good a win as I had seen at the Rustlers and little did I know things were about to get better.

We knew we had a tough ask going in to the finals against Melbourne. They were a great team all year and we had played them twice and we hadn't scored a run against them so I think they were a little cocky. We certainly hadn't played our best baseball against them which was okay. We knew that if we could play the way we knew we could then we would be in with a shot and we did exactly that.

We scored runs in bunches and we did the little things right. We took that all important first game with late clutch hitting, we got bunts down to move runners, we shortened up and went the other way to score two runs in the 9th to win. An absolute all round effort that everyone contributed to and I couldn't have been prouder of all the boys that day.

The job was not done though after losing Game 2 pretty convincingly, it was all down to Game 3 in front of our home crowd. Our offence did their job of getting runs on the board early, our defense was awesome and Kloppe was at it again stepping up on the big stage. You could see the desperation in Melbourne's swings and every inning that went on they got a little bit tenser and the thought of them losing was drifting into their minds. Kloppe was a Bulldog pitching the whole game taking it from them for an awesome win.

"We're going to the ship!" was on repeat as everyone enjoyed a few beers back at Curnows' place for a celebration and it is moments like that why we play this great game.

Even though we couldn't get the job done in the grand final it was great experience for all of our team to go through and I have no doubt that we can get back there with the amount of talent coming through. It was great for Victorian Baseball that we did as well as we did and I have heard from numerous people from other clubs that the competition is getting a bit stale seeing the same teams in finals each year and it also shows the other clubs that it is possible to go on a good run and cause an upset. So all in all, I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped out during the season. I had fun being around a great bunch of guys and I look forward to doing it again.

Adam Blackley  
Manager





# Seconds



For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in my 25 years at Cheltenham Baseball Club, the 1sts and 2nds made the finals in division 1 in the same year. After last year's premiership success, we were looking to repeat that but fell 2 wins short.

I am writing this the day after we were knocked out of the finals.  
I feel disappointed with the loss but also very proud of what we achieved this season.

We had 23 players play in the 2nds throughout the season. Sam Michael, Jack Daniels, Jarrod Hall, Jack Enciondo, Brad Kmet and Karl Mackay played well enough to get called up to the 1sts throughout the season and we were able to bring up Ben Fierenzi, Michael Moore, Jack Ogilvie and Alex Marshall for their 1<sup>st</sup> taste of 2nds baseball. Jack Ogilvie worked his way into the starting line up early in the season and held his spot for the remainder of the year.

Our pitching was led by Daniel Ward Bourton. He was our workhorse pitching 71.66 innings for a 2.39 ERA. He also pitched 7 innings in the final for just 2 runs. Not bad for a 4ths pitcher!

Our other pitchers were Russell Ferguson, Kane Davidson, Karl Mackay and Jack Ogilvie. With a team ERA of 2.62, those guys were dominant all season.

We had a team batting average of 0.302 and an on base percentage of 0.420. Our offence was led by Sam Michael and Jack Ogilvie who both hit 0.400. Russell Ferguson and Jack Daniels led the team in RBI's 12 each. Kane Davidson and Jack Dunn both hit homeruns, Jack's homerun was a walk off grand slam against Waverley.

The heart and captain of the 2nds was Michael Rizzi. His passion for the game is contagious and hates to lose as much as me.

On behalf of all the 2nds players, thank you Peter Leslie for scoring this year.

I would like to thank every player who listened, learned and played their hearts out for me this season.

For all of you, this has been another season of learning and improving as you make your way up to the 1sts (and for some of you, beyond).

I am proud to call myself your coach and look forward to seeing you all progress in baseball and life.

Go the Rustlers!

Matt Gourlay  
2nds coach 2015/16





# Thirds





# Fourths



If you happened to be wondering around the baseball grounds on a Sunday morning or Sunday afternoon at Cheltenham Baseball Club, you would have seen junior ball players sharpening their skills in games to become the future Senior players at the club and we are quite proud about that.

Several games into the season it became apparent that there were 8-9 talented junior players who indicated they would like to take the challenge of playing senior baseball in the afternoon. During our coaches meeting, we re-instated the Fifths into the Division 4 South Division in order to create an opportunity for these juniors to play their first year of senior baseball in the Summer Competition as our Fourths. These juniors together with new senior players Drew Mclean, Frank Collins, Jake Cox faced a major challenge of playing against a much more experienced and established Division 1 Fourth Teams. Fortunately, Russell Ashen made himself available and used his experience to anchor the pitching and stabilise the batting by providing a focal point in the heart of the order. As it turned out, it was a very successful move in including a Fourths Team and meeting the challenge to providing a platform for our juniors to gain senior experience in this season's Premier Summer League.

