

Australian Baseball



2006 World Baseball Classic
Photos courtesy of Steve Woltmann

2005-2006 Annual Report

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Australian Baseball Federation

Board

President:
Geoff Pearce (Vic)

Vice President:
Colin Pitt (NSW)

Directors:
Ron Finlay (NSW)
Deborah Healey (NSW)
Katie Bickford (Qld)
Peter Williams (Vic)

Chief Executive Officer:
Don Knapp (Qld)

State Council

Baseball ACT:
Commissioner Theo Vassalakis

Baseball NSW:
Chairman Bruce Auty

Baseball NT:
President Monty Erickson

Baseball Queensland:
Commissioner Neville Brockie

Baseball SA:
President Kevin Jennings

Baseball Victoria:
President Peter Dihm

Baseball WA:
Chairman David Hayes

Head Office

Chief Executive Officer:
Don Knapp

Technical Officials and Competitions:
Geoff Robertson

National Development:
Peter Wood / Alan Connors

Administration / National Website & Database:
Michelle Anderson

Business Management:
Sue Weston

High Performance / Operations:
Brett Pickett

High Performance / Baseball Down Under:
Ben Foster

Head Office cont...

National Website, Marketing and Communications:
Jennifer Stockman

Special Projects:
Alan Weir

State & Territory Associations

Australian Capital Territory:
Baseball ACT - General Manager
Trevor Schumm

New South Wales:
Baseball NSW - Chief Executive
Officer Glen Willott

Northern Territory:
Baseball NT - Acting Executive Officer
Lisa Hooley

Queensland:
Baseball Queensland - Chief
Executive Officer Bob Heiler

South Australia:
Baseball SA - General Manager
Michael Carter

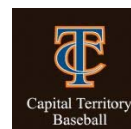
Victoria:
Baseball Victoria - Executive Director
Steve Walker

Western Australia:
Baseball WA - Acting General Manager
Shane Tonkin

Life Members

Mr Reg E Darling* (1957)
Mr G C (Don) Mould* (1976)
Mr J B (John) Hollander* (1977)
Mr E (Tim) Bassingthwaighte (1977)
Mr Robert (Bob) J Black* (1978)
Mr John Anderson (1985)
Mr Neville Pratt (1992)
Mr Kingsley Wellington (1993)
Mr Ken Douglass (2000)
Mr Peter Dihm (2000)
Ms Jan Thurley (2001)
Mr Trevor Jarrett (2002)
Mr Ross Straw* (2003)
Mr Rodney Byrne* (2003)
Mr Ian Ross (2004)
Mr Alan Waldron (2005)

(* denotes deceased)



Message from the President

Mr Geoff Pearce

Greetings and best wishes to all of the baseball community throughout Australia, as well as our many international friends!

Let me first express my gratitude and appreciation for the concerted effort of so many people participating at all levels of the sport in a multitude of roles, in delivering yet another great year of baseball.

In this brief message I will endeavour to highlight the major accomplishments along with the issues and challenges our great sport has experienced in 2005 / 2006.

Board of Directors and State Council

It is my opinion that the ABF Board and State Council are working ever more productively in a collaborative way that best serves the sport.

Effective working relationships between States / Territories and the ABF are evident through progress made in business development, facility development, grass roots sport development programs, the national elite development plan and the delivery of national events. There are in fact very few major initiatives taken on at national level that are not 'all of sport' in nature and that involve buy-in support from States and Territories.

Following is a brief glimpse of the major areas of support our Directors provide to the sport. In 2005 / 2006 the ABF's Board members and their respective portfolios included:

- ☛ **Katie Bickford (Qld)** - Katie is active in the Business Development area along with Marketing and Sponsorship and also assists with Human Resource issues.
- ☛ **Ron Finlay (NSW)** - Ron stepped down as President in January 2006 but remains on the Board to manage mainly the International Relations portfolio. Ron also handles many legal and governance issues for the Federation and is assisting IBAF with governance reform.
- ☛ **Deborah Healey (NSW)** - Deborah manages the very busy Legal, Administrative and Appeals portfolio and this covers a range of complicated areas, including anti-doping issues, policy development, rules and procedures and ethics.

- ☛ **Don Knapp (Qld)** - As Chief Executive Officer of the Federation, Don handles all Executive and Administrative Management, Finance and Business Development, Stakeholder Management, Strategic Partner Liaison and Planning.

- ☛ **Geoff Pearce (Vic)** - Having assumed the Presidency from Ron Finlay in January 2006, I manage the High Performance, Commercial and Licensing portfolios.

- ☛ **Colin Pitt (NSW)** - Colin took on the Vice Presidency in January 2006 (from myself) and is the ABF's Finance Director and Chairs key sub-committees, including the Tournament Management Committee and the Provincial Baseball Committee.

- ☛ **Peter Williams (Vic)** - Peter provides support in key areas such as Executive Management, Commerce, Licensing and Financial Investment.

- ☛ **Murray Westphal (WA)** - Murray resigned his Directorship of the IT and Communications portfolio for personal health reasons in April 2006. I thank Murray for his contribution to the Board and the sport. Murray drove the implementation of the My Club registration and insurance program.

Thanks to the Board for the ongoing provision of valuable professional expertise.

On behalf of all Stakeholders, I thank **Ron Finlay** for the exemplary leadership, guidance and commitment he has generously provided to the sport during his four-year Presidency.

Business Development

It is pleasing to report significant, ongoing progress in the vital area of business development. It is appropriate to single out and thank baseball's all of sport sponsor **Financial Wealth** (backed by Astarra Funds Management) as being a key factor in affording the ABF the opportunity to advance its business initiatives. Major achievements to date include:

- ☛ Implementation of the **My Club national registration and insurance database** which captured 92 percent of the membership in year one of operation - a fantastic result to build upon.
- ☛ Implementation of the **My Rewards members benefits program**. Along

with a lot of positive feedback, the program was not without growing pains in year one. It will be important to monitor the efficacy of the program in its second year.

- ☛ The **hand-over of management of the BALME program** from Baseball Victoria to the ABF became operational in 2005 / 2006 with positive results.

- ☛ Consisting of the Financial Wealth sponsorship revenue, plus revenue from BALME, the ABF made a significant **royalty distribution** to States and Territories in 2006, the total amount of which was \$100,000 for reinvestment into sport development.

- ☛ **Increased number of preferred suppliers** and further progress in developing the **My Shop on-line sales program**. We are determined to launch this convenient program for members this year.

The national business development initiative is a work in progress and is not yet mature although progress made in 2005 / 2006 is impressive indeed. Thanks to Stakeholders and the ABF's staff for their collective efforts in driving this vital program that is so important for the future viability of baseball in Australia.

International Issues

International Baseball Federation (IBAF)

Long standing IBAF President **Aldo Notari** passed away earlier this year and with his passing the ABF acknowledges the enduring commitment Aldo made to the international game of baseball over so many years.

Upon Mr Notari's death, First Vice President **Tom Peng (Taiwan)** assumed the Presidency through Constitutional procedure. Mr Peng has since called for a special IBAF Congress to be held in March 2007 at which time a Presidential election will be held.

As one can imagine, there is significant political activity taking place throughout the international baseball world in respect to the Presidency. It is imperative the IBAF elect a President that can drive key issues such as baseball in the Olympic movement, open and transparent governance, international development and promotion and building relationships with peak professional baseball organisations.

The ABF is remaining very much on top of these issues, largely through the efforts of International Director Ron Finlay who has attended several international meetings recently in order to best position Australia in what will be a new future.

World Baseball Classic

Australia accepted an invitation to participate in the inaugural World Baseball Classic staged by Major League Baseball in March 2006.

Although we were disappointed not to attain a better playing result, the event itself was a major success.

There is little doubt a 2009 event will be played and that the World Baseball Classic will grow into one of the most significant international baseball events quadrennially.

The foray of Major League Baseball and the use of "world's best players" into the international game is a welcome initiative as this is seen as the best way to deliver high profile promotion of baseball worldwide. The advent of the World Baseball Classic provides further need for close future cooperation between IBAF and professional baseball leagues around the world.

International Event Participation

The High Performance report covers this area in full detail. We remain committed to a high level of international event participation and are one of the top 10 most internationally active countries in world baseball.

Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority

On 14 March, through parliamentary legislation, ASADA assumed all of the former roles of ASDA with expanded powers and a mission targeting deterrence, detection and enforcement of the use of illicit drugs in sport.

The ABF has met all ASADA requirements to date, apart from some adjustments that need to be made to the ABF's Anti-Doping Policy to reflect changes in ASADA legislation or changes to the WADA Policy.

Unfortunately, three baseball athletes tested positive for use of cannabinoids at in-competition testing during the 2006 Claxton Shield. Sanctions have been issued to these athletes and this must serve as a reminder of the fact that the use of illicit drugs and sport do not mix.

Hall of Fame and the Inaugural Baseball Australia Diamond Awards

I would like to congratulate 2006 Hall of Fame inductees who join a very elite group of athletes in our sports Hall of Fame. The 2006 Hall of Fame inductees are:

- ☛ Mervyn Deigan (NSW) for the era 1947-1967
- ☛ Jack Rowley (NSW) for the era 1947-1967
- ☛ Allan Albury (Qld) for the era 1968-1988
- ☛ Lionel Harris (NSW) for the era 1968-1988
- ☛ Ray Michell (WA) for the era 1968-1988
- ☛ Jon Deeble (Vic) for the era 1989-1999

Congratulations to the ABF Board, States and Territories and staff who in collaboration, created the annual Baseball Australia Diamond Awards (BADA).

The BADA initiative is designed to recognise the sport's high achievers at all levels, from grass roots to elite. BADA recipients for 2006 are:

- ☛ Life Membership - Alan Waldron
- ☛ President's Award - Bob Medicott
- ☛ Player of the Year Open Men - Chris Oxspring
- ☛ Player of the Year Open Women - Chelsea Forkin
- ☛ Player of the Year Youth - Allan de San Miguel
- ☛ Coach of the Year - Jon Deeble
- ☛ Official of the Year - Neil Poulton
- ☛ Administrator of the Year - Michael Carter
- ☛ ABF nominated Volunteer of the Year - Pat Milmow
- ☛ State nominated Volunteer of the Year - Robyn Karlson
- ☛ Club of the Year - Ku-ring-gai Stealers Baseball League
- ☛ State / Territory Association of the Year - Baseball Victoria

Congratulations to all our recipients and to Alan Waldron (Life Membership 2006) and Bob Medicott (President's Award 2006), thank you for your valued and long-serving commitment to baseball in Australia.

With Thanks and Appreciation

Baseball would not continue to grow and develop without the support of major supporters and key stakeholders. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the support of baseball's "heavy hitters". On your behalf, I offer a big thank you to:

- ☛ Major League Baseball - A major partner in many vital grass roots and elite programs at national, state and international levels.
- ☛ The Australian Sports Commission - Who continues to provide the guidance, support and funding assistance that allows baseball to punch above its weight at many levels.
- ☛ Financial Wealth and Astarra Funds Management - With us for the second year and hopefully more to come, your support has allowed baseball to achieve more than we imagined several years ago, particularly in the area of business development.
- ☛ Member Associations; and
- ☛ Players, coaches, officials, fans and volunteers - You are the ongoing heart and sole of the organisation - thank you for your efforts.

To my hard working Executive Team, including: Chief Executive Officer Don Knapp, Vice Presidents Colin Pitt and Ron Finlay with whom I maintain regular ongoing communication - you are a great team to work with.

Finally, to Don and the management team at Head Office - Michelle Anderson, Alan Connors, Sue Weston, Carrie Duggan, Ben Foster, Brett Pickett, Geoff Robertson and Alan Weir - we expect a lot from you and you deliver, thank you for a great year.

Sincerely
Geoff Pearce
ABF President



Special Message from the Australian Sports Commission

Mr Mark Peters



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

*T*he Australian Government is a strong supporter of Australian sport. The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is the government body that develops, manages and invests in sport at all levels in Australia.

The ASC funds and works closely with a range of national sporting organisations, state and local governments, schools and community bodies to ensure sport is well run and accessible so that everyone can participate and enjoy the benefits. The ASC upholds the integrity of sport through many innovative programs to promote ethical sporting practices and sport free of performance-enhancing drugs.

During 2005-06, the Australian Government, through the ASC, supported the Australian Baseball Federation (ABF) through funding of \$1.466 million for the development of the sport and its continued enhancement at the grass-root and elite levels.

The ASC acknowledges that the ABF has continued to work to build its membership base and has invested significantly in developing elite baseballers. I note the progressive and proactive approach that the ABF takes in developing and promoting young talented players to professional club programs as a means of providing the best daily training environment for those athletes. In this regard, the Gold Coast based ABF Academy program is often cited as a model for other Australian sports.

A highlight earlier this year was the participation of the Australian team in the inaugural World Baseball Classic. Despite some early tournament jitters, the team performed very well in its final two games, particularly against the highly credentialed side from the Dominican Republic.

The ABF has also established noteworthy partnerships with the ASC in relation to disability sport, through Project CONNECT, and volunteer development through the officiating scholarship program.

The Australian Sports Commission looks forward to a continued winning partnership with the Australia Baseball Federation.



Mark A Peters
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Sports Commission

Administration and Executive

Don Knapp, Chief Executive Officer

Introduction

The 2005 / 2006 year has been one that has seen the consolidation of a number of longer term sport and business development initiatives, providing the ABF and State and Territory Associations with a growing sense of confidence that in a number of key areas we are headed in the right direction.

Although this Annual Report is primarily a record about the 2005 / 2006 year, it would be short-sighted to fail to highlight that major initiatives in the key areas such as sport and business development, IT and communications and finance, are made with an eye to the future.

With eyes now focused on that "future", there is a sense of "waiting to launch" syndrome among the ABF, States and Territories, along with players and coaches. I refer to a long-awaited, much anticipated announcement about the new National League. We are increasingly confident that a positive outcome to years of effort and work will be made shortly. We are still targeting November 2007 as a start-up date.

With the consolidation of the all of sport IT and communications capacities through the My Club program, a steadily increasing number of annual hits on baseball.com.au, along with gains made towards the aim of consolidating the collective financial positions of the ABF and States and Territories, baseball in Australia has never been in a stronger position to usher in a new league product.

Budgets and Finance

The ABF achieved a slightly better than forecast surplus for the second successive year in 2005 / 2006.

Income increased by seven percent in 2005 / 06 due to increases in the Financial Wealth sponsorship and Australian Sports Commission and Australian Olympic Committee funding.

Expenditure also increased by seven percent owing mainly to the Royalty Distribution payment (\$100,000) made to States and Territories this year.

We are pleased to report increased income was generated from BALME this year, while expenditure decreased with the ABF assuming management control of the program over the past year.

The MLBAAP, a big expenditure item for the ABF, also responded well to certain operational adjustments and finished in surplus for the year.

The Board, where possible, continues investing any surplus funds in conservative cash management funds in order to be ready to contribute to "start-up" costs for a National League, while at the same time ensuring adequate resources are available for sport development needs.

Business Development

In 2004 / 2005 five key business development initiatives were identified as priorities. It is useful to review these initiatives as a form of progress report for members.

Attraction of an all of sport sponsor. The ABF and Astarra Funds Management (branded as Financial Wealth) relationship has evolved in a productive and mutually beneficial way after nearly two years. Baseball is indeed fortunate to have established such a strong relationship with a company and individuals who share a genuine passion for the sport. It is imperative that States and Territories and affiliates show reciprocal support and loyalty to our most significant corporate partner in order to ensure a long term relationship is fostered.

Central Control of the BALME program. With the ABF assuming management control of this program, administration costs have been reduced while the servicing of licensees has increased. This resulted in better net dollar return in respect to earnings enabling the BALME program to contribute to 40 percent of the State and Territory national royalty distribution (\$40,000 of a total \$100,000). This was achieved with compliance levels still relatively disappointing at just over 50 percent. Future royalty payments to States and Territories will more directly relate to program earnings. With the program's third line forcing provisions terminating in April 2007, we will be relying more than ever on voluntary compliance in order to maintain royalty payments to States and Territories.

Commitment of the ABF Council and Board to adopt an all of sport 'My Club' national registration and insurance scheme with training support. The national uptake of the My Club program has been pleasing indeed in 2005 / 2006 with more than 500 active baseball sites Australia-wide and well over 90 percent of the membership on the database. It is incumbent upon the current generation of administrators to

persevere with and consolidate the My Club program for the benefit of future generations. It is significant that a primary reason we were able to keep insurance costs in check this year was due to what is perceived to be a reliable and accountable registration process by underwriters.

Establishment of a membership benefits program - 'My Rewards'. The My Club program enabled the facilitation of a members' benefits program called 'My Rewards'. Although the distribution of membership cards and retail discount voucher booklets was not without challenges in Year One, the bulk of the membership received these items as scheduled. Feedback regarding the program, particularly from youth members and their families, has been very positive.

Establishment of a national royalty distribution scheme. A desired outcome of any business development strategy is profitability. As indicated above, the ABF was able to distribute just over \$100,000 to States and Territories early in the 2006 year from earnings accrued through BALME, the Financial Wealth sponsorship and other preferred national supplier income. The potential of the national royalty distribution scheme is vast. It must, however, be recognised that the potential and size of future distributions is very much dependent upon State and Territory and membership (past and present) support for national licensees, Financial Wealth and other preferred suppliers.

State and Territory Associations

The relationships between the ABF and member States and Territories remained solid throughout the year. Predominantly, the ABF and States and Territories have worked collaboratively in the following sport development areas:

- Facility development.
- My Club training workshops.
- Joint management of State and Territory Institute of Sports programs (Academies).
- Delivery of the national High Performance Plan and national events hosted by States.
- Coaching and officials national accreditation schemes.
- Play Ball and Project CONNECT (grass roots recruitment activities).

Other programs on an individual State and Territory needs basis.

