

# INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS  
 DATE: 5 SEPTEMBER 2024  
 FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA  
 SUBJECT: U23 WORLD CUP, U16 JUNIOR SQUAD, BLAKE TOWNSEND, MLB WORLD SELECT, MWBL A GRADE, AYC, EVENTS, VSBL, UMPIRES, PIPELINE, CLUB NEWS, WOMEN'S BASEBALL PODCAST, COACH, PREMIER12, SALESIAN, HONOUR ROLLS, LIFE BLOOD

## Victorians Ready to Represent Australia at Under-23 World Cup

From 6-15 September, Australia will battle the best in the world at the WBSC Under-23 World Cup in China. Australia is in Pool A with Colombia, Puerto Rico, China, Japan and Great Britain. The top three teams advance to the super-round.

Team Australia's roster includes Victorian players Zak Skinner, Ben Fierenzi, Chris Burke, and Conor Myles, while Damian Shanahan is part of the coaching staff. Head to the [baseball.com.au](http://baseball.com.au) tournament hub for the latest details and follow along on [Facebook](#) and Instagram for updates. Best of luck to Team Australia!



The graphic features two baseball players in Australian uniforms. One is wearing a green jersey with 'AUSTRALIA' on the front, and the other is wearing a white jersey with the number '23' on the back. The background is a light blue and white gradient. The text 'TEAM AUSTRALIA ROSTER' is prominently displayed in green and black. Below the title is a list of players and their positions.

**TEAM AUSTRALIA ROSTER**

C - JAKE BURNS	RHP - DYLAN CLARKE
C - ZAK SKINNER	RHP - KIEREN HALL
INF - BLAKE CAVILL	RHP - KY JACKSON
INF - JO STEVENS	RHP - MADDUX STIVEY
INF - BYRON ARMSTRONG	RHP - ALI TANNER
INF - BAILEY-JAY COOKE	RHP - STUART THARLE
INF - BEN FIERENZI	RHP - ZAK ELVY
OF - CHRIS BURKE	RHP - JOSH BEEZLEY
OF - SOLOMON MAGUIRE	LHP - COOPER MORGAN
OF - CAYDEN NICOLETTO	LHP - WILL SHERRIFF
OF - ALEX SKEPTON	LHP - CONOR MYLES
UTL - JAYLIN RAE	LHP - LACHLAN BROOK

## **National Under 16 Junior Squad Heads to USA**

44 of Australia's most talented junior baseball players are heading to Atlanta, Georgia with the National Under 16 Junior Squad. They'll have an experience of a lifetime and a huge opportunity to learn and grow.

Their experience includes a five-game series vs the United States 15U national team, training sessions and games at U.S junior colleges and universities plus a tournament at the prestigious Under 16 Perfect Game Fall World Series vs some of the best junior baseballers in America.

Victoria's representatives include players Jake Bertucci, Windsor Breckenridge, Cooper Busch, Roman Coote, Jordan Ellis, Brandon Elton, Mitchell Langworthy, Riley Peoples, and Liam Puncher, plus coaches Scott Meager, Donavon Hendricks, and EO Val Langworthy.

Catch up on all the tournament info [HERE](#).

## **Blake Townsend Signs With Pittsburgh Pirates**

Within three weeks of being released by the Seattle Mariners, Victorian Blake Townsend has a new professional organisation to call home. The Adelaide Giants and Australian national team pitcher agreed to a minor league deal with the Pittsburgh Pirates last month.

The 23-year-old from rural Victoria spent the last five seasons with the Mariners, reaching as high as Triple-A. He pitched for Australia at the 2023 World Baseball Classic and was originally named to the 2024 Under-23 World Cup roster, although he is no longer able to attend the tournament due to Minor League Baseball commitments.

Townsend was piecing together his best season as a pro in 2024. In 29.1 innings across 28 appearances in High-A, Townsend had a 2.45 ERA while limiting opponents to a .200 average.

Click [HERE](#) to read more on what's next for Blake.



Photo: [baseball.com.au](http://baseball.com.au)

## **Jack Ratcliffe and Ryder Wilson Named to MLB World Select Team**

Ten Australian baseball players have been invited to play on the World Select Team at the upcoming Major League Baseball College Showcase Tour in Arizona, including Victorians Jack Ratcliffe and Ryder Wilson.

