

INSIDE THE BV ZONE

TO: BASEBALL VICTORIA MEMBERS
DATE: 7 AUGUST 2025
FROM: BASEBALL VICTORIA
SUBJECT: AYC, ECOGROUP, TEAM AUSTRALIA, BARCLAY CUP, UMPIRE, EVENTS, CMD SPORTS, FIELD OF VIEW, COLLEGE, AUSSIES ABROAD, CLUB NEWS, BV TV, SALESIAN, HONOUR ROLLS, LIFE BLOOD

2026 Australian Youth Championships Tryout Registration

Baseball Victoria is excited to open tryout registration for Victorian State Teams ahead of the 2026 Australian U16 and U18 Youth Championships next January.

We will be sending one U16 and one U18 team to the national championships (dates and venue TBA by Baseball Australia soon). Tryouts will be conducted in September, with teams to be finalised at the start of October and on-field prep beginning in November.

Under 16 Tryout Dates

Saturday 6 September
Saturday 13 September
Saturday 20 September
Saturday 27 September (if required)

Under 18 Tryout Dates

Tuesday 9 September
Wednesday 10 September (proposed pitchers and catchers)
Tuesday 16 September
Tuesday 23 September
Tuesday 30 September (If required)

*Session dates and times could be altered due to inclement weather and selection priorities.

Tryout venue: Melbourne Ballpark, Merton Street, Altona Meadows

Times: TBC (*an email will be sent to all players who register, confirming times and what to bring prior to the commencement of tryouts*)

Age Qualifications

U16 - Year Born 2010 & 2011
U18 - Year Born 2008, 2009, 2010

Program

- On-field preparation throughout November and December with specific weekly schedule and venue TBD
- Friendship Series - we have organised a friendship series versus South Australia U16 & U18 teams from Friday 26 December to Monday 29 December 2025 in Melbourne. Venue and final game schedule TBD.

Please click [HERE](#) to register for tryouts via GameDay or follow the QR code below.



VICTORIAN U16 & U18 STATE TEAM TRYOUT REGISTRATION

SEPT 2025 - TRYOUTS
OCT 2025 - TEAM SELECTION
NOV & DEC 2025 - TRAINING
JAN 2026 - AYC (TBA)

TRYOUTS START 6 SEPT
REGISTER VIA QR CODE



EcoGroup Teams Up With Baseball in Victoria, Joins BV Diamond Partnership Program

Baseball Victoria is excited to announce that EcoGroup has joined the [BV Diamond Partnership Program](#) at the Home Run level.

EcoGroup specialises in high-quality recycled red crushed brick, which is ideal for use on baseball and softball diamonds. They currently supply a number of baseball and softball clubs across Australia, either directly to the clubs themselves or the local councils that maintain their grounds.

EcoGroup offers flexible delivery options, with product delivered loose by the tonne (via trucks) or in bulka bags. This all depends upon the site and club requirements.

“Thank you to EcoGroup for supporting baseball in Victoria through the BV Diamond Partnership Program,” BV CEO Chet Gray said. “We are thrilled to have the support of this reputable crushed brick supplier, who has helped supply the diamonds at Essendon, Melbourne Aces, Williamstown, and more.”

EcoGroup is passionate about supporting clubs and sustainability. EcoGroup’s mission is to rethink recycled materials, through providing cost-effective, environmentally responsible alternatives without compromising on quality.

"We're proud to support Baseball Victoria and the local clubs that bring communities together. We believe our crushed brick embodies the spirit and attitude of young Australians, tough, grounded, ready to play, and proud to do things differently," said Marina Ward, EcoGroup Co-Founder. "It's a product made for performance, designed with purpose, and delivered with passion for our local communities. Thank you, Baseball Victoria, for sharing in our passion."

Learn more on their official website: www.ecogroup.com.au



U16 National Squad Competing in Japan

Australia's U16 National Squad has arrived in Fuchu, Japan. In March 2025, Team Australia [named 34 players to a national squad selected](#) off the backs of their performance at the Australian Youth Championships. The squad has since been split into one team of 18 and one team of 16 based off their date of births and school year.

One squad will compete at the 15U Perfect Game Pacific Baseball Championships in Sapporo, while the other will play against some of the top Japanese junior teams – including a double-header vs the Tokyo Giants U15 Team – in Tokyo.

Congratulations to BV Performance Pathway athletes Cooper Bishop-Worn, Cooper Busch, Euan Clarkin, Brody Stokes, Brodie Trevean, Jarvis Johansen, Mitchell Langworthy, and Marcus Murphy. Scott Meager has been named Sapporo Team Manager. Read the full update [HERE](#) and stay tuned to baseball.com.au for updates.