A snapshot of State and Territory activity over 2005 / 06:

 **Baseball Queensland** started the 2006 year with a bang winning the Claxton Shield for the eighth time since the event's inception in 1934. Baseball Queensland continues to forge ahead, primarily in the areas of sport development and financial management. Chief Executive Officer Bob Heiler identified the two most significant points of progress in this year as being:

- firstly, the expansion of the Rams (State teams playing / coaching program) to all State and Regional Under 14, 16 and 18 youth competitions. Baseball Queensland anticipates strong long term player and coach development gains through the standardisation of the playing and coaching program throughout the State; and
- secondly, since 2005 Baseball Queensland has increased its net assets by more than 200 percent and well out of red-ink territory.

Commissioner Neville Brockie
Chief Executive Officer Bob Heiler

Chairman Bruce Auty and Chief Executive Officer Glen Willott continue to focus on Baseball NSW's basics, including:




- financial control and viability;
- governance and administration; and
- grass roots sport development.

Results that exemplify progress in these areas include:

- significant increase in participation through the resounding success of the 'Play Ball Presents Try Baseball' program;
- a rapidly improving financial position;
- the organisation of several international youth tours this year; and
- advances with the 'One Baseball' vision for Baseball NSW.

Chairman Bruce Auty
Chief Executive Officer Glen Willott

 Commissioner Theo Vassalakis has been re-confirmed as Commissioner of Baseball ACT for another three year term. Baseball ACT has made major gains in the growth and participation area for two years in a row now, achieving a 30 percent increase in registrations for this period due to not only the successful implementation of the Play Ball program but also to the start-up of a women's baseball league. There will

be six teams in the new league this year. All eyes will be on Aussie icon swimmer Petria Thomas whom we can now call a 'ball player', as Petria has signed up to play in the competition. The ACT Department of Sport and Recreation has also given solid support for a future upgrade schedule to Narrabundah Ball Field.

Commissioner Theo Vassalakis
General Manager Trevor Schumm

Baseball Olympian and sports administrator Scott Dawes left Baseball Victoria last year which was the catalyst to search for a suitable candidate to fill his shoes. President Peter Dihm did well to recruit Steve Walker from Tennis Australia as the new Executive Director. Steve has adopted an innovative approach since joining Baseball Victoria and already has put runs on the board, including:



- advances made with the 'One Baseball' governance model;
- tripling of the number of sport development personnel in Victoria (several of these deployed in regional areas; and
- increases in sponsorship for and profile of Baseball Victoria, along with re-designed website.

President Peter Dihm
Executive Director Steve Walker



Baseball is on the move in WA. Chairman David Hayes reported the following highlights for Baseball WA:

- Just completed its first full season of use at Baseball Park and believe they have established a viable business plan for the facility's ongoing utility.
- Employed a full time events manager in Shane Tonkin to drive events and commercial activities at Baseball Park.
- Experienced growth in participation over 2005 / 06.
- Based on improved governance and sports development performance, Baseball WA is anticipating increased Department of Sport and Recreation support this year.
- Baseball WA are particularly thrilled to be hosting the 2007 Claxton Shield and have recruited top baseball executive Trevor Schumm as their new General Manager.

Chairman David Hayes
Acting General Manager Shane Tonkin



Baseball NT has worked hard in areas such as governance, sport development and administrative management over the past 12 months and this has led to a stabilization of the relationship with

the NT Office of Sport and Recreation. In a major facility development breakthrough, Tracy Village Field has been awarded an \$800,000 grant to install lights and a second playing field from the NT Government. This will allow night baseball to be played in Darwin, which, in turn, will allow for an extended season to be played. Baseball NT is very close to announcing a major staffing appointment in the sports development area.

President Monty Erickson
Acting Executive Officer Lisa Hooley

Australian Sports Commission (ASC)

With the rapid approach of 2007, the ABF quadrennial Strategic Plan 2005 to 2009 is nearly half way through its life cycle. The Plan to date has proven to be very functional with the annual Costed Operating Plan proving particularly useful as a performance monitoring tool.



The ABF completed its 2006 / 2007 Costed Operating Plan and submitted this to the ASC in late June 2006. The ASC approved the Plan thus triggering our 2006 / 2007 funding cycle. As indicated previously by the ASC, the level of ABF annual funding for the 2006 / 2007 financial year did increase somewhat in accordance with 'indicative' four-year funding prediction.

Baseball's ASC Sports Consultant continues to be Robert Bennett whom is most helpful in all regards and both the High Performance and Sport Development divisions enjoy positive working relationships with the ASC through Robert.

The ABF and ASC Beijing Athlete Program commenced in 2006 and will continue in the lead up to the Beijing Games in 2008.

Robert Bennett and ASC Executive Director Mark Peters both visited the Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program this year and provided very positive reviews based on their observations.

All ASC reporting, policy, acquittal and auditing requirements have been met by the ABF over 2005 / 2006.

Major League Baseball (MLB)

Major League Baseball (MLB) and Major League Baseball International (MLBI) worked collaboratively with the ABF throughout 2005 / 2006 on a number of sport development programs and events. The most significant of these included:



- the MLB Australian Academy Program (MLBAAP);

- ☛ the Play Ball program;
- ☛ a business planning project for the reintroduction of a national league; and
- ☛ Australia's participation in the 2006 World Baseball Classic.

It is clear that MLB and MLBI remain key strategic partners of the ABF and States and Territories. All indications are that this collaboration will grow in importance to Australian baseball in the near future.

The ABF enjoys positive relations with Australian-based MLB staff Tom Nicholson and Warren King. The ABF also harbors excellent working relationships with key executives in both the Office of the Commissioner and MLBI staff in New York and Tokyo.

Australian Olympic Committee (AOC)

The ABF and the AOC are in the very preliminary stages of team administration for the Baseball component of the Beijing Olympic Games. Team management meetings will begin on a regular basis shortly.



With a tougher qualification route to Beijing, most of the ABF's focus in the next 12 months will be on getting to Beijing.

All AOC grants and funding commitments to the ABF were met in 2005 / 2006 and we continue to enjoy good relationships with AOC staff at an operational level.

The ABF, in turn, met all reporting, policy, acquittal and auditing requirements of the AOC.

State Sport Institutes

The ABF, in collaboration with State and Territory Associations, continues the successful delivery of the National Training Centre(s) program with the support of State Sport Institutes, including:

- ☛ ACTAS (Australian Capital Territory Academy of Sport)
- ☛ NSWIS (New South Wales Institute of Sport)
- ☛ QAS (Queensland Academy of Sport)
- ☛ SASI (South Australian Sports Institute)
- ☛ VIS (Victoria Institute of Sport)
- ☛ WAIS (Western Australia Institute of Sport)

The ABF remains fully committed through 2009 (subject to ongoing ASC funding) to ongoing support and funding of these key programs. These programs are considered critical to the longer term success of the national High Performance plan.

Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA)

ASADA was born through a new Act of Parliament in 2006 and has assumed all previous responsibilities of the Anti-Doping Sports Drug Agency (ASDA) and, in fact, has extended powers over and above the previous ASDA. ASADA was established by the Australian Government as a result of its commitment to strengthen its "Tough on Drugs in Sport" strategy.



In summary, ASADA's role includes deterrence, detection and enforcement in respect to the elimination of the use of performance enhancing drugs in sport.

All transactions between ASADA and the ABF have been successfully executed and the ABF met its Anti-Doping Policy requirements over 2005 / 2006.

Major Issues and Challenges

The major issues, challenges and objectives identified in the ABF's quadrennial Strategic Plan are the primary frame of reference for maintaining a focus on key all of sport issues. The Plan is reviewed annually so that a fluid response can be made to emerging issues. However, as a means of measuring progress, it is useful to review the issues and challenges identified in last year's Annual Report and they are:

- ☛ **All of sport business development.** The key objectives for 2005 / 2006 have been the implementation of the My Club registration and insurance system; delivering a central administration structure for the BALME program; servicing and retaining all of sport sponsors and preferred suppliers; and making a national royalty distribution. In summary, most, if not all, of this was achieved in 2005 / 2006. It is vital that in 2006 / 2007 these achievements are built upon whereby improvements and consolidation of the national business development effort becomes the focus.
- ☛ **Re-establishment of a sustainable national league.** There has been no let up in the business planning effort and drive to get a new league up and running for the target date of November 2007. At the time of writing this report, we feel an announcement is imminent.
- ☛ **Recruitment, retention and rewards of / for members.** Objectives such as the implementation of the My Rewards program; ongoing delivery of

Play Ball; and the introduction of the Membership Protection Policy were all achieved in 2005 / 2006 - so, again, we remained on task. However, after staging a very successful all of sport 'retention' workshop, it seems some of the momentum and outcomes to this meeting have stalled. A focus of 2006 / 2007 will be to revisit this issue and regain the momentum.

- ☛ **Ongoing improvement of the High Performance program.** This continues to be work in progress with focus increasingly on qualifying for Beijing. Indeed the new qualification route for the Oceania champions is far more difficult than for the previous three Olympiads that Australia successfully qualified for.

Although we can point to reasonable progress in each of the areas above, there remains much work to do and all four of these areas remain major points of focus for the sport. Emerging issues are:

- ☛ **"The Future is Together".** This phrase was the vision statement created from the last major all of sport strategic planning exercise back in 1999. It remains the vision for the sport of baseball today and has since fostered reinforcing underpinning catch phrases such as "best for baseball" and "one baseball", terms used at all levels of the sport.

It is not difficult to subscribe to the idealistic notions that such symbolic terms represent and most members do not have a hard time gravitating to the dialogue. It would be naive indeed to expect that all members share a common view of just how the sport should organise itself to achieve a future together and an environment where everybody is on the same page. The ABF, States and Territories, Regions and Clubs face major challenges firstly to ensure all of sport initiatives are quality schemes that can and will benefit members and secondly, to clearly communicate and deliver those benefits to members to achieve a unified sport from top to bottom.

- ☛ **National League.** The structure of the national league is planned to be a 'single entity' model. Without going into detail, the team and event management function will require the ABF and States and Territories to work more closely in a business operations sense than ever before. Generally, before the advent of the League, this was viewed as a good thing, but it will not be without its challenges.

In summary, if the national league model is successful, the League itself has the potential to become a great unifying force for the entire sport.

The levels of support for a national league have been very encouraging as indicated by all of our research to date. The highest levels of support are evident among the core, or existing baseball membership. That is a very good thing as the league will need the unified support of the entire membership to flourish.

☛ **Athlete Welfare.** The national High Performance program has proven to be very effective in preparing and promoting athletes to play at a higher level. It is true that nearly 40 percent of all youth athletes graduating from State Sport Institutes and the MLBAAP either sign professionally, or earn College scholarships.

We must, however, increase our focus on how these athletes fare and are integrated into higher levels of play. Most importantly, we must assist athletes in preparing for when the overseas playing career ends. To this end, our relationships with Addeco, Financial Wealth and Academic and Career Education (ACE) personnel are increasingly important. We are also working hard to establish better links with tertiary and TAFE institutions to develop more 'alternative career' study / training opportunities that are accessible in a timeframe and a delivery mode suitable for active professional baseball players.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Head Office staff for their collective efforts and commitment to the sport and tasks at hand. To the veterans now, **Brett Pickett** (recently promoted to the High Performance Manager's position), **Michelle Anderson** (recently promoted to IT and Communications), **Sue Weston**, **Alan Weir** and **Geoff Robertson** - *thank you for another good year.* To recent appointees **Alan Connors** (to the National Development Manager's position) and **Ben Foster** (new position - High Performance Program Coordinator, Media and Baseball Down Under) - *you are already making a strong contribution with your efforts and we are pleased to have you on board.*

We have lost two valued staff members over the past 12 months; **Peter Wood** (ex National Development Manager) and **Jennifer Stockman** (ex IT and Communications Coordinator). It is significant that both Peter and Jenny have moved onto elevated positions and we wish them well for the future.

To our key strategic partners, including; the **Australian Sports Commission**, **Major League Baseball**, the **Australian Olympic Committee**, **State Sport Institutes** and the **Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority** - *we thank you for the ongoing support and guidance.*

To our corporate partners, including; preferred suppliers, licensees and event sponsors - *we look forward to an ongoing association.*

To our friends at **Astarra Funds Management** and **Financial Wealth**, including; **Shawn Richard**, **Maurice Terrerio**, **Mark Schroeder** and **Zoe Viellaris** - *the all of sport sponsorship support that you provide has allowed our sport to move ahead beyond expectation over the past two years. We look forward to a lasting, mutually beneficial relationship in the future.*

Baseball is indeed fortunate to have a fully independent Board consisting of people that bring a diverse range of high level professional expertise to the sport. The legal, commercial, marketing, governance and communications expertise that baseball has access to through its generous Directors literally saves the ABF and its members many thousands of dollars annually in professional fees. The ABF Board provides our sport with a leadership edge.

To the membership of the ABF, including; **State and Territory Associations**, **Regional Associations**, **Clubs**, members and officials - *thank you for your ongoing passion and commitment to the sport.* Thanks also to my colleagues - **State Executive Officers** - *I have again enjoyed working with each of you and your respective office staff this year.*

Finally, thanks in particular to the army of volunteers that give up so much personal time in support of the great game of baseball - *your efforts are greatly valued.*



Sincerely
Don Knapp
Chief Executive Officer

Australian Baseball Recognition of Awards

Life Membership of the Australian Baseball Federation

Life Membership of the Australian Baseball Federation is the highest level of honour bestowed by the Australian Baseball Federation. This award is presented for outstanding service to Australian baseball over an extended period of time (minimum of 10 years) at National and International levels.

1957	Reg E Darling*
1976	G C (Don) Mould*
1977	J B (John) Hollander*
1977	E (Tim) Bassingthwaighte
1978	Robert (Bob) J Black*
1985	John Anderson
1992	Neville Pratt
1993	Kingsley Wellington
2000	Ken Douglas
2001	Jan Thurley
2002	Trevor Jarrett
2003	Ross Straw*
2003	Rodney Byrne*
2004	Ian Ross
2005	Alan Waldron

* denotes deceased

Induction to Baseball Australia's Hall of Fame

In January 2005 the Australian Baseball Federation launched the establishment of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame. There are two categories of excellence; Playing and Managing/Coaching. Standard of criteria for selection includes, but is not limited to the following:

- ☛ A nominee must have had a prolonged impact on the game of baseball at the highest level available at that time.
- ☛ A nominee must be of good character and not be deemed to have brought the game of baseball into disrepute by inappropriate behaviour either on or off the field.
- ☛ A consideration of statistical information.

Inducted	Category	Inductee
2005	Pre 1900	Rue Ewers* - SA
2005	Pre 1900	Harry Simpson* - NSW, SA, Vic
2005	Pre 1900	Tom Gleason* - NSW
2005	1900-1918	Harold Franks* - NSW
2005	1900-1918	Eric McElhone* - NSW
2005	1900-1918	Les Agnew* - NSW
2005	1919-1946	Charlie Puckett* - Vic, SA, WA
2005	1919-1946	Ken Gulliver* - NSW
2005	1919-1946	Ron Sharpe* - SA

Hall of Fame Inductions cont...

Inducted	Category	Inductee
2005	1919-1946	Ernie Yum* - NSW
2005	1919-1946	Billy Ford* - NSW
2005	1919-1946	Alf Emmerick* - NSW
2005	1919-1946	George Dickinson* - WA
2005	1947-1967	Kevin Cantwell - NSW
2005	1947-1967	Ron McPherson* - NSW, WA
2005	1947-1967	Ray Lawler* - NSW
2005	1947-1967	Ross Straw* - Vic
2005	1947-1967	Dave Roberts - SA
2005	1947-1967	Don Deeble* - Vic
2005	1947-1967	Graeme Deany - Vic
2005	1968-1988	Neil Page - SA
2005	1968-1988	Kevin Greatrex - SA
2005	1968-1988	Larry Home - Qld, NSW, WA
2005	1968-1988	David Mundy - SA
2005	1968-1988	John Swanson - Vic
2005	1968-1988	Adrian Meagher - Qld
2005	1989-1999	Phil Dale - Vic
2005	1989-1999	Bob Nilsson - Qld
2005	1989-1999	Ron Johnson - Qld
2005	1989-1999	Andrew Scott - SA
2005	1989-1999	Tony Adamson - WA
2005	Player	Craig Shipley - NSW
2005	Player	David Nilsson - Qld
2005	Player	Graeme Lloyd - Vic
2005	Mgr/Coach Pre 1900	James Searle* - NSW
2005	Mgr/Coach Pre 1900	Frank Laver* - Vic
2005	Mgr/Coach Pre 1900-1918	Norrie Claxton* - SA
2005	Mgr/Coach Pre 1900-1918	Harold Turner* - NSW
2005	Mgr/Coach Pre 1947-1967	Cec Kemp* - NSW
2005	Mgr/Coach Pre 1947-1967	Kingsley Wellington - SA
2005	Mgr/Coach Pre 1968-1988	Rod Byrne* - WA
2006	1947-1967	Mervyn Deigan* - NSW
2006	1947-1967	Jack Rowley - NSW
2006	1968-1988	Allan Albury - Qld
2006	1968-1988	Lionel Harris - NSW
2006	1968-1988	Ray Michell - WA
20069	Mgr/Coach Pre 1989-1999	Jon Deeble - Vic

* denotes deceased

Baseball Australian Diamond Awards

In 2006, in the spirit of further developing and preserving the heritage of baseball in Australia, the Australian Baseball Federation established and conducted an annual awards function intended to honour achievement and excellence at all levels of the sport.

