

AUSTRALIA baseball

2008 / 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



2009 Diamond Anniversary
Claxton Shield Winners
Perth HEAT



2009 Baseball Australia
Diamond Awards



2009 World Baseball Classic
- Team Australia



Claxton Shield
Diamond Anniversary
All-Star Team



2009 Australian
Little League Championships



AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL

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Message from the President of the Australian Baseball Federation

Baseball in Australia has always been faced with the continuous requirement to develop and expand its participation base and achieve at the elite level of the sport internationally.

During the 2008 / 2009 period, the sport achieved a great deal despite the major disappointment of not playing in the 2008 Olympic Games, particularly as it may be the last Olympics for Baseball for quite some time.

The failure of Baseball to remain part of the Olympics will, however, elevate the World Baseball Classic as Baseball's most elite competition with the best players in the world playing for their countries. Australia's performance at the 2009 World Baseball Classic was outstanding and we were very unlucky with a double elimination format, not to move further in the competition. The expected growth of the World Baseball Classic, combined with our 2009 performance and strong relationship with key stakeholders; Major League Baseball ("MLB"), Major League Baseball Players' Association ("MLBPA") and the International Baseball Federation ("IBAF"), should provide us with a strong alternative to the Olympic program.

I would like to acknowledge our other Australian teams who performed well against many of the world's most powerful Baseball nations. These include our national Triple-A team who finished fourth at the World Championship and our ever consistent national Women's team who also secured fourth place at their World Cup. Congratulations to **Jon Deeble**, **Tony Harris**, **John Gaynor** and their coaching staff and to all players, coaches, officials and volunteers that were a part of preparing or participating in the representation of our Australian teams this year.

We were also able to celebrate a great milestone for Australian Baseball, with the 75th Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield. Well done to **New South Wales** for getting to the Grand Final and congratulations to **Perth HEAT** as winner of the Claxton Shield. It was also very pleasing to acknowledge some of the current and previous greats of our sport and I would like to again acknowledge all of the State recipients of Diamond All Star awards and of course those greats of our game who were named into the 75th Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield All Stars team.

The year also concluded a significant event with our great friends MLB. A national competition, having been planned and negotiated for a number of years, culminated in 2008 / 2009 with an agreement being reached between MLB and the Australian Baseball Federation ("ABF") for the formation of an Australian Baseball League ("ABL") to commence in the summer of 2010 / 2011.

I am always appreciative of the other members of the ABF's Board for their support, guidance and counsel. I would like to publicly thank and acknowledge Vice President **Colin Pitt**, and Directors **Ron Finlay**, **Deborah Healey**, **Peter Williams** and **David Hynes**, as well as Chief Executive Officer **John May** and the team at Head Office.

I would also like to use this opportunity to welcome and thank **Mr Matt Miller** as Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Sports Commission ("ASC") and our ASC Consultant **Mr Rob Bennett**.

Baseball would not grow and develop without the support of our corporate sponsors and preferred suppliers and we appreciate their support and I would like to particularly thank **Virgin Blue**, **Edge85** and **Bob Jane T-Mart**.

Finally, to our extended sport family, including the Australian Olympic Committee, the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority, Member Associations, State Sport Institutes, State and Territory Associations, Regional Associations, Club Members, Volunteers and Officials; thank you all for your efforts in this last year and I look forward to working with you all again in the year ahead.

Regards



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Pearce', written in a cursive style.

Geoff Pearce
President
Australian Baseball Federation

Message from the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Sports Commission

The power of a successful sports system like Australia's, lies within the many cooperative partnerships and relationships between its system partners.

As our sports system has diversified and increased in complexity over the years, so too has the nature of these relationships. Now, as ever, a critical ingredient for our system's continued success and sustainability is to ensure that we all remain on the same page - that our links between each other, our leading programs, our roles and relationships are clearly defined and understood by all.

Sport operates in a dynamic, demanding and rapidly changing environment. The sources of change include advancing technologies, new structures and systems, products and services, people concerns and rising international competition and benchmarks.

The Australian Government has flagged the need to address this change by reforming our sports system and has outlined its approach in the paper *Australian Sport: Emerging Challenges, New Directions*.

The Government has also appointed an independent expert panel headed by lawyer **David Crawford** to investigate ways to ensure both high performance and community level sport is prepared for those challenges.

The Australian Sports Commission has already taken steps to review and evaluate our strategic position and intent in active consultation with national sporting organisations and other stakeholders. These system improvements will provide a foundation for any changes emerging from the Government process.

Already we have identified a number of priorities. These include: the need to better align our high performance sport efforts with our partners; to work more collaboratively with state departments of sport and recreation in strategic approaches to growing participation in sport; to re-communicate the value of sport to the Australian community; and to retain and develop our best coaches.

Our efforts to act on these priorities are inherently intertwined with our partners. These partnerships represent a powerful tool in our ability to adapt to a changing environment, to share responsibilities, effectively communicate and continue to expand and strengthen sport.

Our work together will ensure that the Australian sports system is progressive, robust and sustainable for decades to come.



Matt Miller
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Sports Commission



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Year in Review by the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Baseball Federation

This report outlines the highlights and progress made by the Australian Baseball Federation (“ABF”) between July 2008 and June 2009, both on and off the field. I open with this remark as it is sometimes difficult to focus our comments on specific time periods as the sport of Baseball continues to go through significant change, development and improvement.

As the National Sporting Organisation with the support of the Members and the Australian Government, the game of Baseball in Australia has seen a continual and consistent development of players at both grassroots and high performance levels.

Furthermore, we have been able to develop our sport and have maximised the investment of our various stakeholders by developing strong performances in our national teams, improving grassroots development and embracing social inclusion by providing access to the game to both genders, all ages, athletes with disabilities and have at all times satisfied all requirements to demonstrate strong corporate governance.

Our national membership numbers have experienced an increase of seven percent and with the growing awareness of Little League, along with other key initiatives in place, the sport is well positioned with a good platform for further growth.

Australian Baseball League – New National Competition

Whilst objectives have been advanced and the development pathway for Australian Baseball has been fairly well established, the missing component has been a national competition and this objective has remained as one of our major priorities.

A national competition would promote the game of Baseball in Australia, increase playing and coaching standards and provide opportunities for player advancement from grassroots to elite professional level, as well as increase opportunities for coaches, umpires, scorers, technical officials and grounds staff.

Over the past decade, the ABF has worked closely with Major League Baseball International (“MLBI”) and the Australian Sports Commission (“ASC”), to manufacture world class development and high performance programs, in particular, the Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program (“MLBAAP”).

After a long period of discussion, the ABF has been able to advance this important initiative and in December 2008, formally executed an Agreement with MLBI for the creation of an Australian Baseball League (“ABL”) to commence full operation in the summer of 2010 / 2011.

Mark Peters, former Chief Executive Officer of the ASC and former ABF President and Australian representative Baseball player, has been appointed as the inaugural Chairman of the ABL and will work with MLB and the ABF in delivering the rollout strategy.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for the game in Australia, as very few international sporting bodies have been prepared to invest in their sport in Australia to this extent. The impact to our sport will drive an increase in participation with associated state-based development programs being developed in conjunction with the ABL and enable the leveraging of the ABL interest and infrastructure.

Olympics / Australian Sports Commission

Moving forward, we are all eager to understand the recommendations that may be adopted in relation to the ongoing funding allocations to Australian sport after the imminent release of the “Crawford Report” and after the decision from the International Olympic Committee (“IOC”) regarding Baseball no longer being part of the summer Olympic program.

The omission of Baseball by the IOC may lead to some shifting priorities and funding implications, particularly as the entire ASC’s quadrennial funding cycle was based on qualifying for and participating in Olympic Games (or to a lesser extent, Commonwealth Games).

Year in Review by the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Baseball Federation

World Baseball Classic (“WBC”)

The WBC will now become the top priority on the four-year calendar from both an elite performance measurement and also as an alternative revenue opportunity.

Our financial performance this year is improved by a revenue provision for our participation in the 2009 WBC. As well as financial, our on-field campaign was very strong; commencing with a momentous win over Mexico (capturing the WBC ‘Hits’ record of 22 hits) and then being just four outs away from beating Cuba and advancing to the second round. It was an outstanding effort by the Australian Senior team and coaching staff, led by **Jon Deeble**.

Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield

The Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield is another program we were all proud to present, as not only did it highlight the immense level of talent we have within our sport, but with the support of our partners; MLB, Edge85 and Virgin Blue, it allowed us to take the tournament truly national. The 75th celebrations also provided an opportunity to acknowledge former greats through the selection of a ‘Diamond All Stars’ team. Our congratulations to all Diamond All Star state team representatives and we pay tribute to the 75th Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield All Stars team as follows:

Manager: Kingsley Wellington

Coach: Ross Straw*, Rod Byrne*, Jon Deeble

Catcher: David Nilsson

First Base: Kevin Greatrex

Second Base: David Mundy

Third Base: Larry Home

Short Stop: Dave Roberts

Left Field: Jack Rowley*

Centre Field: Lionel Harris

Right Field: Geoff Martin

Designated Hitter: Tony Adamson

Utility: Andrew Scott, Grahame Cassell

Pitcher: Charlie Puckett*, Ron Sharpe*, Adrian Meagher,
Ray Michell, Neil Page, Dick Shirt, Phil Dale, Graeme
Lloyd, Shayne Bennett

(* denotes deceased)

Financials

The ABF achieved a significant increase in revenue and also profit as a result of a number of factors.

The largest increase was as a result of profit generated by investment income, as the ABF Board decided as a result of the Global Financial Crisis to review its investment strategy. The ABF redeemed all units in an off-shore fund and transferred the funds into Australia so that they had the greater protection and scrutiny of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. The transaction crystallised a \$600,000 profit.

The financials also contain a revenue provision from our participation in the 2009 WBC in March 2009.

These figures, combined with an expanded Claxton Shield program (which includes significantly increased expenses but also significant off-setting revenue and sponsorship amounts), largely account for the increased comparatives to prior year.

For further detail feel free to peruse the audited financial accounts within this report.

Acknowledgements

The ABF would like to sincerely thank all those who have contributed to our game and its development in 2008 / 2009 and in closing I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and organisations.

Year in Review by the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Baseball Federation

Congratulations to **Perth HEAT** for winning their second successive Claxton Shield title and to **New South Wales Patriots** for making it to the Final.

Congratulations to all winners and inductees at the Baseball Australia Diamond Awards and to past and present players selected into the 75th Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield All Stars team and all Australian team representatives.

Thank you to our key strategic partners, including the **Australian Sports Commission**, **Major League Baseball** and the **Australian Olympic Committee**, **State Sport Institutes** and of course our newest strategic partner, the **Australian Baseball League**.

Thank you also to our corporate partners, including preferred suppliers, licensees and event sponsors and in particular **Edge85** and **Bruce Edwards**, as well as our friends at **Virgin Blue**, including **John Kelly** and **Gary Manuel**.

My last note of gratitude is to the membership of the ABF, including State and Territory Associations, Regional Associations, Club Members and Officials, the army of Volunteers, State Presidents and Executive Officers and of course the ABF Board and Staff.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John May". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John May
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Baseball Federation

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Australian Baseball Federation Inc
ABN 18 610 026 404

Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2009



Chartered Accountants & Company Auditors
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Phone: (07) 5562 0333 Fax: (07) 5562 0777
Email: info@jmrgroup.com

Board Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

In accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors, the Directors present their financial report for Australian Baseball Federation Inc (“ABF”) for the year ended 30 June 2009 and the state of ABF financial affairs as at that date.

Board Members

The following persons held office as Board members of the ABF during the period, or since the end of the year and up to the date of this paper.

Geoff Pearce	President
Colin Pitt	Vice President
Ron Finlay	Director
Peter Williams	Director
Deborah Healey	Director
David Hynes	Director
John May	Chief Executive Officer

Board Meetings

During the year, four Board meetings were held which were attended by the following members:

Geoff Pearce	President (attended two board meetings)
Colin Pitt	Vice President
Ron Finlay	Director
Peter Williams	Director
Deborah Healey	Director (attended three board meetings)
David Hynes	Director
John May	Chief Executive Officer

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Principal Activities

The principal activities for the year were to: conduct, encourage, promote, advance, standardise, control and administer all forms of the sport of Baseball in and throughout Australia for the mutual and collective benefit of the Members and at all times to act on behalf of, in the interests of and in conjunction with the Members and the sport of Baseball.

Review of Operations

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

	Year ended 30 June 2009 \$	Year ended 30 June 2008 \$
ABF Operations	*667,010	17,857
MLBAAP	**21,898	22,222

* The profit amount of \$667,010 is made up of operating profit \$67,429 and realised income from investments of \$599,581.

** Included in the revenue of MLBAAP and expenses of ABF is a \$200,000 (2008:\$210,000) interdivision transfer.

Changes in State of Affairs

During the year, ABF became an equity holder in Australian Baseball League Pty Ltd which will run the newly formed Australian Baseball League that will replace the existing Claxton Shield currently operated by ABF.

Board Member Benefits

One Board member has received, or is entitled to receive, during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the entity or related body corporate with the Board member, a firm which the Board member is a member, or an entity in which the Board member has a substantial financial interest.

John May (Newcom Pty Ltd)

Chief Executive Officer \$197,964 (2008:\$112,500)

This statement excludes any benefit included in the aggregate amount of the emoluments received or due and receivable by Board members, shown in the entity's accounts, or the fixed salary of a fulltime employee of the entity or related body corporate.

Financial Position

The net assets of the entity have remained constant over the year.

After Balance Date Events

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

Officers' Indemnities and Insurance

During the financial year 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.

Environmental Issues

The entity's operations are not subject to significant environmental regulation under the law of the Commonwealth and State.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

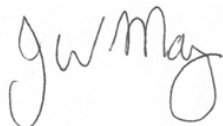
A copy of the auditor's Independence Declaration, as required under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, has been included.

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board on : 8th September 2009



Geoff Pearce
ABF President



John May
ABF Chief Executive Officer

Independent Audit Report

Scope

The financial report and Directors' responsibility

The financial report comprises the Directors' report, Directors' declaration, income statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes to the financial report for ABF, for the year ended 30 June 2009.

The Directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

Audit approach

We have conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the Members of the company. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We performed procedures to assess whether, in all material respects, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with our understanding of the company's financial position and its performance as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows.

We formed our audit opinion on the above basis of these procedures, which included:

- (1) examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report; and
- (2) assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Directors.

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Our audit did not involve an analysis of the prudence of business decisions made by the Directors or management.

