



SUMMER
ANNUAL REPORT
1977-78



PRESIDENT ALLAN BURDETT





REPORT ON SUMMER SEASON
1977/78

COMPETITION

In an effort to improve the Club's low position in the previous Summer season, first division Manager John Ferguson and former Manager Alan Tanner conducted an intensive recruiting drive to strengthen obvious weaknesses in playing personnel.

The following players were obtained from other clubs:-

Ted Wale (Malvern)	Alan Middleton (Moorabbin)
Ian Harris (St. Kilda)	David Bell) <i>No 645</i>
	Peter & Max Wilkinson) <i>Nobel Park</i>
	Tom Shanks)
Paul McGrath) (Frankston)	Alex Kahn) (Monash)
Trafford Halls)	Alby Price)
	<i>Phil Berman (Sandringham)</i>

DIVISION 1 TEAM

TEAM RESULTS:

	<u>PLAYED</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>OREW</u>
1st Round	22	12	7	3
Final Series	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>
	25	13	9	3

The influx of new players to this team resulted in an improved defence, strong pitching and a marked advance in team morale, and fighting spirit. After a settling in period, prior to the Christmas break, and return to the team of key player Paul Ferguson, the team stormed home to win 4 of the 5 last games to qualify for the final series in 4th place, by a percentage margin of .003%.

The final series proved most disappointing. After a brilliant victory over Preston the team slumped to turn in sub-standard performances against the eventual Grand finalists, Coburg and Newport.

Our final position of 3rd place was a true indication of the teams abilities, as we were defeated by the top two teams on a total of 6 occasions during the season.

The results indicate a giant step forward after a disastrous 1976/77 season, and the team was organised and led most efficiently by John Ferguson, whose total dedication and personal example provided strong leadership and achieved a re-birth of that vital ingredient - TEAM SPIRIT.

FIRST DIVISION RESERVES

RESULTS

<u>PLAYED</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>
17	6	11

This team comprised of some veterans and a large proportion of young players. As the results show, their efforts fell well below an acceptable standard, and a lack of ability to score runs, and loose defence were major contributing factors.

Rustlers



FIRST DIVISION RESERVES CONT.

In addition the players rarely practised as a team, and the victories achieved were generally the result of outstanding individual efforts.

The organisation and preparation of this team left a lot to be desired and an administrative effort is required in the coming season to improve our representation in this section.

STATE REPRESENTATION AND V.B.A. AWARDS

The Club's congratulations are extended to the following players:

V.B.A. Claxton Shield Team:
John Ferguson, Alan Middleton, David Bell.

V.B.A. Under 13 Team:
Rob Stewart, Mark Guy.

Coach of the Year Award - John Ferguson

Goldon Glove Award - John Ferguson - Short Stop

Club Most Valuable Player Award - Ted Wale (Winner)
Paul Ferguson (Runner-up)

JUNIOR COMPETITION

The performances of our Under 17, 15 and 13 teams were a credit to the team Managers, Alan Burdett, Len Le Page and Graeme Ainscough. All teams reached the final series, and the Under 17 team was defeated in a close game in the Zone Grand Final. The club has a pool of talented young players, many of whom should advance to Senior baseball.

The club is indebted to the three Managers who produced an excellent standard of baseball from the boys, and most importantly for the high standard of conduct displayed on the field by their players.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The Club shows a approximate cash deficiency of \$250.00 at the conclusion of the summer season. A major contributing factor to this unsatisfactory result was the necessity to pay outstanding accounts from the Winter season 1977, totalling \$678.45.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Social Committee was active and functions were well attended. Highlights of these activities were the Spit Roast Barbecue at the home of Len and Gwen Le Page, and the Club Gala Social at McLean Hall, Mordialloc, the outstanding workers in this field were Len and Gwen Le Page, Ralph Baily and Paul Ferguson.

GROUND PLAYING AREA

The Club obtained the use of the Highett Gas Works oval with the assistance of Councillor Frank Le Page. Following a superhuman effort by the club members the ground was improved sufficiently to provide good playing conditions, and club room facilities were up dated as far as practicable.

The club's projected future ground at Moorabbin Airport is presently in planning stage and availability of this area is estimated to be at least 18 months from now.

The "Rustlers" logo in a stylized blue script font with a white outline and a blue shadow.



Phil Bibby