The overall aim and spirit of the Baseball Australia Diamond Awards (BADA) is to fairly honour all of sport achievement across each key operational area of baseball in Australia, such as:

- 🔗 Sport Management and Governance
- 🔗 Sport Development
- 🔗 Official Development
- 🔗 High Performance

Awards are presented for the following categories:

- 🔗 Hall of Fame Induction
- 🔗 Life Membership
- 🔗 President's Award
- 🔗 Player of the Year - Open Men
- 🔗 Player of the Year - Open Women
- 🔗 Youth Player of the Year
- 🔗 Coach of the Year
- 🔗 Official of the Year
- 🔗 Volunteer of the Year (national and ABF nominees)
- 🔗 Administrator of the Year
- 🔗 Club of the Year (the Shakaijin Trophy)
- 🔗 State / Territory Association of the Year

Inducted	Category	Inductee
2006	Coach of the Year	Jon Deeble - Vic
2006	Official of the Year	Neil Poulton - SA
2006	ABF Volunteer of the Year	Pat Milmlow - NSW
2006	Volunteer of the Year	Robyn Karlson - Vic
2006	Player of the Year - Open Mens	Chris Oxspring - NSW
2006	Player of the Year - Open Womens	Chelsea Forkin - WA
2006	Player of the Year - Youth	Allan de San Miguel - WA
2006	Administrator of the Year	Michael Carter - SABL
2006	Club of the Year	Ku-ring-gai Steelers - NSW
2006	State / Territory Association of the Year	Baseball Victoria

Claxton Shield - National Championship Winners

72 Years of Claxton

First Claxton Shield

In 1934 Norrie Claxton (1880-1951) donated a trophy to be awarded to the State winning the annual Australian Championships. Norrie Claxton, who was the first president of the South Australian Baseball League in 1913, originally intended the team which won the trophy for three successive years to become the permanent holder. After South Australia won the first three years of competition involving presentation of the trophy, all States agreed that it become a permanent competition trophy and named it the Claxton Shield Competition.

1930's

For many Claxton Shield players of this era, the late 1930's marked the golden age in Australian baseball. The players were mainly club and Sheffield Shield cricketers who saw each other on the cricket pitch in summer and the baseball diamond in winter. It was the lull of the decisive war which was to change the style and face of Australian baseball.

1934	SA	1937	NSW
1935	SA	1938	NSW
1936	SA	1939	NSW

1940's

The post-war years of Claxton Shield produced many new players. Some of the leading players who started to reach new heights with Australian baseball were Jack Rowley, Ray Lawler, Bob Black, Jim Dore and Ern Toovey.

1946	NSW	1948	VIC
1947	VIC	1949	VIC

1950's

The early 1950's saw a fully restored national Claxton Shield held in Sydney with Queensland returning to the competition after a four-year absence. Each capital city held at least one series during the decade with Brisbane hosting its first ever in 1953.

1950	NSW	1955	NSW
1951	NSW	1956	VIC
1952	WA	1957	SA
1953	NSW	1958	VIC
1954	VIC	1959	SA

1960's
 The 1961 series was the first time all teams got to play each other twice. In 1962 the longstanding Claxton tradition of hosting the event in August was broken by host Adelaide who scheduled the series in October. This was as close to cricket season the Australian Baseball Council dared to venture. The immediate benefit was to bring the national competition closer to a season with warmer weather.

1960	SA	1965	VIC
1961	SA	1966	SA
1962	VIC	1967	SA
1963	NSW	1968	VIC
1964	SA	1969	SA

1970's
 In 1977, 1978 and 1979 Western Australia won the shield with one of the strongest sides of all time, led by manager and coach Rod Byrne, Don Knapp as captain and a team including Bob Harris, Ray Michell, Bob Ossey, Don Kyle and Doug Mateljan.

1970	SA	1975	WA
1971	SA	1976	SA
1972	VIC	1977	WA
1973	VIC	1978	WA
1974	VIC	1979	WA

1980's
 The 1981 series in Adelaide was dominated by some great names such as Tony Anderson, Doug Mateljan, Graeme Lloyd, Brett Wall; the list goes on and on. 1987 saw the arrival of 17-year-old phenomenon Dave Nilsson. Nilsson was part of a baseball dynasty started by his father and perpetuated by himself and brothers Gary and Bob. The 1988 Claxton Shield was destined to be the last six-State national competition before the introduction of the IBLA.

1980	SA	1985	WA
1981	VIC	1986	VIC
1982	QLD	1987	QLD
1983	QLD	1988	QLD
1984	VIC	1989	NSW

IBLA
 After 53 successful years of Claxton Shield competition the ABF decided in 1988 to form a national competition under the banner of the AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL LEAGUE. The League initially consisted of eight teams from around Australia. It was the next step in establishing baseball as a major sport throughout the country. Unfortunately, 1999 saw the demise of the National League.

The Return of CLAXTON SHIELD

Claxton Shield returned in 2001 with a very impressive line-up. Since the final series of Claxton Shield in 1988, Australia had introduced several players into the US Major League ranks, most of whom had returned home for the event. 2003 and 2004 saw the line-up grow increasingly as more players made the professional ranks. 2006's event was sure to be the most impressive yet. In conjunction with a Silver medal, Australia had over 100 professional players on their CV and of those 100; over 50 competed at the 2006 Claxton Shield making the level of play world class.

2002	VIC	2005	NSW
2003	QLD	2006	QLD
2004	NSW		

CLAXTON SHIELD 'HELM'S' AWARD - Ron Sharpe Medal

1962	Anthony Strand - NSW	1978	Ray Michell - WA
1963	Kevin Cantwell - NSW	1979	Brian Wonnacott - Vic
1964	Adrian Pearce - SA	1980	John Galloway - SA
1965	Graeme Deany - Vic	1981	John Hodges - Vic
1966	Kevin Greatrex - SA	1982	Geoffrey Martin - Qld
1967	Garry Thompson - SA	1983	Doug Mateljan - WA
1968	John Swanson - Vic	1984	Brett Ward - Vic
1969	Neil Page - SA	1985	Tony Stall - WA
1970	Paul Russell - NSW	1986	Lindsay Orford - Vic
1971	Ron McIver - Vic	1987	David Nilsson - Qld
1972	Donald Knapp - WA	1989	Richard Vagg - Vic
1973	David Mundy - SA	2002	Rod van Buizen
1974	Neil Buszard - Vic	2003	Craig Lewis - NSW
1975	Laurence Home - Qld	2004	Brett Roneberg - Qld
1976	Alan Albury - Qld	2005	Brad Harman - Vic
1977	Alan Albury - Qld	2006	Brad Dutton - Qld

National Youth Championships

AAA "Jim Brown" Shield

Year	Winners	Venue
1938	South Australia	
1939	New South Wales	
1940	New South Wales	
1947	South Australia	
1948	South Australia	
1949	South Australia	
1950	Victoria	
1951	New South Wales	
1952	South Australia	
1953	South Australia	
1954	South Australia	
1955	Victoria	
1956	South Australia	
1957	Victoria	
1958	South Australia	
1959	South Australia	
1960	South Australia	
1961	Victoria	
1962	South Australia	
1967	Victoria	
1968	New South Wales	
1969	Victoria	
1971	Victoria	
1972	New South Wales	
1973	New South Wales	
1974	Victoria	
1975	Victoria	
1976	Victoria	
1977	Victoria	
1978	Victoria	
1979	Victoria	
1980	Victoria	
1981	South Australia	
1982	Victoria	
1983	South Australia	
1984	Victoria	
1985	Victoria	
1986	Queensland	
1987	New South Wales	
1988	South Australia	
1989	Victoria	
1990	New South Wales	
1991	Western Australia	
1992	Victoria	
1993	Victoria	
1994	New South Wales	
1995	New South Wales	SA
1996	Queensland	NSW
1997	New South Wales	Alice Springs, NT
1998	New South Wales	Redlands, Qld
1999	New South Wales	Glenelg, SA
2000	Victoria	West Stirling, WA
2001	New South Wales	BOP*, NSW
2002	New South Wales	MBP*, Vic

AAA "Jim Brown" Shield cont...

Year	Winners	Venue
2003	Victoria	Narrabundah, ACT
2004	Victoria	Geelong, Vic
2005	New South Wales	Geelong, Vic
2006	Western Australia	Geelong, Vic

*BOP = Blacktown Olympic Park
*MBP = Melbourne Ball Park

AA "Keith Cant" Trophy

Year	Winners	Venue
1978	South Australia	Perth, WA
1979	South Australia	Brisbane, Qld
1980	Victoria	Sydney, NSW
1981	New South Wales	Melbourne, Vic
1982	New South Wales	Hobart, Tas
1983	New South Wales	Sydney, NSW
1984	Queensland	Canberra, ACT
1985	Victoria	Alice Springs, NT
1986	Western Australia	Perth, WA
1987	New South Wales	Brisbane, Qld
1988	New South Wales	Melbourne, Vic
1989	Victoria	Adelaide, SA
1990	Western Australia	Perth, WA
1991	Western Australia	Adelaide, SA
1992	Victoria	Sydney, NSW
1993	New South Wales	Alice Springs, NT
1994	Victoria	Brisbane, Qld
1995	New South Wales	Melbourne, Vic
1996	New South Wales	Perth, WA
1997	New South Wales	Melbourne, Vic
1998	New South Wales	Narrabundah, ACT
1999	Western Australia	Alice Springs, NT
2000	New South Wales	Redlands, Qld
2001	Victoria	Mt Gambier, SA
2002	New South Wales	West Stirling, WA
2003	Queensland	Blacktown, NSW
2004	Victoria	Redlands, Qld
2005	Western Australia	Lismore, NSW
2006	New South Wales	Mt Gambier, SA

A "Dave Roberts" Trophy

Year	Winners	Venue Host
1978	Victoria	Hobart, Tas
1979	New South Wales	Adelaide, SA
1980	New South Wales	Perth, WA
1981	Victoria	Sydney, NSW
1982	Western Australia	Brisbane, Qld
1983	South Australia	Melbourne, Vic
1984	South Perth	Adelaide, SA
1985	Cumberland	Sydney, NSW
1986	Waverley	Adelaide, SA
1987	Waverley	Hobart, Tas
1988	Waverley	Darwin, NT
1989		
1990	New South Wales	Melbourne, Vic
1991	Victoria	Canberra, ACT
1992	New South Wales	Perth, WA
1993	New South Wales	Adelaide, SA
1994	Victoria	Sydney, NSW
1995	Western Australia	Darwin, NT
1996	Western Australia	Tamworth, NSW
1997	New South Wales	Glenelg, SA
1998	Victoria	Perth, WA
1999	New South Wales	Kings Langley, NSW
2000	Western Australia	Melbourne, Vic
2001	Victoria	Narrabundah, ACT
2002	Victoria	Ormeau, Qld
2003	New South Wales	Alice Springs, NT
2004	Victoria	Mt Gambier, SA
2005	New South Wales	Perth, WA
2006	Western Australia	Gold Coast, Qld

Australian Provincial Championship

(originally known as “Australian Baseball Minor Championship” and then “Commonwealth Baseball Tournament”)

Year	Championship Winner	Minor Series Winner	Venue
1982	ACT	Queensland	Canberra, ACT
1983	Victoria	Victoria	Canberra, ACT
1984	Victoria	Victoria	Canberra, ACT
1985	Victoria	Victoria	Hobart, Tas
1986	ACT	ACT	Adelaide, SA
1987	Victoria	Victoria	Lismore, NSW
1988	New South Wales	New South Wales	Canberra, ACT
1989	New South Wales	Victoria	Ballarat, Vic
1990	Victoria	Victoria	Port Macquarie, NSW
1991	ACT	ACT	Adelaide, SA
1992	ACT	ACT	Canberra, ACT
1993	New South Wales	New South Wales	Cairns, Qld
1994	New South Wales	New South Wales	Ballarat, Vic
1995	Victoria	Victoria	Darwin, NT
1996	ACT	ACT	Port Macquarie, NSW
1997	Victoria	Victoria	Mt Gambier, SA
1998	New South Wales	Victoria	Ballarat, Vic
1999	Northern Territory	Victoria	Darwin, NT
2000	New South Wales	New South Wales	Tamworth, NSW
2001	New South Wales	New South Wales	Cairns, Qld
2002	New South Wales	Victoria	Ballarat, Vic
2003	Victoria	Victoria	Rockingham, WA
2004	Victoria	ACT	Mt Gambier, SA
2005	New South Wales	ACT	Narrabundah, ACT
2006	ACT	Country NSW	Auckland, NZ

Australian National Womens Championship

Year	Winner	Venue
1999	Victoria	Melbourne, VIC
2000	Victoria	Melbourne, VIC
2001	Victoria	Sydney, NSW
2002	Victoria	Gold Coast, QLD
2003	New South Wales	Perth, WA
2004	Victoria	Tamworth, NSW
2005	Victoria	Melbourne, WA
2006	New South Wales	Ipswich, QLD

High Performance Brett Pickett, Manager

Executive Summary

Whilst the 2005 / 2006 year cannot be compared to the 2004 / 2005 year, in terms of on-field success, this year played an important role in our long term plan of achieving Gold medal success at the 2008 Olympics.

A young breed of players that will represent the core of our national team for many years to come were ushered into the national team and whilst the results will not tell a story of success, the team performed very well given the circumstances and both the individual players and the team itself will benefit from the experience as we move forward towards 2008.

The year was not without success mind you, as the national AA team secured the Bronze medal at the World Championships under some very trying conditions. Our State Institute programs, in conjunction with our marquee development program the MLBAAP, continue to produce solid young prospects ensuring our national teams should be well stocked for the years to come.

Major priorities for the High Performance division for the 2006 / 2007 year include:

- the creation and distribution of the ABF's National Play Book;
- increased focus on our athlete welfare programs in an ever increasing professional baseball environment;
- the initiation of a well coordinated overseas player placement program;
- the creation of an Olympic Athletes Commission;
- search for further improvements from our State Institute network; and
- success from our various national teams, most specifically winning the 2007 Senior Oceania Championship (stage 1 of our Olympic qualification).

In closing, I would like to thank and express my sincere gratitude to all our High Performance coaching and support staff for another year of hard work, emphatic enthusiasm and unwavering commitment. Specifically, I'd like to recognise the invaluable contribution and guidance of the following:

- Geoff Pearce, Director High Performance
- Ben Foster, National Programs Coordinator - *welcome to the team Ben and thanks for all the great work so far*
- Jon Deeble, National Team Manager
- Tony Harris - National On-field Coordinator

- Phil Dale, National Pitching Coach
- Pat Kelly, National Infield Coach
- Bruce Rawson, National Sports Medicine Coordinator
- Dr Phil Jauncey, Sports Psychologist
- Tony Wilson, Performance Coordinator

State Sport Institutes

Our State Institute network continues to be an essential component of our national athlete pathway and a critical cog of our overall High Performance machine. This network underpins and produces quality athletes for our benchmark development program the MLBAAP and our national teams.

We continue to maintain State Institute programs in six States and Territories around the country (Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia) all of which have continued to maintain solid results over the past 12 months.

The ABF would like to thank and recognise all of the following program partners and coaches for their ongoing support and hard work:

- Queensland - Queensland Academy of Sport, Baseball Queensland, Peter Gahan and Luke Prokopec
- New South Wales - New South Wales Institute of Sport, Baseball NSW and Andre Desjardins
- South Australia - South Australia Sports Institute, Baseball SA and Warwick Marks
- Victoria - Victoria Institute of Sport, Baseball Victoria and Matthew Sheldon-Collins
- Western Australia - Western Australia Institute of Sport, Baseball WA and Don Kyle
- Australian Capital Territory - Australian Capital Territory Association of Sport, Baseball ACT, Damian Shanahan and scholarship coach Brent Phelan

Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program (MLBAAP)

The MLBAAP is an initiative supported and funded by the Major League Baseball Office of the Commissioner, Major League Baseball International (MLBI), the Australian Baseball Federation (ABF), the

Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and the various State Sport Institute programs.

Considered by all to be the "crown jewel" of all our development programs, the MLBAAP continues to grow from year to year. This year's Program saw an increase in the Program's duration, an increase in the number of games / at bats / innings pitched for the players and perhaps one of the most understated improvements, an enormous reduction in player injuries thanks to a well planned and thorough athlete management and recovery system.

With MLB's expected ongoing support, the future of the Program continues to shine bright.

The major organisational constructs of the MLBAAP are as follows:

- The Management Committee consisted of: Mark Peters (Chair and Executive Director of the ASC), Don Knapp (Director of Operations and CEO of the ABF) and Tom Nicholson (Director of MLB International - Australia).
- Program management staff consisted of: Neil Barrowcliff (Program Manager), Mark Barrowcliff (Operations Manager), Brett Pickett (ABF High Performance Manager) and Ben Foster (ABF National Programs Coordinator).
- Program support staff consisted of: Lydia Najlepszy (ACE Coordinator), Bruce Rawson (Sports Medicine Coordinator), Phil Jauncey (Sports Psychologist), John Roebig (Pastoral Care) and Tony Wilson (Performance Coordinator).
- The coaching staff, lead by National Head Coach Jon Deeble and On-field Coordinator Tony Harris consisted of: all our State Sport Institute coaches and various former Major League players (David Nilsson, Graeme Lloyd and Pat Kelly).

This year's Program was conducted at Palm Meadows Baseball Complex from 24 June to 20 August 2006.

The athlete cohort consisted of 60 players.

National Senior Program

2005 / 2006 was perhaps the busiest year in the team's history with the team participating in three major events, including what was the 'Grand Daddy' of them all, the inaugural World Baseball Classic.

2005 World Cup

The first tournament on the year's program was the 2005 World Cup, staged in Holland from 2 to 17 September 2005. This was the first major tournament the team had participated in since the 2004 Athens Olympic Games so interest and expectations of the team's performance was high.

Statistically speaking, the results were disappointing. The team finished in ninth place and the team's batting average and

ERA fell below expectations. However, taking a look at the bigger picture can provide us with some pleasing outcomes.

Firstly, only 50 percent of the team were members of the 2004 Olympic team, indicating a new era of players were being introduced into the senior team. Despite some gallant efforts by this new breed of young players, the inexperience of the bulk of the team did prove to be costly throughout the tournament.

And, secondly, the timing of the tournament (ie, clashing with the post season of minor league baseball)

prevented us from securing access to a number of our key players, whose experience and ability were sorely missed.

Despite the disappointing result, the team, and more specifically, the young players gained some invaluable experience from their involvement.

Cuba were eventual winners of the tournament beating Korea in the Gold medal game.