The pitching load was shared between Gianni Caruso, Russell Ashen, Lachlan Robertson, Thomas Ogilvie, Bailey Cotsis, Will Tucker, Ron Carothers and new comer Aaron Hare. Gianni carried the bulk of the pitching load as well as his consistent batting and improved in both departments over the season.

Bailey, Luke, Frank and Lachlan all emerged as competent catchers behind the plate. Will Tucker performed admirably under pressure at shortstop and performed well as our leadoff hitter. New comer Aaron Hare provided experience and versatility and will provide depth in the Senior Teams. Frank Collins played most of the season in centrefield before sharing the duties behind the plate and performed well with the bat. Drew McLean settled into rightfield and demonstrated he is a tough competitor and can handle the bat quite well. Jake Cox had his season cut short due to injuries but I'm sure we will see Jake again next season.

I would like to thank Michelle Ogilvie for scoring both junior and senior games and managing player movement between teams all season long. Thank you Michelle! A special thank you to John Ferguson as my assistant coach and lead advisor to the club for his outstanding work and participation at the club.

Thank you to all the parents for getting your players to and from games every week and encouraging and allowing them to make the jump to senior baseball.

With the launch of the New Specialist Sessions to begin this March, we will be equipped and prepared to bring out the best in your son/daughter and take their offensive and defensive game to the next level of their baseball and they will become the next wave of talented players to play senior baseball at Cheltenham.....Stay tuned!

Ronnie Carothers – Head Coach  
John Ferguson – Assistant Coach



# Fourth's



## Players List

Bailey Cotsis  
Lachlan Robertson  
Gianni Caruso  
Russell Ashen  
Thomas Ogilvie  
Drew McLean  
Ben Sexton  
Tony Kouch  
Declan Croker  
Adam Leech  
Damon Pettit

Luke Ashen  
Will Tucker  
Frank Collins  
Aaron Hare  
Peter Allen  
Jake Cox  
David Johnson  
Ron Carothers  
Peter Burdett  
Joe Caruso







# Fifths



We returned in 2015 expecting to continue playing Division 4 FIFTHS but due to player numbers there was to be no FIFTHS team and we were all now the Division 1 FOURTHS. We struggled for the first 4 games in this higher division and thankfully, with the addition of several juniors taking up senior baseball we could allow the kids to take over the FOURTHS side and again field a Division 4 South FIFTHS team for the rest of us to play in.

This season I successfully managed to pass the catching duties over to second year player Pat Kean and took up the job as first baseman. Pat a great sportsman, continued to be a strong hitter and base runner leading the team in batting and also multiple base hitting. Other strong hitters returning this year were last year's Batting Average Trophy winner David Steere, one of our strongest batters Michael Phillips who played on around a mysterious knee injury, Kane Abbey who ended up getting his Grand Slam Home Run in the semi final and Robbie Jaspers who also caught a few games late in the season after Pat took off to the US for work.

Of course the team's central player was last season's MVP Aaron Gale who continued to work hard and improve as both a starting pitcher and leadoff batter. Also continuing to improve with the bat was Tom Senior - who as a school teacher knows not only how to teach but also how to take instructions and learn! A valuable addition to the team was my former T-ball coach and mentor Brad Lark - not only was he one of our main pitchers and one of our big hitters/sluggers but also brought plenty of experience and leadership to the team.

Following on from his first winter season was the dark horse Nick Thomas who I can see that with a few more at bats will continue to hit well and move up the batting line up. Our three other rookies were Scott Francis who confidently filled the position of short stop - showing great infield intelligence and making almost all his plays, Peter Allen who has been a great student of the game, coming to training almost every week and continually improving with the bat over the season and Manny Rosenthal who has enthusiastically taken on baseball - I look forward to seeing him continue in 2016/17.

Filling in or playing for the FIFTHS over the season have been Ben McCormick, Austin Rosenthal, Alex Marshall, Andrew Rizzi, David Johnson, Peter Burdett, Rod Hind and Tony Kouchakdjian - who not only ended up playing and pitching in our semi final but has also said that he wants to stay on with the FIFTHS next season. Also playing in our first several games as the FOURTHS were Ron Carothers, Russell Ashen, Bailey Cotsis and Tom Ogilvie. Thank you to all those guys for helping out when needed.

