

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 30 MAY 2025
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: NATIONALS, HALL OF FAME, COACHING, UMPIRES, WELLBEING, GM, EVENTS, AUSSIES ABROAD, SSV, SALESIAN, CLUB NEWS, BV TV, HONOUR ROLLS, LIFEBLOOD

Rangers and Mets Represent at 2025 Australian Senior League Championship

Well done to Rangers and Mets on a fantastic week at the 2025 Australian Senior League Championship!

They played hard, never gave up, and made amazing memories. Rangers finished fourth after making it to the semi-finals, which you can read more about [HERE](#).

We can't wait to see what these brilliant baseballers do next!



Photo: Brendan Beacom / Baseball.com.au

2025 Australian Junior League & Intermediate League Championships

Best of luck to Athletics and Mets Junior League and Athletics and Mariners Intermediate League as their national tournaments continue in Surfers Paradise and Lismore. Head to the [tournament hub](#) or follow along on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest updates.

2025 Baseball Victoria Hall of Fame

It was an absolute honour to present the first-ever Baseball Victoria Hall of Fame Evening on Wednesday 21 May at Lakeside Stadium, Albert Park. Thank you to all who attended as the Victorian baseball community came together to celebrate the past and share excitement in the future.

“Congratulations to our inaugural inductees who have achieved incredible success across grassroots, state, national, and international baseball,” BV CEO Chet Gray said.

“It was wonderful to see family, friends, fellow club members, and teammates come together to acknowledge the dedication of standout players, managers, administrators, umpires, and scorers. We look forward to continuing our Hall of Fame celebrations in the years to come.”

Our [inaugural Hall of Fame Class of 2025](#) included the following inductees:

PLAYERS: Amy McCann, David Clarkson, Don Deeble*, Ernie George Bolton, Graeme Deany, Graeme Lloyd, John Hodges*, John Swanson, Matthew Sheldon-Collins, Ross Straw*, Samantha Hamilton, Simone Wearne

MANAGERS: Frank Laver*, Jon Deeble, Lenton ‘Lyn’ Straw*

PLAYER AND MANAGER: David Went, Phil Dale

ADMINISTRATORS: John O’Brien*, Les Flower, Michael O’Brien, Paul Collins*, Peter Dihm, Ron Clack*

UMPIRES: Barry Smith*, Dick Chapman*

SCORERS: Jennie Moloney

SERVICE TO BASEBALL: John Viney

MEDIA: Richard (Dick) Mason*

**deceased*



Photo: David Went and family. [See all photos from Field of View Sports Photography.](#)

Barclay Cup & U16/U18 AYC Coach/Staff Expressions of Interest

Baseball Victoria will once again be entering teams to participate in the 2025 Barclay Cup and 2026 Australian Youth Championships (U16 and U18). Our teams have a very rich and successful history competing in these events and this is your chance to lead young Victorian baseballers to new heights.

Expressions of interest are open for manager (head coach), assistant coach, pitching coach and executive officer roles. Please click [HERE](#) to register your interest by Friday 13 June. Please email any questions to BV High Performance Officer damian.shanahan@baseballvictoria.com.au.

Victorian Umpires at Australian Little League Championships

Congratulations to all the Victorian umpires selected for the 2025 Australian Little League Championships.

- Senior League: Neil Douglass, Damien Ebenwaldner, Taylor Field and Patrick White
- Junior/Intermediate League: Gavin Daniels, Matt Fraser and Alan Sutherland
- Little League Division 1: Matt Fraser

Neil, Taylor, and Pat joined Mike Sherwood from WA as Senior League gold medal game umpires in Geelong. This is a great achievement, as they were selected out of umpires from all over the country to officiate the championship game. It's a fantastic reflection of the growth and development of umpires in Victoria.

Gavin Daniels has also been selected to umpire at the Junior League World Series in the USA later this year. Well done!

Baseball Victoria TMA Project: Wellbeing and Safeguarding Leads

Baseball Victoria has partnered with Total Teams to present the Wellbeing and Safeguarding Project: Building Safe & Well Baseball Clubs, supported through Victorian Government funding.

Thank you to all the winter club and association representatives who attended our first workshop for Wellbeing and Safeguard Leads (WSL) this week. These leaders will be responsible for championing a safe, supportive, and inclusive club environment, prioritising both child and adult safeguarding.

Workshops are aimed at helping participants gain a deeper understanding of what wellbeing and safeguarding mean in community sport, and how everyone can play a role in creating safe, strong clubs. In the first session, WSLs learned how capability, motivation, and psychological safety are the core enablers of safe spaces that help turn good intentions into lasting change.

Learn more about the program [HERE](#) and stay tuned for more updates and resources.



Expressions of Interest for Baseball Victoria General Manager Operations

Baseball Victoria is pleased to open expressions of interest for the newly created General Manager Operations role, one of the four leadership roles in BV. As 2IC for the organisation, the GM Operations is responsible for the strategic and operational delivery of all baseball competitions, events, and related pathway programs across Victoria.

