

# INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS  
DATE: 23 FEBRUARY 2024  
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA  
SUBJECT: U16 JUNIOR SQUAD, CHRIS LANE FIELD, VSBL, TEAM AUS, BROOKDALE, EVENTS, UMPIRES, GRANTS, CLUB NEWS, AWARDS, SALESIAN, HONOUR ROLLS, BV TV, LIFEBLOOD

## Victorians Named to Team Australia National Under 16 Squad for 2024 USA Trip

Team Australia has announced a 44-player National U16 Junior Squad that will travel to the USA to represent their country in September 2024. Congratulations to all the Victorians who made the squad: Jake Bertucci, Windsor Breckenridge, Cooper Busch, Roman Coote, Jordan Ellis, Brandon Elton, Mitchell Langworthy, Riley Peoples, and Liam Puncher.

The U16 Squad will play in a range of games against the best players in the U.S in their age group. They will get to face current NCAA Division 1 commits and future MLB draft picks in what will be a packed couple of weeks in Atlanta, Georgia. The team was selected off the back of the Australian Youth Championships in Sydney earlier this year. Read the full announcement [HERE](#).

## Chris Lane Field Opens at Essendon Baseball Club

After 10 years, Essendon Baseball Club officially unveiled the new Chris Lane Memorial Field at Boeing Reserve last Saturday. Congratulations to EBC on the successful opening – it was a fantastic evening and a fitting tribute to a beloved Victorian baseballer.

Check out [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for photos from the night and watch the 7News feature below. You can also read about Australian artist David Bromley's incredible art display of Chris Lane in [The Age](#).



## **2023/24 VSBL Season**

The countdown to VSBL Finals is on! Best of luck to everyone in the last few weeks of the 2023/24 VSBL season.

You can view all VSBL fixtures, results, and ladders [HERE](#). Don't forget to submit your nominations for [VSBL Players of the Week](#) and stay tuned as weekly winners are announced on the [VSBL Facebook page](#). Congratulations to our week 16 winners Cody Rodwell, Cale Morris, Jacob Young, and Ash Katoa.

Thank you to BV Diamond Partner [Aces Sporting Club](#) for their support with the Women's Batter/Women's Pitcher awards, as well as [Ausport](#) for giving each winner a \$25 gift voucher.

## **Team Australia vs. Hanwha Eagles at Melbourne Ballpark**

Team Australia enjoyed an action-packed series against Hanwha Eagles at Melbourne Ballpark over the weekend. Take a look at the recap video featuring juniors from Williamstown Wolves Baseball Club and read more about the series [HERE](#).



## **Brookdale Reserve Activation Projects Continues With Play Ball Pioneers – Term 1 Program Extended!**

Our Play Ball Pioneers program has been extended to the end of Term 1!

We are having a blast out at Brookdale Reserve with BV Development Officers leading players through an introduction to baseball focused on running, hitting, throwing, and catching skills. This is a great opportunity for kids to develop baseball skills and try modified matches.

Sessions run every Wednesday through 27 March with 5-8 year-olds from 4-5:30pm and 9-14 year-olds from 6-7:30pm. There is a \$10 fee per session, payable weekly onsite (no commitment required).

[Sign up online](#) or contact [development@baseballvictoria.com.au](mailto:development@baseballvictoria.com.au) for more info.

## **Baseball Victoria Calendar of Programs & Events**

We enjoyed an action-packed start to the year with AYCs and BV Performance Pathway tryouts, and we look forward to training and tournaments coming up.

View our events calendar [HERE](#).

## 2024 Little League State Championships Umpire Expressions of Interest

We continue to accept expressions of interest for tournament umpires at the 2024 Little League State Championships. Little League Major, Intermediate, Junior and Senior League will need proficient umpires, while Minor and Development League will need developing, community, or green shirt umpires.

Please click [HERE](#) to register your interest.

## Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Now Open

The Office for Women in Sport and Recreation has opened applications for the [2023/24 Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program](#).

Grants of up to \$10,000 are on offer to deliver activities that increase participation, build capability (including professional development for women volunteering in community sport), and celebrate and elevate the role of women and girls in community sport and active recreation.

Applications close 5pm Monday 4 March. [Learn more and apply online](#).

## Club News: Sandringham Celebrates Teal Weekend to Raise Awareness of Ovarian Cancer

Sandringham Baseball Club hosted Teal Weekend on 17-18 February, with all senior players wearing teal tops to help raise awareness of ovarian cancer.

The weekend kicked off with the Sandringham/Berwick women's team playing Waverley and on Sunday, all four Premier Major teams played Blackburn at Sandringham.

In conjunction with Teal Day, the club hosted a Royals lunch with guest speaker Hawthorn AFL player Mabior Chol, who threw the first pitch of the ones' game.

