

WATSONIA BASEBALL CLUB

ESTABLISHED 1974



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Our 50th year

2024 had many highlights, none more so than our 50th Anniversary. Thank you to Andrew 'Bam' Bennett for your organisation and to Andrew Williams for being an excellent host. A full report from the evening can be found inside this issue.



Important Dates:

To be confirmed

- Pie night
- Ratify Constitution
- Pre Season training
- 2 functions
- Past player and life member day
- Sponsors day
- Milestone games
- Presentation night



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Dear Watsonia Family,

Thank you for the warm welcome as I begin my journey as the first female President of our wonderful club. I look forward to representing you to the best of my ability, and bringing as many people as I can along for the ride as we work together for the betterment of baseball. Before I go any further, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Luke Asbury over the past 5 years.

During Luke's presidency we have maintained our senior playing numbers, continue to build relationships with the community, worked closely with Murray Noble to get the Council to commit to improving our playing surface and opened the Wheeler - McLean clubrooms. I can honestly say that I have learned much over the past 12 months during this succession planning year and hope that I can continue with the plans we have for the club during my tenure.

For those of you who do not know me (apart from being Troy's sister), I have had the honour of being a child born into the club, supported on and off the field by many, but none more so than my fellow life members - Chris and Helen Wheeler. You may know them as loyal and passionate club people, but to me they have always been loving and supporting parents. I'd like to say I am their number one child, however will settle with number one daughter. I am the third member of our family to represent the club in the role as President and hope that I am able to at least match the standard they, and others before me have set.

I am excited for the challenge ahead of me and feel we have assembled an amazing committee, playing group and a family of off field supporters to continue the momentum we have moving into 2025.

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Looking back on this season, we have a lot to celebrate and a lot to look forward to. Off field, the overwhelming highlight was the 50th Anniversary celebration. Leading the planning was Andrew 'Bam' Bennet and his tribe of supporting minions behind the scenes.

While there were numerous people who contributed to the success of the night, there are a few that I feel need singling out. To Stuart Medland, Troy O'Connor and Brett Caulfield, we thank you for your time in selecting the 50th Anniversary squads and the final teams. I'm certain there were many vigorous debates about who should be included as the Watsonia Baseball Club has a very long and prestigious history on the field. After the criteria was developed, the task was made no more simple as the caliber of player that was eligible went deep into playing achievements. These included National, State and Claxton Shield representatives, not to mention the past and present ABL players.

squad

COACHES	Peter Laydon Dave Schlenker	Graeme Fowler Brett Caulfield	Richard King Dominick Ruggiero
PITCHERS	Billy Papworth Robbie Grant	Frank Trucchio Gareth Formisano	Bryce Gammon Michael Formisano
CATCHERS	Peter Laydon	Brett Gilbert	Brett Caulfield
FIRST BASE	Les Gosstray	Andrew Bennett	David Land
SECOND BASE	Troy O'Connor	Stephen Boulter	Aaron Sayers
THIRD BASE	Ross McKenzie	Darren Snelson	Adam Burton
SHORT STOP	Jason Rogers	Mark Doubleday	Jared Cruz
LEFT FIELD	Phil Allen	Marty Wilson	Ross Drinkwater
CENTRE FIELD	Marshall Skinner	Dean Marnell	Tim Frost
RIGHT FIELD	Rod Medland	Chris Lane	Cody Rodwell
DH / UTILITY	Graeme Fowler	Stuart Medland	Jarryd Rogers



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While the selection team were tasked with a mighty job, there was little argument on the night at who was finally selected from the squad to make up the final team. Stuart had the added responsibility of selecting our women's team of the decade, which again was perfectly executed.