Victorians Represent Team Australia at Under 12 World Cup

Victorians Harvey Ninnis, Phil Toye, and Jaxon Waters proudly wore the Green and Gold, representing Team Australia at the 2025 WBSC Under 12 Baseball World Cup in Chinese Taipei. Australia finished with their best-ever placing in the U12 event, finishing ninth overall. Their previous best was tenth.

As a result of the strong U12 performance, [Australia picked up 104 points](#), improving their standing from 11th to 10th in the WBSC Men's Baseball World Rankings. It's the first time Australia has been in the top ten since October 2023 and edges our ranking above traditional baseball powerhouses like Dominican Republic (11th) and Cuba (12th).

Congrats to Harvey, Phil, Jaxon, and all their Aussie teammates on a fantastic tournament! A special shoutout to EO Val Langworthy for supporting the team on the trip of a lifetime. Read more updates from the tournament [HERE](#).



Photo: @rc_rainecreative / [Team Australia](#)

Barclay Cup Tryouts at Melbourne Ballpark

Thank you to this awesome group of girls who turned out for tryouts at Melbourne Ballpark on Friday night.

The 2025 Barclay Cup/Youth Women's Futures Development Program offers players aged 13 to 16 the chance to further develop their core skills. The program will run through August and September under the leadership of Samantha Hamilton, Victorian Women's Head Coach and Australian Emeralds Assistant Coach.

At the end, two teams will head off to Adelaide to participate in the fourth annual Barclay Cup from 28 September to 4 October.

The Barclay Cup Program and trials are conducted and organised by the BV Performance Pathway team. Stay tuned for Barclay Cup updates!



[BV Community Umpiring Theory Course at North Coburg](#)

The BV Umpiring Working Group will hold a Community Umpiring Theory course session on Monday 11 August at North Coburg Baseball Club and online via Zoom from 7-9pm. This will run alongside the regular umpire training session on the same night as a beginner course – the first step toward umpiring certification. Please register [HERE](#) so we can plan for numbers.



BV Behind The Mask Community Umpiring Training

[Baseball Victoria 2025 Calendar of Events](#)

A big year for baseball continues with BV Performance Pathway programs, tournaments, tryouts, and training sessions throughout August and September. Check out [our calendar of events](#) for more info.

[CMD Sports + BV Diamond Partnership Program – Special Discount](#)

In case you missed it, CMD Sports has joined the [BV Diamond Partnership Program](#) at the Triple level, which you can read more about [HERE](#).

CMD Sports is a one-stop shop for baseball equipment, offering an extensive product range including bats, gloves, balls, grips, apparel, helmets, bags, protective gear, training aids and accessories. To celebrate this new partnership, CMD Sports is offering the Baseball Victoria community an exclusive **10% discount** on all online orders. Simply use the code **BV10AUG2025** at checkout. This special offer is valid until the end of August 2025. Learn more on their official website: cmdsports.com.au

[Field of View Sports Photography Gallery](#)

Thank you to BV Diamond Partner Field of View Sports Photography for all the amazing photos. Check out [their gallery](#) of our representative teams, state championships, BV Performance Pathway, and more.

[Victorian Travis Finney Commits to NCAA Division I Program South Dakota State](#)

Victorian Travis Finney has committed to play top-level college baseball in the United States, announcing that he is joining South Dakota State University for the 2026 season.

In 2025, a record [24 Australians played](#) NCAA Division I baseball. Finney, a product of the Frankston Tomatoes and Moorabbin Panthers, is coming off a standout season with Yakima Valley College in Washington State while playing JUCO.

He won two Pacific Association Golden Glove Awards for his stellar work in the infield. Finney slashed .331/.455/.840 in 48 games this season with 20 RBI and eight stolen bases. He made just three errors in 3 in 361 opportunities in two seasons with the Yaks.

Congrats to Travis – read the full update [HERE](#).

Aussies Abroad: Three Victorians Win Championship With Fort Collins Foxes in Northern Colorado

Three Victorians enjoyed collegiate summer league success over the weekend, winning the 2025 Front Range League Championship with the Fort Collins Foxes in Northern Colorado.