Independence

In accordance with ASIC Class Order 05/83, we declare to the best of our knowledge and belief that the auditor's Independence Declaration has not changed as at the date of providing our audit opinion.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of ABF:

- (1) gives a true and fair view, as required by the Corporations Act 2001 in Australia, of the financial position of ABF as at 30 June 2009 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

- (2) is represented in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

This opinion must be read in conjunction with the rest of our audit report.

Signed on : 16 October 2009



Russell John Trevorrow
Registered Company Auditor No. 8708
JMR Group

Auditor's Independence Declaration

Under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To: THE BOARD MEMBERS of AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL
FEDERATION INC

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2009, there have been:

- (1) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (2) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Signed on : 16 October 2009



Russell John Trevorrow
Registered Company Auditor No. 8708
JMR Group

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Total revenue	4,659,058	3,312,472
Total expenses	(3,970,816)	(3,272,393)
Prior year adjustment	667	-
Profit (losses) attributable to members of the entity	688,909	40,079

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Current Assets			
Cash assets	4	1,576,003	599,283
Receivables	5	734,433	471,807
Other	6	312,305	264,390
Total Current Assets		2,622,741	1,335,480
Non-Current Assets			
Other assets	6	35,475	-
Other financial assets	7	1,483,479	1,413,900
Property, plant and equipment	8	56,291	72,470
Total Non-Current Assets		1,575,245	1,486,370
Total Assets		4,197,986	2,821,850
Current Liabilities			
Payables	9	692,472	156,063
Current tax liabilities	10	64,182	33,951
Other	11	837,861	198,332
Provisions	12	20,143	-
Total Current Liabilities		1,614,658	388,346

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Balance Sheet continued . . .

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Non-Current Liabilities			
Interest bearing liabilities		-	
Provisions	12	15,693	24,752
Total Non-Current Liabilities		15,693	24,752
Total Liabilities		1,630,353	413,098
Net Assets		2,567,633	2,408,752
Equity			
Reserves	13	798,032	1,328,060
Retained profits	14	1,769,601	1,080,692
Total Members' Funds		2,567,633	2,408,752

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers		4,692,952	3,471,978
Payments to suppliers and employees		(3,738,396)	(3,810,540)
Interest received		26,170	50,500
Interest and other costs of finance		(865)	-
Net Cash Provided by (used in) Operating Activities	2	979,861	(288,062)

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Statement of Cash Flows continued . . .

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Cash Flow from Investing Activities			
Payment for:			
other investments		(1,404,842)	-
property, plant & equipment		(3,116)	46,144
Proceeds from disposal of:			
sale of investments		1,404,817	100,200
Net Cash Provided by (used in) Investing Activities		(3,141)	146,344
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		976,720	(141,718)
Cash at the beginning of the year		599,283	741,001
Cash at the End of the Year	1	1,576,003	599,283

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Note 1: Reconciliation of Cash		
For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and investments in money market instruments, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.		
Cash at the end of the year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:		
National Bank cheque account	646,977	26,497
Westpac Bank Queensland	591,170	81,623
Business investment (on call)	317,383	472,600
Term deposits	18,984	17,976
Cash at Bank - BALME	-	98
Petty cash	1,489	489
	1,576,003	599,283

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Statement of Cash Flows continued . . .

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Note 2: Reconciliation of Net Cash Provided by / Used in Operating Activities to Net Profit		
Operating profit (loss) after tax	688,909	40,079
Depreciation	19,295	29,264
(Profit) / Loss on realisation of investments	(599,581)	-
(Profit) / Loss on sale of property, plant and equipment	-	(39,746)
Changes in assets and liabilities net of effects of purchases and disposals of controlled entities:		
(Increase) / Decrease in assets	(35,475)	(92,286)
(Increase) / Decrease in trade and term debtors	(262,624)	(86,321)
(Increase) / Decrease in prepayments	(60,635)	(170,769)
Increase / (Decrease) in trade creditors and accruals	536,409	68,614
Increase / (Decrease) in other creditors	682,480	(25,650)
Increase / (Decrease) in sundry provisions	11,085	(11,247)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	979,861	(288,062)

Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act South Australia.

The financial report covers ABF and includes the division Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program ("MLBAAP").

The financial report of ABF and the division of MLBAAP comply with all Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") in their entirety.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the economic entity in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

(1) Basis of preparation

ABF has prepared financial statements in accordance with the Australian equivalents to IFRS from 1 July 2005.

Reporting basis and conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets and financial assets; and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

(2) Accounting policies

Income tax

ABF does not incur a liability for income tax, due to an exemption under the Income Tax Act.

Plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

- (a) Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to present values in determining the recoverable amounts.

The cost of fixed assets constructed within ABF includes the cost of materials, direct labour, borrowing costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount recognised as a separate asset as appropriate, only when it is probable that the future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

- (b) The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives to ABF, commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated 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:

Furniture and Fittings	20%
Office Equipment	30%
Computer Equipment	40%

Assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposal are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

Leases

Lease payments under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the leaser, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Financial instruments

- (a) Recognition:

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition, these instruments are measured as set out below.

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

(b) Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss:

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term, or if so designated by management and within the requirements of "AASB139: *Recognition and Measurement of Financial Instruments*". Derivatives are also categorised as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value of these assets are included in the income statement in the period in which they arise.

(c) Loans and receivables:

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(d) Held-to-maturity investments:

These investments have fixed maturities and it is the company's intention to hold these investments to maturity. Any held-to-maturity investments are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

(e) Available-for-sale financial assets:

Available-for-sale assets include any financial assets not included in the above categories. Available-for-sale financial assets are reflected at fair value. Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are taken directly to equity.

(f) Financial liabilities:

Non-derivative financial liabilities are recognised at amortised cost, comprising original debt less principal payments and amortisation.

(g) Derivative instruments:

Derivative instruments are measured at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are taken to the income statement unless they are designated as hedges.

(h) Fair value:

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

(i) Impairment:

At each reporting date the committee members assess whether there is objective evidence that financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in value of the instrument is considered to determine whether impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date the committee members review the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the assets fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

Impairment testing is performed annually for goodwill and intangible assets with indefinite lives.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Foreign currency transaction and balances

(a) Functional and presentation currency:

The functional currency of Australian Baseball Federation Inc is measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates. The consolidated financial statements are presented in Australian dollars which is the company's functional and presentation currency.

(b) Transaction and balances:

Foreign currency transactions are translated into functional currency using exchange rates prevailing at the date of transaction. Foreign currency monetary items are translated at the year end exchange rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost continue to be carried at the exchange rate at the date of transaction. Non-monetary items measured at fair value are reported at the exchange rate at the date when fair values were determined.

Exchange differences arising on the translation of non-monetary items are recognised in the income statement, except where deferred in equity as a qualifying cash flow or net investment hedge.

Exchange differences arising on the translation of non-monetary items are recognised directly in equity to the extent that the gain or loss is directly recognised in equity; otherwise the exchange difference is recognised in the income statement.

Exchange differences arising on translation of foreign operations are transferred directly to the company's foreign currency translation reserve in the balance sheet. These differences are recognised in the income statement in the period in which the operation is disposed.

Employee benefits

Provision is made for the liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be

settled within one year have been measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee entitlements payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those entitlements.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when ABF has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events for which it is probable that the outflow of economic benefit will result and that the outflow can be measured reliably.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks or financial institutions, other short term highly liquid investments and original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short term borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods (or a service) is recognised upon the delivery of the goods (or service) to customers.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customer. All revenue is stated net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax ("GST").

Borrowing costs

Borrowing / finance costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of assets that necessarily take a substantial period of time to prepare for their intended use or sale, are added to the cost of those assets until such time as the assets are

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

substantially ready for their intended use of sale.

All other borrowing / finance costs are recognised in income in the period in which they are incurred.

Goods and Services Tax ("GST")

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset, or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

Comparative figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in

presentation for the current financial year.

(a) Critical accounting estimates and judgements:

The committee members evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data obtained both externally and internally.

(b) Key estimates - impairment:

The committee members assess impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the group that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value in use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 2: Revenue

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Operating Activities		
ASC grants	1,529,494	1,593,500
Marketing	1,066,435	426,797
Members' fees	540,918	520,658
Players' levies	337,868	143,323
Interest revenue	26,170	10,753
Other	158,787	159,932
MLB Australian Academy Program	399,804	417,763
	4,059,476	3,272,726
Non-Operating Activities		
Profits on disposal of investments	599,582	39,746
	599,582	39,746
Total Revenue	4,659,058	3,312,472

Note 3: Profit After Providing for the Following

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Charging as Expense		
Operating costs	3,942,940	3,231,629
Depreciation	19,346	29,264
Interest	864	-
Audit fees	7,000	11,500
	3,970,150	3,272,393

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 4: Cash Assets

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Bank Accounts		
National Bank general cheque account	646,977	26,497
Westpac Bank general cheque account	591,170	81,623
National Bank business investment (on call)	317,383	472,600
National Bank term deposits	18,984	17,976
National Bank (BALME) cheque account	-	98
Petty cash	1,489	489
	1,576,003	599,283

Note 5: Receivables

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Current		
Trade debtors	735,433	471,807
Less provision for doubtful debts	(10,000)	-
	734,433	471,807

Note 6: Other Assets

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Current		
Accrued income	19,635	-
Prepayments	292,670	264,390
	312,305	264,390
Non-Current		
Loan related entity	35,475	-
	35,475	-

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 7: Financial Assets

		2009 \$	2008 \$
Available-for-sale Financial Assets			
Non-Current			
Exploration Fund Limited - at cost	(a)	1,000,000	1,000,000
Opening carrying value		1,413,901	1,362,254
Less disposal of units		(1,404,837)	(60,454)
Plus asset revaluation		(9,064)	112,100
		-	1,413,900
Alpha Strategic Fund - at cost	(b)	1,404,817	-
Opening carrying value		1,404,817	-
Less disposal of units		-	-
Plus asset revaluation		78,637	-
		1,483,454	1,433,900
Other	Note		
Investment - Australian Baseball League	17	25	-
		1,483,479	1,413,900

Note 8: Plant and Equipment

	Furniture & Fittings At Cost \$	Office Equipment At Cost \$	Computer Equipment At Cost \$	TOTAL
Gross Carrying Amount				
Balance at 30 June 2008	98,840	45,581	65,041	209,462
Additions	-	-	3,116	3,116
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2009	98,840	45,581	68,157	212,578

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 8: continued . . .

Accumulated Depreciation				
Balance at 30 June 2008	52,995	39,323	44,674	136,992
Depreciation expense	9,169	1,877	8,249	19,295
Depreciation disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2009	62,164	41,200	52,923	156,287
Net Carrying Value	36,676	4,381	15,234	56,291

Note 9: Payables

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Unsecured		
Trade creditors and accruals	692,472	156,063
	692,472	156,063

Note 10: Tax Liabilities

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Current		
GST clearing	64,182	27,591
ATO integrated account	-	6,360
	64,182	33,951

Note 11: Other Liabilities

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Current		
Payments received in advance	837,861	198,332
	837,861	198,332

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 12: Provisions

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Current		
Accrued annual leave	20,143	-
Non-Current		
Long service leave	15,693	24,752
	35,836	24,752

There were eight employees at the end of the financial year.

Note 13: Reserves

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Balance at the Beginning of the Period		
Capital profit reserve	719,711	719,711
Asset revaluation reserve	608,644	496,543
General reserve - investment income	159,367	159,367
Less funds paid to state bodies	(159,662)	(159,662)
	1,328,060	1,215,959
Increase (Decrease) in Reserves During the Period		
Capital profit reserve	-	-
Asset revaluation reserve	(530,028)	112,101
General reserve - investment income	-	-
Less funds paid to State Bodies	-	-
	(530,028)	112,101
Balance at the Reporting Date		
Capital profit reserve	719,711	719,711
Asset revaluation reserve (Note: 7)	78,616	608,644
General reserve - investment income	159,367	159,367
Less funds paid to state bodies	(159,662)	(159,662)
	798,032	1,328,060

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Nature and purpose of each class reserve:

Capital profit reserve:

The capital profit reserve records funds set aside for the future expansion of the economic entity.

Asset revaluation reserve:

The asset revaluation reserve records the realised (unrealised) capital gain on the entity's investments.

General reserve - investment income - less: funds paid to state bodies:

The general reserve of investment income, less funds paid to state bodies records the transfer of interest income and investment gains to the reserve account, for distribution by the entity to various state bodies as and when approved by the entity.

Note 14: Members' Equity

	Members' Equity Brought Forward	General	MLBAAP	BALME	TOTAL
2008	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance for the beginning of the period	717,081	260,644	43,547	19,339	1,040,611
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	-	17,857	22,222	-	40,079
Transfer to equity	-	17,000	-	(17,000)	-
Equity as at 30 June 2008	717,081	295,501	65,769	2,339	1,080,692
2009	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance for the beginning of the period	717,081	278,501	65,769	2,339	1,080,692
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	-	667,010	21,899	-	688,909
Transfer to equity	-	2,339	-	(2,339)	-
Equity as at 30 June 2009	717,081	964,851	87,668	-	1,769,601

Note 15: Auditor's Remuneration

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Remuneration for the auditor of the company for:		
Auditing & reviewing the financial report	7,000	11,500
Other services	-	-
	7,000	11,500

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 16: Profit on Investment Income

During the current financial year ABF disposed of 5,064 units from Exploration Fund Limited:

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Disposal of 5,064 units @ \$277.42 per unit	1,404,837	100,200
Less cost of 5,064 units @ \$159.02 per unit	(805,256)	(60,454)
	599,581	39,746

Note 17: Investment in Australian Baseball League

During the year ABF acquired a 25% (\$25) stake in Australian Baseball League Pty Ltd and advanced long term loans of \$35,475 (2008:nil).

ABL is not expected to make a profit until 2013 and ABF has committed to make loans equaling 25% of the actual cost.

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program Detailed Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

Additional information follows the accounts.

	2009 \$	2008 \$
MLBAAP Income		
ABF sponsorship	200,000	210,000
Player levy	37,970	35,850
Bank interest	410	2,291
MLB sponsorship	275,245	301,005
MLB clubs	86,589	48,635
Texas Colts	-	22,273
Qantas sponsorship	-	10,000
	600,214	630,054
MLBAAP Expenses		
Accommodation / meals - players	218,183	203,116
Accommodation / meals - staff	75,255	80,952
Accommodation / meals - Texas Colts	-	15,624
ACE coordinator	4,100	4,100
Admin / office expenditure	8,524	6,424
Airfares - domestic	23,168	25,283
Airfares - international - MLB staff	-	10,000
Bats	7,141	4,109
Coaching staff	84,498	74,859
Computer / video hire	5,512	6,583
Equipment	6,517	1,837
Facility hire	19,764	24,779
Functions and meetings	385	1,958
Game day expenditure	3,447	4,617
Ground transport	8,739	12,613

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

MLBAAP Detailed Income Statement continued . . .