COACH

Peter Laydon
Graeme Fowler
Richard King
Brett Caulfield



SCORERS

Lisa Ruggiero
Chelsea Power



PITCHERS

William Papworth
Frank Trucchio
Bryce Gammon
Gareth Formisano
Michael Formisano

UTILITY

Ross McKenzie
Andrew Bennett
Brett Gilbert
Stuart Medland
Mark Doubleday

COACH

Robbie Grant
Stuart Medland



SCORER

Sue Grant



STARTING PITCHER

Ailsa Davidson

DH
Chelsea Power

RELIEF PITCHER

Angela Pope

UTILITY
Josephine Pope
Donna Lamb

UMPIRE Rod Stanfield

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I am proud to be part of a club that not only celebrates the outstanding baseball achievements on the field, but those that represent the heart and soul of the club through their dedication, passion and longevity at the Watsonia Baseball Club, whether it be playing, scoring, coaching or umpiring.

This was recognised on the night through the naming of our All Saints team. While these players may not have achieved the accolades of others, their commitment to the club on and off the field is undeniable. Congratulations and thank you to those named in the All Saints Team.

WATSONIA BASEBALL CLUB ALL SAINTS

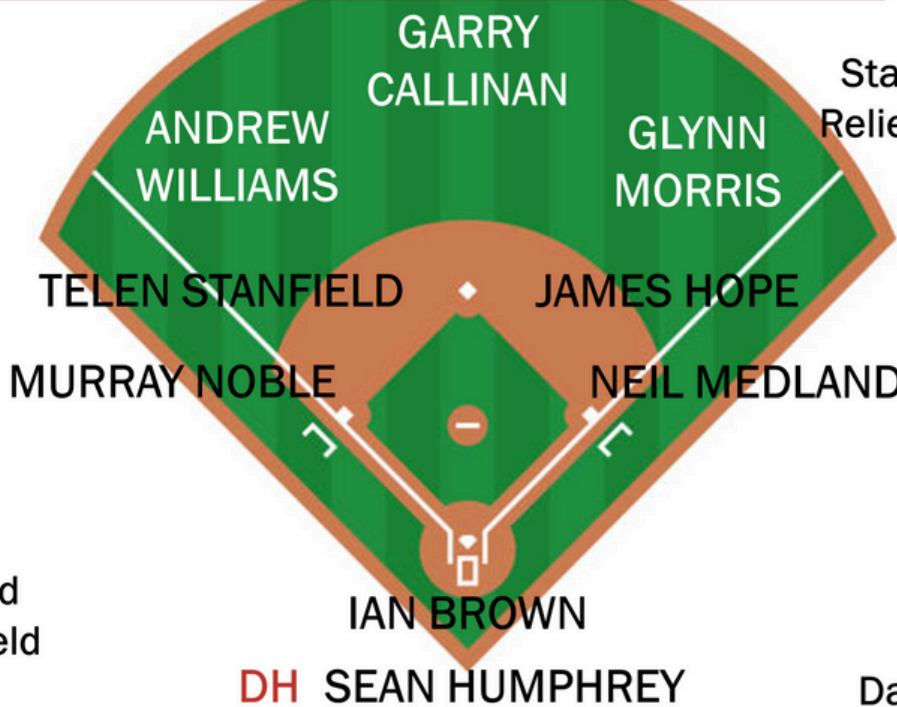
COACHES

Chris Wheeler
Nick Wheeler



SCORERS

Helen Callinan
Wendy Stanfield
Gemma Stanfield



PITCHERS

Start - Ry Stanes
Relief - Tyke Healy



UTILITIES

Luke Asbury
Mark Cooper
Bruce Healy
David Stanfield

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As we head into Summer Baseball season, we have many players on the field in both senior, junior and rep sides. Of particular note - Andy Land will be heading to Florida in October to compete in the Perfect Game Championships. Andy is named in the Fort Myers Team with other Year 11's.



2024 PG WWBA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

His skills will be on display in front of professional scouts and college recruiters. The links for games (October 3 to 7) have not yet been posted, however will be available through baseball.com.au or [perfect game tv](http://perfectgame.tv). Best of luck to Andy on this amazing opportunity.

We have players spread across various clubs in summer - so if you are not participating yourself, get down and enjoy some high quality baseball while connecting with your clubmates.



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Many of our players are also lending their expert hand to coaching. Congratulations to Jasmine Bentley and Jess Johnson who have been named as Barclay Cup coaches. The Barclay Cup tournament is for Youth Women aged 13 to 16 and will be held in NSW from Sept 29 to Oct 5.