Meet the team:

					
Jon Deeble – Vic Head Coach	Tony Harris – SA On-field Coordinator	Phil Dale – Vic Pitching Coach	Pat Kelly - SA Assistant Coach	David Nagy – NSW Executive Officer	Bruce Rawson – Qld Phsiotherapist
					
Neil Bourke – Vic Advance Scout	Craig Shipley – NSW Team Official	Dr Phil Jauncey – Qld Psychologist	Craig Anderson – NSW Pitcher	Adrian Burnside – NT Pitcher	Paul Mildren – SA Pitcher
				NO PHOTOGRAPH AVAILABLE	
Adam Bright – Vic Pitcher	Phil Stockman – Qld Pitcher	Tristan Crawford – Qld Pitcher	Shane Lindsay – Vic Pitcher	Aaron Mackenzie – WA Pitcher	Glen Richards – Vic Pitcher
					
John Stephens – NSW Pitcher	Trent D'Antonio – NSW Catcher	Andrew Graham – NSW Catcher	Gavin Fingleson – NSW Infield	Craig Lewis – NSW Infield	Brad Harman – Vic Infield
					
Paul Rutgers – Vic Infield	Brendan Kingman – NSW Infield	Dean White – WA Infield	Luke Hughes – WA Infield	Rod van Buizen – NSW Infield	Brett Roneberg – Qld Outfield

Meet the team cont...



2005 World Cup Australian Team Statistics

Individual Batting Statistics

Name	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SAC	SF	HBP	SB	SO	LOB	AVG	OBP	SLG
Andrew Graham	7	15	2	4	1	0	0	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	4	3	.267	.267	.333
Andrew Utting	7	18	2	4	1	0	1	6	8	2	0	1	0	0	5	2	.222	.286	.444
Bradley Harman	8	15	1	5	2	0	0	3	7	2	0	0	0	1	2	6	.333	.412	.467
Brendan Kingman	7	21	4	9	1	0	0	1	10	3	0	0	0	0	1	5	.429	.500	.476
Brett Roneberg	8	30	7	7	2	0	1	3	12	5	0	0	0	1	8	3	.233	.343	.400
Craig Lewis	7	21	3	7	0	0	1	3	10	2	0	0	0	1	3	6	.333	.391	.476
Dean White	5	9	3	3	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	.333	.333	.333
Gavin Fingleston	7	26	4	6	1	0	0	1	7	1	0	0	0	2	3	5	.231	.259	.269
Luke Hughes	7	15	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	5	2	.067	.222	.067
Paul Rutgers	6	13	4	5	2	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	4	2	4	.385	.385	.538
Rodney van Buizen	7	17	1	2	1	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	5	3	.118	.167	.176
Thomas Brice	8	31	3	7	3	0	1	2	13	3	0	0	0	2	10	9	.226	.294	.419
Trent D'Antonio	5	9	3	5	2	0	1	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	.556	.556	1.111
Trent Oeltjen	8	34	4	8	3	1	1	5	16	1	0	0	1	1	5	4	.235	.278	.471

Individual Pitching Statistics

Name	G	W	L	S	IP	R	ER	H	HR	SO	BB	WP	BK	ERA
Aaron Mackenzie RHP	3	0	1	0	4.2	3	3	5	0	2	1	0	1	5.79
Adam Bright LHP	4	1	0	0	6.0	1	1	3	1	5	1	0	0	1.50
Adrian Burnside LHP	4	0	1	0	3.1	2	2	4	0	6	0	0	0	5.40
Craig Anderson LHP	2	0	0	0	6.0	2	2	7	0	7	2	0	1	3.00
Craig Lewis RHP	7	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.00
Glen Richards LHP	2	0	0	0	4.0	2	2	4	0	4	4	0	2	4.50
John Stephens (RHP)	2	1	1	0	13.1	4	4	12	2	10	2	0	0	2.70
Paul Mildren (LHP)	2	1	0	0	12.1	2	2	7	2	16	2	0	2	1.46
Phil Stockman (RHP)	4	0	0	0	4.0	2	2	2	2	4	3	0	0	4.50
Shane Lindsay (RHP)	2	1	1	0	8.1	3	3	5	1	14	7	0	0	3.24
Tristan Crawford (RHP)	4	0	0	0	5.0	5	3	6	1	6	0	0	0	5.40

2006 Financial Wealth Baseball Challenge

In need of preparing the national team for the upcoming World Baseball Classic and stemming from a desire to further enhance relations with our Asian neighbours, the ABF invited the Chinese Taipei national team to Australia to participate in a series of 'international friendly' games.

Baseball WA and Baseball Victoria were selected to be co-hosts of the Game series and each Association hosted four games between the two Nations.

The series, staged from 4 to 12 February, was split with each team winning four games, but more importantly our team received excellent preparation, baseball fans in two states got the rare opportunity to attend some high quality international baseball and our Federation's relationship with Chinese Taipei Baseball Association was further improved.

In addition to that eight game series, our team also had the opportunity to play two practice games against the visiting Japanese professional team, the Chiba Lotte Marines, who were in Geelong for their pre-season training camp. Australia was victorious in both games.

2006 Financial Wealth Baseball Challenge Australia Team Statistics

Individual Batting Statistics

Name	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB-ATT
99 Lachlan Dale	1.000	1-0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1.000	0	0	0	0	1.000	0	0	0-0
25 Tom Brice	.400	8-8	30	7	12	2	1	2	5	22	.733	0	1	4	2	.419	0	0	0-0
18 Michael Collins	.400	3-2	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	.400	0	0	0	1	.400	0	0	0-0
4 Gavin Fingleson	.385	4-4	13	2	5	1	0	0	1	6	.462	0	0	1	0	.385	0	0	0-0
27 Matthew Kent	.385	4-3	13	0	5	2	0	0	2	7	.538	0	0	1	0	.385	0	0	0-0
7 Brad Harman	.368	5-5	19	2	7	2	0	0	2	9	.474	0	0	4	1	.368	0	0	0-0
11 Trent Durrington	.333	2-2	6	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	.333	2	0	3	0	.500	0	0	0-1
9 Luke Hughes	.300	8-4	20	2	6	1	1	1	6	12	.600	4	0	6	2	.417	0	0	0-0
5 Paul Rutgers	.250	4-3	12	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	.250	3	0	3	0	.400	0	0	1-3
8 Trent Oeltjen	.222	6-6	18	4	4	1	0	0	2	5	.278	4	1	2	0	.391	0	0	3-3
6 Rod van Buizen	.222	4-2	9	1	2	1	0	0	3	3	.333	0	1	2	0	.300	0	0	0-1
36 Justin Humphries	.214	5-5	14	4	3	0	0	1	1	6	.429	4	0	4	0	.389	0	0	0-0
17 Brett Roneberg	.167	8-8	30	3	5	0	0	1	4	8	.267	3	0	8	0	.235	1	0	0-0
16 Justin Huber	.167	8-8	30	4	5	1	0	1	4	9	.300	3	3	10	1	.306	0	0	0-0
26 Brad Dutton	.167	5-0	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	.167	1	0	1	0	.286	0	1	0-0
12 Andrew Utting	.125	4-2	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	.125	1	0	1	0	.222	0	0	0-0
24 Andrew Graham	.077	6-3	13	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	.077	0	0	1	0	.077	0	0	0-0
22 Brendan Kingman	.000	4-4	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1	0	2	1	.083	0	0	0-0
14 Dean White	.000	6-3	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	2	0	.000	0	0	0-0
26 Craig Lewis	.000	3-0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	2	0	1	0	.400	0	0	0-0
Totals	.240	8-8	271	35	65	11	2	6	32	98	.362	28	6	56	8	.324	1	1	4-8

LOB - Team (62), Opp (65). DPs turned - Team (9), Opp (9).

Individual Pitching Statistics

Name	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	B/AVG	WP	HBP
13 Matthew Gahan	0.00	1-0	2	2	0	0	9.0	2	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	29	.069	0	2
19 Richard Thompson	0.00	0-0	2	0	0	0	4.0	3	0	0	2	4	1	0	0	14	.214	1	0
15 Peter Moylan	0.00	0-1	2	0	0	0	3.1	2	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	13	.154	1	0
11 Adam Bright	0.00	0-0	3	0	0	0	3.0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	9	.000	0	0
37 Ryan Rowland-Smith	0.00	0-0	2	0	0	0	2.0	2	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	7	.286	0	0
38 Donovan Hendricks	0.00	1-0	1	0	0	0	2.0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	9	.333	0	0
32 Kyle Edlich	0.00	0-0	2	0	0	0	2.0	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	7	.143	1	0
21 Philip Brassington	0.93	1-0	2	2	0	0	9.2	6	1	1	11	3	0	0	0	34	.176	2	0
3 Paul Mildren	2.35	1-0	3	1	0	0	7.2	4	2	2	4	12	2	1	0	26	.154	0	1
23 Josh Hill	3.38	0-0	2	0	0	0	2.2	1	2	1	2	3	1	0	0	9	.111	0	0
0 Scott Mitchinson	4.50	0-0	1	0	0	0	2.0	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	9	.333	0	0
30 Tim Cox	5.40	0-1	2	0	0	0	3.1	5	2	2	1	5	2	0	0	14	.357	2	0
31 Craig Anderson	7.20	0-0	2	1	0	0	5.0	8	4	4	0	3	0	1	2	22	.364	0	0
39 Wayne Lundgren	9.00	0-2	2	2	0	0	8.0	12	8	8	2	4	2	0	1	35	.343	1	1
20 Tristan Crawford	11.57	0-0	2	0	0	0	2.1	3	3	3	0	5	1	0	1	10	.300	1	0
1 Glen Richards	11.57	0-0	3	0	0	0	2.1	4	3	3	1	2	2	0	1	10	.400	0	0
35 Phil Stockman	27.00	0-0	2	0	0	1	1.2	1	5	5	7	3	0	1	0	6	.167	0	1
Totals	3.86	4-4	8	8	0	1	70.0	60	32	30	37	64	12	3	5	263	.228	9	5

2006 World Baseball Classic

The 2006 World Baseball Classic represented the first ever 'true' World Cup of baseball. For the first time ever, professional players of all levels were permitted to play in an international baseball event.

The 16 team event, jointly staged by Major League Baseball and Major League Baseball Players Association and sanctioned by the International Baseball

Federation, was staged in three different countries from 3 to 20 March 2006.

Unfortunately, we were allocated to what was perhaps the toughest pool of the tournament. The three other teams in our pool were perennial super powers the Dominican Republic and Venezuela as well as Italy. Unfortunately we did not win a game during Round 1 and given the cutthroat format of the tournament which allowed little room for loss, we did not advance past the first round.

As was the case with the 2005 World Cup, our results on paper perhaps do not do justice to the team's overall performance. There is no denying that the team performed below expectations (especially in the first game against Italy), especially in the offensive category, but in the games against the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, despite suffering losses, we proved that we can compete with the worlds best. Certainly some encouraging signs as we move towards the 2008 Olympic Games.

Meet the team:



Jon Deeble – Vic Head Coach Tony Harris – SA 3rd Base Coach Phil Dale – Vic Pitching Coach Pat Kelly - SA 1st Base Coach Craig Shipley – NSW Bench Coach Greg Jelks – WA Bullpen Coach Paul Elliott – NSW Hitting Coach



Craig Anderson – NSW Pitcher Phil Brassington – ACT Pitcher Thomas Brice – SA Outfield Adam Bright – Vic Pitcher Adrian Burnside – NT Pitcher Tristan Crawford – Qld Pitcher Michael Collins – ACT Catcher



Trent Durrington – Qld Infield Gavin Fingleton – NSW Infield Matt Gahan – Qld Pitcher Andrew Graham – NSW Catcher Brad Harman – Vic Infield Josh Hill – NSW Pitcher Justin Huber – Vic Infield



Luke Hughes – WA Infield Mathew Kent – Vic Catcher Brendan Kingman – NSW Infield Wayne Lundgren – NSW Pitcher Paul Mildren – SA Pitcher Damian Moss – NSW Pitcher Peter Moylan – Vic Pitcher



David Nilsson – Qld Infield Trent Oeltjen – NSW Outfield Brett Roneberg – Qld Outfield Paul Rutgers – Vic Infield Jon Stephens – NSW Pitcher Phil Stockman – Old Pitcher Richard Thompson – NSW Pitcher



Rod van Buizen – NSW Infield Glenn Williams – NSW Infield

2006 World Baseball Classic Australia Team Statistics

Individual Batting Statistics

Name	POS	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SO	SB	CS	OBP	SLG	AVG	OPS	E
Paul Rutgers	2B	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	.500	.500	.500	1.000	0
Bradley Harman	SS	3	7	0	3	1	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	1	.429	.571	.429	1.000	1
Brendan Kingman	SS	2	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	.200	.200	.200	.400	0
Gavin Fingleston	2B	2	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	.200	.200	.200	.400	0
Trent Durrington	3B	3	11	1	2	1	0	0	1	3	1	5	3	0	.250	.273	.182	.523	0
Justin Huber	1B	3	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	6	0	0	.300	.125	.125	.425	0
David Nilsson	1B	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000	0
Brett Roneberg	RF	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	.143	.000	.000	.143	0
Glenn Williams	3B	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000	0
Andrew Graham	C	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	.500	.000	.000	.500	0
Michael Collins	C	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000	0
Tom Brice	LF	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000	1
Trent Oeltjen	LF	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	.143	.000	.000	.143	0
Luke Hughes	2B	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	.400	.000	.000	.400	0
Mathew Kent	C	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000	0
Rodney van Buizen	3B	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000	.000	0

Individual Pitching Statistics

Name	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	SO	WHIP	HLD	GF
Adrian Burnside	0	0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0	1.1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	2.25	0	0
Phil Stockman	0	0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1.00	0	0
Tristan Crawford	0	0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1.00	0	1
Matthew Gahan	0	0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.50	0	1
Phil Brassington	0	1	2.25	1	1	0	0	0	4.0	2	1	1	1	0	4	1	1.50	0	0
Wayne Lundgren	0	0	4.50	1	0	0	0	0	2.0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0.50	0	0
Peter Moylan	0	0	5.40	1	0	0	0	0	1.2	1	1	1	0	0	5	4	3.60	0	0
Joshua Hill	0	0	---	1	0	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0		0	0
Paul Mildren	0	0	9.00	2	0	0	0	0	3.0	6	3	3	0	0	0	2	2.00	0	0
Damian Moss	0	1	13.50	1	1	0	0	0	2.2	4	4	4	0	0	4	1	3.00	0	0
Craig Anderson	0	0	13.50	1	0	0	0	0	0.2	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	4.5	0	1
Richard Thompson	0	0	13.50	1	0	0	0	0	1.1	2	2	2	1	0	2	0	3.00	0	0
Adam Bright	0	0	13.50	1	0	0	0	0	1.1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2.25	0	0
John Stephens	0	1	16.20	1	1	0	0	0	1.2	2	3	3	0	0	3	0	3.00	0	0

National AAA Program

In the absence of a World Championship to participate in during 2005 a AAA All Star team was selected from the MLBAAP and sent to Taiwan to participate in the 2005 AAA International Invitational Baseball Tournament.

The tournament was staged in the city of Taipei from 14 to 20 August 2005.

Four teams from Taipei were joined by three international teams (Australia, Cuba and Japan) for the six-day event.

Our All Star team finished with two wins from four games to place fifth in the tournament.

The 2005 Australian AAA All Star Team was:

Name	Position	Name	Position
Thomas Ellis - Vic	RHP	Matthew Sibley - WA	RHP
Andrew Gribbin Vic	RHP	Matthew Timms - Qld	RHP
Matthew Rae - NSW	LHP	Joshua Spence - Vic	LHP
Daniel Schmidt - WA	LHP	Brian Ericksen - ACT	RHP
Mitchell Denning - NSW	C	Alex Johnson - NSW	IF
Jack Larner - Vic	C	Adam Courcha - WA	OF
Stefan Welch - SA	IF	Michael Brown - NSW	OF
Aven Fletcher - Qld	OF	Jason Morriss - Qld	OF
Jeremy Cresswell - SA	IF	Matthew Lawman - Vic	IF
Phillip Allen - Vic	Head Coach	Tim Ballard - Vic	Pitching Coach
Bruce Adams - Qld	Executive Officer	Jonathon Rutherford - Qld	Physio

Note: no statistics were made available from this tournament

National AA Program

In terms of results, our AA team provided the shining light for our High Performance programs in 2005 / 2006.

Led by Coach Tony Harris, the national AA team secured the Bronze medal in what was a tough AA World Championship staged in Monterey, Mexico, from 19 to 28 August 2005.

The team was selected from the 2005 MLBAAP and following a great preparation, departed directly from the Academy to travel to Mexico.

The team was loaded with young prospects so expectations were high. Following a solid preliminary round performance, the team ultimately did not let a tough loss to power house Cuba in the semi final get them down and went on to beat Japan 11 - 2 to secure the Bronze medal.