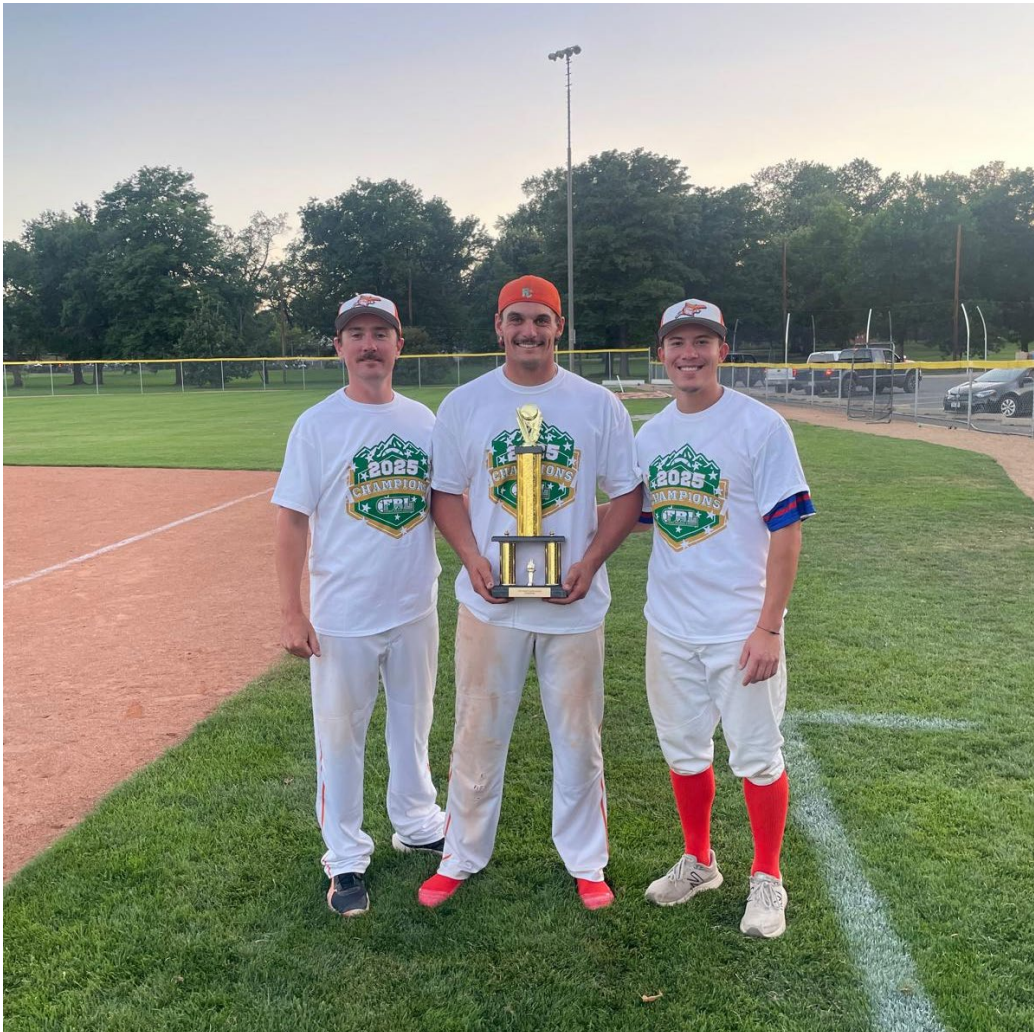
Congratulations to BV Performance Pathway alumni Ryan Othen and Nick Bertucci, who joined pitching coach John (Jay) O'Connor on the Foxes this season. They had the best record in the league going into semi-finals on Saturday, where they defeated the Pueblo Spradley Collegians to advance to the final.

They won the championship, coming back from six runs down to defeat the Western Nebraska Pioneers on Sunday, 12-10. The Foxes finished the season with a record of 32 wins against just 7 losses.

In Saturday's semi-final, Nick Bertucci homered and scored three times (2-for-3, 3R, 2RBI) while Ryan Othen closed out the win on the mound (2IP, 0H, 0R, 0BB, 3K).

On Sunday, Nick's 3-run home run (13th on the season) in the bottom of the 8th brought the Foxes within one run of the Pioneers and changed the momentum. He batted 2-for-3, 3R, 3BI on the day.

A huge congratulations to our Aussies Abroad and their teammates – go Foxes! Check out the latest updates on [Facebook](#).



Pitching Coach John (Jay) O'Connor (Berwick and Waverley Baseball Clubs), OF/P Nick Bertucci (Central Arizona College, NJCAA D1 and Moorabbin Baseball Club), and Pitcher Ryan Othen (Newman University, NCAA D2 and Malvern/North Balwyn Baseball Clubs)

Club News: Melbourne Aces Import Players

Melbourne Aces will have several import players available for a large part of the 2025/26 VSBL season. The Aces would require some assistance from the club but would look after most of the requirements. Clubs can contact Mick Wearne on 0418 324 114 to discuss further.

Club News: Blackburn Baseball Club Senior Women's Team – Coming 2025/26

Blackburn Baseball Club is proud to launch a Senior Women's Team for the 2025/26 season! The Burners are building a strong, inclusive women's program and inviting people who want to be part of a welcoming, community-focused club to come on board.

Whether you're an experienced player or just keen to be involved, the Burners would love to hear from you. Click [HERE](#) to join and feel free to send any questions to blackburnorioles@gmail.com. Stay tuned for coaching details coming soon!

