

WEEKLY MEMO

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| TO: | VSBL CLUB PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES, MEMBERS |
| DATE: | FEBRUARY 8, 2019 |
| FROM: | BASEBALL VICTORIA |
| SUBJECT: | BV ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT, AGM, P&S MEETING/WOMEN'S FORUM, NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - UMPIRES, TAKE THE PLEDGE, DON DEEBLE AWARD, LATROBE VALLEY GAME, BV OFFICE HOURS 15/2 |

Dear VSBL Club Presidents and Secretaries, BV Members,

Baseball Victoria Annual Awards Night

We're just weeks away from the end of the VSBL season, and that means it won't be long before it's time for the Baseball Victoria Annual Awards Night! Our fantastic yearly tradition will continue on Thursday, March 28th at Leonda by the Yarra. We're really looking forward to sharing another wonderful evening with our members, and we can't wait to see everyone there as we honour the achievements of our dedicated players, coaches, teams and volunteers. VSBL members can request tickets through their club secretaries, and general public tickets are \$155 per person (food and drinks included) and available on TeamApp: <https://baseballvictoria.teamapp.com/events/7786395>

Baseball Victoria Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting is set for next Tuesday, February 12th at 7:00 PM at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. We kindly asked that all member clubs and associations RSVP as soon as possible, so that we can plan appropriately for the evening. We appreciate your cooperation as we look ahead to this year's AGM. For more details, please visit our website: <http://baseballvictoria.com.au/News-Events/Baseball-Australia-News/notice-of-annual-general-meeting>

P&S Meeting/Women's Forum

Thank you to everyone who attended the P&S meeting on Monday night. This was another productive and positive meeting in which we went over some important matters and worked together to ensure a great VSBL baseball experience for all. Following the P&S meeting, we held a well-attended and valuable Women's Forum, where we took input and suggestions regarding our current women's competition, and how these opportunities can be improved for the future. We're happy with these dynamic discussions, and while there's a lot of room for growth in our women's programs, we see a lot of potential and we're excited to continue working closely with our members to ensure baseball remains an inclusive and inspiring sport for all. We will be communicating dates for upcoming meetings and another Women's Forum session soon.

Expressions of Interest – Umpires for National Championships

Baseball Australia is now accepting Expressions of Interest for Umpires at the 2019 Australian Little, Junior, Senior and Intermediate League Championships. This is a fantastic opportunity to play an important role in these exciting national tournaments, and we hope to see some Victorian representatives behind the plate as the country's top junior players compete for the highest honours. One of these championships will be close to home, as the 2019 Australian Intermediate League Championship takes place in Mildura from June 17th – 21st. To submit your interest, please visit: <http://baseball.com.au/News/Latest-News/eoi-australian-little-league-championship-umpires>

Take the Pledge - Reminder

We have received a lot of positive feedback from our Take the Pledge to Respect Umpires campaign, and we're confident this is a step in the right direction for the future of our sport. Our game wouldn't be possible without officials, and they should always be treated with the respect and courtesy they deserve. As a reminder, please get involved by displaying our respect posters in your clubrooms and facilities, as well as by asking your members to sign the pledge. If you send in your pledge photos and spread the word on social media, your club could be the lucky recipient of a \$250 Ausport gift voucher! For more details, please visit our website: <http://baseballvictoria.com.au/News-Events/Baseball-Australia-News/baseball-victoria-encourages-members-to-take-the-pledge-to-respect-umpires>

Community Recognition for Nikau Pouaka-Grego

We are so proud to have many standout young athletes in our junior programs, and we believe these ambitious players deserve recognition for their dedication and determination, on and off the field. One of these young athletes is Nikau Pouaka-Grego of Newport Rams Baseball, who was nominated for the Don Deeble Rising Star award in October. This honour, hosted by Sunshine & Western Region Sports Club and Star Weekly, recognises junior athletes from the western suburbs who have accomplished a great deal in their sport at state and/or national levels. On January 30th, Nikau was invited to the Don Deeble Finalist Dinner at Yarraville Cricket Club, where he was once again recognised for his sporting achievements. Although the top honour went to another talented athlete, we wish to congratulate Nikau on his athletic ambitions, and we know he has a bright future ahead of him, on and off the field!

Women's Division 1 Game in Latrobe Valley

This past weekend, two of our Women's Division 1 clubs headed east to bring the VSBL competition to Latrobe Valley. This special event was a big success, thanks to the cooperation and collaboration between Latrobe Valley Baseball Association, Springvale Lions Baseball Club and Doncaster Dragons Baseball Club. There was a great turnout of local residents as the community came together for this exciting day at Toners Lane Facility in Morwell, which included a come and try clinic and ceremonial first pitches thrown by Latrobe City Councillors Kellie O'Callaghan and Sharon Gibson. The Lions put on an impressive display as they came away with their 14th victory of the season, winning 13-6 over the Dragons. Well done to everyone involved in this initiative. It's wonderful to see our baseball community going the distance to promote our beloved sport and our growing women's competition.

BV Office Hours - Friday, February 15th

We would like to let our members know that the BV office will be closed on Friday, February 15th for a staff workshop. During this time, staff will have limited access to emails. This is an important opportunity for our team, and we are eager to continue making strides forward in our organisation. For any important matters or enquiries, we ask that you please call the BV Office by Thursday afternoon, or get in touch with our staff via email. Thank you for your understanding.

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