Meet the team:



Tony Harris – SA
Head Coach

Damian Shanahan –
ACT
On-field Coordinator

Jason Hewitt – WA
Assistant Coach

Warwick Marks – SA
Pitching Coach

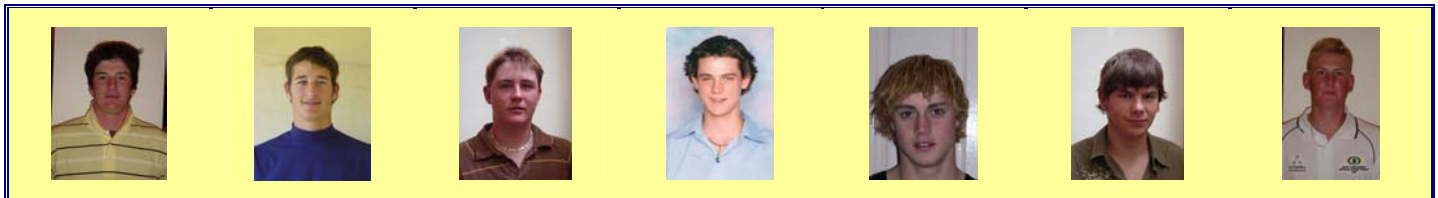


Hardy Sattler – Old
Physiotherapist

Neil Barrowcliff –
NSW
Executive Officer

Tim Atherton – NSW
Pitcher

James Beresford –
Vic
Pitcher



Tom Fiebig – SA
Pitcher

Ricky Rhodes – Old
Pitcher

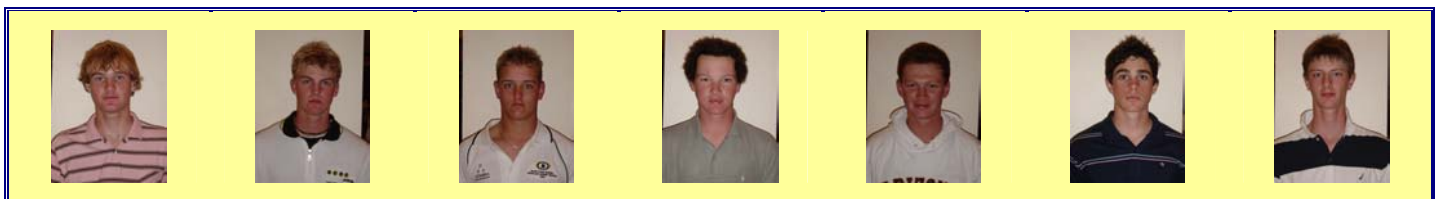
Tayler Rowe – Vic
Pitcher

Tim Stanford – NSW
Pitcher

Andrew Mann – Vic
Pitcher

Ricky Howell – Vic
Pitcher

Steven Kent – ACT
Pitcher



Chris Lamb – Old
Pitcher

Chris House – WA
Catcher

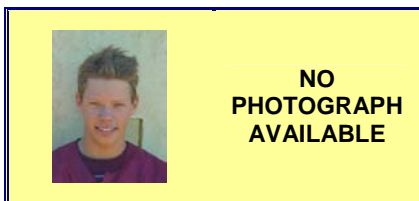
Jason Sloan – ACT
Catcher

Matthew Kennelly –
WA
Infield

Alan Schoenberger –
Old
Infield

Jason Smit – WA
Infield

Brad Sampson –
NSW
Infield



James Linger – Old
Outfield

Jordan Mitchell-Hill –
Vic
Outfield

NOTE: Not statistics were made available for this tournament.

National Womens Program

At the conclusion of the 2005 National Womens Championship a national team was selected with a view to that team participating in an invitational women's tournament the ABF was hoping to stage.

Due to lack of interest in the tournament from international teams, the tournament was unfortunately cancelled and as such the national womens team did not participate in any tournament / program during 2005 / 2006.

The team selected for the anticipated Championship was:

Emma Binks (Vic) - Pitcher . Angela Catford (NSW) - Outfield . Ashleigh Dyer (Old) - Pitcher . Chelsea Forkin (ABF BADA recipient) (WA) - Infield . Katie Gaynor (NSW) - Infield . Narelle Gosstray (NSW) - Outfield . Samantha Hamilton (Vic) - Infield . Ella Holien (Vic) - Pitcher . Jade Hough (Vic) - Infield . Shae Lillywhite (Vic) - Infield . Amy McCann (Vic) - Outfield . Catherine Row (Vic) - Pitcher . Terina Stokes (Vic) - Pitcher . Renee Straumeitis (NSW) - Infield . Loren Vella (NSW) - Pitcher . Kelly Walbancke (NSW) - Infield . Simone Wearne (Vic) - Pitcher . Melissa Whitaker (Vic) - Outfield . Clare Whittam (Vic) - Catcher . Ailsa Davidson (Vic) - Shadow Pitcher . Kerron Lehane (WA) - Shadow Pitcher . Mary Anne Palatsides (VicP) - Shadow Catcher . Samantha Saggus (NSWC) - Shadow Catcher . Kim Schulte (Old) - Shadow Infield . Kane Longstaff (Vic) - Head Coach . Dominick Ruggiero (Vic) - Assistant Coach . Shaun Smith (NSW) - Pitching Coach . Anne Maree Adams (Old) - Executive Officer.

Cal Ripken Program

With each passing year, the Cal Ripken's worth to our High Performance system and national athlete pathway becomes stronger and more viable.

The program continues to identify and produce our 'Stars of Tomorrow', as is evidenced by the large amount of Cal Ripken alumni now representing Australia in our national junior teams.

Keen to redeem Australia's reputation after a disappointing 2004 campaign, the team gathered in Sydney before heading to Aberdeen, Maryland, to compete in the 2005 Cal Ripken World Series from 13 to 21 August 2005.

The team fought hard during the preliminary rounds and secured two wins from four matches to progress through to the semi finals. Unfortunately their semi final opponents, the Dominican Republic, proved to be far too superior and despite a strong performance, our team lost and ended their 2005 World Series campaign.

As all Australian teams who have gone before them have done, the 2005 team represented themselves and their country with pride and ensured that Australia remains one of the favourite teams in the tournament.

Meet the team:



Bob Nilsson – Old
Head Coach

Preston Yochim – Vic
Utility

Matthew Bright – Vic
Pitcher/Infield

AJ Elderkin – Old
Utility



Scott Cameron –
NSW
Pitcher

James Young – SA
Infield

Shannon Lyon – Old
Pitcher

Tim Zurer – NSW
Catcher



Darryl George – Vic
Pitcher

Luke Parish – NSW
Infield

Michael Mazzocatto –
Vic
Pitcher/Infield

Jackson Brebner-
Russ – SA
Utility

Harley Yochim – Vic
Catcher

Joshua Warner – Old
Pitcher/Infield

Tom Vaughan – NSW
Pitcher/Infield



Dion Thompson – WA
Catcher

Wayne Finney – NSW
Assistant Coach

Nathan Holmes – Vic
Assistant Coach

Claxton Shield

The 2006 Financial Wealth Claxton Shield was staged at Blacktown Olympic Park from 21 to 28 January 2006.

Baseball NSW again played host to the tournament and in conjunction with the ABF and Blacktown Venue Management, staged Australia's premier baseball event in style.

In an effort to spread the spectacle of the Claxton Shield, five of the 18 games were staged at local baseball clubs around Sydney and Canberra.

Baseball ACT, Illawarra Baseball, Macarthur Baseball Club, Baulkham Hills Baseball Club and the Manly Baseball Club all played host to a Claxton Shield game and have the thanks and gratitude of the ABF for their assistance.

In what proved to be an unprecedented event, the Queensland team went through the tournament undefeated and beat the Victorian team in the final to claim the title of National Champions for 2006.

Final standings were:

- 👉 First - Queensland
- 👉 Second - Victoria
- 👉 Third - New South Wales
- 👉 Fourth - Western Australia
- 👉 Fifth - Australian Provincial
- 👉 Sixth - South Australia

Individual Award winners were:

- 👉 Rookie Award - Jay Nilsson Old
- 👉 Offensive Award - Brad Dutton Old
- 👉 Golden Glove - Rod van Buizen NSW
- 👉 Golden Arm - Matt Gahan Old
- 👉 Final MVP - Josh Roberts Old
- 👉 Helms Award - Brad Dutton Old

Baseball Down Under & International Programs

Japan

With the increasing profile of baseball internationally buoyed by the lingering effects of our Silver medal win in Athens, Australia has been in the forefront of many peoples' minds when it comes to their international baseball needs.

December saw a tour by the Kanagawa Prefecture Baseball Association from Japan - a welcome return by the industrial league teams to our shores after an absence in recent years.

Kanagawa, an All Star squad, made up of the best players from companies in and around Yokohama and Tokyo, played the Queensland Claxton Shield squad in two closely fought contests on the Gold Coast

As a result, Kanagawa left Australia with a new found respect for the quality of baseball in this country.

In February 2006 Asahi University made their second trip 'down under' in as many years and despite some torrential rain, enjoyed what is fast becoming their annual 'spring training' pilgrimage to Australia.

In addition to international tours, probably the biggest news regarding international business was the signing of **Matthew Gahan** to a contract with Sega-Sammy, an industrial league team in Japan.

For years these company leagues have proven an important tool for our elite players with greats the likes of **Richard Vagg**, **Andrew Scott**, **Adrian Meagher**, **Brett Cederblad** and **Michael Moyle** all prolonging their international careers in Japan. The call for Australian players was almost non-existent after the fall of the Japanese economy in the late 1990s, but with a reversal of fortune for many companies and again backed by Australia's high profile after the 2004 Olympics, Gahan's signing could well be first of many in the years to come.

United States of America

2005 / 2006 was another huge year for Australians in the professional ranks, underscored by three more Aussies making their Major League debuts.

Following close on the heels of **Glenn Williams** and **Justin Huber**, who both debuted in June 2005, **Chris Oxspring**, **Peter Moylan** and **Philip Stockman** all made their marks in MLB to become the 21st, 22nd and 23rd Australians to make it to 'the show' respectively. All three are true testament to what is possible in the game of baseball through hard work and dedication.

Oxspring rose from relative obscurity in the Independent League to make it all the way; **Stockman**, through sheer brilliance at AA and AAA, made it impossible for Atlanta not to call him up; and probably most amazing of all was **Peter Moylan's** meteoric pathway from club ball to the big leagues in under six months!

These five Australians are all proof positive of the rise and rise of baseball in this country.

At the other end of the professional scale, 2005 / 2006 saw 14 more of our young elite ink deals with Major League organisations. The ABF would like to congratulate the following players as they embark on their professional careers:

- **Steven Kent** to Atlanta Braves;
- **James Beresford** to Minnesota Twins;
- **Matthew Kennelly** to Atlanta Braves;
- **Mitchell Dening** to Boston Red Sox;
- **Hayden Beard** to New York Mets;
- **Shaun Tabrett** to New York Mets;
- **Brad Tippett** to Minnesota Twins;
- **Alan Schoenberger** to Philadelphia Phillies;
- **Daniel Schmidt** to Philadelphia Phillies;
- **Christopher House** to Toronto Blue Jays;
- **Daniel Berg** to Minnesota Twins;
- **Andrew Gribbin** to San Diego Padres;
- **Tom Johanssen-Ellis** to Seattle Mariners;
- **Josh Wells** to Toronto Blue Jays.

Media & Communications

With all the increased activity of Australians on the international stage comes increased media exposure.

While the continued absence of a national league makes it difficult to compete with traditional high profile sports, the Claxton Shield and MLBAAP programs have made definitive inroads into the Australian media landscape.

Appearances in both print and broadcast media have set the platform for more to come in the following year. This was clearly evidenced by the 2006 MLBAAP enjoying a particularly active profile with local radio, national print, Japanese TC and everything in between, wanting to find out more about our sport.

Our website and My Club database have again provided invaluable with members as successful communication tools. With more and more baseball communities becoming increasingly web-reliant, the continued growth and development of the ABF's online capacity remains a high priority for the year to come.



*Sincerely
Brett Pickett and Ben Foster
High Performance Division*

Technical Officials and Competitions

Geoff Robertson, Manager

Tournament Management Committee (TMC)

The TMC met in June and following discussions it was felt that the recommendations adopted by the Board are working successfully and these recommendations will again be reviewed by the TMC following the 2007 Championships.

The host States and venues for the 2007 National Youth Championships are confirmed as follows:

- AAA - Baseball Victoria at Geelong.
- AA - Baseball SA at Southern Districts.
- A - Baseball NSW at Blacktown Olympic Park.
- Regional Youth - McLeay Valley Baseball Association at Kempsey, NSW.
- National Womens - Baseball WA at Tom Bateman Reserve.

Expressions of interest to host the National Youth Championships (AAA and AA) in 2008 and 2009 have been called for.

Umpire Development

Recruitment, Development and Training

There were a number of seminars aimed at the basic training of umpires conducted around the country by State Umpiring bodies.

The ABF Harassment of Officials Policy, whilst not having complete acceptance and adoption, has led to a better relationship between umpires and clubs and must take some credit for the retention of umpires.

There have been many Orientation to Umpiring courses conducted which are aimed at club umpires and parents who umpire juniors. There have been approximately 12 umpires who have attended these courses and have gone to the next step in gaining a higher level of accreditation and joined the various State Umpire Associations and will umpire full time.

The 'Green Shirt' program, trialed initially and successfully by Baseball SA, will be implemented by Baseball WA and Baseball Victoria for the commencement of the 2006 / 2007 season. It is intended to introduce the program into the remaining States during the season.

The Green Shirt program targets new and inexperienced umpires at a time when they are most vulnerable, usually in their first one to two years of officiating. They are identified to participants, club officials and spectators in that they wear a green shirt which is different to the shirt worn by an experienced or fully trained umpire. It is hoped that this will alleviate the harassment and abuse that umpires are subjected to. It is understood that it is not just the wearing of the shirt that will ease the problem, therefore, a continuing mentoring process is also undertaken with the umpires together with an education program within the clubs and baseball fraternity. This process is then continually monitored.

MLB Australian Academy Program

The ongoing inclusion of the Umpire Development program in the Academy Program is proving to be most beneficial in the training of umpires who have been identified as having the potential and aspiration to officiate at higher levels.

Professional Umpire School

Paul Latta was recognised under the Fast Track program and attended the Jim Evans Academy for Professional Umpires in Florida, USA.

Paul acquitted himself very well and was offered the next step in attending further training under the Professional Baseball Umpires Corporate training scheme. Unfortunately, personal commitments here in Australia prevented Paul from accepting this offer.

Paul will be an asset in both officiating and training of umpires in Australia which is the main reason for sending umpires to this program.

Overseas Umpires

During 2006 there were four umpires (Brett Robson, Travis Hatch, Jon Byrne and Kyle Byrne) officiating professional baseball in High A, Low A and Rookie Ball. Three of them had their season extended to official in the League playoffs.

International Appointments

- World Cup, Netherlands - Iain Rouse.
- AA World Youth, Mexico - Paul Hyham.
- World Baseball Classic - Neil Poulton.

National Scorers' Association (Council of Australian Baseball Scorers)

The training of scorers under a national training scheme is growing and proving successful. Another 'train the trainer' workshop was conducted in conjunction with the Academy Program thus increasing the number of trained personnel throughout Australia.

World Children's Baseball Fair

Again we were delighted to be invited to this prestigious event. Robert Glendinning (WA), Tyler Perry (ACT), Zac Maggs (Qld), Sam Underwood (SA), Helen Sahajak (NSW) and Chaperone David West (Qld) proved great ambassadors for Australia and Australian baseball.



National Youth Championships

The AAA Championship was hosted by Baseball Victoria in Geelong.

Western Australian went through undefeated beating an improved Queensland side in the final. The first final in nine years that has not had either New South Wales or Victoria participating.

Final placings were:

- 👉 1st - Western Australian
- 👉 2nd - Queensland
- 👉 3rd - Victoria
- 👉 4th - New South Wales
- 👉 5th Country New South Wales
- 👉 6th Territories
- 👉 7th South Australia
- 👉 8th Victorian Provincial

The AA Championship was hosted by Baseball SA and the Mt Gambier Baseball Association in Mt Gambier.

Final placings were:

- 👉 1st New South Wales
- 👉 2nd Victoria
- 👉 3rd Western Australia
- 👉 4th Queensland
- 👉 5th Country New South Wales
- 👉 6th South Australia
- 👉 7th Victorian Provincial
- 👉 8th Territories

The A Championship was hosted by Baseball Queensland and the Gold Coast Baseball Club.

Final placings were:

- 👉 1st Western Australia
- 👉 2nd New South Wales
- 👉 3rd Victoria
- 👉 4th South Australia
- 👉 5th Queensland
- 👉 6th Country New South Wales
- 👉 7th Victorian Provincial
- 👉 8th Territories

Australian Provincial Championships

The Australian Provincials were ably hosted by New Zealand Baseball Federation in Auckland, New Zealand - the first time this Championship has been conducted outside Australia.

New Zealand have taken part in the Championship for a number of years and after showing a definite commitment were granted hosting rights.

It was a sound competition with ACT defeating Country New South Wales in the final.

Final placings were:

- 👉 1st - Australian Capital Territory
- 👉 2nd - Country New South Wales
- 👉 3rd - Victorian Provincial
- 👉 4th - Queensland
- 👉 5th South Australia
- 👉 6th New Zealand

National Womens Championship

This Championship was hosted by Baseball Queensland and Ipswich Musketeers Baseball played at the Musketeers ground in Ipswich. New South Wales defeated Victoria in the final.

Final placings were:

- 👉 1st - New South Wales
- 👉 2nd - Victoria
- 👉 3rd - Queensland
- 👉 4th - Victorian Provincial
- 👉 5th Country New South Wales
- 👉 6th Western Australia

Regional Youth Championship

In an initiative of the Tournament Management Committee's approved by the Board, the inaugural Regional Youth Championship was conducted in Lismore. There were some teething problems which were all overcome to promote a tournament which was a great success.

Sixteen teams from South East Queensland, Northern New South Wales, Newcastle and Country South Australia participated.

The winners were AAA - Murray River Mets (SA), AA - Gold Coast (Qld), A - joint winners declared from Gold Coast (Qld) and Newcastle (NSW).

Final Placings were:

- 👉 1st - Murray Mets (SA)
- 👉 2nd - Far North Coast (Qld)
- 👉 3rd - South Australia Country (SA)

AA

- 👉 1st - Gold Coast (Qld)
- 👉 2nd - Newcastle (NSW)
- 👉 3rd - Far North Coast (Qld)
- 👉 4th - South Australia Country (SA)
- 👉 5th - Macleay Valley (NSW)

A

- 👉 1st - Gold Coast Blue (Qld) and Newcastle (NSW)
- 👉 2nd - Gold Coast Gold (Qld)
- 👉 3rd - Far North Coast (Qld)

The 2007 Championships will be hosted by the Mcleay Valley Baseball Association in Kempsey, New South Wales from 10 to 17 January 2007.