The annual event welcomes amateur baseball players, all under age 20, from Europe, Asia, South America, North America and Australia, to Arizona. The showcase is an initiative that MLB has employed to grow the game internationally. This year's edition runs from 23 September to 3 October.



Players participate in an 11-day experience that includes visits to local Arizona colleges and universities, games against teams at various levels and a pro-style workout day for college recruiters and professional scouts.

Congrats to Jack and Ryder! You can read more about their upcoming trip [HERE](#).

### **Watsonia and North Balwyn to Play in MWBL A Grade Final**

The Melbourne Winter Baseball League A Grade Grand Final will be played between Watsonia and North Balwyn at 1:30pm on Saturday 7 September at Surrey Park in Box Hill. Finishing top two in the regular season, this promises to be a fantastic game of high-level baseball.

“As a coach, I couldn’t be prouder of the season that our A Grade team has put together, earning the chance to win our club’s first A Grade premiership in over 20 years. The lead-up to this game has been intense and exciting, with the top four teams proving to be evenly matched during the regular season and finals,” Watsonia Coach Jarryd Rogers said.

“With one win each head-to-head, it’s fitting that the season is coming down to us and North Balwyn. Our players are looking forward to a highly competitive game between two teams boasting strong line-ups.”

North Balwyn shares the excitement.

“Both clubs have had fantastic seasons, and if the semi-final was anything to go by, the grand final should be a great game. I am incredibly proud of the team, and the work of our coaches Neil, Gavin and Jeremy throughout the year; as well as the ongoing and continual support of the club and committee,” Club President Mitch Kennedy said.

“The club is extremely proud of the way the guys have played this year with how they conducted themselves each week throughout the year, earning North Balwyn the title of A1 Minor Premiers. We felt that this year the team was really able to put together a strong season exemplified by great offence and pitching.”

Melbourne Baseball Club has the ground looking fantastic for the battle and there will be a canteen operating, plus a [GameChanger livestream](#).



## State Team Coaches & EOs Confirmed for 2025 AYCs

Baseball Victoria is pleased to confirm coaching and EO appointments for the Under 16 and Under 18 Victorian State Teams attending the 2025 Australian Youth Championships in January.

Under 16 Team Officials: Head Coach - Ben Laux, Assistant Coach - Ethan Epifanio, Pitching Coach - Dan Chircop, Executive Officer (EO) - Val Langworthy

Under 18 Team Officials: Head Coach - Marshall Skinner, Assistant Coach - Lachie Condie, Pitching Coach - Mark Richards, Executive Officer (EO) - Taryn Richardson

“Thank you and congratulations to these dedicated coaches who have stepped up to the plate and will help guide our state teams to success on the national stage,” BV CEO Chet Gray said. “We are excited for another awesome year of AYC action and we appreciate the contributions of our team officials who ensure a positive and engaging experience for all players.”

Read the latest tournament update on dates and format changes via [baseball.com.au](http://baseball.com.au).

## Baseball Victoria Calendar of Programs & Events

We have a big month of baseball with Performance Pathway training, Spring Training Camps, the National U16 Junior Squad tour, U23 World Cup, Barclay Cup, and more. View our [events calendar](#) for more info.

## 2024/25 VSBL Registration Now Open

Players, coaches and volunteers can now register for the upcoming VSBL season through club links available [HERE](#). All players must be registered before starting pre-season training for insurance coverage.

To make the registration process easier, please check that you:

- use the same name and email address as previous registrations
- use the links on our website to ensure you register for VSBL (this is especially important for clubs that run over summer and winter - they have separate links)

## 2024 BV Umpire Seminar Registration

As a reminder, the 2024 BV Umpire Seminar is set for 21-22 September at Knox Baseball Club. If you're interested in becoming an umpire and completing our Community Umpire Course, or you wish to brush up on your skills behind the plate, we would love to see you there. Please click [HERE](#) to register.