Internet usage	3,681	1,586
Laundry / laundry room hire	16,998	21,901
Miscellaneous	7,468	2,346
Motor coach transport	1,566	1,070
Outsourced meals	1,490	25,796
Professional development workshops	300	700
Program management	9,859	10,636
SS / SM trainers	19,610	23,105
Supplies and miscellaneous expenditure	1,359	2,421
Tutorial support	18,800	17,120
Uniforms	31,951	24,297
	578,315	607,832
MLBAAP Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	21,899	22,222

Australian Baseball Federation Detailed Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

Additional information follows the accounts.

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Income		
Australian Sports Commission		
Development grant	146,000	146,000
High performance grant	1,347,000	1,347,000
Other grants	36,494	100,499
	1,529,494	1,593,499

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

ABF Detailed Income Statement continued . . .

	Note	2009 \$	2008 \$
Marketing			
Sponsorship		262,518	306,899
World Baseball Classic		375,000	-
Events miscellaneous		31,550	19,819
Merchandise		21,233	-
Claxton Shield		376,134	100,079
		1,066,435	426,797
Members' Fees			
Affiliation fees / championship levies		10,909	34,100
National registration / insurance fees		476,060	429,491
National My Rewards membership program fees		53,949	57,067
		540,918	520,658
Other Income			
Miscellaneous income		19,671	38,386
Interest earned		25,760	10,195
Investment income		-	38,013
Profit on investment income	16	599,581	39,746
Player signing fees		66,435	-
Player levies		337,869	143,323
Scorers / coaches / umpires accreditation		6,821	10,015
Rule books, manuals, CDs, score books, merchandise		43,535	43,536
Salary subsidy ITC (ACTAS / ACTBA)		22,325	22,642
		1,121,997	351,464
		4,258,844	2,892,418

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

ABF Detailed Income Statement continued . . .

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Expenses		
High Performance		
Other national programs	313,717	136,501
Elite program	245,059	264,318
National coaches	91,102	90,578
Meetings - general	20,678	23,967
Miscellaneous expenses	15,496	15,512
MLB Australian Academy Program	208,740	210,000
Senior team - World Baseball Classic	418,051	450,967
Equipment	65,075	37,911
Salary expenses	190,882	193,659
Signing fees	37,485	-
Sports science / sports medicine	20,025	30,877
	1,626,310	1,454,290
Development and Resources		
Development other projects	55,871	4,160
Development miscellaneous expenses	11,863	24,991
Coaching - umpire accreditation update	25,279	43,319
Development / workshops / resources	18,009	31,244
Salary expenses	64,000	131,386
Little League	105,203	18,386
	280,225	253,486
Marketing		
Events	49,454	15,609
Merchandise	3,150	-
Production / manuals / rule book	35,180	14,570
Sponsorship costs	2,197	8,807
Claxton Shield	526,596	219,404
Salary expenses	59,415	-
	675,992	258,390
Membership		
National insurance	171,692	170,803
Membership program expenses	47,283	93,363
Executive officer workshop	-	209
	218,975	264,375

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

ABF Detailed Income Statement continued . . .

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Administration		
ABF bank charges	6,149	3,259
Accounting and audit fees	19,650	11,100
Annual general meeting	-	100
Bad debts	10,000	-
Board expenses	10,270	14,000
Board meetings	865	7,136
Computer system rental	8,340	8,431
Computer systems maintenance	20,525	21,873
Council meeting	2,554	4,409
Depreciation	19,294	29,265
Domestic travel / accommodation	69,699	36,631
Executive officer workshop	5,913	3,288
Insurance - contents	1,696	2,764
International travel / accommodation	24,085	7,673
Interest expense	865	-
Legal fees	11,048	2,076
Office lease	79,254	72,679
Office supplies and miscellaneous	8,437	5,661
Photocopier / printer rental	6,230	14,806
Postage, freight, couriers	11,176	5,946
Printing / copier and stationery	18,915	9,619
Repairs and maintenance	821	2,241
Subscriptions / memberships	1,468	7,217
Telephones - mobiles	16,851	10,325

Audited Financials of the Australian Baseball Federation

ABF Detailed Income Statement continued . . .

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Telephone and fax - general	13,510	2,906
Telephone system rental	2,388	11,527
Travel and accommodation	-	9,665
	378,370	304,394
Staffing Costs		
Consultancy services	294,974	165,455
Fringe benefits tax	-	1,243
Provision for annual leave	(4,609)	(5,531)
Provision for long service leave	15,693	(3,113)
Salary expense	104,164	160,065
Staff amenities / recruitment / training	8,687	15,560
Workers comp insurance	2,086	5,742
	410,993	339,423
	3,592,501	2,874,561
Prior Year Adjustment	667	-
General Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year	667,010	17,857

Divisional Report: Baseball Operations & High Performance

With 2007 / 2008 behind us and the disappointment of not playing in the 2008 Olympic Games, the 2008 / 2009 year proved to be a productive and relatively successful one for the Baseball Operations department.

Internationally speaking, we made the world take notice of Australian Baseball with our standout performance at the 2009 WBC - if the Baseball world didn't think Australia could match it with the world's best before the Classic, they sure know it now!

At the junior end of the pathway, our national Triple-A team made the world take notice even more, with a fourth place finish at the World Championship, finishing only behind world superpowers Korea, the USA and Cuba.

Our ever reliable and consistently strong national Women's team secured another fourth place finish at their World Cup, falling painfully short of a medal - elusively at our fingertips.

Domestically, a loaded events calendar was again undertaken, with a two-month, 40-game '75th Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield', three National Youth Championships, a Regional Youth Championship, a Provincial Championship and a National Women's Championship, all staged successfully in various corners of the country. All these events do not conduct themselves and so I'd like to send a big thank you out to all volunteers, umpires, scorers and state officials who contributed to the coordination and conduct of these events.

One of the biggest stories of the year of course, was the announcement of the re-establishment of the Australian Baseball League ("ABL") in conjunction with Major League Baseball ("MLB"). Not only will the new ABL help position Baseball more predominantly in this country, but specifically from an athlete development point of view, it will add another element to our already productive athlete pathway and will ensure an even greater depth to our existing talent pool.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our National Programs Coordinator **Ben Foster** for his years of hard work and dedication. Ben has moved across to take up a role with the ABL. *"Thanks for three and a half years of outstanding work Ben and*

good luck with the ABL."

We anticipate 2009 / 2010 to be a busy and defining year for the ABF and indeed the Baseball Operations department and we look forward to working towards making our great sport even greater with a range of new initiatives and programs.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett" with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brett Pickett
General Manager
Baseball Operations

Divisional Report: Baseball Operations & High Performance

SIS / SAS Network

The Baseball SIS / SAS network has been a critical component of our high performance development pathway for the better part of the past 15 years. The support of the various state-based Institutes over that period has represented a direct third party investment of 15+ million dollars.

Unfortunately, due to a shift in philosophical direction and largely thanks to Baseball's elimination from the Olympic program, our SIS / SAS network was quickly diminished during 2008 / 2009, with Institutes in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia withdrawing their support and the Queensland Academy of Sport reducing their investment (albeit still making a substantial contribution). The jury is still out on what the South Australia and Australian Capital Territory Academies of Sport will do, but we remain cautiously optimistic about maintaining their support on some level.

Whilst this initially may all sound like doom and gloom, effective planning, thorough consultation and mutually defined objectives between the ABF and the respective state associations, has ensured that state-based youth elite development programs have been put in place in all states where we have lost Institute status and whilst it is still too early to cast judgement, indications suggest that these alternate programs will certainly ensure that our national athlete development pathways will continue to be as strong as ever.

National Senior Team

Friendship Series - Australia vs Taiwan - Western Australia & Victoria, Australia

With the need to appropriately prepare our athletes for the impending 2009 WBC, the Taiwanese national team was invited to Australia to play a series of nine friendship games in Perth and Melbourne from 7 to 20 February.

Both national teams used the opportunity to get as many players as possible into their line ups for crucial innings and at bats, with the goal of getting the players game ready for the all important tournament.

Whilst game results did take a back seat to preparation, Australia still dominated the nine-game Series, finishing with a 7-2 win-loss record.

2009 Friendship Series - Australia vs Japan - Osaka, Japan

We have gone to great lengths in the past number of years to initiate and maintain relationships with various Baseball bodies from the Asian region. Given the strength of Baseball in Asia and its proximity to us, it makes strong Baseball and commercial sense for us to improve our ties and interests in the region.

One such relationship that continues to flourish is our relationship with Nippon Professional Baseball ("NPB"). Following a two-game exhibition series in Fukuoka, Japan, in 2007, NPB invited us back; this time to Osaka to play another two-game exhibition series against their national team as part of their preparation for the impending 2009 WBC.

Unfortunately, a large number of our national squad were unable to participate in these games due to some WBC roster rules, but it still provided an excellent opportunity for a number of our WBC players to obtain valuable game time against world class competition prior to the event. Team Japan (eventual WBC winner) proved to be too strong, despite some good pitching and timely hitting from our team and ultimately won the series beating us in both games.



Divisional Report: Baseball Operations & High Performance



Australia vs Taiwan Australian team roster:

Craig Anderson, Adam Blackley, Phil Brassington, Darryn Cassidy, Tim Cox, Tristan Crawford, Mark Kelly, Wayne Lundgren, Damian Moss, Russell Spear, Matthew Timms, Chris House, Grant Karlsen, Michael Collins, Trent D'Antonio, Brad Dutton, Mitch Graham, Tim Kennelly, James Linger, Ben Risinger, David Kandilas, Trent Baker, Justin Huber, Nick Kimpton, Brett Roneberg, Chris Snelling, Jason Smit, Scott Wearne.

2009 World Baseball Classic (“WBC”)

Despite its short history to date, the WBC has easily established itself as the most exciting Baseball event on the international calendar. Not only is the event itself and the treatment of the event participants, world class, but once every four years the world gets to watch the best Baseball nations go head-to-head using their best players. It allows all nations to benchmark themselves against the best and is a true indication of a country’s Baseball talent.

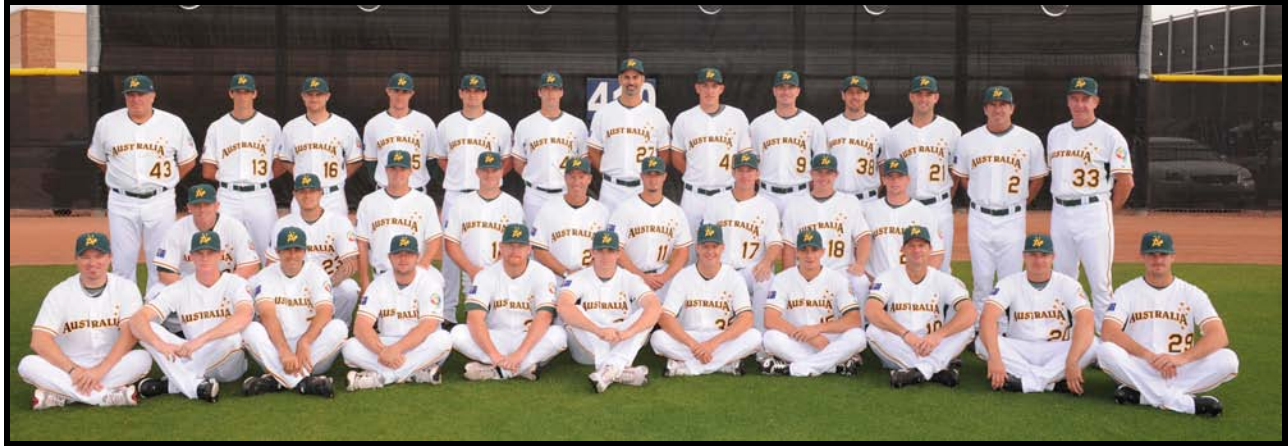
Following the 2009 WBC, during which we defeated a Mexican team loaded with Major League players and came agonisingly close (within four outs to be exact) to beating a world class Cuban team, I can proudly say that whilst we still have some developing to do, Australian Baseball can match it with and defeat the world’s best teams (and this was without a large number of our best pitchers, who were unavailable).

Australia set a WBC Hits record with our game one defeat over

Mexico, pushing out 22 hits and silencing the thunderous and sometimes hostile Mexican crowd. The momentum of the game one win carried through to our second game against Cuba and for eight innings our team proved why the Cuban manager had claimed at the start of the tournament that he believed *“Australia to be the biggest threat”*. Unfortunately, it was not meant to be and Cuba snatched victory from the jaws of defeat and secured a round two position. The loss proved to be too hard to overcome and Mexico proved to be too good in our third game, which unfortunately brought an end to our WBC campaign.

With Baseball now out of the Olympics, the WBC will remain our biggest international priority for our senior men’s team. Like the Olympics, this tournament is staged once every four years, so we will re-focus our efforts on maintaining a large talent pool of international caliber athletes to ensure we achieve success at the 2013 WBC and any and all international events prior.