Heritage Committee

Fourteen nominations for induction into the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame resulted in six inductees in 2006:

- 👉 Alan Albury
- 👉 Jon Deeble
- 👉 Mervyn Deigan
- 👉 Lionel Harris
- 👉 Ray Michell
- 👉 Jack Rowley

Sincerely
Geoff Robertson
Technical Officials &
Competitions



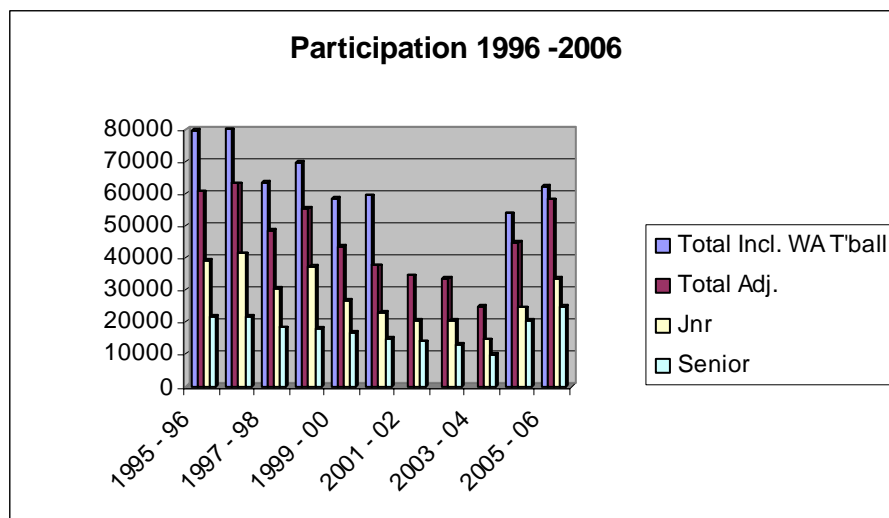
National Development

Alan Connors, Manager

Participation

The My Club database has grown significantly over the past year as we are now nearing the point at which it reflects the total participation base of our sport. These numbers are inclusive of all people who are current, recent or potential participants in baseball, such as players (active and inactive), coaches, umpires, scorers, committee members and volunteers. The My Club database has allowed us to more accurately capture a realistic picture of how many people are involved in our sport and will allow us to track any changes to these numbers as the sport progresses. It has been difficult to accurately measure these numbers in previous years and the large participation rates in the late 90's, although these numbers would be fairly close, are only estimations.

In terms of actual registered playing members, we had 29,979 in the past year. This is an increase of 1,869 players from the previous year and we would expect that next year will see our numbers break into the 30,000 mark.



These results can be attributed to two main factors; the first being an overall improvement in club development and the second to a continuation of the very successful recruitment program Play Ball.

The continued success in both of these areas is through the ability, dedication and long hours put in by the Development staff in every State.

Next year will see the introduction of a recreational form of our game, Yard Ball, being rolled out across the country. This game is designed to rival other recreational games such as indoor cricket and touch football and with four people to a team and its low cost to participate, it is sure to be a hit with all ages. Yard Ball is currently being trialed in Queensland and has also been run in a tournament basis with great success.

Play Ball

As seen by our increase in junior numbers, this program continues to go from strength to strength. Now in its fifth year and with New South Wales joining the program, we can now say that it is a true national recruitment program.

The success of this program is evidenced by the outstanding achievements of New South Wales this year in the large increase in Under 8 and Under 10 numbers. This would not have been possible without all the outstanding ground work done by Glen Willott and the entire Baseball NSW staff.

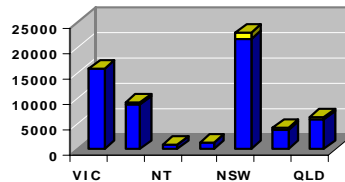
This year also sees the conclusion of this program's major sponsor, Major League Baseball. The market quality of this program is based around the cap, t-shirt and backpack that are used to help recruit our entry level participants. Without the generosity and assistance of Major League Baseball, this program would not be at the forefront of recruitment programs in regards to other sports. Major League Baseball and the ABF will continue to foster this development relationship through MLB's assistance in sourcing products to continue the good work that has been done over the past five years and to ensure the continued success of the Play Ball program well into the future.

Next year will also see the introduction of a new Play Ball logo and mascot 'Pudge'. This friendly and adorable character will become the public face of Play Ball and will be an integral part of the development arm of the new national league. New tools will be created around 'Pudge', such as a development website which will feature a 3D animated version of this character that will teach our entry level participants about the game and also a series of temporary tattoos that will be handed out at school visits.



Coaching

Coaching accreditation numbers have also seen an increase over the year with an increase in the number of courses being offered across the country. In relation to the number of coaches to players, Queensland is leading the way with a ratio of one coach to every player.



■ Players

■ Coaches

Major League Baseball once again provided opportunities for two coaches, through their International Coach Exchange program, to attend their Arizona International League. This is an outstanding vehicle for elite coach development and one we will continue to access in the future.

Next year will see an addition to this program with the inclusion of the MLB Collegiate Coach Exchange program where two coaches will have the opportunity to work with the coaching staff of the NCAA Division 1 University of Tennessee.

The ABF is currently reviewing the coaching accreditation system, which will include a national coaching conference that will be held in Perth in early 2007. One of the main reasons for this review is to create a coaching pathway in which coaches who have a desire to learn more to enable them to work at a higher level will be given the opportunity to do so within a mentor based program.

One of the biggest achievements this year is the completion of the on-line coach's database. This system, which is in conjunction with our national club database, will allow all accredited coaches, clubs, associations / regions and state bodies to check their accreditation details and provide a more reliable line of communication to coaches across the country.

Inclusive Club Program

The Inclusive Club Program is an ABF initiative that will allow baseball clubs to ensure that they utilise inclusive practices to enable all members of their community an opportunity to participate in baseball.

The creation of this program has stemmed from the sports involvement with Project CONNECT and will see the introduction of 'Beep Baseball', a modified game that is designed for people with a visual impairment and our new indigenous program. Work on the indigenous program is still continuing with 'Black Base', an indigenous educational organisation and will provide a program that is based around traditional indigenous games that work on the core skills of baseball.

Acknowledgements

Major League Baseball and the Australian Sports Commission have provided their ongoing support through a range of development programs and I would like to offer heart-felt thanks for their continued assistance.

Sincerely
Alan Connors
National Development



Baseball Australia Licensing & Merchandising Enterprise (BALME)

Alan Weir, Special Projects Manager

Baseball Australia Licensing & Merchandising Enterprise (BALME) was introduced to the Australian baseball community as a way to minimise the reliance on Government subsidies following the Sydney 2000 Olympics. The purpose of the program has not changed since inception and further changes to enhance the program will be made by the ABF Board in the coming months.

Licensees

The number of licensees has remained almost unchanged from last year with four new uniform licensees replacing three which have decided to exit the uniform market. The program now has ten ball licensees, 31 uniform licensees and two cap suppliers. This represents the highest number of licensees the program has ever had.

The feedback from licensees during the year has been positive even against the ACCC investigation which augers well for the long term success of the program.

Revenue

Revenue has been static compared to the previous year which is possibly a reflection of uncertainty created by the recent ACCC review.

Licensees are required to provide reports on sales for each quarter at the same time that the quarterly ATO BAS returns are due. Unfortunately some licensees are not prompt with supplying figures or payments and in the future action will be taken to suspend or cancel the License Agreement with these suppliers. Information on action taken will be featured on the ABF's website so all ABF members will be aware of who is adhering to the Licensing Agreement.

It is also proposed to implement random financial audits in the coming year on a number of licensees to ensure numbers have been accurately reported. This action should ensure that only licensees who have a real desire to continue supporting Australian baseball will remain in the program.

Compliance

A positive surrounding the recent ACCC review has been the increased awareness of the requirement for compliance to

licensed product and the ABF office has received many calls from clubs and associations seeking advice on how to become compliant.

State and Territory Associations, as part of the National Royalty Policy distribution, will also be increasing their efforts to increase adherence to compliance to the Licensing program.

Distribution of Revenue

Revenue generated from the BALME program was a major component of the significant amount of funds distributed to State and Territory Associations via the National Royalty Policy and the expectation is these payments will continue to increase should revenue from the Licensing program also increase.

Some States previous critical of the program now feel they can show their constituents the benefits of the program with positive figures available for review on their balance sheets.

Branding

A review of the program and its future is to be discussed at ABF Board level and may also include a review of the name "Australian Baseball Federation" to bring it into line with all other State and Territory Associations. Currently all States have changed their name to have "Baseball" as the preceding part of their name, ie, Baseball Victoria, Baseball SA, etc, and the ABF is looking to change their name to Baseball Australia.

This change may also see a review of the current green and white licensing logo to ensure the program is achieving one of its aims which is to provide evidence of a unified sport.

Initiatives

My Shop, which is to be a one-stop location on the ABF's website for purchasing of all baseball related products, including licensed product, has taken some time to be developed. However, this site should start to become a focus for visitors to the ABF's website should they be looking for contact details of licensed suppliers, preferred suppliers, sponsors, the purchase of rule books, Australian team merchandise, or check out bat and baseball specifications.

Look for announcements on My Shop on the ABF website and E-News.

ACCC Review

A major aspect of operations for BALME for the past year has been the ACCC review and subsequent notification to revoke the 'third line forcing' for the Licensing program from April 2007.

Baseball is one of the few sports in Australia to ever apply and be granted 'third line forcing' protection from the Trade Practices Act and we were grateful to operate under that certainty for the first five years of the program. It was always assumed that third line forcing protection would be withdrawn at some stage and the ABF appreciates and thanks the ACCC for their assistance over that period.

The ABF's Board, in conjunction with State and Territory Associations, is in the process of reviewing BALME and expects to have proposals for consideration at the State Council meeting in February 2007. A Licensing program will definitely be conducted from April next year and announcements on the direction of the program will be posted on the ABF's website and E-News and communicated to stakeholders at the appropriate time.

Conclusion

Overall, the past year has been a successful one with more positive benefits than negative ones, especially given the challenges the program has had to overcome.

The significant royalty payments made to State and Territory Associations has been the major highlight and the ABF hopes to continue that practice into the future.

Information on the current Licensing program and a list of current licensees is available on our website under Contact. In addition, FAQs which will give an insight into the Licensing program as well as a copy of the current Licensing Agreement are also available on the website.



*Sincerely
Alan Weir
Special Projects*

Financial Report 2005 / 2006

Directors' Report

In accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors, the Directors present their financial report of the Australian Baseball Federation for the year ended 30 June 2006 and the state of the Australian Baseball Federation's financial affairs as at that date.

Directors

The following persons were Directors of the Australian Baseball Federation during the financial year:

- ☛ Ron Finlay
- ☛ Geoff Pearce
- ☛ Colin Pitt
- ☛ Murray Westphal*
- ☛ Deborah Healey
- ☛ Katie Bickford
- ☛ Peter Williams
- ☛ Don Knapp

*Murray Westphal was a Director for part of the financial year.

Name	Position	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Meetings Attended
Geoff Pearce	President / Director	3	3
Colin Pitt	Director / Vice President	3	3
Ron Finlay	Director	3	3
Murray Westphal	Director	2	2
Deborah Healey	Director	3	3
Katie Bickford	Director	3	2
Peter Williams	Director	3	3
Don Knapp	Director / CEO	3	3

Principal Mission & Activities

The general activities of the ABF are set out throughout this Annual Report and there were no significant changes from the principal mission "to provide national leadership and a national framework for harnessing the energies of the many baseball people and organisations throughout Australia with the aim of building the business of baseball for the benefit of all".

Corporate Governance Statement

The Directors are responsible for the implementation of sound strategies and actions for the development of controls over the ABF's resources, functions and assets.

The main practices in terms of corporate governance in place during the financial year were:

- ☛ an independent Board;
- ☛ Directors with appointed portfolio responsibilities;
- ☛ an ABF Council of State Presidents;
- ☛ Board committees, including:
 - ▶ Finance Committee;
 - ▶ High Performance Committee;
 - ▶ Tournament Management Committee;
 - ▶ Facilities Committee;
 - ▶ Heritage Committee;

- ▶ Sports Development Committee;
- ▶ Provincial Committee.

Directors were assigned portfolio responsibilities as follows:

- ☛ Geoff Pearce - High Performance, Commercial Affairs and Governance.
- ☛ Colin Pitt - Finance, Tournament Management Committee and Provincials.
- ☛ Ron Finlay - International Relations, Legal and Governance.
- ☛ Deborah Healey - Legal, Administrative and Appeals.
- ☛ Katie Bickford - Business Development, Marketing and Sponsorship, Member Liaison and IT.
- ☛ Peter Williams - Commerce and Licensing and Merchandising.

Financial Overview

The key financial strategies of the ABF over the last financial year have been to:

- ☛ maintain a moderate surplus;
- ☛ establish a sound investment mechanism for the investment of funds;
- ☛ ensure cash flow is managed positively by receiving income within agreed timeframes; and
- ☛ continue to differentiate income base of the ABF.

Trading Results

The consolidated surplus of the ABF for the year ended 30 June 2006 was \$27,512.

The consolidated deficit of the MLBAAP for the year ended 30 June 2006 was \$16,739.

The consolidated surplus of BALME for the year ended 30 June 2006 was \$61,348.

State of Affairs

There have been some significant changes in the state of affairs of the ABF during the financial year, which were:

1. The income distribution from Major League Baseball for the World Baseball Classic will not be received until the 2006 / 2007 financial year and subsequently will appear as income in the 2006 / 2007 financial accounts.
2. The national league start up costs did not eventuate during the 2005 / 2006 financial year and are now showing as a budgeted expense in the 2006 / 2007 financial accounts.
3. The ABF's Board agreed to a loan to Baseball WA of \$55,000 in February 2006 on normal commercial terms.

Matters Subsequent to the End of the Financial Year

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the ABF since year end.

Directors' Benefits

No Director has received or become entitled to receive a benefit by reason of a contract with the ABF.

The Chief Executive Officer, who is also a Director, receives a salary from the Federation but not a Director's fee.

Likely Developments

Since 30 June 2006 the ABF has:

- BALME (Baseball Australia Licensing and Merchandising Enterprise) is the new merchandising arm of the ABF and has just completed its first full year of trading under the guidance of the ABF. It is envisaged that in future years with the introduction of the 'My Shop' program, BALME will expand its merchandising operations and therefore report on all areas of merchandising. Until such time that the My Shop program is in place and fully operational, any income and expenditure in this area will be reported on within the Income and Expenditure Statements of the ABF.
- redeemed \$175,000 from our investment with Astarra Funds Management through Huntleigh Investments with \$100,000 to be used for any national league start up costs and the balance of \$75,000 has been invested in our Business Cash Maximiser account earning 5.40 percent.
- appointed World Wide Sports Insurance as its insurance broker for our National Insurance program on a three year term with a significant reduction in the premium compared to last year. This reduction has been passed onto States and Territories.

Officers' Indemnities & Insurance

During the financial year the ABF entered into an insurance contract which serves to indemnify Directors and staff for costs incurred by them in defending legal proceedings arising out of the performance of their normal duties as Directors and staff officers.

Board Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

Your Board members at the date of this Report are:

- Geoff Pearce, President
- Don Knapp, Chief Executive Officer
- Colin Pitt, Vice President
- Ron Finlay, Director
- Deborah Healey, Director
- Katie Bickford, Director
- Peter Williams, Director

Principal Activities

The principle activities of the Federation during the financial year was the administration of baseball.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities amounted to:

	Year Ended 30 Jun 06	Year Ended Prev Yr End
ABF Operations	27,512	68,874
MLBAAP	16,739	(33,731)
BALME	61,348	16,999

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board on 11 October 2006.

Geoff Pearce
President

Don Knapp
Chief Executive Officer

Independent Audit Report to the Members

Scope

We have audited the financial statements of Australian Baseball Federation Inc, being the Board's Report, Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position and Notes to Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2006. The Board is responsible for the financial report. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express our opinion on it to the members.

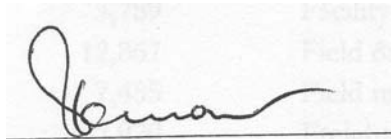
Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position and performance as presented by the results of its operation.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial reports presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements the financial position of Australian Baseball Federation Inc as at 30 June 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Signed on: 20 September 2006



Russell J Trevorrow

JMR Group

Chartered Accountants and Company Auditors

PO Box 4055 Robina Town Centre Qld 4230

Australian Baseball Federation Inc
Trading as Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program
ABN 18 610 026 404
Income and Expenditure Statement
for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

2005		2006 \$DR	2006 \$CR
	MLBAAP Income		
202,000	ABF Sponsorship		210,000
45,775	Player Levy		41,664
1,426	Bank Interest		3,584
271,874	MLB Sponsorship		328,907
86,758	MLB Clubs		38,975
6,739	Oceania Levies		3,300
	Qantas Sponsorship		10,000
614,572			636,430
	MLBAAP Expenses		
256,577	Accommodation / Meals - Players	243,121	
110,581	Accommodation / Meals - Staff	99,954	
4,100	ACE Coordinator	4,600	
6,719	Administration / Office Expenditures	5,040	
28,921	Airfares - Domestic	22,549	
3,662	Airfares - International MLB Staff	10,000	
	Athlete Video Analysis	3,626	
6,384	Balls - Rawlings	3,512	
2,374	Bats - Baum	4,545	
58,905	Coaching Staff	73,833	
15,759	Coaching Staff - MLB		
4,481	Computer / Video Hire	9,998	
19,302	Facility Hire	18,044	
262	Field & Baseball Equipment	891	
2,182	Functions & Meetings	3,352	
2,030	Game Day Expenditures	3,625	
11,913	Ground Transport	13,439	
12,150	Laundry	9,903	
	Miscellaneous	6,659	
770	Motor Coach Transport	534	
	Power Training Course	4,410	
20,500	Program Management	14,000	
32,176	SS / SM Trainers	28,941	
3,604	Supplies & Miscellaneous Expenditures	1,336	
5,636	TAFE Courses		
12,780	Tutorial Support	12,940	
26,535	Uniforms	20,840	
648,303		619,691	
-33,731	MLBAAP Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	16,739	

(The accompanying notes from part of these financial statements.)