This role ensures the effective planning, implementation, and continuous improvement of Baseball Victoria's operations, ensuring alignment with the organisation's strategic objectives and stakeholder expectations. Applications for this full-time role close Friday 13 June 2025. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and apply.

Baseball Victoria 2025 Calendar of Events

A big year for baseball continues with BV Performance Pathway programs, State Winter Championships and national tournaments [throughout June and July](#). Check out our full [Calendar of Events](#) and stay tuned for more baseball action.

Aussie Duo Blake Townsend and Brandon Bidois Taking Greensboro by Storm

Australian pitching duo Brandon Bidois and Blake Townsend are off to red-hot start to the season with the Greensboro Grasshoppers, the High-A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Blake, who hails from Traralgon, Victoria, has been impressive on the mound alongside his Aussie teammate. You can read more about it [HERE](#).



Baseball Victoria and School Sport Victoria Partnership

Baseball Victoria is thrilled to announce a new 1-year partnership with School Sport Victoria (SSV) to deliver the #SSV Interschool Sport Baseball Competition along with opportunities for students to represent #TeamVic at the School Sport Australia Championships.

SSV/school sport is an important component of BV's participation strategy with 4,113 students participating in interschool sport in 2024, which was an increase of 4% from 2023.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with #SSV and providing more opportunities for Victorian students to play baseball!



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 in 2026, subject to student enrolments. 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 to ensure they also complete a Sports Academy application.

Club News: Club Umpire Coordinator & Behind the Mask Umpire Nominations

Baseball Victoria is requesting each club to nominate a Club Umpire Coordinator for the upcoming 2025/26 VSBL season. This individual will work in collaboration with the Baseball Victoria Umpire Recruitment and Retention Officer and the BV Umpiring Working Group.

Their role will be pivotal in:

- Promoting umpiring opportunities within the club
- Supporting the development of new and existing umpires
- Facilitating education and training initiatives
- Contributing to the overall growth of the umpiring community at the grassroots level

Please click [HERE](#) to submit your nominations.

Club News: Ormond Glenhuntly Head Coach Expressions of Interest

Ormond Glenhuntly Baseball Club is seeking expressions of interest for a club coach for the 2025/26 VSBL season. The club aspires to win a Premier 2 Premiership with a growing junior program and a strong list, and is looking for a leader to coordinate training, support recruitment, and mentor players and coaches at all levels. Email Sam Robertson at sam@jimsbuildinginspections.com.au with your interest by 1 June.

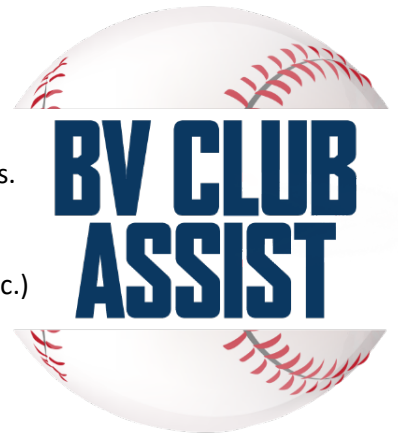
Club News: Cheltenham Rustlers Coach Expressions of Interest

Cheltenham Rustlers Baseball Club is seeking expressions of interest for a women's baseball coach for the 2025/26 VSBL season. The Rustlers are looking for someone who is passionate about empowering female athletes and sharing a love of baseball. Email cheltenhamrustlersbc@gmail.com to express your interest.

Club News: BV Club Assist Resources for Volunteers

As the [winter season](#) continues, we encourage club members to check out the recently updated [BV Club Assist](#), an online suite of club resources designed to help volunteers, support members, and enhance club operations and experiences.

There are three main sections: [Running a Club](#), [Competition](#), and [Growing a Club](#), and this comprehensive suite of resources (policies, templates, how-to guides, etc.) will be expanded as time goes on. Head to www.baseballvictoria.com.au/bv-club-assist to get started.



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: BV Codes of Conduct & Behaviour Expectations

As a reminder to all clubs and members, Baseball Victoria membership requires you to adhere to BV Codes of Conduct regarding respectful behaviour. It's paramount that all players, coaches, officials, volunteers, spectators and clubs follow these expectations to ensure safe and enjoyable experiences for all. Please review the [Codes of Conduct on our website](#) and contact the BV Office with any questions.

Baseball Training on BV TV

Stay on top of your baseball training with [BV TV](#) videos, including [Ramp Up to Play](#) and [Top Throwing Drills](#). Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#) for more fun drills and behind the scenes.



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

We are proud to be part of the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood program, helping to save lives with blood and plasma donations. You can learn more about Lifeblood and join the BV Team [HERE](#).

The BV Team

Chet Gray – CEO

Damian Shanahan – High Performance Officer

Jessica Alvaro – 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 – Event Support Officer

Ethan Epifanio – Development Officer

Brooke Penfold – Technical Officer

Tony McPherson – Tournament Officer

Daniel Chircop – Pathways/MSA Coach

Samantha Hamilton – Performance Pathway Coach