Although our team is largely made up of players who haven't got years of experience playing baseball we have continued to go forward in building our team. We have tried to be as welcoming as we can to anyone who wants to join and be an addition to the FIFTHS. Congratulations to the guys on another fun season and thank you for your patience and sticking at it during the start of the season. After finishing just outside the final four last season we set a goal this year to make finals. We were successful in this endeavour and will be looking to go even further in 2016/17. I hope everyone has had another enjoyable season and that we can all come back and do it again next season.

Thanks to Ron Carothers for his coaching support during the start of the season and for taking over as manager of the FOURTHS. Thanks to John Fairweather, Brad Heenan, David Johnson and Gavin Daniels for umpiring our home games and special thanks to Mick Trevorah for umpiring and for also



# Fifths



coming to support us at both home and away games. Thanks to Jackie Phillips, Clancy Phillips and Russell Ashen for scoring and to Mark Campbell for scoring and assistant coaching a few games.

Special thanks to John Ferguson for coordinating the selections this season and for giving extra attention to the Thirds, Fourths and Fifths. We couldn't have put together 5 teams each week this year without his dedicated support to the club. Thanks also for scoring, coaching, organising fill in players and liaising with Baseball Victoria.

Damon Pettit  
Coach





# Masters



## MASTERS 2015/16

**Played 14 Won 8 Lost 5 Drew 1**

The Masters had a successful season winning 61% of their games in the South 38+ Division of 11 teams and finished in the finals, eventually losing to top team Springvale that went through undefeated.

The season started with 19 players indicating an interest in playing Masters for the Club. This was a great result in terms of interest but even with the extended line up, this meant that participation at the beginning of the season became a juggling act that unbalanced the team and limited playing time. On field performance was adversely impacted.

Fortunately the players adapted and several players helped the Club by playing in the Fourths and Fifths where their maturity and experience made a huge difference. Russell Ashen and Ron Carothers provided the much needed pitching depth in the Fourths, a team that mainly comprised first year senior players. David Steere and Brad Lark became key players in the Fifths. The irrepressible David Johnson filled in on numerous occasions when senior sides were scratching for numbers.

Early injuries sidelined last season's RBI machine, Mark Campbell and promising young rookie, Brent Dunkley. "Old Aches and Pains", Joe Tucker was restricted to half a season. The Big Train, Lance Blackley had a disjointed season and was limited to cameo appearances on the mound.

Anthony Bowley stepped up to carry most of the pitching load, maxing out at 4 innings in most games. He had an outstanding season on the mound as well as at the plate (BA .514). Darren Hiddlestone proved very effective as the specialist closer once he understood that his job was to secure the win and not make the game "closer". He also pounded the opposition pitching particularly during the first part of the season and batted BA .527.

Mark Lewis and John Fairweather shared the catching duties and contributed offensively Lewie with the bat and John as the Team's ball magnet.

The Old Reliables, Peter Burdett and David Johnson continued to turn in their usual solid performances on the left side of the diamond and as the heart of the batting order. Both players hit BA .545 to share the batting award. Paul Kilburn's return to first base strengthened the infield and the middle order hitting and utility player Darren Hiddlestone did a great job filling the many gaps that regularly appeared in the fielding line up. The return of Joe Tucker's glove after the break stabilised the infield and provided the glue to underpin a winning streak that led to a place in the finals. "Captain Hustle", Rod Hind played hard anywhere he was needed and always seemed to find a way to get on base when the team needed someone to produce. Adam Leech pulled a muscle for the first time in his career and as a consequence failed to get a hit every time at bat as he has done in previous seasons. Leechey finished with a modest BA .514.

Master Rookies, Mark Kododziej and Tony Kouchakdjian added youth and much needed legs to the line up. Both made valuable contributions at the plate as well as generating a lot of excitement with their new and unique approaches to running the bases.





# Masters



Katrina Johnson took on the important and high profile task of providing the post-game meals and with the help of Sally Hiddlestone consistently produced Best on Table performances throughout the season. Their efforts were very much appreciated by everyone. Thank you.

Thanks also to our scorer and statistician' Bev Blackley, who was always able to translate the many variations of the game played out on the field into suitable baseball terms so they could be inscribed into the official record without too much damage to the ego's involved. Her insights and advice on selection was also much appreciated.