Australian Baseball Federation Inc
Trading as Baseball Australia Licensing and Merchandising Enterprise
ABN 18 610 026 404
Income and Expenditure Statement
for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

2005		2006	2006
		\$DR	\$CR
	BALME Income		
6,266	Ball Sales		15,114
13,159	Uniform Sales		38,358
	Bad Debts Recovered - Baseball Victoria		12,864
<u>19,424</u>			<u>66,336</u>
	BALME Expenses		
46	Bank Fees	179	
114	Ground Transport	90	
2,240	Licensing Logos	4,135	
25	Miscellaneous Expenses		
	Travel Expenses	585	
<u>2,425</u>		<u>4,988</u>	
<u>16,999</u>	BALME Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	<u>61,348</u>	

(The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.)

Australian Baseball Federation Inc
Trading as Australian Baseball Federation Inc
ABN 18 610 026 404
Income and Expenditure Statement
for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

2005		2006 \$DR	2006 \$CR
	ABF Income		
	Australian Sports Commission Grants:		
135,000	ASC Grant - Development		140,000
1,190,000	ASC Grant - High Performance		1,259,000
40,000	ASC Grant - Play Ball Program		13,017
1,458	ASC Grant - Umpire Scholarship		10,712
13,890	ASC Grant - Project CONNECT		16,747
<u>1,380,348</u>			<u>1,439,476</u>
	Other Grants:		
85,500	AOC International Grant		173,000
<u>85,500</u>			<u>173,000</u>
	Sponsorship / Claxton Shield:		
135,000	Astarra Funds Management		265,000
20,000	Boronia Travel - Sponsorship		
	Sport Moves Travel - Sponsorship		21,436
41,668	Claxton Shield - Including Gate Takings		35,833
22,321	Mizuno Equipment - Contra		9,168
<u>218,989</u>			<u>331,437</u>
	Member Fees:		
34,100	Affiliation Fees / Championship Levy		33,500
3,510	Coaches Accreditation		2,923
549,461	National Registration / Insurance Fees		519,458
	National My Rewards Program Fees		77,037
117,192	Player Contributions		121,710
	Umpire Academy Levy		1,236
845	Scorers' Accreditation		709
8,855	Umpires Accreditation		8,756
13,064	Coaching Course Levy / Development Officer Conference Levy		9,850
<u>727,027</u>			<u>775,179</u>
	Other Income:		
9,298	Interest Earned		11,475
39,620	Investment Income (Reserves)		13,999
6,000	Academy Salary Support		10,000
69,281	Baseball Down Under Program		128,552
115,391	Taiken Program		
	Project CONNECT Program		13,514
11,460	Player Signing Fees		11,194
	Insurance Claim Income		365
18,274	Revenue Olympic Park - Blacktown		
25,838	Rule Books, Manuals, CDs, Score Books		32,443
2,249	Commissions & Rebates		2,196
1,942	MLB Clinic		1,266
16,350	MLB Salary Subsidy		
15,500	Salary Subsidy ITC		15,500
22,225	Sales Uniforms / Shirts / Equipment		8,811
2,150	Sanction Fees & Sundry Income		1,591
<u>355,578</u>			<u>250,906</u>
<u>2,767,442</u>	Total General ABF Income		<u>2,969,998</u>



Australian Baseball Federation Inc
Trading as Australian Baseball Federation Inc
ABN 18 610 026 404
Income and Expenditure Statement
for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

2005		2006 \$DR	2006 \$CR
	ABF Expenses		
	High Performance:		
83,282	AAA Program	67,970	
	AA Program	115,072	
25,412	Cal Ripken Program	67,721	
70,101	Elite Coaches	84,925	
293,492	ITC Program	298,979	
11,084	Meetings - General	13,176	
22,320	Mizuno - Equipment Contra	9,168	
202,000	MLB Academy Program	210,000	
12,953	National Championships / Selection	9,555	
	Professional Development - Coaches	15,703	
23,910	Senior Team Summer Program	68,014	
176,147	Senior Team Program	213,215	
	Senior Team World Baseball Classic	17,745	
15,445	Equipment	25,000	
9,253	Sports Science / Sports Medicine	29,208	
112,445	Womens Team		
<u>1,057,844</u>		<u>1,245,451</u>	
	Development & Resources / Claxton Shield:		
60,379	Play Ball Program	3,672	
10,818	Project CONNECT	16,747	
58,394	Baseball Down Under Program	120,717	
115,391	Taiken Program		
134,767	Claxton Shield	134,938	
12,818	Hall of Fame Dinner	10,729	
27,439	Coaching	27,193	
2,813	Development Manager - Travel	10,919	
514	Sundry Development & Resources	605	
<u>423,333</u>		<u>325,520</u>	
	Umpire Development:		
1,681	National Championships Costs	3,642	
15,086	Production - Score Books / Rule Books	15,414	
7,083	Purchase Umpire / Inst. Uniforms	6,757	
2,713	Seminar Costs	1,442	
6,236	Umpire Academy	2,032	
1,458	Umpire Scholarship - ASC	10,712	
3,157	USA Umpire School - Airfares		
<u>37,414</u>		<u>39,999</u>	
	Committees / Workshops:		
3,073	Development Officers Workshop	10,562	
2,045	Executive Officers Workshop	10,401	
	Heritage Committee	260	
5,583	Scorers Workshop	5,202	
11,331	Tournament Management Committee	38,482	
<u>22,032</u>		<u>64,907</u>	
	Merchandise:		
13,057	Merchandise Purchases / Costs	736	
<u>13,057</u>		<u>736</u>	

(The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.)

Australian Baseball Federation Inc
Trading as Australian Baseball Federation Inc
ABN 18 610 026 404
Income and Expenditure Statement
for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

2005	2006	2006
	\$DR	\$CR
ABF Expenses cont...		
Administration		
5,000		6,247
4,975		180
10,000		
6,899		3,491
12,000		12,000
14,023		8,246
7,000		
		6,000
8,784		10,207
4,977		6,946
25,202		27,567
1,210		594
226		
269,950		245,882
2,259		2,024
7,740		10,520
500		1,151
		14,375
		75,284
18,500		81,820
24,083		7,381
2,760		1,255
17,257		22,166
3,097		11,109
446,442		554,445
Office Costs:		
2,808		2,943
6,918		7,316
11,145		10,393
18,040		18,040
17,335		15,083
2,207		2,405
1,850		655
7,528		11,149
13,321		10,251
44,648		56,284
2,358		2,891
4,206		4,374
19,213		17,536
6,993		6,527
3,479		3,479
162,049		169,326

(The accompanying notes from part of these financial statements.)

Australian Baseball Federation Inc
Trading as Australian Baseball Federation Inc
ABN 18 610 026 404
Income and Expenditure Statement
for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

2005		2006	2006
		\$DR	\$CR
	ABF Expenses cont...		
	Staffing Costs		
8,020	Fringe Benefits Tax	6,992	
18,086	Provision for Annual Leave	5,415	
1,201	Provision for Long Service Leave	3,586	
456,311	Salaries	457,910	
3,767	Staff Amenities / Recruitment Training	7,685	
55,266	Superannuation	40,616	
6,126	Workers Compensation Insurance	5,899	
<u>548,777</u>		<u>528,103</u>	
<u>2,710,948</u>	Total ABF General Expenses	<u>2,928,487</u>	
56,494	General Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	41,511	
12,380	<i>Less: Transfer to Reserve</i>	13,999	
68,874		27,512	
<u>-33,731</u>	MLBAAP Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	<u>16,739</u>	
35,143		44,251	
<u>16,999</u>	BALME Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	<u>61,348</u>	
<u>52,142</u>	Combined Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	<u>105,599</u>	

(The accompanying notes from part of these financial statements.)

Australian Baseball Federation Inc
Trading as Australian Baseball Federation Inc
ABN 18 610 026 404
Statement of Financial Position
for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

2005		Note	2006
	Current Assets:		
579,085	Cash Assets	2	510,094
301,591	Receivables	3	421,043
160,870	Other	4	178,955
<u>1,041,546</u>	Total Current Assets		<u>1,110,092</u>
	Non Current Assets:		
1,000,000	Other Financial Assets	5	1,000,000
45,013	Property, Plant & Equipment	6	52,132
31,415	Intangible Assets	7	36,164
<u>1,076,428</u>	Total Non Current Assets		<u>1,088,296</u>
<u>2,117,974</u>	Total Assets		<u>2,198,387</u>
	Current Liabilities:		
101,729	Payables	8	82,682
33,246	Current Tax Liabilities	9	73,759
376,947	Other	10	317,295
<u>511,922</u>	Total Current Liabilities		<u>473,736</u>
	Non Current Liabilities:		
56,198	Interest Bearing Liabilities		
56,198	Provisions	11	65,199
<u>56,198</u>	Total Non Current Liabilities		<u>65,199</u>
<u>568,120</u>	Total Liabilities		<u>538,936</u>
<u>1,549,854</u>	Net Assets		<u>1,659,452</u>
	Equity:		
656,172	Reserves	12	660,171
893,682	Retained Profits	13	999,281
<u>1,549,854</u>	Total Members' Funds		<u>1,659,452</u>

(The accompanying notes from part of these financial statements.)

Australian Baseball Federation Inc
Trading as Australian Baseball Federation Inc
ABN 18 610 026 404
Notes to Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

Note 1: Statement of Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial report preparation requirements of the Incorporated Associations Act. The Directors have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Incorporated Associations Act and the following applicable Accounting Standards and Urgent Issues Groups Consensus Views:

- ☛ AASB 1002: Events Occurring After Reporting Date
- ☛ AASB 1008: Leases
- ☛ AASB 1018: Statement of Financial Performance
- ☛ AASB 1025: Application of the Reporting Entity Concept and Other Amendments
- ☛ AASB 1031: Materiality
- ☛ AASB 1034: Financial Report Presentation and Disclosures
- ☛ AASB 1040: Statement of Financial Position
- ☛ UIG Abstract 35: Disclosure of Contingent Liabilities

No other Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values, or except where specifically stated, current valuations of non current assets.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(a) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment are carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

Freehold land and buildings are measured on the fair value basis, being the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis.

All assets, excluding freehold land, are depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives to the company.

(b) Leases - Hire Purchase

Leases of fixed assets, where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership, are transferred to the entity, are classified as finance leases. Finance leases are capitalised recording an asset and a liability equal to the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Leased Assets are amortised on a straight line basis over their useful lives where it is likely that the entity will obtain ownership of the asset or over the term of the lease. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

(c) Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets are depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the assets are held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are:

<i>Class of Asset</i>	<i>Depreciation Rate %</i>
Office Furniture	20
Office Equipment	40
Computing Equipment	40
Website Development	40

(d) Investments

Non Current Investments are carried at cost or at the Board's valuation. The carrying amount of investments is reviewed annually by the Board to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount of these investments. The recoverable amount is assessed from the shares' market value or the underlying net assets in the particular companies.

Note 2: Cash Assets

	2006	2005
Bank Accounts:		
National Bank Cheque Account	160,987	380,819
Cash at Bank - MLBAAP	187,914	116,182
Business Investment (On Call)	33,586	63,177
Term Deposits	66,634	15,485
Cash at Bank - BALME	59,484	2,933
Other Cash Items:		
Petty Cash	1,489	489
	510,094	579,085

Note 3: Receivables

	2006	2005
Current:		
Trade Debtors	188,993	83,591
Loans to States	232,050	218,000
	421,043	301,591

Note 4: Other Assets

	2006	2005
Current:		
Prepayments	177,645	160,870
Accrued Income	1,310	
	178,955	160,870

Note 5: Other Financial Assets

	2006	2005
Non Current Investments At Cost:		
6272 Units in Huntleigh Investments Fund Ltd (US\$762,300)	1,000,000	1,000,000
	1,000,000	1,000,000
Value as at 30.6.06 US\$157.9567 per unit (AU\$213.8886 per unit)		
Total Value AU\$	1,341,509	

Increase in value amounting to \$341,509 has not been brought to account in the financial statements as they have not been realized as at 30 June 2006.

Note 6: Property, Plant and Equipment

	2006	2005
Furniture & Fittings:		
At Cost	62,057	48,689
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(32,917)	(27,767)
	29,140	20,923
Office Equipment:		
At Cost	45,581	44,767
Less: Accumulated Amortisation	(31,986)	(26,237)
	13,596	18,530
Computing Equipment:		
At Cost	31,190	30,697
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(27,793)	(25,137)
	9,396	5,560
	52,132	45,013

Note 7: Intangible Assets

	2006	2005
Patents & Trademarks:		
At Cost	6,548	6,548
	6,548	6,548
Website Development:		
At Cost	56,635	37,874
Less: Accumulated Amortisation	(27,019)	(13,007)
	29,616	24,867
	36,164	31,415

Note 8: Payables

	2006	2005
Unsecured:		
Trade Creditors	82,682	101,729
	82,682	101,729

Note 9: Tax Liabilities

	2006	2005
Current:		
GST Clearing	63,947	14,754
Amounts Withheld from Salary & Wages	9,812	18,492
	73,759	33,246

Note 10: Other Liabilities

	2006	2005
Current:		
MLB Sponsorship in Advance	214,440	218,160
Income in Advance	102,855	158,786
	317,295	376,946

Note 11: Provisions

	2006	2005
Non Current:		
Employee Entitlements	65,199	56,198
	65,199	56,198

Note 12: Reserves

	Capital Profit Reserve	Investment Income	Funds Paid to State Bodies	TOTAL
2005				
Balance at Beginning of Period	719,711	98,503	(139,662)	678,551
Increase in Reserves	-	39,620	-	39,620
Decrease in Reserves	-	(52,000)	-	(52,000)
Payment to State Bodies	-	-	(10,000)	(10,000)
Balance as at 30 June 2005	719,711	86,123	(149,662)	656,172
2006				
Balance at Beginning of Period	719,711	86,123	(149,662)	656,172
Increase in Reserves	-	13,999	-	13,999
Decrease in Reserves	-	-	-	-
Payment to State Bodies	-	-	(10,000)	(10,000)
Balance as at 30 June 2006	719,711	100,122	(159,662)	660,171

Note 13: Members' Equity

	Members' Equity Brought Forward	General (Post 2002)	MLBAAP (Post 2002)	BALME	TOTAL
2005					
Balance at Beginning of Period	717,081	89,349	35,111	-	841,541
Surplus / Deficit for the Year	-	68,873	(33,731)	16,999	52,141
Equity as at 30 June 2005	717,081	158,222	1,380	16,999	893,682
2006					
Balance at Beginning of Period	717,081	158,222	1,380	16,999	893,682
Surplus / Deficit for the Year	-	27,512	16,739	61,348	105,599
Equity as at 30 June 2006	717,081	185,734	18,119	78,347	999,281

Note 14: Auditors' Remuneration

	2006	2005
Remuneration of the Auditor of the Company for:		
Auditing or reviewing the financial report	6,247	5,000
Other Services		
	6,247	5,000

Acknowledgements

The Board and Staff of the Australian Baseball Federation would like to extend its thanks to the following organisations for their tremendous support over the 2005 / 2006 year and we look forward to your continued support in 2006 / 2007.

Financial Wealth	Rider Sportswear Pty Ltd
Astarra Funds Management	Red Dog Clothing
Australian Sports Commission	Athletic Knit
Australian Olympic Committee	B & C Tackle Pty Ltd
Major League Baseball - Australia	Fourex Clothing Pty Ltd
Major League Baseball International	Vis Tech Sports Management
International Baseball Federation	Striker Sports Pty Ltd
Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority	Attack Sports
Western Australia Sports Institute	Shirts North
South Australia Sports Institute	Takkers
ACT Academy of Sport	Brown's Mensland
Queensland Academy of Sport	Rally Point
NSW Institute of Sport	Daves Work 'n' Safety
Victorian Institute of Sport	Eye4Sport
Mizuno	P & C Uniforms
G T Sports Imports	Hyperactive Merchandising
Madison Sports Pty Ltd	Blacktown Venue Management
Easton	Bellevue IT
Wilson Sporting Goods	Crew IT
Baseball World Australia - K2 Baseball	Radisson Resort Gold Coast
Greatrex Australia	Delta Europcar
Ausport Sporting Goods	Sport Moves
Fielders Choice	Country Club International
Ausball Sports Equipment	State & Territory Associations
Dynamic Sports & Leisure	Regional Associations & Clubs
Greenfly Pty Ltd	Players, Coaches, Officials, Fans and Volunteers
Sportswear Queensland	High Performance Coaching & Support Staff
Ball Park Queensland	All ABF Committee Members
Wembley Sports Wear	
Emmsee Sportswear	
Triple Play	
P S L Digital Screenprint	
Excel Sportswear	
Champion Sportswear	
W B Sports Supplies	



Memorandum

To: All ABF Annual Report Recipients
From: Michelle Anderson, Administration Website and Database Manager
Date: 22 November 2006
Subject: OMISSION

Good morning friends and colleagues

It is with regret, that I inform you of an error made in the omission of a report on Baseball SA within the Administration and Executive report of the Annual Report recently distributed.

This was in no way an intentional error and I apologise profusely to Baseball SA for omission which was not picked up in the numerous editorials of the document.

Please find attached a copy of the original Administration and Executive report as prepared by Don Knapp. Please hold this within the Annual Report you will have received.

Kind regards
Michelle Anderson



Administration and Executive

By Don Knapp – CEO

Introduction

The 2005/2006 year has been one that has seen the consolidation of a number of longer term sport and business development initiatives, providing the ABF and state and territory associations with a growing sense of confidence, that in a number of key areas we are headed in the right direction. Although this Annual Report is primarily a record about the 2005 / 2006 year, it would be short-sighted to fail to highlight that major initiatives in the key areas such as sport and business development, IT and communications and finance are made with an eye to the future.

With eyes now focussed on that “future”, there is a sense of “waiting to launch” syndrome among the ABF, states and territories, along with players and coaches. I refer to a long awaited, much anticipated announcement about the new national league. We are increasingly confident that a positive outcome to years of effort and work will be made shortly – we are still targeting November 2007 as a start-up date.