"Sandringham Baseball Club would like to thank Blackburn Baseball Club for agreeing to move the thirds and fourths to allow for a special day at Tulip Street," Secretary Andrea Cormick said. "We would also like to thank all those who bought raffle tickets and purchased silent auction items to raise funds for Ovarian Cancer Australia research."



Photo: [Sandringham Baseball Club](#)



### **Club News: Pakenham Pumas Hit a Home Run With New Uniform Change for Women's Program**

At the start of the 23/24 VSBL season, Pakenham Pumas Baseball Club introduced a change from traditional white pants to new black pants for the women after feedback and consultation with their playing group.

"The main goal was to boost the confidence for our players while out on the field and we have been receiving great feedback on the change already and even generated conversations around the club about the potential to expand the black pants into the seniors' competition as part of their away uniform," Jo Blackler said. "The change has been such a success for Pakenham that we have had clubs already reach out for more information about how they too can implement change for their ladies.

"It's a small change for our club with big hit energy for our members and a fantastic way to make women in sports feel comfortable and confident while playing our game."



Photo: [Pakenham Baseball Club](#)

### **Club News: Winter Club Coaches Wanted**

Club coaching opportunities are open at Bacchus Marsh, Pakenham, and Research Lower Plenty Baseball Clubs for the 2024 season and beyond.

Visit our [club ads page](#) for more details.

### **Club News: Doncaster Dragons 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

Doncaster Dragons Baseball Club is celebrating 50 years with an anniversary celebration this Saturday 24 February. There is a big day of baseball planned at Deep Creek Reserve with three games and festivities in the new clubrooms. Women's Premier League Reserves kick off the action at 10:30am, with Women's Premier League Firsts at 1pm and Premier League Minor at 4pm. [Follow the club on Facebook](#) for more updates.

### **2023 Victorian Sport Awards Nominations Now Open**

Every year, the Victorian Sport Awards honors those who have made an exceptional contribution to sport in Victoria as individual or team athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, volunteers, media and clubs. [Nominations are now open](#) and close at 11.59pm Friday 1 March. Please consider nominating fellow baseballers who deserve such recognition.

## Baseball Victoria and Salesian College Sports Academy Team Up in New Partnership

Baseball Victoria is pleased to partner with Salesian College Sports Academy in Chadstone, which plans to introduce a baseball program by Year 7, 2025, subject to student enrolment. We hope Salesian College will become a hub for secondary school students to pursue their academic and baseball goals in Melbourne's eastern suburbs.

Learn more about [Salesian College Sports Academy](#) and click [HERE](#) to book a tour. Families interested in enrolling or who have already done so are encouraged to contact Sports Academy Coordinator Stephen Sellwood at [ssellwood@salesian.vic.edu.au](mailto:ssellwood@salesian.vic.edu.au) to ensure they also complete a Sports Academy application.



## SPORTS ACADEMY INFORMATION EVENING

If you're currently researching secondary school options for your son, come along to our **Sports Academy Information Evening** to learn more about our Sports Academy program, important enrolment guidelines and how your son can apply for our **2026 Sports Academy class**.

Date: Monday 25 March, 2024

Time: 7pm to 8pm

Location: 10 Bosco St Chadstone 3148

Register: [www.salesian.vic.edu.au/book-a-tour/](http://www.salesian.vic.edu.au/book-a-tour/)  
or via the QR Code



## Baseball Victoria War Service Honour Rolls

Baseball Victoria is committed to creating and maintaining an honour roll of baseball players who have served in war and peacekeeping missions since 1915. It is difficult to imagine a modern-day player's career being interrupted so dramatically, and we will be forever grateful for their service and sacrifices in our Australian armed services. Visit [our website](#) for more info.



## Baseball Training on BV TV

Boost your baseball skills at home with [BV TV](#) videos, including [At-Home Baseball Training](#) and [Top Throwing Drills](#). Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) for fun training clips and resources, too.

## Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Teams Program

Last year, our Australian Red Cross Lifeblood team saved 195 lives with blood and plasma donations. You can learn more about Lifeblood and join the BV Team [HERE](#) as we keep saving lives in 2024.

## The BV Team

**Chet Gray** – CEO

**Damian Shanahan** – High Performance Officer

**Allie Bebbere** – Operations & Competitions Officer

**Rachael Bouley** – Communications and Digital Media Officer

**Keli'i Zablan** – Player & Coaching Pathway Officer

**Audrina Ning** – Financial Controller

**Michelle Coote** – Administration Officer

**David Nagy** – Performance Pathway Coordinator

**Brooke Penfold** – Technical Officer

**Tony McPherson** – Tournament Officer

**Daniel Chircop** – Pathways/MSA Coach

**Samantha Hamilton** – Performance Pathway Coach