Divisional Report: Baseball Operations & High Performance



2009 Official WBC Australian team roster

Surname	Given Name	Position	Bats	Throws	Height	Weight
Anderson	Craig	P	L	L	187	86
Beresford	James	IF	S	R	185	75
Berg	Daniel	OF	R	R	183	90
Blackley	Travis	P	L	L	190	90
Bright	Adam	P	L	L	178	90
Collins	Michael	IF	R	R	191	98
Crawford	Tristan	P	R	R	191	95
Dening	Mitchell	OF	L	R	188	95
Graham	Andrew	C	R	R	193	103
Harman	Bradley	IF	R	R	184	94
Hendriks	Liam	P	R	R	183	87
Hill	Joshua	P	R	R	193	105
Huber	Justin	OF	R	R	186	95
Hughes	Luke	IF	R	R	182	90
Mildren	Paul	P	R	L	183	90
Mitchinson	Scott	P	R	R	188	90
Moss	Damian	P	R	L	183	95

Divisional Report: Baseball Operations & High Performance

2009 Official WBC Australian team roster continued . . .

Surname	Given Name	Position	Bats	Throws	Height	Weight
Naughton	Joel	C	L	R	185	94
Naylor	Drew	P	R	R	195	98
Oeltjen	Trent	OF	L	L	185	90
Risinger	Benjamin	IF	R	R	183	100
Roneberg	Brett	OF	L	L	184	100
Snelling	Chris	OF	L	L	178	92
Thomas	Bradley	P	L	L	191	95
Thompson	Richard	P	R	R	186	93
Welch	David	P	R	L	193	97
Welch	Stefan	IF	L	R	193	85
Wise	Brendan	P	R	R	187	96
Deeble	Jon	Manager				
Harris	Tony	3B Coach				
Kelly	Pat	1B Coach				
Dale	Phil	Pitching Coach				
Lloyd	Graeme	Bullpen Coach				
Elliott	Paul	Bench Coach				

Final team statistics:

Player	Pos	G	AB	R	H	D	T	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	OBP	SLG	AVE
Roneberg, Brett	OF	3	7	3	5	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	.750	1.286	.714
Oeltjen, Trent	RF	3	12	1	6	0	0	0	1	1	4	2	.538	.500	.500
Beresford, James	SS	3	9	0	4	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	.400	.556	.444
Risinger, Ben	1B	3	10	2	4	0	0	1	4	1	3	0	.500	.700	.400
Graham, Andrew	C	3	11	2	4	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	.364	.364	.364
Collins, Michael	1B	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	.500	.333	.333
Harman, Brad	2B	3	9	4	3	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	.500	.333	.333
Snelling, Chris	LF	3	11	3	3	0	0	2	3	2	2	0	.385	.818	.273
Hughes, Luke	3B	3	12	3	3	1	0	1	3	1	5	0	.357	.583	.250
Huber, Justin	1B	3	11	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	.231	.091	.091
Berg, Daniel	1B	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	.000	.000	.000
Dening, Mitch	RF	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000
Naughton, Joel	C	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	.000
Welch, Stefan	3B	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			

Divisional Report: Baseball Operations & High Performance

Player	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	SO
Mitchinson, Scott	0	0	0.00	1	0	0	0	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thomas, Brad	0	0	0.00	1	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Blackley, Travis	0	0	1.59	1	1	0	0	5.2	5	1	1	0	0	2	4
Moss, Damian	1	0	6.00	2	0	0	0	3.0	3	2	2	1	0	2	2
Thompson, Richard	0	1	6.00	2	0	0	0	3.0	4	2	2	1	0	0	4
Crawford, Tristan	0	0	6.75	1	0	0	0	1.1	1	1	1	1	0	0	3
Hendriks, Liam	0	0	10.80	2	0	0	0	1.2	3	2	2	0	0	1	1
Mildren, Paul	0	0	11.57	2	0	0	0	2.1	4	3	3	1	0	2	1
Welch, David	0	1	12.00	1	1	0	0	3.0	4	4	4	0	0	1	2
Anderson, Craig	0	0	45.00	1	1	0	0	1.0	6	6	5	2	0	1	1
Naylor, Drew	0	0	81.00	1	0	0	0	0.1	2	3	3	0	0	1	0
Bright, Adam	0	0	**	1	0	0	0	0.0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Wise, Brendan	0	0	**	1	0	0	0	0.0	1	3	3	0	1	1	0

National Triple-A Team

National Triple-A World Championship

Following an extensive eight-week intensive preparation camp at the MLBAAP, 18 of the nation's brightest, young, well trained, enthusiastic and confident Baseball players, led by long time national coach Tony Harris, boarded a plane for Edmonton, Canada, to compete for world youth Baseball supremacy at the 2008 Triple-A World Championship. Three weeks later, those same 18 players returned to Australia knowing they were the fourth best junior Baseball team in the world. A rugged tournament, it included one of the best games of Baseball I have ever witnessed; a 2-1 hard fought quarter final victory over home town team Canada.

Whilst a medal seemed more fitting given the way this team played and presented themselves, it required the two superpowers of international Baseball (USA and Cuba) to prevent these young guns from bringing home a medal. The team represented our country, our Federation and themselves impeccably both on and off the field and most certainly set the benchmark for future national youth teams.

The following rostered players should be absolutely as proud of themselves as we are:

Family Name	Given Name	State	Position
Aird	Byron	NSW	3B
Doyle	Chris	SA	RHP
Driessen	Nathan	WA	LHP
Erasmus	Justin	QLD	RHP
Fisch	Jason	WA	C
Jones	Andrew	VIC	LHP
Kandilas	David	NSW	OF
Linger	James	QLD	SS
Moanaroa	Boss	NSW	1B/DH
Nilsson	Mitchell	QLD	2B/C
O'Neill	Adam	NSW	RHP
Perkins	Kyle	ACT	C
Rhodes	Rory	QLD	1/3B
Roeger	Angus	SA	OF
Saupold	Warwick	WA	RHP
Spencer	Adam	NSW	RHP
Sullivan	Jarryd	NSW	RHP
Williams	Sean	ACT	OF
Harris	Tony	Manager	
Shanahan	Damian	Assistant Coach	
Marks	Warwick	Pitching Coach	
Hewitt	Jason	Assistant Coach	
Barrowcliff	Neil	Executive Officer	

Divisional Report: Baseball Operations & High Performance



Final team statistics:

Pitchers	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	W	L	SV	IP	R	ER	H	HR	SO
O'Neill, Adam	0.00	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	6.0	0	0	3	0	8
Sullivan, Jarryd	0.00	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	5.0	0	0	4	0	6
Erasmus, Justin	2.08	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	13.0	4	3	7	1	7
Doyle, Chris	2.57	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	14.0	5	4	11	0	2
Jones, Andrew	4.05	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6.2	3	3	8	1	9
Spencer, Adam	6.10	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	10.1	7	7	14	0	2
Driessen, Nathan	6.75	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	8.0	7	6	13	1	2
Saupold, Warwick	7.20	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.0	4	4	3	0	3
Totals	3.57	21	8	0	0	4	4	1	68.0	30	27	63	3	39

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Batting	AVG	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SLG%	SF	BB	K	HBP	SB	CS
Rhodes, Rory	.387	35	31	7	12	2	0	0	2	.452	1	3	10	0	1	0
Perkins, Kyle	.360	27	25	5	9	0	0	0	2	.360	0	1	5	0	0	1
Moanaroo, Boss	.345	35	29	5	10	3	0	0	7	.448	1	5	5	0	0	0
Kandilas, David	.250	37	32	5	8	1	1	0	4	.344	0	4	6	1	5	1
Linger, James	.250	35	32	6	8	0	0	2	6	.438	0	3	1	0	4	0
Aird, Byron	.200	32	30	2	6	2	0	0	3	.267	0	2	13	0	0	0
Williams, Sean	.200	37	30	3	6	1	0	0	4	.233	1	6	11	0	1	3
Nilsson, Mitchell	.185	32	27	3	5	0	0	0	3	.185	1	3	6	1	1	0
Roeger, Angus	.115	32	26	3	3	2	0	0	2	.192	0	5	13	1	1	1
Fisch, Jason	.000	10	7	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000	1	1	5	1	0	0
Totals	.249	312	269	40	67	11	1	2	34	.320	5	33	75	4	13	6

National Women's World Cup

Final standings:

1 st	Korea
2 nd	USA
3 rd	Cuba
4 th	Australia
5 th	Chinese Taipei
6 th	Canada
7 th	Mexico
8 th	Puerto Rico
9 th	Netherlands
10 th	Italy
11 th	Czech Republic
12 th	Russia

International women's Baseball, whilst growing, has always been and still remains dominated by four countries. Australia, Canada, Japan and the United States of America set the benchmark for women's Baseball and thus to win gold you must overcome these teams.

Since the inaugural official Women's World Cup in 2004, our national women's team, despite coming agonizingly close, has yet to get into the medals and finished in fourth place in both the 2004 and 2006 World Cups. So, it was with medals on their minds that the national women's team set off for Japan on 20 August following their training camp in Sydney to participate in the 2008 Women's World Cup in Matsuyama, Japan, from 24 to 29 August.

The 2008 tournament played out much like the previous two World Cups with the big four dominating pool play and setting themselves up for finals matches against each other. Unfortunately, the tournament also finished the same as the previous campaigns for Australia, securing fourth place after a painful semi-final loss to the US despite masterful complete-game pitching performance by team veteran

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Simone Wearne.

Whilst a number of the team veterans return after the 2008 World Cup, a large crop of eager and talented rookies are waiting to stake their place in the national team and help secure that elusive World Cup medal in 2010.

Official Women's World Cup Australian team roster:

Barclay	Jacinda	WA	P
Catford	Angela	NSW	OF
Crosby	Rebecca	WA	P/IF
Fellows	Julia	NSW	U
Gaynor	Katie	NSW	IF
Hamilton	Samantha-Jane	VIC	U
Kreppold	Christina	WA	U
Lillywhite	Shae	VIC	IF
Lovering	Tahnee	NSW	C
Maclean	Brooke	NSW	P/IF
Manzie-Novotny	Kellie	VIC	U
McCann	Amy	VIC	OF
McMillan	Kim	NSW	P/IF
Murphy	Lauren	NSW	P
Neads	Laura	NSW	P/IF
Schulte	Kimberley	QLD	P
Straumietis	Renee	NSW	IF
Vella	Loren	NSW	P/IF
Wearne	Simone	VIC	P
Gaynor	John	NSW	Head Coach
Longstaff	Kane	VIC	Assistant Coach
Ballard	Tim	VIC	Pitching Coach
Adams	Anne-Maree	QLD	Executive Officer

Final standings:

1 st		Japan
2 nd		Canada
3 rd		United States
4 th		Australia
5 th		Chinese Taipei
6 th		South Korea
7 th		India
8 th		Hong Kong

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Team statistics:

PITCHERS	GP	GS	CG	SHO	W	L	SA	IP	R	ER	ERA	H	HR	IBB	HP	K	WP
Schulte, Kimberley	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	7.1	5	2	2.45	9	0	0	1	4	0
McMillan, Kim	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	2	2	N/A	3	0	0	0	0	0
Weame, Simone	3	3	2	1	1	2	0	16.0	7	5	2.81	22	0	0	0	6	0
Manzie, Kelly	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.0	2	1	4.50	3	0	1	0	0	1
Barclay, Jacinda	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2.2	4	3	10.12	2	0	1	3	2	1
Neads, Laura	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.2	3	2	10.80	2	0	0	1	1	0
Crosby, Rebecca	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.2	3	3	16.20	2	1	0	0	0	1
Murphy, Lauren	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2.2	4	4	13.50	4	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	12	6	2	1	2	4	0	34.0	30	22	5.82	47	1	3	5	13	3

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BATTING	Bave	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	SLG	GD	SH	SF	BB	HP	SB	CS	K	RBI
Neads, Laura	1.000	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Catford, Angela	.471	20	17	4	8	2	2	0	.824	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	7
Gaynor, Katie	.400	21	20	4	8	3	0	0	.550	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	6
Lillywhite, Shae	.400	22	20	6	8	2	0	1	.650	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Hamilton, Samantha	.400	16	10	4	4	0	0	1	.700	0	0	0	2	4	1	0	1	3
Lovering, Tahnee	.375	10	8	3	3	0	1	1	1.000	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	3
Kreppold, Christina	.350	20	20	6	7	2	1	0	.550	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Straumietis, Renee	.313	18	16	3	5	1	1	0	.500	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	6
McMillan, Kim	.250	8	8	0	2	0	0	0	.250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Vella, Loren	.250	12	8	0	2	0	0	0	.250	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	1
Manzie, Kelly	.188	16	16	3	3	0	2	0	.438	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
McCann, Amy	.125	14	8	1	1	0	0	0	.125	0	2	0	4	0	3	1	1	0
Fellows, Julia	.000	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	.335	181	155	36	52	10	7	3	.548	0	3	1	13	9	8	2	15	33

Cal Ripken Program

For ten consecutive years, the ABF has secured an invitation to attend the prestigious Cal Ripken World Series and we continue to be one of only a handful of international teams lucky enough to attend the event each year.

According to the Babe Ruth League (the parent organisation who controls the Cal Ripken World Series), Australia continues to receive an invitation because:

- (1) the teams we send over, whilst are usually a little overmatched, always compete and do so in a sportsmanlike manner; and
- (2) the players and the staff represent themselves and the country exceptionally well and in doing so, leave a lasting impression on their peers and the tournament organisers.

The 2008 Cal Ripken team was no different. Following their four-day camp in Sydney (the first and only opportunity that the team has to train together before the tournament starts), the fifteen very excited players and staff traveled to Maryland, Aberdeen, to participate in the 2008 Cal Ripken World Series from 9 to 16 August.

Following a few warm up games, the team played four pool games and despite one good win against Canada, lost their three other games against Mexico, Japan and the Dominican Republic. As always, the team performed admirably and did their country proud with the way they carried themselves at all times.

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Hayden Bray (NSW), Ryan Dale (VIC), Mitchell Ellis (VIC), Robert Glendinning (WA), Sam Kennelly (WA), Todd McDonald (QLD), Jalen McGee (WA), Sean Pengelly (VIC), Zac Shepard (NSW), James Snelgrove (SA), Lewis Thorpe (VIC), Tim Wakefield (NSW), Jason Warburton (WA), Cale Wood (QLD), Mike Young (QLD), Bob Nilsson Manager, Stephen Black Assistant Coach, Robert Moden Executive Officer.

2009 DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY CLAXTON SHIELD

*“2009 Claxton
Shield – a truly
national
competition!”*

and a vital step towards a revamped national competition.

The five-team competition included the **Queensland Rams, Victoria Aces, Barbagello Perth HEAT, New South Wales Patriots and South Australia.**

For the first time, the game schedule commenced with a ‘Showcase Round’ at Blacktown Olympic Park in Sydney from 2 December to 7 December 2008, where the five competing teams congregated to play the first ten games of a forty game series.

The Showcase Round was presented in conjunction with Major

League Baseball International and featured a ‘Celebrity Home Run Derby’ (consisting of current players, past Australian Baseball greats, Football stars and Channel 10 personalities) that was the precursor to the ‘Family Fun Day’ on the Sunday. The Family Fun Day showcased all the excitement that comes with an MLB Road Show and marked the conclusion of the Showcase Round.

The remaining thirty games were played in a subsequent five-week ‘Home and Away’ series that commenced on 12 December 2008 and concluded on 18 January 2009, with each state hosting a minimum of six games.

In addition to playing games in most major cities, the ‘Home and Away’ schedule was manipulated to include regional venues in Lismore, Mount Gambier, Mildura, Wollongong, Geelong and Canberra.

The Semi-Finals were held in Melbourne from 23 January to 25 January and saw the NSW Patriots defeat the Victoria Aces 2-1; advancing NSW to the Grand Final against Perth HEAT.

The 2009 Claxton Shield concluded with the Perth HEAT

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defeating the NSW Patriots in the Championship series, retaining the Claxton Shield title they also won in 2008.