It was a pleasure to manage the team again this season and I would like to put on record my personal appreciation for the support I received from the players who helped out when we were short of numbers in our regular senior competition games especially over the holiday periods.

**John Ferguson**

**Manager**

**MVP : Anthony Bowley**

**Batting Award: Peter Burdett and David Johnson both BA .545**





# LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION



## Peter Alan Leslie



Peter has been involved at the Club some 14 years since his eldest son Ben commenced his baseball at T- Ball Level in the year 2001; his involvement continued when younger son Michael also commenced his baseball at T-Ball level.

In more recent times wife Sue has been involved with the introduction of a Women's team in 2015/16 summer season.

Peter's lengthy service to the club has included the following areas:-

- Numerous working bees with Peter also providing his

own equipment and car and trailer.

- Ground Manager (Winter Committee) quite a number of seasons and ground maintenance - Peter being such an expert, as he is a landscape gardener by trade.
- Junior team coordinator - Summer competitions at least in seasons 2009/10 to 2013/14 inclusive.
- Junior and Senior Scorer - 2014/15 and 2015/16 - summer season division 1 reserves team.
- Winter committee - Peter has progressed from just being a junior scorer to scoring for a team at both junior and senior level from 2012 season to 2015.
- Club umpire at Junior and Senior Level and Women's Matches in 2015/16 season.
- Volunteer worker at numerous Junior tournaments held at Kingston Heath Reserve over the past 14 years including Cheltenham hosting VBA Under 12 Tournaments.
- Diamond Marking and Hosing grounds and Diamonds and use of new irrigation system sprayers (2016)

**2001** Assistant Coach of son Ben's T Ball Team

**2009/10** Assistant Junior Co-ordination with Stell Michael



# LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION



<b>2010/11</b>	Junior Co-ordinator U16/18 teams
<b>2013/14</b>	T-Ball Junior Coordinator 2005 winter season
<b>2005 winter</b>	U/12 White team scorer
<b>2008</b>	National Championships (played at Cheltenham) - Bob Jane T-Marts Sponsor Volunteer Worker
<b>2009/10</b>	Assistant Junior Co-ordinator - Club fielded 17 Junior teams, helped improve ground facilities / batting tunnel upgrade
<b>2011</b>	Peter was joint Ground Manager with Paul Cummings and scorer for U/14 Blue Team with Pauline Stenhouse and Robyn Jones
<b>2010 Winter</b>	Peter was scorer for U/14 White Team with Robyn Jones
<b>2012 Winter</b>	Peter was Ground Manager along with all team members. Also U/15 White team scorer, and U/14 Team scorer in seniors.
<b>2014 Winter</b>	Peter Leslie was U/17 Blue team scorer as well as Senior BI team scorer.

## Various Categories

Peter has been a major contributor in Junior Development with his role as Junior Co-ordinator being a key component in organisation of various Junior Team Managers and player registrations which have been a key factor in fund raising with Junior Registration days over the years. Having been a key fundraiser to kick off Summer Season in particular with the Club fielding as many as 28 Junior Temps in various age groups.

I have no hesitation in nominating Peter for Life Membership and am confident he meets the criteria necessary for a well-deserved nomination - seconded by Michael Trevorah (Life Member)

**Graeme Ainscough**

**Congratulations Peter**  
**From all at Cheltenham Baseball Club**





# Around The Traps







# Around The Traps







# Around The Traps







# Women



The Club had been discussing the formation of the Women's team for some time so the advertising campaign commenced around June 2015 to find sufficient numbers of women so that a team could be formed.

Local press and pounding the turf around the local gyms saw no less than 24 women and girls turn up for training sessions.

The end result was 14 women, many of whom had next to no baseball skills let alone understanding of how the game was played.

It was baseball Boot Camp for 8 weeks leading up to the start of the season and boy did we have to go back to basics. This was first day Tee Ball stuff except for Jennifer and Jessica who had previous baseball and softball experience.



Pre-season training was over and the Coaching Staff thought we had the girls ready to get out there and mix it up against Division 3's finest players. I gave ourselves a chance! However?

Game One, we had no clue. The plays must have been happening at a million miles an hour for the new recruits because we lost all concept of what it was we were doing out there. We had complete memory loss of where to throw the ball, how to take a lead off base, we saw dropped catches and we were getting the pants stolen off us with every runner that got on base. 21-2 down and Ferg and myself though 'What have we got ourselves into?'