The graphic features a central image of a baseball game with an umpire and a player sliding into a base. The year '2024' is prominently displayed in the top right corner. The text 'BV Umpire Seminar' is written in large, bold letters across the middle. On the left, there is a vertical sidebar with the text 'BEHIND THE MASK' and the Baseball Victoria logo. Below the logo, it says 'Presented By BASEBALL VICTORIA UMPIRE WORKING GROUP'. The 'Guest Presenters' are listed as Brett Robson (ABL), Paul Latta (ABL), and Tom West (ABL). The 'Seminar Schedule' includes 'Arrival and Registration - 9am', 'COMMUNITY UMPIRE COURSE FOR THE BEGINNER/DEVELOPING UMPIRE Saturday 9.30am - 3.15pm', and 'ASSOCIATION AND STATE UMPIRE Saturday 9.30am - 3.30pm, Sunday 9.30am - 1.30pm, BBQ to follow Sunday 1.30pm'. A circular button in the center says 'To Register CLICK HERE'. On the right, the 'Dates' are '21st & 22nd September', the 'Location' is 'Knox Baseball Club', the 'Cost' is '\$15.00 each day', and the 'Includes' list 'ABL Umpire lead session', 'Theory Sessions', 'Practical Sessions', and 'Tea, Coffee and Lunch'. At the bottom, it says 'Start Your Umpiring Path Saturday 21st September' and provides the email 'technical@baseballvictoria.com.au'.

**BASEBALL VICTORIA**

**Presented By**  
BASEBALL VICTORIA  
UMPIRE WORKING GROUP

**Guest Presenters**  
BRETT ROBSON (ABL)  
PAUL LATTI (ABL)  
TOM WEST (ABL)

**Seminar Schedule**  
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Saturday 9.30am - 3.15pm

**ASSOCIATION AND STATE UMPIRE**  
Saturday 9.30am - 3.30pm  
Sunday 9.30am - 1.30pm  
BBQ to follow Sunday 1.30pm

**2024**

**BV Umpire Seminar**

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**Cost:**  
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Theory Sessions  
Practical Sessions  
Tea, Coffee and Lunch

**To Register**  
[CLICK HERE](#)

**Start Your Umpiring Path**  
Saturday 21st September

✉ [technical@baseballvictoria.com.au](mailto:technical@baseballvictoria.com.au)

## [BV Pipeline School Holiday Schedule](#)

The BV Pipeline includes programs for players of all levels to foster fun, development and performance. 2 Ball, School Holiday Camps, and Performance Pathway programs are all part of the BV Pipeline.

Our goals:

- **Ignite** passion and love of baseball
- **Develop** skills that scale
- Prepare players to **perform** in competition
- **Share knowledge and support** the Victorian coaching community

Check out what they've been up to [HERE](#) and view [information and bookings](#) for Pipeline September School Holiday Events to secure your spot in 2Ball & Spring Training Camps.

## [Club News: Footscray Baseball Club Prepares for 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2025](#)

Footscray Baseball Club is rapidly approaching its 100th anniversary and looks to reconnect with past players, supporters, and members in preparation for next year's celebrations.

Founded on March 18, 1925, following a motion passed by the Victorian Baseball Association, Footscray Baseball Club has a long and storied history in the area. The club has played at various parks and gardens within Footscray and Yarraville, even serving as curtain raisers for Footscray Football Club VFL games.

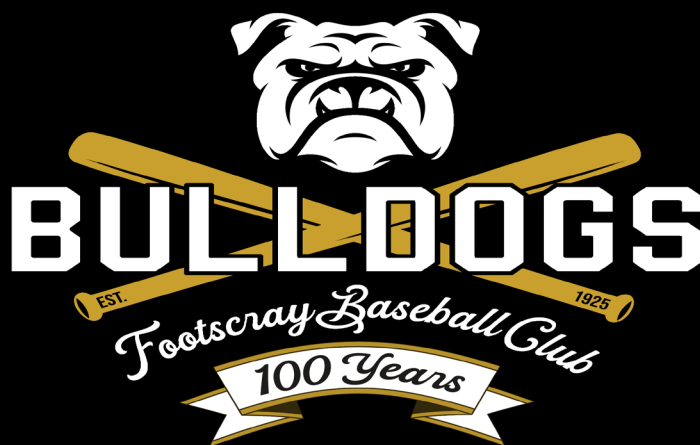
For decades, the club has been based at Mclvor Reserve's Hanks Baseball Park in Yarraville, where it has enjoyed success in men's, women's, and junior competitions, including numerous premierships in summer and winter leagues. Several players have also been selected as state and national representatives.

To mark this significant milestone, the club is planning a series of events throughout 2025 and is reaching out to past players, supporters, members, and their descendants to join in the celebrations.

Additionally, Footscray Baseball Club is seeking the support of local businesses to sponsor the anniversary events, providing an excellent opportunity for community engagement and visibility.