The Championship series was fantastic and was a wonderful end to the Claxton Shield season. The Championship series contained three outstanding games of Baseball, three days of picture perfect weather and saw over 8,000 screaming fans come through the gates. It was a wonderful promotion for the game.

To further celebrate the 75th (or 'Diamond') anniversary of the Claxton Shield, all teams competing in the 2009 Claxton Shield wore heritage playing tops to honour the 75-year milestone.

The ABF also recognised a unique opportunity to further celebrate the game by formally recognising the achievements of some of the game's greatest stars. As such, the ABF selected and announced a Claxton Shield 'Diamond Anniversary All Stars team'.

In order to facilitate the selection of the Claxton Shield Diamond All Stars team, each state association nominated their own state-based 22-man All Star squad and held functions to announce their state selections. These presentations took place as follows:

NSW: 7 December 2008 at Blacktown Olympic Park

SA: 3 January 2009 at Glenelg

QLD: 4 January 2009 at Windsor

WA: 9 January 2009 at Thornlie

VIC: 17 January 2009 at Geelong

The ABF selection panel selected the final Claxton Shield Diamond All Stars team based on a range of criteria and announced the team at the 2009 Baseball Australia Diamond Awards on 28 February.

The 2009 Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield was proudly supported by the **Association of Independently Owned Financial Planners, Edge85, Virgin Blue** and **Major League Baseball International**.

In addition to the announcement of the Diamond Anniversary All Stars team, the ABF awarded weekly achievement awards in recognition of outstanding individual performance. The award winners were:

Round 1:	Nick Kimpton
Round 2:	Daniel Berg
Round 3:	Tim Kennelly
Round 4:	Luke Hughes
Round 5:	Wayne Lundgren
Round 6:	Justin Huber

Furthermore, in keeping with tradition, the ABF made official on-field presentations at the end of the Final series game, to acknowledge the stand-out performers of the 75th Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield. Congratulations to the following winners:

2009 Pitching Champion
Tim Cox (NSW)

2009 Offensive Champion
Nick Kimpton (WA)

2009 Rookie of the Year
Chris House (WA)

2009 Golden Glove
Grant Karlsen (VIC)

2009 MVP of the Final
Luke Hughes (WA)

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Official standings of the 2009 Claxton Shield:

Team	Games	WON	LOST	GB	PCT
Perth HEAT*	16	12	4		.750
Victoria Aces ^A	16	10	6	2.0	.625
NSW Patriots ^A	16	9	7	3.0	.563
QLD Rams	16	8	8	4.0	.500
South Australia	16	1	15	11.0	.063

- * Finish 1st - Direct qualification for Claxton Shield Final
- ^ATeams to Playoff in Claxton Semi-Final

Game results and box scores:

FINALS

Feb-6 NSW Patriots 5 def Perth HEAT 3

Feb-7 Perth HEAT 5 def NSW Patriots 4

Feb-8 Perth HEAT 3 def NSW Patriots 2

SEMI-FINALS

Jan-23 Victoria Aces 7 def NSW Patriots 1

Jan-24 NSW Patriots 9 def Victoria Aces 0

Jan-25 NSW Patriots 5 def Victoria Aces 0

ROUND 6

Jan-15 NSW Patriots 2 def Victoria Aces 1

Jan-16 QLD Rams 16 def Sth Australia 6

Jan-16 Victoria Aces 13 def NSW Patriots 7

Jan-17 QLD Rams 7 def Sth Australia 6

Jan-17 Victoria Aces 12 def NSW Patriots 2

Jan-18 QLD Rams 2 def Sth Australia 1

ROUND 5

Jan-08 Perth HEAT 8 def Victoria Aces 7

Jan-09 NSW Patriots 3 def Sth Australia 0

Jan-09 Perth HEAT 4 def Victoria Aces 3

Jan-10 NSW Patriots 11 def Sth Australia 0

Jan-10 Perth HEAT 11 def Victoria Aces 5

Jan-11 NSW Patriots 9 def Sth Australia 8

ROUND 4

Jan-02 QLD Rams 3 def NSW Patriots 0

Jan-02 Sth Australia 11 def Perth HEAT 2

Jan-03 QLD Rams 3 def NSW Patriots 2

Jan-03 Perth HEAT 11 def Sth Australia 9

Jan-04 NSW Patriots 10 def QLD Rams 2

Jan-04 Perth HEAT 16 def Sth Australia 0

ROUND 3

Dec-19 Victoria Aces 3 def Sth Australia 2

Dec-19 Perth HEAT 6 def QLD Rams 3

Dec-20 Victoria Aces 12 def Sth Australia 0

Dec-20 Perth HEAT 4 def QLD Rams 2

Dec-21 Victoria Aces 9 def Sth Australia 3

Dec-21 Perth HEAT 6 def QLD Rams 3

ROUND 2

Dec-13 Victoria Aces 15 def QLD Rams 0

Dec-13 Victoria Aces 10 def QLD Rams 9

Dec-13 NSW Patriots 5 def Perth HEAT 3

Dec-13 Perth HEAT 7 def NSW Patriots 2

Dec-14 QLD Rams 4 def Victoria Aces 3

Dec-14 NSW Patriots 11 def Perth HEAT 8

SHOWCASE ROUND 1

Dec-02 QLD Rams 8 def Perth HEAT 2

Dec-03 Victoria Aces 13 def QLD Rams 3

Dec-03 Perth HEAT 7 def Sth Australia 0

Dec-04 Perth HEAT 6 def Victoria Aces 5

Dec-04 NSW Patriots 4 def Sth Australia 3

Dec-05 QLD Rams 11 def Sth Australia 9

Dec-05 Perth HEAT 4 def NSW Patriots 3

Dec-06 Victoria Aces 8 def Sth Australia 0

Dec-06 NSW Patriots 9 def QLD Rams 4

Dec-07 Victoria Aces 10 def NSW Patriots 1

Divisional Report: Baseball Operations & High Performance

Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program (“MLBAAP”)

Following a successful 2007 program, **David Nilsson** returned to lead Australia’s best coaching staff for the 2008 MLBAAP.

The home for the MLBAAP continues to be the Palm Meadows Baseball complex on the Gold Coast as we believe it to be the ideal location for a high performance training environment.

The 2008 program, staged from 1 June to 26 July, was operated at its usual high standard both on and off the field. Players received an average of 100+ at bats; pitchers got an average of 30+ innings and general behaviour and conduct across the athlete cohort was excellent.

Junior Baseball players across the country dream of being awarded a scholarship to this prestigious program and rightly so, as there aren’t many opportunities for teenage boys to:

- stay at a 5-star resort for two consecutive months;
- play the sport they love six days a week;
- relax in the nations tourist capital when they’re not on the field;
- be trained by top coaches in the country and learn how to reach their maximum potential;
- tap into the vast knowledge of ex professional athletes;
- hang out with your mates all day, every day; and
- showcase their skills on a daily basis in front of domestic and international talent scouts.

The nation’s top elite junior players are afforded such opportunities because the ABF, MLB and the ASC place enormous value on this program and the benefits it returns to our sport.

The ABF sends its thanks and gratitude to the ASC and MLB for its ongoing support of this world leading, holistic athlete development program and looks forward to working with both valued partners into the future.

2009 MLBAAP Scholarship Holders

Pitchers:

Jeremy Atkinson of Queensland
Mitchell Bray of New South Wales
Steven Burnham of Western Australia
Jarrett Commane of New South Wales Country
Chris Doyle of South Australia
Nathan Driessen of Western Australia
Justin Erasmus of Queensland
Cameron Glendinning of Western Australia
Cody Hams of Victoria
Daniel Hartig of Queensland
Kable Hogben of Victoria
Andrew Jones of Victoria
Jason Kilby of Queensland
Chris Lamb of Queensland
Wilson Lee of Northern Territory
Jackson Lodge of South Australia
Andrew Mann of Victoria
Travis McDonald of New South Wales
Liam Meers of New South Wales
James Miller of New South Wales

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Adam O'Neill of New South Wales

Lee Robinson of Western Australia

Warwick Saupold of Western Australia

Ryan Searle of Queensland

Daniel Schmidt of Western Australia

Adam Spencer of New South Wales

Jarryd Sullivan of New South Wales

Ryan Tansley of New South Wales Country

Todd van Steensel of New South Wales

Jake White of Western Australia

Catchers:

Ryan Battaglia of Queensland

Oliver Box of Victoria

Matt Corbitt of Queensland

Jordan Dyer of Western Australia

Brent Ehlert of Queensland

Jason Fisch of Western Australia

Chris Lane of Victoria

Mitch Nilsson of Queensland

Kyle Perkins of Australian Capital Territory

Reece Thompson of Western Australia

Tom Ward of Queensland

Infielders:

Byron Aird of New South Wales

Nick Bidois of Queensland

Dylan Child of South Australia

Sam Day of South Australia

Josh Hendricks of Victoria

Daniel Lee of South Australia

James Linger of Queensland

Josh Matavesi of Australian Capital Territory

Boss Moanaroo of New South Wales

Cale Penrith of New South Wales Country

Rory Rhodes of Queensland

Mathew Smith of New South Wales Country

Tim Theos of New South Wales

Sam Thornton of Australian Capital Territory

Christian Wise of Western Australia

Outfielders:

Corey Adamson of Western Australia

Nathan Aron of Victoria

Trent Baker of Queensland

Mason Curtis of New South Wales Country

Cameron Deeble of Victoria

Scott Groner of Victoria

David Kandilas of New South Wales

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Angus Roeger of South Australia

Sean Williams of Australian Capital Territory

Brodie Wyatt of South Australia

2008 - 2009 Professional Signings

The ABF would like to congratulate the following athletes having signed professional contracts with Major League clubs in the US and as such embarking on the next phase in their Baseball career; that of Professional Baseballers:

Corey Adamson - San Diego Padres

Rory Rhodes - Minnesota Twins

Aaron Sookee - LA Angels

Byron Aird - Detroit Tigers

Andrew Campbell - Cleveland Indians

Aaron Thompson - Texas Rangers

Oliver Box - Oakland Athletics

Joshua Hendricks - Minnesota Twins

Nick Bidois - Toronto Blue Jays

Mitchell Fienemann - Pittsburgh Pirates

Dylan Child - Pittsburgh Pirates

Jarryd Sullivan - Pittsburgh Pirates

Mark Trau - Minnesota Twins

Divisional Report: National Game Development

Little League



The integration of the world renowned 'Little League' brand into the Australian Baseball landscape has proven to be a welcome addition to the ABF development portfolio and continues to offer a range of benefits for administrators at all levels of the sport.

The Australian Little League program has continued to grow since its successful inception in 2007 / 2008, at the end of which, the Hills Little League team were crowned as the first ever Australian Little League Champion and traveled to Asia to compete in the Asia Pacific Little League Championship.

District and state championships were held around the country in early 2009 and followed on from a series of very successful local competitions. The winner of the state championship advanced through to the national championship in the bid of being crowned the 'nation's best' Little League team for 2008 / 2009.

The 2009 Australian Little League Championship was hosted by the Surfers Paradise Baseball Club from 4 to 7 June 2009 and saw 12 Little League teams descend on the nation's tourist capital for what proved to be an outstanding junior tournament that showcased the future stars of our game.

After four days of hard fought Baseball, the Waverley Wildcats and the Adelaide Southern All Stars competed in the Grand Final in a bid to be crowned as the 2009 Australian Little League Champions and earn the right to represent Australia at the 2009 Asia Pacific Little League Championship.

Despite taking an early lead, the All Stars ultimately could not match it with the Wildcats who steamrolled to an 11-1 victory over Adelaide with a comprehensive pitching and offensive display.



Divisional Report: National Game Development

2009 Australian Little League Baseball Championships



Waverley

Back Row: Sue Aslett (EO), Grant Poke (Asst Coach), Richard Mason (Head Coach), Michael Geduld (Asst Coach).

Middle Row: Griffin James, Joshua Lean, Davis Kelly, Andrew Hayes, Jack McGraw, Sam Hunter, Jordy Ley, Luke Allridge.

Front Row: Andrew Kane, Jye Deeble, Rhys Wood, Trenton Johnson-Boe, Corey Poke, Bradley Homfray.

Unfortunately the Wildcats winning streak came to an end at the Asia Pacific Championship which was staged in Taiwan. Despite a couple of impressive victories, the team was overpowered by some very strong Asian teams who were clearly more comfortable playing in the oppressive Taiwanese heat than the Wildcats.

The Wildcats represented the 'green and gold' in an honourable manner and reports from team representatives indicate that the trip was an "amazing" experience.

The growth of Little League membership and brand in Australia has not gone unnoticed by Little League International headquarters who recently reported their ongoing happiness with the progress of Australian Little League, what it has done for their business operations and their hopes and beliefs of future growth. They believe, as we do, that the future is bright for Australian Little League.



Divisional Report: National Game Development

Little League in Australia remains in its infancy and whilst initial success and original objectives have been achieved, the potential for growth remains enormous and thus we will continue to work with Little League International for ways and means of growing this all important entry level program and ensuring it remains a sporting choice for appropriately aged children and their parents around the nation.

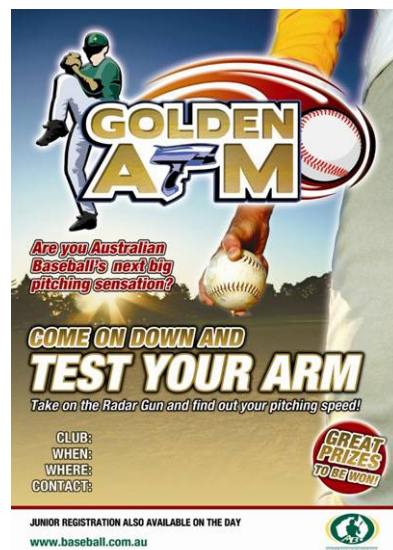
Golden Arm Program

A test pilot of the Golden Arm program, a national recruitment tool designed to provide affiliated clubs with the tools to assist in the promotion and management of their registration days, was conducted as a 'test' case in the Newcastle region during March 2009.

Five clubs within the Newcastle region were essentially used as 'guinea pigs' to conduct the Golden Arm program over their impending winter season in order for the ABF to observe the delivery and measure the effectiveness of the program in preparation for a national rollout in the near future.

These test cases proved to be invaluable as they allowed the ABF to streamline some of the delivery mechanisms, achieve efficiencies in how membership data was to be collected and managed and how to strategically improve the promotional collateral in order to attract more children to registration days. Our thanks and gratitude to the Newcastle clubs who agreed to be a part of the test case.

With a nationwide rollout of the program remaining a key objective for the ABF's development and membership efforts, ongoing resource is being allocated to fine tuning the program to ensure clubs have adequate promotional time and are sufficiently trained to effectively deliver the program.