Jasmine is currently part of our own coaching staff in 2024, leading the Under 15's to finals with Christian Snelson. She is also a regular figure in our second nine alongside Jess. The development of womens baseball across the state has been lead by another Diamond Valley player in National and State head coach - Samantha Hamilton. Watsonia has a long and proud history of female athletes and we are proud of Jess and Jas in all of their pursuits. (Photo: Amy McCann)



2025 COMMITTEE



PRESIDENT - Chelsea Power
VICE PRESIDENT - Bryce Williams
TREASURER - Kim Wiley
SECRETARY - Dean Byrne
JUNIOR COORDINATOR - Position available
GENERAL COMMITTEE - Toby Hope, Dale Williams,
John Alexander, Simon Knights

There is always plenty to do to run our amazing club, and none of this is possible without our wonderful volunteers. Following our 2024 AGM and with excitement, I announce the appointment of our 2025 committee. As a team we are looking forward to building on past success on and off the field.

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Part of this growth includes upgrading our facilities and growing our junior program. Murray Noble has been working tirelessly over the past few years, liaising with the Banyule City Council to upgrade our home - Loyola Reserve. We aimed high, requesting an artificial turf infield, and although this wasn't successful, we are pleased with the outcome.

Construction Schedule

September 18th – October 18th

- Site Establishment & Site Clearing
- Initial Earthworks
- Survey set out re all drainage works including the concrete cricket wicket location and rotating the infield anti clockwise (remove short right field)



October 18th - November 25th

- Installation of drainage system
- Concrete Wicket installation, & Reinstate Baseball Diamond

November 25th – December 10th

- Final Earthworks continued & Install Irrigation heads
- Supply and Lay Santa Ana couch

December 10th to March 2025

- Maintenance of Ground for 13 weeks.



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Further to this, we are also seeking other community grants to purchase resources and equipment for current and future players. Applying for grants is a long and tedious process as we have to ensure our applications stand out amongst the others. I thank Dean Byrne for leading this process. If you are able to assist Dean with this, please reach out.

We are open to suggestions on what to use any grant money for.

We have a few ideas, but it is your club - so what would you like to see at the start of 2025? Ideas so far include: starter kits for juniors new to baseball; a super sopper for removing puddles, tarps to cover the mound and home plate, junior 'coach pitch' machine, extending and enclosing the dugout, a path between the dugout and the rooms... OH THE POSSIBILITIES!



Send your ideas to watsoniasecretary@gmail.com

The committee are currently working behind the scenes to create a 5 year strategic plan and we would like the input of all current players, past players, life members and junior parents about the direction of the club. We are asking that all club people take 5 minutes to give us your feedback from 2024 and ideas for 2025 and beyond. Click on the link below (or in the email) to give us your thoughts about on and off field endeavors, revenue spending, club values and future growth.

[WBC Member feedback](#)

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It is with great anticipation that we look forward to season 2025. We have many players due to register milestone games - including some we may need to entice out of retirement. I also hope to recognise junior games played moving forward as our current crop of players have been with us since Rookie Ball and will be the future of our club.



400 GAMES	300 GAMES	200 GAMES
Andrew Williams (397)	Michael Formisano (299)	Heath Pendlebury (199)
	Glynn Morris (292)	D'Arcy Mills (191)
	Gareth Formisano (290)	Glenn Boardman (190)
	Jarryd Rogers (279)	Nathan Rogers (182)

100 GAMES	50 JUNIOR GAMES
Bryce Gammon (99)	Tayla Baker (49)
Lochlann O'Connor (93)	Cohen Power (49)
Adam Burton (86)	Peter Baade (43)
Jared Cruz (84)	Lily Byrne (41)



In wrapping up, good luck to all players across various sports this summer. If you have not already, please follow the Watsonia facebook page for updates on what everyone is up to, achievements and updates regarding Loyola Reserve and the season ahead. Our plan is to kick things off with an old fashioned 'Pie Night' before the season begins. Please contact me directly if needed watsoniapresident@gmail.com