With the consolidation of the all of sport IT and Communications capacities through the My Club program, a steadily increasing number of annual hits on baseball.com.au, along with the gains made towards the aim of consolidating the collective financial positions of the ABF and states and territories, baseball in Australia has never been in a stronger position to usher in a new league product.

Budgets and Finance

The ABF achieved a slightly better than forecast surplus for the second successive year in 2005 / 06.

Income increased by seven percent in 2005 / 06 due to increases in the Financial Wealth sponsorship and the Australian Sports Commission and Australian Olympic Committee funding. Expenditure also increased by seven percent owing mainly to the Royalty Distribution payment (\$100,000) made to states and territories this year.

We are pleased to report increased income was generated from BALME this year, while expenditure decreased with the ABF assuming management control program over the past year. The MLBAAP, a big expenditure item for the ABF, also responded well to certain operational adjustments and finished in surplus for the year.

The Board, where possible, continues investing any surplus funds in conservative cash management funds in order to be ready to contribute to “start-up” costs for a national league, while at the same time ensuring adequate resources are available for sport development needs.

Business Development

In 2004 / 2005 five key business development initiatives were identified as priorities. It is useful to review these initiatives as a form of progress report for members.

- Attraction of an **all of sport sponsor**: The ABF and Astarra Funds Management’s (branded as Financial Wealth) relationship has evolved in a productive and mutually beneficial way after

nearly two years. Baseball is indeed fortunate to have established such a strong relationship with a company and individuals who share a genuine passion for the sport. It is imperative that States/Territories and affiliates show reciprocal support and loyalty to our most significant corporate partner in order to ensure a long term relationship is fostered.

- **Central control of the BALME program:** With the ABF assuming management control of this program, administration costs have been reduced while the servicing of licensees has increased. This resulted in a better net dollar return in respect to earnings, enabling the BALME program to contribute to 40% of the state and territory national royalty distribution (\$40,000 of a total \$100,000). This was achieved with compliance levels still relatively disappointing at just over 50%. Future royalty payments to states and territories will more directly relate to program earnings. With the program's third line forcing provisions terminating in April 2007, we will be relying more than ever on voluntary compliance in order to maintain royalty payments to states and territories.
- **Commitment of the ABF Council and Board to adopt an all of sport "My Club" national registration and insurance scheme with training support:** The national uptake of the My Club program has been pleasing indeed in 2005 / 06. With more than 500 active baseball sites Australia-wide, and well over 90% of the membership on the database, it is incumbent upon the current generation of administrators to persevere with and consolidate the My Club program for the benefit of future generations. It is significant that a primary reason we were able to keep insurance costs in check this year was due to what is perceived to be a reliable and accountable registration process by underwriters.
- **Establishment of a membership benefits program – 'My Rewards':** The My Club program enabled the facilitation of a members' benefits program, called My Rewards. Although the distribution of membership cards and retail discount voucher booklets was not without challenges in year one, the bulk of the membership received these items as scheduled. Feedback regarding the program, particularly from youth members and their families has been very positive.
- **Establishment of a national royalty distribution scheme:** A desired outcome of any business development strategy is profitability. As indicated above, the ABF was able to distribute just over \$100,000 to states and territories early in the 2006 year from earnings accrued through BALME, the Financial Wealth sponsorship and other preferred national supplier income. The potential of the national royalty distribution scheme is vast. It must however, be recognized that the potential and size of future distributions is very much dependent upon state and territory and membership (past and present) support for national licensees, Financial Wealth and other preferred suppliers.

State and Territory Associations

The relationship between the ABF and member states and territories remained solid throughout the year. Predominantly, the ABF and states and territories have worked collaboratively in the following sport development areas including:

- facility development;
- My Club training workshops;
- joint management of state and territory Institutes of Sport programs (Academies);
- delivery of the national high performance plan and national events hosted by states;
- coaching and officials national accreditation schemes;
- Play Ball and Project CONNECT (grass roots recruitment activities); and
- other programs on an individual state and territory needs basis.

Here is a snapshot of state and territory activity from 2005 / 06:

Baseball Queensland

Baseball Queensland started the 2006 year with a bang winning the Claxton Shield for the 8th time since the event's inception of 1934. Baseball Queensland continues to forge ahead primarily in the areas of sport development and financial management.

Chief Executive Officer Bob Heiler identified the two most significant points of progress in this year as being; firstly, the expansion of the Rams (state team's playing / coaching program) to all state and regional under 14, 16 and 18 youth competitions. Baseball Queensland anticipates strong long term player and coach development gains through the standardisation of the playing and coaching program throughout the state; and secondly, since 2005 Baseball Queensland has increased its net assets by more than 200% and well out of red-ink territory.

Commissioner – Neville Brockie
Chief Executive Officer – Bob Heiler

Baseball NSW

President Bruce Auty and Chief Executive Officer Glen Willott continue to focus on Baseball NSW's basics, including:

- financial control and viability;
- governance and administration; and
- grass roots sport development.

Results that exemplify progress in these areas include significant increase in participation through the resounding success of the 'Play Ball Presents Try Baseball' program; a rapidly improving financial position; the organisation of several international youth tours this year; and advances with the "One Baseball" vision for Baseball NSW.

Chairman – Bruce Auty
Chief Executive Officer - Glen Willott

Baseball ACT

Commissioner Theo Vassalakis has been re-confirmed as Commissioner of Baseball ACT for another three-year term. Baseball ACT has made major gains in the growth and participation area for two years in a row now, achieving a 30% increase in registrations for this period due to not only the successful implementation of the Play Ball program, but also to the start-up of a women's baseball League. There will be six teams in the new league this year. All eyes will be on Aussie icon swimmer Petria Thomas, who we can now call a ball player, as Petria has signed up to play in the competition.

The ACT Department of Sport and Recreation has also given solid support for a future upgrades schedule to Narrabundah Ball Field.

Commissioner – Theo Vassalakis
General Manager – Trevor Schumm

Baseball Victoria

Baseball Olympian and sports administrator Scott Dawes left Baseball Victoria last year which was the catalyst to search for a suitable candidate to fill his shoes. President Peter Dihm did well to recruit Steve Walker from Tennis Australia as the new Executive Director. Steve has adopted an innovative approach since joining Baseball Victoria and already has put runs on the board including:

- advances made with the “One Baseball” governance model;
- tripling of the number of sport development personnel in Victoria, several of these deployed in regional areas; and
- increases in sponsorship and profile for baseball in Victoria, along with a re-designed website.

President - Peter Dihm

Executive Director – Steve Walker (replaced Scott Dawes)

Baseball SA

It was another solid year for Baseball SA who continues to improve their balance sheet with sound financial control and increased revenue. Much time, energy and resources went into developing a comprehensive submission to the South Australian government seeking support for the establishment of a state baseball facility. If approved and completed to its final stages, this has the potential to be one of the finest facilities in Australia. There is no question that a positive national league announcement would assist the momentum of this project.

Baseball SA continues to work hard in areas of sport development including harassment free (no tolerance) umpire support programs, grass roots recruitment programs and the standardisation of elite coaching and player development strategies within state and regional programs.

President – Kevin Jennings

General Manager – Michael Carter

Baseball WA

Baseball is on the move in WA. Chairman David Hayes reported the following highlights for Baseball WA:

- Just completed its first full season of use at Baseball Park and believe they have established a viable business plan for the facility’s ongoing utility.
- Employed full time Events Manager in Shane Tonkin to drive events and commercial activities at Baseball Park.
- Experienced a growth in participation in 2005 / 06.
- Based upon improved governance and sports development performance, Baseball WA is anticipating increased Department of Sport and Recreation support this year.
- Baseball WA are particularly thrilled to be hosting the 2007 Claxton Shield and have recruited top baseball executive Trevor Schumm as their new General Manager.

Chairman – David Hayes

Acting General Manager – Shane Tonkin (new General Manager – Trevor Schumm)

Baseball NT

Baseball NT has worked hard in areas such as governance, sport development and administrative management over the past 12 months and this has led to a stabilisation of the relationship with the NT Office of Sport and Recreation.

In a major facility development breakthrough, Tracy Village Field had been awarded an \$800,000 grant to install lights and a second playing field from the Northern Territory government. This will allow night baseball to be played in Darwin, which in-turn will allow for an extended season to be played.

Baseball NT is very close to announcing a major staffing appointment in the sports development area.

President – Monty Erickson

Acting Executive Officer – Lisa Hooley

Australian Sports Commission

With the rapid approach of 2007, the ABF quadrennial Strategic Plan 2005 to 2009 is nearly half way through its life-cycle. The plan to date has proven to be very functional with the annual Costed Operating Plan proving particularly useful as a performance monitoring tool.

The ABF completed its 2006 / 2007 Costed Operating Plan and submitted this to the ASC in late June 2006. The ASC approved the Plan in July 2006, thus triggering our 2006 / 2007 funding cycle. As indicated previously by the ASC, the level of ABF annual funding for the 2006 / 2007 financial year did increase somewhat in accordance with the “indicative” four year funding prediction.

Baseball’s ASC Sports Consultant continues to be Robert Bennett, whom is most helpful in all regards in both the high performance and sports development divisions enjoying positive working relationship with the ASC through Robert. The ABF and ASC Beijing Athlete Program commenced in 2006, and will continue in the lead-up to the Beijing Games in 2008.

Robert Bennett and ASC Executive Director Mark Peters both visited the Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program this year and provided very positive reviews based on their observations.

All ASC reporting, policy, acquittal and auditing requirements have been met by the ABF in 2005 / 2006.

Major League Baseball (MLB)

Major League Baseball (MLB) and Major League Baseball International (MLBI) worked collaboratively with the ABF throughout 2005 / 06 on a number of sport development programs and events. The most significant of these included:

- the MLB Australian Academy Program (MLBAAP);
- the Play Ball program;
- a business planning project for the re-introduction of a national league; and
- Australia’s participation in the 2006 World Baseball Classic.

It is clear that MLB and the MLBI remain key strategic partners of the ABF and states and territories. All indications are that this collaboration will grow in importance to Australian baseball in the near future. The ABF enjoys positive relationships with Australian based MLB staff Tom Nicholson and Warren King. The ABF also harbours excellent working relationships with key executives in both the Office of the Commissioner and MLBI staff in New York and Tokyo.

Australian Olympic Committee

The ABF and the AOC are in the very preliminary stages of team administration for the baseball component of the Beijing games. Team management meetings will begin on a regular basis shortly. With a tougher qualification route to Beijing, most of the ABF's focus in the next 12 months will be on getting to Beijing.

All AOC grants and funding commitments to the ABF were met in 2005 / 2006 and we continue to enjoy good relationships with AOC staff at an operational level. The ABF in turn met all reporting, policy, acquittal and auditing requirements of the AOC.

State Sport Institutes

The ABF, in collaboration with state and territory associations, continue the successful delivery of the National Training Centre(s) program with the support of State Sport Institutes including:

- ACTAS (Australian Capital Territory Academy of Sport)
- NSWIS (New South Wales Institute of Sport)
- QAS (Queensland Academy of Sport)
- SASI (South Australian Sports Institute)
- VIS (Victorian Institute of Sport)
- WAIS (Western Australia Institute of Sport)

The ABF remains fully committed through 2009 (subject to ongoing ASC funding) to ongoing support and funding of these key programs. These programs are considered critical to the longer term success of the national high performance plan.

Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency (ASADA)

ASADA was born through a new act of Parliament in 2006 and have assumed all previous responsibilities of the Anti-Doping Sport Drug Agency (ASDA) and, in fact, has extended powers over and above the previous ASDA. ASADA was established by the Australian Government as result of its commitment to strengthen its "Tough on Drugs in Sport" strategy.

In summary, ASADA's role includes deterrence, detection and enforcement in respect to the elimination of the use of performance enhancing drugs in sport.

All transactions between ASADA and the ABF have been successfully executed and the ABF met its Anti-Doping policy requirements in 2005 / 2006.

Major Issues and Challenges

The major issues, challenges and objectives identified in the ABF's quadrennial Strategic Plan are the primary frame of reference for maintaining a focus on key all of sport issues. The Plan is reviewed annually so that a fluid response can be made to emerging issues. However, as a means of measuring progress, it is useful to review the issues and challenges identified in last year's Annual Report and they included:

- **All of sport business development:** The key objectives for 2005 / 06 have been the implementation of the My Club registration and insurance system; delivering a central

administration structure for the BALME program; servicing and retaining all of sport sponsors and preferred suppliers; and making a national royalty distribution. In summary, most, if not all, of this was achieved in 2005 / 06. It is vital that in 2006 / 07 these achievements are built upon, whereby improvements and consolidation of the national business development effort becomes the focus.

- **Re-establishment of a sustainable National League:** There has been no let-up in the business planning effort and drive to get a new league up and running for the target date of November 2007. At the time of writing this report, we feel an announcement is imminent.
- **Recruitment, retention and rewards of / for members:** Objectives such as the implementation of the My Rewards program, ongoing delivery of Play Ball, the introduction of the Membership Protection Policy were all achieved in 2005 / 06 – so again, we remained on task. However, after staging a very successful all of sport “retention” workshop, it seems some of the momentum and outcomes of this meeting have stalled. A focus of 2006 / 2007 will be to revisit this issue and regain the momentum.
- **Ongoing improvement of the High Performance Program:** This continues to be a work in progress, with focus increasingly on qualifying for Beijing. Indeed, the new qualification route for the Oceania champions is far more difficult than for the previous three Olympiads that Australia has successfully qualified for.

Although we can point to reasonable progress in each of the areas above, there remains much work to do and all four of these areas remain major points of focus for the sport. Emerging issues are:

- **“The Future is Together”:** This phrase was the vision statement created from the last major all of sport, strategic planning exercise back in 1999. It remains the vision for the sport of baseball and has since fostered reinforcing underpinning catch phrases such as “best for baseball” and “one baseball”, terms used at all levels of the sport. It is not difficult to subscribe to the idealistic notions that such symbolic terms represent and most members do not have a hard time gravitating to the dialogue. It would be naïve indeed to expect that all members share a common view of just how the sport should organise itself to achieve a future together and an environment where everybody is on the same page. The ABF, states and territories, regions and clubs face major challenges firstly, to ensure all of sport initiatives are quality schemes that can and will benefit members, and secondly, to clearly communicate and deliver those benefits to members to achieve a unified sport from top to bottom.
- **National League:** The structure of the national league is planned to be a “single entity” model. Without going into detail, the team and event management function will require the ABF and states and territories to work more closely in a business operations sense than ever before. Generally, before the advent of the league, this is viewed as a good thing, but it will not be without its challenges. In summary, if the national league model is successful, the league itself has the potential to become a great unifying force for the entire sport. The levels of support for a national league have been very encouraging as indicated by all of our research to date. The highest levels of support are evident among the core, or existing baseball membership. That is a very good thing, as the league will need the unified support of the entire membership to flourish.
- **Athlete Welfare:** The national High Performance program has proven to be very effective in preparing and promoting athletes to play at a higher level. It is true that nearly 40% of all youth athletes graduating from State Sport Institutes and the MLBAAP either sign professionally, or earn College scholarships. We must, however, increase our focus on how these athletes fare and are integrated into higher levels of play. Most importantly, we must assist athletes in preparing for when the overseas playing career ends. To this end, our relationships with Addeco, Financial Wealth and Academic and Career Education (ACE) personnel are increasingly important. We are

also working hard to establish better links with tertiary and TAFE institutions to develop more “alternative career” study / training opportunities that are accessible in a timeframe and a delivery mode suitable for active professional baseball players.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Head Office staff for their collective efforts and commitment to the sport and tasks at hand. To the veterans now, Brett Pickett (recently promoted to the High Performance Manager’s position), Michelle Anderson (recently promoted to the IT and Communications), Sue Clarke, Alan Weir and Geoff Robertson - thank you for another good year. To recent appointees Alan Connors (National Development Manager) and Ben Foster (High Performance Program Coordinator, Media and Baseball Down Under) - you are already making a good contribution with your efforts and we are pleased to have you on board.

We have lost two valued staff members over the past 12 months including Peter Wood (ex- National Development Manager) and Jennifer Stockman (ex-IT and Communications Coordinator). It is significant that both Peter and Jenny have moved onto elevated positions and we wish them well for the future.

To our key strategic partners, including the Australian Sports Commission, Major League Baseball and the Australian Olympic Committee, State Sport Institutes and the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency, we thank you for the ongoing support and guidance.

To our corporate partners, including preferred suppliers, licensees and event sponsors, we look forward an ongoing association.

To our friends at Astarra Funds Management and Financial Wealth, including Shawn Richard, Maurice Terrerio, Mark Schroder and Zoe Viellaris, the all of sport sponsorship support that you provide has allowed our sport to move ahead beyond expectation over the past two years. We look forward to a lasting, mutually beneficial relationship in the future.

Baseball is indeed fortunate to have a fully independent Board consisting of people that bring a diverse range of high level professional expertise to the sport. The legal, commercial, marketing, governance and communications expertise that baseball has access to through its generous Directors literally saves the ABF and its members many thousands of dollars annually in professional fees. The ABF Board provides our sport with a leadership edge.

To the membership of the ABF, including state and territory associations, regional associations, clubs, members and officials, thanks you for your ongoing passion and commitment to the sport. Thanks also to my colleagues, State Executive Officers – I have again enjoyed working with each of you and your respective office staff this year.

Finally, thanks in particular to the army of volunteers that give up so much personal time in support of the great game of baseball – your efforts are greatly valued.



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

WINNING PARTNERSHIP



The Australian Sports Commission proudly supports the Australian Baseball Federation

The Australian Sports Commission is the Australian Government agency that develops, manages and invests in sport at all levels in Australia. The Australian Baseball Federation has worked closely with the Australian Sports Commission to develop baseball from community participation to high-level performance.

The Australian Baseball Federation is one of many national sporting organisations that has formed a winning partnership with the Australian Sports Commission to develop its sport in Australia.

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