National Coach Accreditation Scheme



The ABF continues the mammoth task of overhauling Baseball's National Coach Accreditation Scheme ("NCAS") in conjunction with the ASC. This task, which has ultimately proven to be much larger than originally anticipated, is vital to the ABF's ongoing attempt to attract and maintain a nationwide network of appropriately qualified coaches who are charged with the responsibility of teaching our athletes the 'Australian way' of Baseball.

Coaches remain at the frontline of our development efforts and are more often than not a large influence in a child's life. It is for these two reasons why coaching development is so important to our overall game development efforts and thus the reasons why we are allocating so much time and resource into redeveloping our NCAS to make it more:

- (1) accessible;
- (2) user friendly; and
- (3) relevant to today's game.

Divisional Report: National Game Development

The framework for the new system has been developed and consultation with our state bodies regarding the instructional content of each accreditation level is underway. A panel of some of our country's most experienced Baseball coaches, experts in generic coaching principles and consultants from the ASC will work closely together to utilise the feedback from the state bodies and other relevant stakeholders to create the coaching content and finalise the program. It is anticipated that the program will be completed by mid 2010.

Sports Connect

"The Australian Baseball Federation supports the right of people with disabilities to be involved in all facets of Baseball, including full and equitable participation in grassroots to elite level Baseball, in both a playing and non-playing role."

To formalise the ABF's commitment to inclusive practices and ensuring our game is available to people of all ages, gender, religion and ability, a Disability Action Plan ("DAP") was implemented in January 2008 that seeks to ensure inclusive focus and practices are integrated into all levels of the ABF's strategic and operational activities.

Following endorsement by the ABF Board and the appointment of a case manager to assist with the delivery of the DAP, the ABF has worked closely with the ASC to ensure much progress has been made over the past 12 months and as a result, a number of state bodies have already eagerly embraced the inclusive practices focus and have agreed to conduct a competition for athletes with a disability during the 2009 / 2010 summer season.

As mentioned above, access to our game by people from all walks of life has become and will remain an important strategic element of the ABF's business operations. As such, the ABF remains committed to the ongoing implementation of the approved Disability Action Plan and will ensure inclusive practices are not simply a passing 'buzz' phrase, but rather a standard operating philosophy throughout all levels of Baseball in Australia.

Acknowledgements

The ABF would like to thank the following individuals and organisations who have greatly assisted in the development of Baseball over the last 12 months:

- the Australian Sports Commission
- Major League Baseball International
- Little League Baseball International
- State and Territory Baseball Associations
- State and Territory development staff
- Little League district secretaries
- Surfers Paradise Baseball Club
- Newcastle clubs

Divisional Report: National Game Development

A very special thank you also goes out to all players, coaches, scorers, umpires and all volunteers for their ongoing involvement and contribution to our game. You represent the heartbeat of our sport and we are extremely grateful for your time and energy.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Pickett', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brett Pickett
General Manager
Baseball Operations

Divisional Report: Technical Officials and Competitions

Umpiring

2009 Claxton Shield

Appointment of umpires for the 2009 Claxton Shield was of an extremely high standard and included professional umpires that had worked in the United States of America, umpired Double and Single-A, umpired at the International Baseball Federation Triple-A World Championship, the World Cup, Olympic qualifying tournaments and the Beijing Olympic Games and also included those who were recognised through the ABF's national championships as showing potential to officiate at Claxton level.

National Championships

Umpires appointed to the 2009 National Youth Championships proceeded as approved by the Board of the ABF and consisted mostly of those from the host state with the remaining numbers being those umpires progressing through their developmental pathway.

The 2009 National Championships were held as follows:

Triple-A (Under 18):

The Triple-A (Under 18) National Youth Championship was held in Perth, Western Australia, from 6 to 17 January 2009 and hosted by Baseball WA. Queensland successfully defended their title against some stiff competition. Final placing was as follows:

1 st	Queensland
2 nd	Western Australia
3 rd	Victoria

4 th	South Australia
5 th	New South Wales
6 th	New South Wales Country
7 th	Victoria Provincial
8 th	Territories

Double-A (Under 16):

The Double-A (Under 16) National Youth Championship was held in Geelong, Victoria, from 6 to 17 January 2009 and hosted by Baseball Victoria and Geelong Baseball Club. In tight competition, Victoria defeated old rivals New South Wales in the Final. Placing was as follows:

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

Single-A (Under 14):

The Single-A (Under 14) National Youth Championship was held in Lismore, New South Wales, from 4 to 11 January 2009 and hosted by Baseball Queensland and Far North Coast Baseball Association. With the wet weather of 2008 but a memory, and the fields first class, this tournament was a great success. Final placing was:

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

Divisional Report: Technical Officials and Competitions

8th Territories

Provincials:

The Australian Provincial Championship was held in Perth, Western Australia, from 11 to 18 April 2009 and hosted by Baseball WA at Baseball Park. Final placing was:

1 st	New South Wales
2 nd	Victoria Provincial
3 rd	Western Australia
4 th	Australian Capital Territory
5 th	South Australia

Women's:

The National Women's Championship was held in Geelong, Victoria, from 11 to 18 April 2009 and hosted by Baseball Victoria. Final placing was:

1 st	Victoria
2 nd	New South Wales
3 rd	Western Australia
4 th	Queensland
5 th	New South Wales Country
6 th	Victoria Provincials

Regional Youth:

The Regional Youth Championship was initially a competition for Under 18s, Under 16s and Under 14s, however, due to a dwindling of teams in the Under 18 and Under 16 age groups, a review was necessary whereby it was resolved to retain the Under 14 and combine the Under 18 and Under 16 to create an Under 17 age group for 2009. This change proved successful as we saw five teams in the Under 17 and seven in the Under 14; the best result so far.

The Regional Youth Championship was held in Kempsey, New South Wales, from 10 to 17 January 2009 and hosted by Macleay Valley Baseball Association. This tournament ran smoothly and was a credit to all involved.

Teams that participated were from Macleay Valley (Kempsey), Newcastle, Perth / Kalgoorlie, Central Coast (NSW), Coffs Harbour, Northern Territory and New Zealand.

Newcastle won the Under 17. A hard fought and great game of Baseball in the Under 14 resulted in a 2-0 win to New Zealand. Final placing was:

Under 17:

1 st	Newcastle
2 nd	Northern Territory
3 rd	Macleay
4 th	New Zealand

Under 14:

1 st	New Zealand
2 nd	Western Australia
3 rd	Northern Territory
4 th	Macleay
5 th	Newcastle
6 th	Coffs Harbour

Umpire Seminars

A number of seminars aimed at the basic training and ongoing accreditation of umpires were conducted in all states. Some of these seminars were held outside capital cities to encourage umpire development in regional areas, ie, Mt Gambier, Tamworth and Ballarat.

We have seen an increase in "Orientation to Umpiring" seminars which has resulted in a number of attendees moving on to the next level in gaining higher accreditation.

Divisional Report: Technical Officials and Competitions

Umpire Success

Three umpires were fortunate to umpire professional Baseball in the United States. The efforts of Brett Robson, Travis Hatch and Jon Byrne have truly paid off for them. Brett and Jon were re-assigned to Double-A, whilst Travis was promoted to Double-A.

Whilst the efforts of the three above is outstanding, so too are those of Paul Hyham of New South Wales who was appointed to umpire at the World Baseball Classic where he umpired in the Opening Round in Tokyo and soon after was appointed to all further rounds and the Finals series.

Mal Mackay of Queensland was assigned to the 2008 Olympic Games and later appointed to the World Cup.

Kyle Byrne, our fourth umpire in professional Baseball, accepted a position outside Baseball in Perth and decided against umpiring pro ball. However, Kyle will continue to umpire in Australia and his experience will be invaluable to the Umpire Development program.

Blake Halligan from South Australia was appointed to the Double-A World Championship in Taiwan. Following an excellent performance during the preliminary rounds, Blake was appointed as Plate Umpire in the Bronze medal game.

'Green Shirt' Program

The Green Shirt program continues to work well.

This program was introduced to target new umpires who are inexperienced and going through their most vulnerable one to two years of development. It is assumed this will assist in alleviating the harassment and abuse directed towards umpires.

A 'green' shirt is worn by umpires in the program that identifies them as new and developing umpires to all and sundry (ie, spectators, other officials, athletes, etc).

The ABF is fully aware that this program will not work on its own; therefore a continuing mentoring process is also in place together with an education program for clubs and the Baseball community.

Umpire Development

Admin:

An upgrading of all umpire manuals and courses was undertaken and approved by the Australian Sports Commission. Updates will remain ongoing to include new interpretations and mechanics.

Regular meetings are held with State Directors of Umpiring in regards to umpire training and development and any issues that may require review.

MLBAAP Umpire Development Program:

The ongoing inclusion of the Umpire Development Program in the Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program ("MLBAPP") is proving to be most beneficial in training umpires who have been identified as having the potential and aspiration to officiate at higher levels of the sport.

During the Program, umpires have the opportunity to work high standard games and gain experience in calling excellent pitching.

For the 2008 MLBAAP Umpire Development Program, four umpires were selected to attend under the guidance of a full time Umpire Coordinator assisted by accredited instructors. Two of these umpires will officiate at the 2010 National Youth Championships.

Tournament Management Committee ("TMC")

The TMC met in June 2008 to discuss:

(1) appointments to 2008 / 2009 national under age

Divisional Report: Technical Officials and Competitions

championships;

- (2) bat specifications; and
- (3) length of under age championships.

As a result:

- (1) ABF representatives and technical officials were appointed to the 2008 / 2009 national under age championships;
- (2) a Submission was lodged with the Board of the ABF; and
- (3) the National Under Age Championships were extended for an extra two days.

Other meetings of the TMC were held in April and May 2009.

World Children's Baseball Fair

It was unfortunate and very disappointing to hear that the 20th anniversary of the World Children's Baseball Fair was to be postponed until 2010 owing to the economic down turn which resulted in an overall lack of sponsorship for the event.

However, Australia soon received an invitation to attend a friendship series, sponsored by the WCBF, for Under 12 players to be held in Tokyo from 26 to 31 July 2009. We very readily accepted the invitation and preparations began in haste for the selection of a delegation of 15 from all States and Territories, plus two coaches and one executive officer.

Even with the postponement of the actual WCBF event, a staggering two hundred plus children, together with chaperones, from all over the world were in attendance.

With games played under a strict time limit of one hour, our team did well in winning two games against Canada. A well drilled Japanese team, used to playing with a different type of bat and ball as per the rules of the Kenko competition Australia was a part of, made it difficult to win any of the three games played against them. However, it seems



it is not the winning that counts when it comes to our young troopers, but the new experiences, new friends and the absence of a competitive environment which makes the event all the more enjoyable and memorable.

Having not yet failed in the standard set by previous teams, this year's team was no different and gained much respect for their behaviour on and off the field and were fantastic ambassadors for our country and for Baseball in Australia.

Australia was represented by:

Jayden Armstrong of Western Australia
Brandon Berg of Australian Capital Territory
Daniel Bridges of New South Wales
Hayden Connell of Queensland
Seth Cooper of Australian Capital Territory
Gabrielle Ferreira of New South Wales
Thomas Hastings of New South Wales
Chase Hodkinson of Victoria
Bailey Kempton of Western Australia
Kate Lethberg of Queensland
Troy Nicholson of South Australia
Dylan Ridding of South Australia
Thomas Sherman of Victoria
Sheridan Vroegop of Queensland
Jake Willis of Northern Territory
Peter Wood of Queensland (Manager and Head of Delegation)
Richard Mason of Victoria (Assistant Coach)
Mairead O'Higgins of Queensland (Executive Officer)

Divisional Report: Technical Officials and Competitions



Australian vs Japan

Scorers

The training of scorers under a national training scheme continues to grow steadily and is proving to be a successful initiative in promoting consistent scoring procedures nationally.

A 'train the trainer' workshop was conducted in conjunction with the MLBAAP, thus increasing the number of trained scorers throughout Australia.

Scorer Success

Jennie Maloney of Victoria was appointed to the Beijing Olympic Games as a statistician. Jennie has been appointed to a number of International Baseball Federation championships since the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

Heritage Committee

The process and due diligence for nomination into the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame was completed. A total of fourteen nominations were received, with a final deliberation resulting in the ABF Board approving two inductions into the 2009 Baseball Australia Hall of Fame:

- (1) Paul Elliott of New South Wales, nominated as a Player, Manager / Coach for the era 1968-1988, 1989-1999, 2000+.
- (2) Gary White of New South Wales, nominated as a Player for the era 1989-1999.

Annual Baseball Australia Diamond Awards

The 2009 Baseball Australia Diamond Awards was held on 21 February 2009 in Melbourne at Rydges on Swanston and was once again attended by 300+ Baseball enthusiasts, friends and family, sponsors and associates. This Awards event followed one of the busiest schedules ever developed and culminated with the 75th Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield. Included in this year's honours was a tribute and presentation to the 75th Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield All Stars team.

Acknowledging and celebrating achievements in sport is a great Australian tradition. Our event not only recognises and congratulates those within the Baseball community that have excelled in their respective fields, but also honours the efforts and accomplishments of many past, present and future contributors to the game.

Events of this magnitude could not be achieved without the efforts of many and the ABF would like to once again acknowledge and thank all members and guests who attended in support of award winners and this event and also the following sponsors: **Australian Independently Owned Financial Planners, Europcar, Edge85, Howling Wolves Wines, Sportscover, Fielders Choice, Bob Jane T-Mart and Virgin Blue** and we would particularly like to thank our great friends, **Major League Baseball** and the **Australian Sports Commission**.

The evening started with mingling to canapés, cocktails and background music; a slow perusal of the auction and raffle items on display and a stroll around the softly lit pool area. The women looked gorgeous in their cocktail gowns and the men splendid in their black tie suits, adding to the prestigiousness of this, our biggest social event of the year. Very soon, guests were ushered into the formal dining area where they were welcomed by Master of Ceremonies, '*Captain*' **Glen Hawke**, accompanied by his lovely assistants and '*ground crew*' for the evening, **Rebekah Spinks** and **Rhiannon Condon** of Virgin Blue. You might have guessed that this year's event had a Virgin Blue flavour added to light and humorous antics of our Master of Ceremonies and was much appreciated by all in attendance - a fantastic job done by Glen Hawke and his lovely assistants!