# Women



Well from there it was more hard work on the training track and trying to pump the baseball knowledge into the players. It was important to get the team just feeling comfortable in game situations and getting them to understand that they had a lot more time to make a play than they thought.

Nearing the end of the first round the team was settling down and the losing margins were getting less and less each week. Then all of a sudden the wheels fell off and the playing skill and intensity was at an all-time low. The coach wasn't happy at all (that's me) and at the end of the after game speech the girls were shell shocked with my address. I was wondering a little if I'd been too hard on them. A quick reality check on myself and I'd realised that this team had only played 5 games of baseball. What else could I expect! More encouragement was needed.

With still no wins on the board we refocused and set a challenge for the girls; that if we were going to win a game this season it would be against Sandringham who also hadn't won any games. That game was 2 games away so the next few games were about setting ourselves up for the win.

Well, win we did against Sandringham and then backed that up with another against Melbourne.

Losing margins each week were now single digits and we were going into games with the expectations that we had a chance. In Round 2, we had another win against Sandringham so we had 3 wins for the year which I thought was a pretty good effort considering where the skill level was at the start of the season.

Most encouraging though was that the skill level really increased. Physical aspects of the game such as throwing, batting, fielding and base running lifted considerably. Knowledge was not too bad but most importantly the girls were having a lot of fun and were just hungry to learn and improve.

We closed the gap so far from our first game against Moorabbin being 21-2 to our last game against Moorabbin being just 8-6 down and having a real chance at winning.

This is a great bunch of girls to be training. I've always said that when you cross the white line and play this game, you find out something about the person's real character of courage and tenacity. No matter how skillful each individual is, it's the way the player goes about their game that counts. I can honestly say that ever single player on this team did the very best they could and never shirked anything.

That makes a great team to coach because the team was coachable and all were wanting to learn.

Ferg and Ron's help was absolutely invaluable in getting the best out of the girls as well as covering for me at times when I was unable for training and game days.

Now the challenge is to grow the numbers in the women's baseball to create a second team, challenge for Division 2 and become a self-sustaining group within the Club.

A big thanks to Brent, Blake & Zach Dunkley for helping with training, scoring and umpiring during the year. Also thanks to fill in scorers, Ferg, Peter, Bev, Anne and Russell. And let's not forget all the supporters who turned out for day one. Some stayed, some we lost and then some returned again.





# Women



**Lance Blackley**

**Coach**

**MVP – Jennifer Hawkins** – Jennifer, having previously played baseball was a real leader on the ground and as our catcher, she was as solid as a rock. Without Jennifer I don't think that we would have improved at the rate we did.

**Batting Award – Sue Leslie** – with 14 Hits from 27 at bats, had an average of **.609**. Sue just quietly went about stacking up the hits and having great at bats. She has great speed up the base paths and very solid in the outfield taking lots of catches.

**Coaches Award – Barb Dooley** - Many of the players improved. Barb is just unflappable and remains calm and encouraging throughout the game. When you need to make that pitching change, Barb steps up, throws the ball for strikes via the moon, gets the outs and does it all with a smile and enthusiasm. A great team player.





## 2015 - 16 TEAM AWARD WINNERS - JUNIOR

### UNDER 12'S

<b>LL MAJOR - Yankees</b>	<i>MVP Award</i>	<i>Batting Award</i>	<i>Coaches Award</i>
<b>Val Langworthy</b>	<b>Josh Tribe</b>	<b>Nick Bertucci (.535)</b>	<b>Thomas Hughes</b>

<b>LL MAJOR - GIANTS</b>	<i>MVP Award</i>	<i>MVP Award</i>	<i>Coaches Award</i>
<b>Gareth Finney</b>	<b>Dylan Williamson</b>	<b>Cooper Williamson</b>	<b>Ben Tilbrook</b>

### UNDER 14'S

<b>JUNIOR LEAGUE - Indians</b>	<i>Batting Award</i>	<i>Home Run King</i>	<i>Most Improved</i>
<b>Brad Heenan</b>	<b>Jed Woodger (.818)</b>	<b>Will Tucker</b>	<b>Keiran Moran</b>

<b>JUNIOR LEAGUE - Braves</b>	<i>MVP Award</i>	<i>Batting Award</i>	<i>Coaches Award</i>
<b>John Fairweather</b>	<b>Dante Caruso</b>	<b>Dante Caruso (.727)</b>	<b>Cameron Zimmerman</b>