Club News: Sunshine Come and Try Baseball and Tee-Ball

Sunshine Baseball Club is hosting Come and Try Baseball and Tee-Ball sessions on Sunday 24 and 31 August from 2pm to 4pm at Barclay Reserve, Albion. These sessions are open to ages 5-17 with no experience necessary. Contact sbcjuniors@outlook.com or visit sunshinebaseball.com.au for more info.

Club News: Sandringham Come and Try Baseball and Tee-Ball

Sandringham Baseball Club will host Come and Try Baseball and Tee-Ball sessions on 14, 17, and 21 September. The Sunday sessions will run from 10am-12pm and the Wednesday session will be from 4:30 to 6pm with a BBQ. Tee-ball is open to boys and girls aged 5-7 and baseball for boys and girls aged 7-18. Follow the [club on Facebook](#) for more details.

Club News: Bonbeach Bluejays Coach Expressions of Interest

Bonbeach Baseball Club is looking for its next head coach for the 2025/26 season. The Bluejays are seeking a dedicated leader to build on last year's success with the Premier League 2 Club Championship and five out of six senior teams playing finals in 2024/25. Click [HERE](#) to learn more or contact President Brendan Wilson via bonbeachstchads@gmail.com.

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: Footscray Senior Coach Expression of Interest

Footscray Baseball Club seeks a dedicated and knowledgeable senior head coach for the 2025/26 summer season and beyond. The club boasts growing junior, women, and senior programs. The successful applicant will have a vision of growth and development with full committee support. Visit our [club ads page](#) for more details or email applications to footscraybc1925@gmail.com.

Club News: MCC Women's Baseball Coach Expressions of Interest

Melbourne (MCC Baseball) is looking for a women's baseball coach for the 2025/26 summer season. The ideal candidate will be passionate about empowering female athletes with the drive to inspire, lead, and grow a team within the club. Visit our [club ads page](#) for more details or email Murray Noble at chairman@mccbaseball.org.au.

Club News: Port Melbourne Head Coach Expressions of Interest

Port Melbourne Baseball Club is looking for a dedicated and knowledgeable club head coach and women's program coach for the upcoming VSBL season. The Mariners want someone to bring their expertise, knowledge, and enthusiasm to a fast-growing, family-friendly club. See our [club ads page](#) for more info or email president.portmarinersbc@gmail.com.

Club News: Sandringham Royals Coach Expressions of Interest

Sandringham Royals Baseball Club is looking for a Premier 1 Reserves coach for the 2025/26 VSBL season. The ideal candidate will be an enthusiastic and experienced coach eager to develop and foster the young Royals group. Head to our [club ads page](#) for more info or email secretary@sandybaseball.com.au.

Club News: Werribee Giants Women's Head Coach Expressions of Interest

Werribee Giants Baseball Club is now seeking expressions of interest for a head coach to lead the senior women's program during the 2025/26 VSBL season. The club is looking for a passionate and driven leader to help guide and develop the women's team as the Giants continue to grow female participation and success at the club. Visit the [club ads page](#) for more info or email jessicab1984@hotmail.com to express your interest.

Club News: Ian Cross Plays 700th Game at Research Lower Plenty

Congratulations to Ian Cross of [Research Lower Plenty Baseball Club](#) on playing his 700th game. He pitched well and had quite the crowd down to support. Well done on an awesome achievement over 40 years at the club.

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: 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: Little League T-Ball Club Registration

Thank you to all the clubs that have signed up for the new national Little League T-Ball program, which can be run as a multi-week program or condensed into school holiday sessions. We've seen some great programs this winter and look forward to more throughout the summer! Stay tuned as we showcase participating clubs.

By signing up, your club gets access to resources developed by Little League International, Baseball Australia and Kiddo. Little League T-Ball is aimed at kids aged 4-8 to help them develop the skills they need in order to play baseball in the future. Scan the QR code for the [Little League T-Ball Sign Up Form](#). Email competitions@baseballvictoria.com.au with any questions or for more info.

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 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.

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

Jessica Alvaro – Head of Competitions

Audrina Ning – Financial Controller

Rachael Bouley – Communications and Digital Media Officer

Michelle Coote – Administration Officer

Shannen Jones – Membership Officer

Brooke Penfold – Technical Officer

Tony McPherson – Tournament Officer

David Nagy – Event Support Officer

Micheal Nakamura – Head of Baseball Performance

Damian Shanahan – High Performance Officer

Keli'i Zablan – Player & Coaching Pathway Officer

Ethan Epifanio – Development Officer

Daniel Chircop – Pathways/MSA Coach

Samantha Hamilton – Performance Pathway Coach