BADA Awards

2009 ABF President's Award - Ken Wesslink of South Australia



Ken Wesslink was born 14 April 1927. His Baseball career dates back to 1955 (53 years service to Baseball). Ken held a variety of positions over this time with the South Australian Baseball League, including Board Director (6 years total), Match and Grounds Programmer (25 years total), Night Baseball Committee member, Coach (Level 2), Umpire (Level 3), Liaison Officer and Executive Officer of teams at all levels of the sport. He was also Treasurer of the South Australian Junior Baseball League for three years. For the Baseball Umpires Association South Australia, Ken was a member of the Umpire Appointments Panel for 20 years, Secretary for two, attended all umpiring seminars for seventeen years and umpired at all levels of the sport. Ken was the recipient of the All Australian Umpire award in 1955. In 1989 he founded the Riverland Baseball League of which he is Patron, Life Member and Presenter of the Best and Fairest medal each year. Ken's long and well deserved medal tally includes Life Member to SABL, SAJBL and SA Country Baseball Association; the Claude Pearce Memorial Trophy for services to Umpiring; and the ABL Volunteer Recognition Award.

Annual Baseball Australia Diamond Awards

2009 ABF Life Membership - Ron Morgan of South Australia



Ron Morgan has been actively involved in the Baseball community for over three decades. Since joining West Torrens Baseball Club in 1972, Ron has held administrative positions at all levels of the sport, including: President of West Torrens Baseball Club (eight years) and the South Australian Baseball League (ten years); Director on the Board of the Australian Baseball Federation between 1988 and 1992 and Adelaide Giants ABL Club; and an official at the 1988 International Baseball Association's World Youth Series and the 1991 Double-A World Youth Baseball Championship. Amongst his many achievements, Ron was instrumental in converting Norwood Oval from a Football oval to a Baseball diamond and was awarded the Special Recognition Award from the International Baseball Association's Technical Committee in 1995. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Second, Queen of Australia, also instituted an Australian medal to Ron in the year 2000, to commemorate Australian sporting achievement and awarded Ron the Australian Sports Medal, presented by His Excellency's Command, John Howard, Prime Minister and the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

2007 / 2008 AIOFP Volunteer of the Year - Louise Paewai of Queensland



Louise Paewai has been considered the 'backbone' of the Pine Hills Lightning Baseball Club for over 17 years. An active committee member since 1995, Louise has held Club President, Secretary and Registrar positions. Boasting 15 years scorer and 10 years umpire experience at all levels of the sport, Louise is Pine Hill's resident Technical Trainer, Canteen Coordinator, Club Equipment Officer and 'Team Chauffeur'. She is actively involved in the Club's marketing, recruitment and retention strategies and is publisher of the Club's annual handbook and monthly newsletter. Louise' dedication to enhancing the game of Baseball makes her a deserving winner of the 2007 / 2008 AIOFP Volunteer of the Year award.

2007 / 2008 Europcar Administrator of the Year - Shane Tonkin of Western Australia



As the Head of Baseball WA's Events Department, Shane Tonkin has led the nation in funds generated through sponsorship and Government grants. Having successfully doubled Government support over the last 12 months, his efforts have enabled the funding of Baseball WA's high performance, women's and junior programs. A passionate administrator who has a genuine "love of the game", Shane has worked tirelessly to introduce an events calendar that has re-instated the Perth HEAT brand, exposed the game to a wider audience and ultimately revamped the image of Baseball in WA. He is a standout performer and well deserving of the 2007 / 2008 Administrator of the Year award.

Annual Baseball Australia Diamond Awards

2007 / 2008 Edge85 Club of the Year - Doncaster Baseball Club of Victoria



Doncaster Baseball Club is considered the third largest club in Victoria and facilitates both summer and winter competition. 2007 / 2008 saw the development of a new 1.8 million dollar home for the Dragons at Tikilara Reserve, including a new ground with full amenities and competition standard lighting. Doncaster doubled their sponsorship in 2007 / 2008 and set up dedicated programs to support the purchasing of uniforms and equipment for their members. Ten of their seventeen teams played Finals Baseball with three winning premierships. Doncaster is a forerunner in the development of junior girl's Baseball and club administrative practices, making them the commendable winner of the 2007 / 2008 Edge85 Club of the Year award.

2007 / 2008 Edge85 Club of the Year - Peninsula Padres Baseball Club of Queensland



Peninsula Padres Baseball Club is a Queensland club who call Talobilla Park "home" - a home that survives on a record 24 committee members, a policy implemented to reduce the risk of volunteer burnout. Their proactive marketing efforts saw the Club's membership increase by 33 percent in 2007 / 2008 and their retention rate remains above 75 percent. The Peninsula Padres has been successful in securing local, state and Federal Government grants, allowing them to develop a five-year strategic plan focusing on upgrading coaches and umpires training, purchasing of equipment, local area marketing initiatives and competition hosting. A solid sponsorship portfolio has also enabled the Club to reduce membership fees. All this and more made them a strong competitor and thus deserving recipient of the 2007 / 2008 Edge85 Club of the Year award.

2007 / 2008 Howling Wolves Wines State / Territory Association of the Year - Baseball WA



In 2007 / 2008 Baseball WA demonstrated strong leadership in the areas of administration, event management, sport governance, player development and compliance with national initiatives. Its implementation of a competition reform was well received by the Western Australia Baseball community and has seen a solid rise in volunteer participation. Baseball WA is fully compliant in national administrative practices and has more than doubled its funding and sponsorship portfolio. It also manages and maintains a premium Baseball facility at Bateman's Reserve enabling Baseball WA to excel in the delivery of state and national events. Back-to-back champions of the Claxton Shield, Baseball WA are a standout performer and recipient of the 2007 / 2008 Howling Wolves Wines State Association of the Year award.

Annual Baseball Australia Diamond Awards

2007 / 2008 Sportscover Official of the Year - Mal Mackay of Queensland



Boasting a career that spans more than fifteen years, Mal Mackay is one of the most respected umpires in Australia today. Since attending the Jim Evans Professional Umpire School in 1998, Mal has had an impressive national and international officiating career. In what proved to be a standout year, 2007 / 2008 saw Mal travel to Beijing for the 'Good Luck Beijing' Olympic test event, as well as the 2008 World Cup in Taiwan and in what is sure to host a lifetime of memories, the 2009 Beijing Olympic Games. In addition, Mal actively umpired his local league and was a standout in the 2008 Claxton Shield series making him the rightful recipient of the 2007 / 2008 Sportscover Official of the Year award.

2007 / 2008 Fielders Choice Coach of the Year - Tony Harris of South Australia



Tony Harris boasts a distinguished national and international coaching career spanning over two decades. 2008, however, marked one of his finest years 'outside the lines'. As the assistant coach of the 2008 International Baseball Federation's World Cup, Tony helped guide Australia to their best ever performance, steering a .857 win percentage. At the 2008 final Olympic qualifying tournament, he also assisted in guiding Australia painfully close to qualification amidst one of the most tightly contested international events in recent memory. As manager of the national junior team, he led the side to a fourth place finish at the Triple-A World Championship in Canada, boasting a 2-1 quarter-final victory over host nation, Canada. These achievements not only cemented Tony's reputation as a 'big game' manager, but also qualified him as the deserving recipient of the 2007 / 2008 Fielders Choice Coach of the Year award.

2007 / 2008 Bob Jane T-Mart Player of the Year - Youth (Under 18) - James Linger of Queensland



James Linger was the standout performer at the 2008 National Youth (Under 18) Championship, leading all players in Batting Average, RBIs and Home Runs, winning the 'Triple Crown'. The Queensland star offensive player also played in his first Claxton Shield in 2008 and had a phenomenal rookie campaign finishing the year with an astonishing .393 batting average, featuring 11 hits and 12 runs in just seven games. Linger capped off his summer with the Australian senior team participating in the final Olympic qualifying tournament. In doing so, he became the youngest player to represent Australia in the last decade. At 17 years, six months and one day, Linger eclipsed Chris Snelling's 1999 benchmark. Keep an eye of this future star and deserving recipient of the 2007 / 2008 Bob Jane T-Mart Youth Player of the Year.

Annual Baseball Australia Diamond Awards

2007 / 2008 Virgin Blue Women's Player of the Year - Simone Wearne of Victoria



Simone Wearne is undoubtedly one of the finest women Baseballers in the world today. After opening the World Cup with a masterful complete-game, three hit shut out of Chinese Taipei, Simone went on to start two more games for Australia, including the Bronze medal game against the United States - her second complete-game effort in just five days! Simone's World Cup performance followed an emphatic campaign at the 2008 National Women's Championship. With another complete-game effort in the Grand-Final, Simone was able to guide the Victoria Aces to a national championship win and post an impressive 1.68 ERA. Her crowning as the 2007 / 2008 Virgin Blue Women's Player of the Year marks Simone's second consecutive BADA win.

2007 / 2008 ABF Men's Player of the Year

The following nominations were received for this category:



Ryan Rowland Smith:

Following on from his Major League debut in 2007, Ryan made a solid name for himself with the Seattle Mariners throughout the course of the 2008 season. Beginning the season in the bullpen, consistent performances in the early part of the year helped make a strong case for Ryan's inclusion in the starting rotation and after a short tune-up at Triple-A he returned for the last two months of 2008. Finishing the year with a 5-3 win-loss record, Ryan's performance was so good that his 3.42 placed him in the American League's top ten for pitchers who had thrown at least 110 innings on the season. Ryan's 118.1 innings pitched ranks as the third most ever by an Australian in a single season in the Major Leagues.



Trent Oeltjen:

Trent's year kick started with a bang when he was named as the clear-cut winner of the national team's Most Valuable Player award following his dominant performance at the World Cup in Taiwan. Trent led, or tied for the lead, in 11 different Australian offence categories including Batting Average, Slugging Percentage, Hits, Stolen Bases and Runs Scored. In addition, he played errorless defense in every inning of every game for Australia, went on to take out the World Cup Batting crown (with five-twenty-three) and led the entire tournament in Runs Scored and Stolen Bases - an achievement that also saw him named as the Starting Centre Fielder in the World All Stars team. Trent continued to shine at Triple-A for his new US club the Arizona Diamondbacks, where his .317 batting average was one of the League's best.

Annual Baseball Australia Diamond Awards



Grant Balfour:

After starting the year at Triple-A, Grant made it nearly impossible for the Tampa Bay Rays to ignore his presence after he posted a mind-boggling 0.83 ERA, including eight saves and an average two strikeouts for every inning pitched. Grant was recalled to the Major Leagues on 31 May and remained with the top club until the last possible moment in the 2008 season. His season finished with some of the best numbers in Baseball, including a 0.45 ERA and a whopping 82 strikeouts in just 58.1 innings pitched. While putting up some staggering numbers in relief for the Rays, Grant was a crucial part of the team's historical campaign; firstly by notching the 'final out' in the franchise's first playoff win in history and lastly by helping to guide Tampa Bay all the way to the World Series. In doing so, Grant became just the second Australian, behind ABF Hall of Fame legend Graeme Lloyd, to have ever appeared in the Major League World Series. Grant was nominated as one of the '10 Best' in his position in Major League Baseball's "This Year in Baseball" awards, where he finished second in the ballot with almost 20% of the votes.

and the winner of the ABF 2007 / 2008 Men's Player of the Year Award goes to . . .

GRANT BALFOUR of New South Wales!

Claxton Shield Helms Award

Since 1962 the Helms Award has been awarded to the most outstanding player at the annual Claxton Shield series. Former winners include Major League All Star **David Nilsson** and Olympians **Richard Vagg** (1996), **Rodney van Buizen** (2002), **Craig Lewis** (2004) and **Brett Roneberg** (2000 and 2004). In the 75th year of Claxton, the talent pool was greater than ever and the following nominations were received:



Wayne Lundgren:

Wayne, of New South Wales Patriots, finished the season in the top three in ERA, Wins, Strikeouts, Opposition Batting Average, Innings Pitched and Games Started. He walked just four batters all season in 31.2 innings pitched and boasted a 0.88 WHIP ratio. Wayne pitched possibly the finest game of any pitcher in the regular season in a 3-0 victory over South Australia where he struck out 12 and allowed just one hit in a complete-game shutout.

Annual Baseball Australia Diamond Awards



Nick Kimpton:

Nick of the Barbagallo Perth HEAT exploded in 2009 leading the League in Batting Average (.500), Slugging Percentage (.844), On Base Percentage (.541), Hits (32), Runs Batted In (23) and Total Bases (54). He was also second in Home Runs (5) and Runs Scored (18) and winner of the 2009 Offensive Champion award.



Adam Blackley:

Adam of the Victoria Aces led all Claxton Shield pitchers with four wins during the regular season. He threw back-to-back complete-game shutouts against Queensland and South Australia and finished amongst the League's leaders in Strikeouts, Innings Pitched and Opposition Batting Average.



Tim Cox:

Tim of New South Wales Patriots led all Claxton Shield pitchers with a zero ERA over 18 innings pitched. He allowed just one run all season, coming in a 10-2 victory over Queensland that all but clinched a playoff spot for the Patriots. Tim continued his scoreless streak with an eight inning shutout effort against Victoria in the second game of the Semi-Final series in Melbourne.

and the winner of the 75th Claxton Shield Helms Award goes to . . .

NICK KIMPTON of Barbagello Perth HEAT!

Annual Baseball Australia Diamond Awards

2009 Baseball Australia Hall of Fame Induction

This year's nominations for induction into the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame resulted in two inductions as follows:



Gary White of New South Wales for the Era 1989-1999:

Gary White began playing Baseball over 35 years ago as a junior with the Canterbury Bankstown Vikings and made his first grade debut with the club in 1982, initiating a 17-year first grade career.

Gary's Baseball talent was acknowledged by state and national team selectors from a young age. He represented New South Wales at both junior and senior national championships, including 15 Claxton Shield series and has donned the 'green and gold' for Australia both nationally and internationally more than 10 times.

In the early 1980s Gary led the New South Wales Double-A and Triple-A leagues in Hits and was the youngest player selected at Triple-A level when he represented Australia in its win at an international Friendship Series in New York where he was crowned Most Valuable Player of the Series.



In 1984 Gary traveled to Canada to compete in a World Youth Series where he was the leading hitter on the Australian team with a .435 batting average.

Gary signed a professional contract with the Philadelphia Phillies in 1986 and remained with the organisation until his voluntary retirement from 'pro ball' in 1989.

Upon his return to Australia, Gary became a standout performer in the Australian Baseball League. After playing consecutive seasons with the Parramatta Patriots and the Sydney Wave, Gary went on to play eight seasons with the Sydney Blues and completed his ABL career with The Storm in 2000. Throughout his ten-year ABL career, Gary became a five-time ABL All Star. He dominated offensively in 1996 becoming the ABL's Homerun Leader, League's Most Valuable Player, Championship Series Most Valuable Player and Sydney Blues Most Valuable Player.



