

## WEEKLY MEMO

TO:	VSBL CLUB PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES, MEMBERS
DATE:	JUNE 21, 2019
FROM:	BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT:	AUSTRALIAN INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS, U14 STATE WINTER CHAMPS, WILL KENT – U12 WORLD CUP TEAM, FIXTURE DAY, MADDI WELLER, NEW PRESTON COACH POOKIE WILSON, VOLUNTEER AWARD

### [2019 Australian Intermediate League Championships](#)

Sunraysia Baseball League has successfully hosted the 2019 Australian Intermediate League Championships. This is the first year the tournament was hosted at the Aerodrome Sporting Complex in Mildura as part of a four-year deal in a joint partnership between Baseball Australia and Sunraysia Baseball League. Our three Victorian representatives – Eastern Athletics, Southern Mariners and Twins – all competed well throughout the week, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements in representing our state at AILC2019. While they missed the semi-finals, all three teams did a wonderful job and made the most of this opportunity. You can read our daily recaps on the Baseball Victoria website, or visit the AILC2019 hub at: <http://www.littleleague.org.au/Int-League/Australian-Intermediate-League-Championship>

The Victorian Government has also put its support behind this event and Sunraysia Baseball League through the \$17.7 million Significant Sporting Events Program. With upwards of 600 players, officials, family members and fans coming into town, this is an excellent opportunity to showcase everything Sunraysia has to offer for regional baseball. For more details, please visit:

<http://www.baseballvictoria.com.au/News-Events/victorian-government-backs-aile-in-mildura>

### [U14 State Winter Championships in Latrobe Valley](#)

Our season of winter tournaments continues with the 2019 U14 State Winter Championships in Latrobe Valley from June 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. We are so excited to return to this region for a fantastic weekend, and we thank Latrobe City Council and Latrobe Valley Baseball Association for their efforts to make this event possible. For more details, please visit: <http://baseballvictoria.com.au/News-Events/u14s-and-u16s-state-winter-championships-head-to-latrobe-valley>

Updated rosters, fixtures and more will be available on our website:

<http://baseballvictoria.com.au/Tournaments/2019-State-Winter-Champs/Under-14>

### [Will Kent Named to U12 World Cup Team](#)

The Australian U12 World Cup Team was announced this week, and we are thrilled to share that Will Kent of Eastern Athletics Little League was named to the squad! This is a huge accomplishment for the dedicated baseball player, who is one of 18 players representing the country at the 2019 Baseball World Cup in Tainan, Taiwan, from 26 July to 4 August. We extend our congratulations to Will and hope he has an amazing time on the international stage!

### [2019/20 VSBL Season Fixture Day](#)

We are preparing for another amazing VSBL season, and that means it's time for fixtures! On Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, we will hold a fixture day at Newport Baseball Club following any P&S agenda items raised. We kindly ask that all VSBL clubs make it a priority to have a member in attendance, as there will be a live

fixture draw for Division 1 Firsts, Division 2 Firsts, Division 3 Firsts and Women's Division 1 competitions. A number and club name will be drawn to allocate teams' home and away dates. During the draw, our staff will be updating the fixture and printing on-site, giving clubs the opportunity to discuss with their opposition to resolve any possible dates/conflicts with events or field availability. We are excited about Fixture Day and the upcoming season, and we hope our awesome VSBL clubs are as well!

### **Maddi Weller Makes The Most of Representative Opportunities on National Stage**

15-year old Maddi Weller was an integral part of the Victorian team at the 2019 Australian Youth Women's Championships. After a 0-3 start to the campaign, Weller and her teammates bounced back and worked hard to take home the bronze medal. The versatile catcher credits the impressive turnaround down to the constant support and guidance of her coaches, including head coach Ursula Howard and Assistant Coaches Siobhan Stephenson and Kellie Manzie. "I have had many opportunities and many coaches who have believed in me and made me fall in love with the game. I never want to stop playing," Maddi said. Read more about Maddi's journey that ultimately contributed to a pivotal AWC2019 tournament here: <http://baseballvictoria.com.au/News-Events/Baseball-Australia-News/maddi-weller-makes-the-most-of-representative-opportunities-on-national-stage>



### **Preston Baseball Club Announces New Head Coach Pookie Wilson**

Preston Baseball Club has announced the appointment of William 'Pookie' Wilson to the role of Head Coach for the upcoming VSBL season. This is an exciting new chapter for the Pirates, as the former Florida Marlins AAA outfielder will use his baseball expertise, specializing in hitting practices, baserunning and outfield lessons, to lead Preston's players to success. Preston Baseball Club President Alex Djorgonoski commends the appointment: "These coaching opportunities don't come along all the time for any club let alone for a club in Australia. The pure promotional opportunities that will come of this appointment will be invaluable, not to mention the injection of his international coaching experience". To read more about Preston Baseball Club's new head coach, follow this link: <http://baseballvictoria.com.au/News-Events/pookie-wilson-announced-as-head-coach-of-preston-baseball-club>

### **Nominations For 2019 Premier's Volunteer Champions Awards**

Our beloved sport would not be possible without the continued contributions of our amazing volunteers. We would love to see the Victorian baseball community represented and recognised at the 2019 Premier's Volunteer Champions Awards! There are four categories of awards: Service, Impact, Leadership and Teamwork. If you know of someone who stands out for their dedication to grassroots baseball, we encourage you to submit nominations, which will remain open through 5pm on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> June. Learn more and submit your nominations today: <https://volunteer.vic.gov.au/2019-victorian-premiers-volunteer-champions-awards>

### **The BV Team**

**Jeff Paull** – Acting CEO / General Manager of Baseball Operations  
**Kellie Thomas** - Operations Coordinator  
**Kelsey Quinn** - Competitions Coordinator  
**Rachael Bouley** - Communications and Digital Media Coordinator  
**Tania Newcombe** - Financial Controller  
**Damian Shanahan** – High Performance Manager  
**Stewart Howe** - Umpires Coordinator  
**Greg Tinkler** – National Coaching Accreditation Coordinator  
**Jo Schutt** – Sporting Schools Coordinator