### UNDER 16'S

<b>UNDER 16 STATE</b>	<i>MVP Award</i>	<i>MVP Award</i>	<i>Batting Award</i>
<b>Kable Hogben / Adam Leech</b>	<b>Darcy Trewarn</b>	<b>Ben Fierenzi</b>	<b>Ben Fierenzi (.358)</b>
	<i>Pitching Award</i>		
	<b>Darcy Trewarn</b>		

<b>UNDER 16 METRO</b>	<i>MVP Award</i>	<i>Batting Award</i>	<i>Most Improved</i>
<b>Jack Ogilvie</b>	<b>Luke Ashen</b>	<b>Thomas Ogilvie (.586)</b>	<b>Nicholas Iida-Reed</b>

### GRAND SLAMS

<b>Will Tucker (U14 Indians)</b>	<b>v Springvale</b>	<b>13th Dec 2015</b>
<b>Connor Myles (U14 Indians)</b>	<b>v Berwick Grey</b>	<b>15 Nov 2015</b>

### SHUT OUTS

<b>Gus Cohen (U16 Metro)</b>	<b>v Berwick</b>	<b>6th Dec 2015</b>
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### CLUB AWARDS

<b>Best Junior Coach</b>	<b>Brad Heenan</b>
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<b>Life Members Perpetual Cup - Best Junior Clubman</b>	<b>Blake Dunkley</b>
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## 2015 - 2016 AWARD WINNERS - UNDER 18 & SENIOR

### UNDER 18'S

<b>UNDER 18 STATE LEAGUE</b>	<i>Kevin Williams Memorial MVP and Batting Award</i> <b>Sam Michael (.514)</b>	<i>Golden Glove</i> <b>Jack Daniels</b>	<i>Coaches Award</i> <b>Michael Leslie</b>
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### SENIORS

<b>DIVISION 3 WOMEN</b>	<i>MVP Award</i> <b>Jennifer Hawkins</b>	<i>Batting Award</i> <b>Sue Leslie (.609)</b>	<i>Big Game Specialist</i> <b>Barb Dooley</b>
<b>DIVISION 2 STH MASTERS</b>	<i>MVP Award</i> <b>Anthony Bowley</b>	<i>Batting Award</i> <b>Peter Burdett (.545)</b>	<i>Batting Award</i> <b>David Johnson (.545)</b>
<b>DIVISION 4 STH 5THS</b>	<i>MVP Award</i> <b>Aaron Gale</b>	<i>Batting Award</i> <b>Pat Kean (.514)</b>	<i>Rookie Award</i> <b>Scott Francis</b>
<b>DIVISION 1 4THS</b>	<i>MVP and Batting Award</i> <b>Gianni Caruso (.473)</b>	<i>Golden Glove</i> <b>Will Tucker</b>	<i>Most Improved</i> <b>Frank Collins</b>
<b>DIVISION 1 3RDS</b>	<i>MVP Award</i> <b>Peter Rizzi</b>	<i>Coaches Award</i> <b>Matthew McKenna</b>	<i>Coaches Award</i> <b>Cruiz Leech</b>
<b>DIVISION 1 RESERVES</b>	<i>MVP Award</i> <b>Daniel Ward-Bourton</b>	<i>Batting Award</i> <b>Sam Michael (.400)</b>	<i>Batting Award</i> <b>Jack Ogilvie (.400)</b>
<b>FIRST NINE</b>	<i>Gwen &amp; Len LePage MVP</i> <b>George Callil</b>	<i>Batting Award</i> <b>George Callil (.338)</b>	<i>Golden Glove</i> <b>George Callil</b>

### CLUB AWARDS

<b>JUNIOR CHAMPION</b>	<b>Sam Michael</b>
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<b>ROOKIE OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>Jack Enciondo</b>
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<b>GOLDEN GLOVE AWARD</b>	<b>George Callil</b> <i>(Donated by John Ferguson)</i>
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<b>BEST SENIOR CLUBMAN</b>	<b>Pia Dunkley</b>
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### GRAND SLAM

<b>Kane Abbey</b>	<i>4ths v Chelt TH 21/2/16</i>
<b>Jack Dunn</b>	<i>2nds v Waverley 13/12/15</i>

### SHUT OUTS

<b>Peter Rizzi</b>	<i>3rds v Waverley 13/12/15</i>
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## CLUB AWARDS



**Best Junior Clubman: Blake Dunkley**  
**Best Senior Club Person: Pia Dunkley**

**Best Junior Coach**  
**Brad Heenan**

