

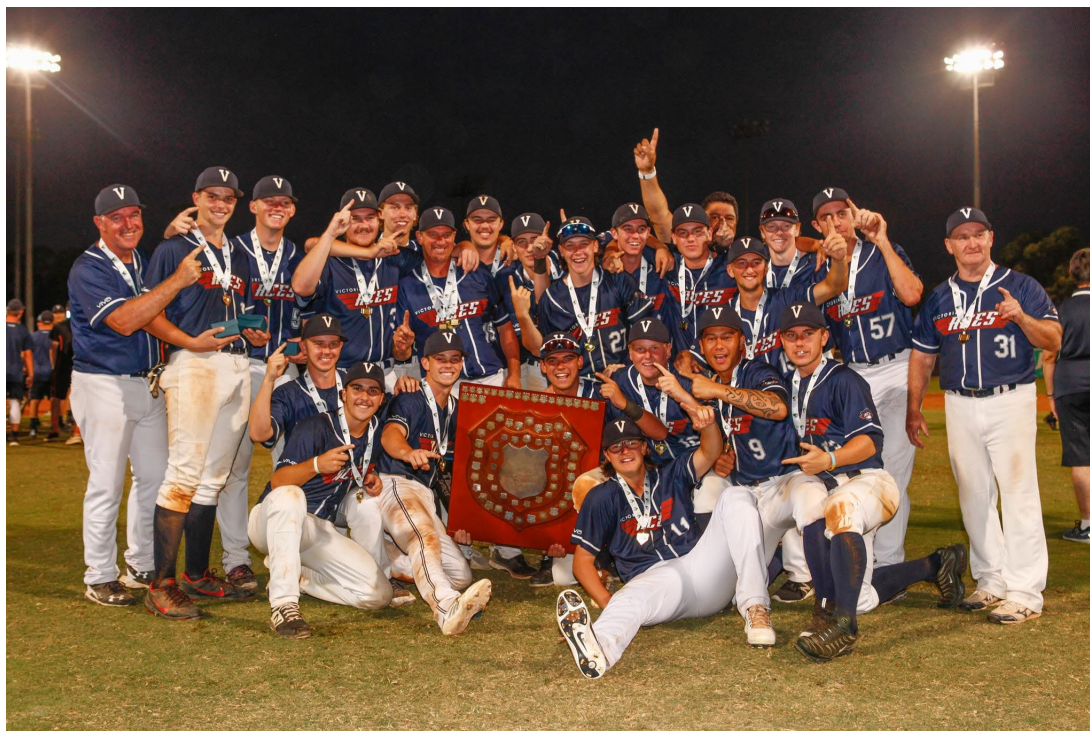
## WEEKLY MEMO

TO:	VSBL CLUB PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES, MEMBERS
DATE:	JANUARY 25, 2019
FROM:	BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT:	2019 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, U18 WORLD CUP QUALIFIER, VALE LES POLSON, CHELTENHAM COACHING VACANCY

Dear VSBL Club Presidents and Secretaries, BV Members,

### 2019 Australian Youth Championships

We are beyond thrilled with the success of our U16 and U18 Victorian State Teams at the 2019 Australian Youth Championships in Sydney. It's been so exciting to watch these athletes on their AYC journey, as each day they gave it their all on the field as they made memories that will last a lifetime. We would like to once again congratulate our U18 Blue team for their amazing 14-2 win over New South Wales in the Gold Medal game. This marked Victoria's first U18 National Championship since 2004, and our players and coaches worked so hard to make it happen. Our U16 Blues came away with silver medals, while the U16 White team finished in fourth place and the U18 Whites ended the championships on a high note with their 6-1 victory over ACT in the seventh-place playoff. To top it all off, four Victorians were named award winners! For more details on this unforgettable national championship, please visit our website: <http://baseballvictoria.com.au/News-Events/Baseball-Australia-News/four-victorians-named-ayc2019-award-winners>



## U18 World Cup Qualifier Team

It's been a huge week for all players on our U18 Victorian Blue team, but four in particular have secured another amazing accomplishment that deserves recognition. Liam Evans, Chris Burke, Conor Myles and Blake Townsend have not only secured a National Championship title for the first time in 15 years, but these athletes have also been named to the 2019 U18 World Cup Qualifier Team. They headed to Guam this week to compete in the Oceania Qualifier, where the Australian squad will face teams from Guam, American Samoa, New Zealand and Palau in hopes of securing a spot at the U18 World Cup in Gijang, South Korea. We wish these four Victorians and their teammates the best of luck throughout this excellent opportunity to play baseball at an international level, an effort we are so proud to play a role in!

## Vale Les Polson

The Victorian baseball community lost a legendary life member last weekend as Les Polson passed away at age 88. We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends during this difficult time. Affectionately known as the "Godfather of Junior Baseball," Les was an instrumental figure in Victorian baseball, particularly with the development of junior competitions and representative opportunities. He put his passion for the game to good use, spending decades at the helm of junior competitions and Victorian state teams. A life member of our organisation as well as Moorrabin Panthers Baseball Club, where he coached juniors for many years, Les made a big difference in the lives of many young players. His lifelong commitment to growing the sport and making a difference will not be forgotten, and Les will be greatly missed and remembered fondly by all those who knew him. In honour of Les, Baseball Victoria's VSBL clubs observed a moment's silence on Sunday, as the Melbourne Aces did on Saturday night. Many of these players and families have been directly or indirectly affected by the mighty effort of Les over many years. Please note that at the request of Les and his family, there will be not be a funeral service.

## Cheltenham Baseball Club – Coaches Wanted

The Cheltenham Rustlers are leading the way in VSBL Division Two this season, but the club is also preparing for the 2019 winter season ahead. Cheltenham is part of Dandenong Baseball Association, and expressions of interest are requested for those interested in the Club Coach position. The ideal candidate will be someone with leadership and interpersonal skills, an interest in both junior and senior player development and current coaching accreditation. For more details, please contact Club Secretary Sally Hiddlestone at [sallyhiddles@bigpond.com](mailto:sallyhiddles@bigpond.com).

## The BV Team

**Justin Huber** - CEO

**Jeff Paull** - General Manager of Baseball Operations

**Kellie Thomas** - Operations Coordinator

**Kelsey Quinn** - Competitions Coordinator

**Rachael Bouley** - Communications and Digital Media Coordinator

**Tania Newcombe** - Financial Controller

**Luke Hughes** – Commercial Operations & Marketing

**Damian Shanahan** – High Performance Manager

**Stewart Howe** - Umpires Coordinator

**Greg Tinkler** – National Coaching Accreditation Coordinator

**Jo Schutt** – Sporting Schools Coordinator



**BASEBALL VICTORIA**

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