In 1999 Gary won the ABL's Golden Glove award as well as the Sydney Blues Batting Champion and in the same year he became the first and only catcher in the ABL to be awarded the Sydney Blues Most Valuable Player. In the same year Gary joined the Australian team as they achieved one of the Nation's most memorable victories on the international stage, winning the Gold medal at the 1999 Intercontinental Cup; a fate that was sealed after Gary batted in the winning run in the top of the 11th inning.

Gary has had a long and successful Australian representative career, including the 1997 Intercontinental Cup in Barcelona where he was selected in the World All Stars team, the 1998 World Cup, the 1999 Tri Nations tournament and the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

Gary retired from representative Baseball in 2005 and was honoured by the New South Wales Baseball community when they retired his uniform number "15" - the first time this has ever been done in the

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State's history.

Gary White is one of the finest representative Baseball players Australia has ever produced and is a welcome addition to the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Paul Elliott of New South Wales for the Era 1989-1999:

With a Baseball career now in its fourth decade as a player and coach at local, state, national and international levels, Paul Elliott's impressive CV boasts 18 years as a catcher with the New South Wales Patriots, as well as a national representative portfolio that commenced in 1973 and continues in a coaching capacity today.

Since competing in his first Claxton Shield series in 1974 at the age of just 17, Paul went on to represent his home state at a further 17 series.

Paul's playing career soared in the early to mid 70s during which he represented Australia five times. He cemented his reputation as one of the Nation's best players when he signed a professional contract with the New York Mets in 1973 where he remained until signing with the Cincinnati Reds in 1978.



Paul represented Australia as a player in the early 1980s, but completed his playing career in 1989 to pursue a role as Head Coach of the Parramatta Patriots in the 1989 / 1990 season.

In 1994 Paul accepted a position with the Toronto Blue Jays, initiating what was to become a very successful international coaching career. 2009 will mark Paul's 15th season with the Blue Jays, five of which he spent as a manager and a further 10 seasons as the hitting coach in the organisation's Minor League system.

Paul coached the Sydney Blues in 1997, The Storm in 1998 and assumed the assistant coach position for the Australian senior team in 2004, guiding them to a history-making Silver medal at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.



Now a staple on the Australian team coaching staff, Paul supported the team at the inaugural World Baseball Classic in 2006 and in the same year at the Intercontinental Cup, followed by the World Cup in 2007. Paul will support the Australian team once more in 2009 when the team will travel to Mexico to compete in the second World Baseball Classic.

A standout leader in his field, Paul Elliott is a worthy and welcome inductee into the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.

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75th Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield All Stars

Australian Baseball boasts a rich tapestry of elite performances highlighted not only by our present day stars, but scores of heroes from yesteryear. In order to celebrate the 75th (or 'Diamond') Anniversary of the Claxton Shield the Australian Baseball Federation selected and announced a 75th Diamond Anniversary Claxton Shield All Stars team as follows:



Manager, Kingsley Wellington:

Kingsley Wellington is one of Australia's most dedicated Baseball administrators, players and coaches who boasts an impressive 19-year coaching career. After leading South Australia to seven victories throughout twelve years as their manager, Kingsley coached the Australian team in 1966 and 1967, was the national team's assistant coach in 1968 and 1969, and Australian head coach in 1970 and 71. Kingsley is also a respected member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Coach, Ross Straw (deceased):

Ross Straw contributed a lifetime to club Baseball in Victoria as a coach, a player and an administrator. He represented Victoria as a respected player, captain and coach from 1942 through to 1969. In 1948 his career moved to representing Australia through to 1969 as a player, coach and manager, including captaining the Australian side in the 1956 Olympic Games. It is no wonder that he was one of the first Australian players to sign a professional contract with US Major League club the Red Sox. Coming to the end of his playing days, he put his efforts into coaching and administration and acquired an MLB coaching education which resulted in him becoming the first Coaching Director of the Australian Baseball Council, where he established a National Elite Coaching Committee. In his capacity as administrator, Ross not only opened up relations between Australian Baseball and Asian Baseball, but he also coordinated the first ever Triple-A international tour. Ross is an outstanding member of Baseball and as such, a member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Coach, Rod Byrne (deceased):

Rod Byrne was a Western Australia Claxton Shield team member for ten years and upon his retirement as a player, he coached his home side for a further eight years during which he led his team to five victories. Rod also coached an Australian team to its first ever victory over a visiting Japanese team in 1979. A dual Claxton Shield All Star member, Rod is also an inaugural member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.

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Coach, Jon Deeble:

Jon Deeble was the Australian Baseball League's longest serving manager with 366 games under his belt and holds the record of 201 wins and 182 losses for 5-20-5. Jon also boasts an impressive 18-year Victorian representative playing career, including ten years in the ABL with the Melbourne Reds and Melbourne Monarchs of which he led to victory in 1993 and 1998. He is the current Australian team manager and a member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Catcher, David Nilsson:

David Nilsson is a Baseball Australia Hall of Fame member who played his first representative game for Queensland in 1986, won the Helms award in 1988 at the age of 18 and went on to become an instrumental figure in the National League, playing a notable nine seasons. During his days in the ABL, David was a three-time All Star, a Most Valuable Player and a Batting Champ and posted a three-forty-seven ABL career batting average.



First Base, Kevin Greatrex:

Kevin Greatrex represented South Australia as a player a bewildering 17 times in Claxton Shield competitions between 1963 and 1981 and won the prestigious Helms award in 1966. Renowned for his sharp eye and power with the bat, Greatrex is also an inaugural member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Second Base, David Mundy:

South Australian David Mundy was a staple fixture on the South Australia roster for a staggering 17 years. He was a Claxton Shield All Star team member in 1972 and won the Helms award the following year in 1973. A solid and dependable batter, David was renowned for 'batting in runs' during clutch situations and is a respected member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.

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Third Base, Larry Home:

Baseball Australia Hall of Fame member Larry Home boasts a truly national representative career that commenced in Queensland in 1971, a state he represented a total of nine times until 1980, before representing Western Australia in 1981 and 1982 and later New South Wales. Larry won the Claxton Shield Helms award and the Batting award in 1975.



Short Stop, Dave Roberts:

Dave Roberts was a versatile infielder with quick judgement and a powerful arm who boasts a respectable 12 representative seasons for South Australia and posted a career batting average of two-fifty-three. He is the patron of the Dave Roberts trophy, a former Australian team captain and a member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Left Field, Jack Rowley (deceased):

New South Wales legend Jack Rowley held the record for the most number of home runs in a Claxton Shield series for over a decade, a benchmark that was only equaled in the 1970s. He represented New South Wales from 1947, was a regular on the Australian team and is a member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Center Field, Lionel Harris:

A 12-year veteran on the New South Wales team, Lionel Harris was known for his versatility as player in pitching and designated hitter positions, but it was as an outfielder that Lionel truly dominated. Lionel is a five-time Claxton Shield All Star team member who won the Batting award in 1981 and is a current member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.

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Right Field, Geoff Martin:

Originating from the Sunshine State, Geoff Martin boasts an impressive 14-year Claxton Shield career representing Queensland and won the Helms award in 1982. Geoff was a strong left-hand batter who donned the 'green and gold' for Australia several times, including an international tour to the 1988 Seoul Olympics.



Designated Hitter, Tony Adamson:

Designated hitter Tony Adamson represented Western Australia for eight years of Claxton before embarking on an impressive ABL career. Adamson was considered "the home run King" in the early 90s, posting double figure home runs in five successive seasons and leading the ABL in career home runs with a 300 average, 50 plus home runs, and 200 RBIs, securing a position in the ABL All Star team over five consecutive years, as well as the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Utility, Andrew Scott:

Adelaide Giants veteran Andrew Scott appeared in all ten ABL seasons, made an impressive seven ABL All Star rosters and was the first to reach 400 career hits. Andrew won the Gold Glove award in 1994, the Batting Title and MVP in 1997 and led the ABL in At Bats, Runs Scored, Hits, Doubles and On Base Percentage. Andrew boasts seven seasons with a batting average above 300 and hit a league high in 1997 with a four-fourteen batting average. He is also a member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Utility, Grahame Cassel:

Utility Graham Cassel has one of the most impressive representative careers in recent memory, clocking up an impressive 10 year Claxton Shield playing career, before competing in all ten seasons of the ABL, posting a career batting average of 290. He was a Claxton Shield All Star member in 1980 and 1985 and was the Sydney Blues' number one closer, posting a 20-14 record for 35 saves and an ERA under 400.

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Pitcher, Charlie Puckett (deceased):

Charlie Puckett represented South Australia between 1931 and 1935 before heading to Victoria in 1937. In the same year, Charlie was the first ever winner of the honourable Capps medal. He crossed the boarder once again in 1938, this time moving to Western Australia and represented WA until 1954, captaining the side in his final season. He is also a member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Pitcher, Ron Sharpe (deceased):

Ron Sharpe is regarded as South Australia's greatest-ever baseball player. As the originator of the prestigious Helms award, Ron played his first interstate game for South Australia in 1921 when he was just 15. Ron continued his representative career with South Australia until 1938, captained the side in his final three seasons and was inducted into the inaugural Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Pitcher, Adrian Meagher:

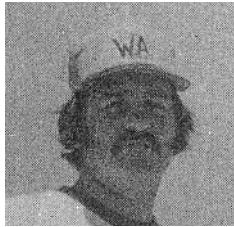
Adrian Meagher represented Queensland in Claxton Shield competitions between 1979 and 1988 before becoming a player and manager with the Gold Coast Cougars in the ABL for six seasons. He was a 1982 Claxton Shield All Star team member, as well as a four-time ABL All Star. Adrian was the 1992 ABL MVP, Pitcher and Manager of the Year and threw a league high of 107 innings, struck out a then record 102 batters, took a 13-2 record and posted a league leading 1.93 ERA. He is also a member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Pitcher, Ray Michell:

Ray Michell is a standout Claxton Shield performer, having represented Western Australia 13 times between 1973 and 1990. He won the prestigious Helms award in 1978 and boasts a successful seven-time Australian representative career. Ray was the first Australian to win an international award as a pitcher at the Seoul International Five Nations Series in 1980 and is a member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.

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Pitcher, Neil Page:

Neil Page sports a remarkable ten-year Claxton Shield playing career, having represented South Australia eight times between 1964 and 1974. Neil pitched a further two seasons for Western Australia until 1977. Neil won the Helms award in 1969 and was the first ever Australian signed by an MLB club. Neil is also a member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



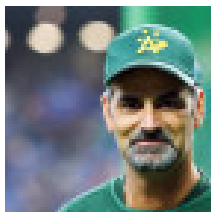
Pitcher, Dick Shirt:

Dick Shirt represented New South Wales in 19 Claxton Shield series; nine as a player and a further ten as manager. He also represented South Australia twice in Claxton Shield competition during which time he pitched a no-hitter before traveling to the US to play minor league ball in 1968.



Pitcher, Phil Dale:

Phil Dale was one of the greatest pitchers in the ABL, playing six seasons with the Waverley Reds, one season with the Melbourne Reds and a further two seasons with the Melbourne Monarchs. He is a four-time ABL All Star team member, twice ABL Championship Series MVP, twice ABL Pitcher of the Year, won the ABL MVP and was awarded an impressive two-time ABL Manager of the Year. Phil is a member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Pitcher, Graeme Lloyd:

In addition to being a two-time World-Series champion, Graeme Lloyd boasts a successful national campaign, completing seven seasons in the ABL with the Monarchs, HEAT and Bandits. Graeme was awarded ABL Championship Series MVP in 1991 and posted a lifetime ERA of 2.34 in 57 appearances and a 27-9 win-loss ratio. Graeme is also a member of the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.

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Pitcher, Shayne Bennett:

Shayne Bennett boasts a combined eight-year Claxton Shield and ABL career, in which he served four years with the Adelaide Giants, posted single seasons with the East Coast Cougars, Gold Coast Cougars and South Australian Bite, before representing his home state South Australia in 2004. Shayne set the ABL record of 15 strikeouts in a seven innings game in 1997. He was the only active Major Leaguer in the ABL in 1998 and in 1996 he led the Giants in Innings Pitched, Wins and Complete Games earning him the ABL Reliever of the Year. Shayne is the most recent addition to the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.


Baseball Australia Honour Roll

Hall of Fame:

PLAYERS PRE 1900: Rue Ewers ▪ Harry Simpson ▪ Tom Gleason ▪ **PLAYERS 1900-1918:** Harold Franks ▪ Eric McElhone ▪ Les Agnew ▪ Charles Simmonds ▪ Wallace Pratt ▪ **PLAYERS 1919-1946:** Harold Kennett ▪ Charlie Puckett ▪ George Dickinson ▪ Ken Gulliver ▪ Ron Sharpe ▪ Alf Emmerick ▪ Ernie Yum ▪ Billy Ford ▪ **PLAYERS 1947-1967:** Ross Straw ▪ Dave Roberts ▪ Kevin Cantwell ▪ Ron McPherson ▪ Ray Lawler ▪ Don Deeble ▪ Graeme Deany ▪ Mervyn Deigan ▪ Jack Rowley ▪ Bill Edmonds ▪ **PLAYERS 1968-1988:** Adrian Meagher ▪ Neil Page ▪ Kevin Greatrex ▪ Larry Home ▪ David Mundy ▪ John Swanson ▪ Lionel Harris ▪ Ray Michell ▪ Don Knapp ▪ **PLAYERS 1989-1999:** Shayne Bennett ▪ Matthew Sheldon-Collins ▪ Phil Dale ▪ Bob Nilsson ▪ Ron Johnson ▪ Andrew Scott ▪ Tony Adamson ▪ **SPECIAL CATEGORY:** Craig Shipley ▪ David Nilsson ▪ Graeme Lloyd ▪ **MANAGERS Pre 1900:** James Searle ▪ Frank Laver ▪ **MANAGERS 1900-1918:** Norrie Claxton ▪ Harold Turner ▪ **MANAGERS 1947-1967:** Cec Kemp ▪ Kingsley Wellington ▪ **MANAGERS 1968-1999:** Rod Byrne ▪ Jon Deeble ▪

Life Members:

1957: Reg E Darling ▪ **1976:** Don Mould ▪ **1977:** Tim Bassingthwaighte ▪ **1978:** Bob Black ▪ **1985:** John Anderson ▪ **1992:** Neville Pratt ▪ **1993:** Kingsley Wellington ▪ **2000:** Ken Douglas, Peter Dihm ▪ **2001:** Jan Thurley ▪ **2003:** Ross Straw ▪ Rod Byrne ▪ **2004:** Ian Ross ▪ **2005:** Alan Waldron ▪ **2008:** Ross Morgan ▪



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