"The club has been a key part of the local community in Melbourne's Inner West, and we are looking forward to bringing everyone together to share stories and celebrate," said Club President Shane Cole-Hayhow.

For more information about Footscray Baseball Club's 100th anniversary celebration, including sponsorship opportunities and event updates, please visit [footscraybulldogs.com.au](https://footscraybulldogs.com.au).



### **Club News: WWCC and Child Protection/Sports Integrity**

If you have children at your club, whether it be for junior competitions or family events, please keep in mind the updated [Working with Children Check](#) and Child Protection/Sports Integrity guidelines.

All club volunteers, including committee members, coaches, umpires, scorers, groundskeepers, and canteen staff, must have a valid WWCC with a list regularly maintained by the club. We ask that all club committee members also complete the [11 Child Safe Sport Modules](#).

### **Club News: Baseball Training Resources on BV TV**

Get inspired for summer training with [BV TV](#) videos, including [Ramp Up to Play](#) and [Top Throwing Drills](#). Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) for more fun training clips and resources.



### **Club News: Doncaster Come & Try Day**

Doncaster Dragons are hosting a come and try day for junior boys and girls on Sunday 15 September from 10am to 12pm at Deep Creek Reserve. Check out the [club's Facebook](#) for more updates.

### **Club News: Monash Uni Women's Coach EO!**

Monash University Baseball Club is seeking a coach to help relaunch its Women's Baseball program for the 2025 Melbourne Winter Baseball League season.

The club is looking for a dedicated and passionate individual to assist with the recruitment, training, and management of the program. Click [HERE](#) for more details on this opportunity.

### **Club News: Newport Come & Try Day**

Newport Rams have a come and try day on Sunday 8 September from 9:30 to 11:30am. New and returning junior players are invited to come along for the fun. Register for free [HERE](#) to help with numbers.

### **Club News: Pakenham Come & Try Days**

Pakenham Pumas are hosting come and try days at 11am on Sunday 8 September and Sunday 15 September for t-ball, juniors, seniors, and women! Follow the [club's Facebook](#) for more details.



### **Club News: St Kilda Come & Try Day**

St Kilda Saints have another junior come and try day on Sunday 8 September from 9:30-11am. Preseason training starts every Sunday in September from 1pm to 3pm. Head to the [club's Facebook](#) for more information.

### **Club News: Sunshine Come & Try Day**

Sunshine Eagles will host a come and try day on Sunday 8 September at Barclay Reserve from 2-4pm. Head to the [club's website](#) for more information.

### **Club News: Upwey Ferntree Gully Women's 'Swing Into Summer'**

Upwey Ferntree Gully Baseball Club is hosting a Women's 'Swing Into Summer' program this month on Tuesday nights. All levels of experience are welcome, including beginners. Head to the [club's Facebook](#) for more information.

### **Women's Baseball - The Inside Pitch**

Season 5 of Women's Baseball – The Inside Pitch is now streaming wherever you get your podcasts.

Join Amy McCann, Team Australia alumni (2002-2014) and 6-time WBSC World Cup representative, for a trip around the bases with some of women's baseball's elite players and coaches, in addition to a host of trailblazing women making their way in baseball all across the world. Check out recent interviews with Morgan Doty, Amy Collins, and more: [womensbaseballinsidepitch.podbean.com](https://womensbaseballinsidepitch.podbean.com)

### **Baseball Australia Coaching Education App**

With the summer season just around the corner, please remember to download the Baseball Australia Education App. You can find out more through this link: [Coaches | Baseball.com.au](https://coaches.baseball.com.au) or you can look up "Baseball Australia Education" in your App Store. You can also go directly to the Education Desktop page through this link: [Baseball Australia](https://baseball.com.au/education).

### **Support Team Australia in Taiwan – SportsLink Premier12 Supporters Tour Details**

Team Australia is off to Japan and Taiwan for the 2024 Premier12 – an international baseball tournament featuring the top 12 ranked national teams in the world. SportsLink Travel can help you get to Taiwan to be part of the Australian international baseball experience.

From November 14-19, 2024 you can cheer on Team Australia in their group stage games against Korea, Chinese Taipei, Cuba and Dominican Republic. Click [HERE](#) for more details on the tour and costs.



## Baseball Victoria and Salesian College Sports Academy Team Up

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.

## 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.

## 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

**Ethan Epifanio** – Development Officer

