

NEWCASTLE JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT



SEASON 2022-2023



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Office Bearers 2022/2023

President:	Andrew Cornwell
Vice President:	Ange Razborsek
Treasurer:	Scott Edden (Acting)
Secretary:	Scott Marjoribanks
General Committee Members:	Josh Hartcher Neil Hayes Andrew Hiskens Mick Karnaghan Steve Pratt Matt Voigt / Rod Unsted Chris Wharton Julie Wharton Leya Wilson
Girls Cricket Officer:	Leya Wilson
Child Safety Officer:	Scott Marjoribanks
Rules & Competition:	Julie Wharton
Infrastructure:	Chris Wharton
Judiciary Chairperson:	Andrew Hiskens
Cricket Blast Officer:	Mel Crimmins
NCSCA Umpires Delegate:	Neil Hayes
Cricket NSW Cricket Manager:	Vacant
Association Administrator:	Sharon Dare

President's Report

Dr Andrew Cornwell, NJCA President

2022/23 was a season of new beginnings, challenges and ultimately, success.

In July we bade farewell to our administrator Dave Wild. Dave was our first employed administrator for some years, and his hard work and diligence will leave a legacy for many years to come.

Thank you Dave.

In August we were fortunate to have Sharon Dare join the team as our new administrator. Sharon has brought tremendous administrative skills, an eye for detail and a passion for cricket. We could not have dealt with this season's challenges without her drive and positivity. On behalf of the association and our players I would like to sincerely thank Sharon for all her hard work over the past season.

The season also saw the introduction of a new scoring and administration platform by Cricket Australia, PlayHQ. This replaced MyCricket which had been in place and refined for many years. The association and clubs still managed to open registrations on time – a remarkable achievement. I would like to both congratulate and thank Sharon and all the clubs for their perseverance in ensuring a new and imperfect system still delivered all our registrations successfully.

Sharon conducted a “masterclass” for scorers prior to the season and within a couple of rounds, over 90% of junior games were successfully being live scored. This stands in stark contrast to many other associations where live scoring is still the exception rather than the rule. The system is still in its infancy, and most of us would consider that its introduction was probably premature. Nonetheless, our scorers, coaches, clubs, and Sharon ensured that it was rolled out successfully.

Our numbers were up 5% to approximately 1500 player competing in some 137 teams. The season also saw the introduction of the new Friday night Premier League. This competition provides a steppingstone from junior to senior cricket with longer formats available and fewer restrictions on batters and bowlers. We also saw the introduction of an all-girls blasters smash and all girls Sixers League for or stage 1 cricketers. Many thanks to the girls committee for providing an all-girls pathway from junior right through to senior cricket.

Unfortunately, the season also began during a La Nina weather event, which delivered higher than normal rainfall until after Christmas. January saw the weather improve and the rest of the season continued largely uninterrupted. This presented challenges for clubs, in terms of training, and the association, due to widespread ground unavailability. This also served to highlight the inadequacy of drainage on many of our junior grounds.

Poor quality facilities adversely impact the player experience for our juniors, and good quality facilities enhance player enjoyment. To address this, the NJCA introduced a \$20 per player infrastructure levy directed at improving and replacing centre wickets. Prior to this season, Cricket NSW (Tim Cox and

Frankie Walsh) produced a priority list based on usage and the quality of the pitch, which current committee member Chris Wharton is using to get the centre wicket upgrade ball rolling. Funds raised this year are being directed towards replacing the wickets at Lewis and Pickering Ovals and widening and synthetic replacement at Novocastrian. Wallarah was also a priority until it was announced in March that the new basketball stadium was to be built there. We are working with Newcastle Council to improve that wicket to a playable standard until such times as it goes offline.

The association was successful in 2022 in obtaining a \$2.56m grant from the state government to upgrade Smith Park. Smith Park is the epicentre of Newcastle junior cricket and the NJCA are excited to bring it up to an appropriate standard. We have been working with Newcastle Council to finalise the scope and design of this work. This upgrade will deliver a laser levelled and fully drained playing surface as well as three new centre wickets. It is anticipated that it will be offline for about 18 months starting in February 2024, however it will deliver a first-rate facility for local junior games as well as for the Ron Arendts carnival.

In September 2022 we lost one of our treasured life members, Jim Brennan. Jim had spent much of his life improving our junior players both as cricketers and as people. His legacy is a living one – in the players he influenced over his lifetime. Our Smith Park nets are named in his honour.

Vale Jim.

This season saw representative cricket move from the NJCA to the Newcastle Zone. This creates a clear representative pathway from junior cricket through to senior cricket. Our results across junior and senior representative teams saw the Newcastle Zone win the coveted Hogg Shield. This is the trophy for the most successful country NSW zone in representative cricket across all age groups and genders. Many congratulations to all the teams involved, and a huge thank you to all the coaches, parents and managers who helped make it happen. This included wins in the Bradman Cup, Female U16 Country Championships and Female U15 Country Youth Championships. Many thanks to Alloggio for their generous sponsorship of all our junior rep teams.

In addition to this, the NJCA held our two carnivals – the U11 Ron Arendts carnival and the U14 Graeme Malcolm Shield. These attracted the best cricketers in their age groups from right across NSW. The feedback from the visiting teams was universally positive and these carnivals not only provide opportunities for our cricketers, but also serve to show off our wonderful region.

Having seen a lot of change in the 2022/23 season, the NJCA sees the upcoming season as one to consolidate and build upon this year's successes.

Finally, I would like to thank the NJCA committee, the club committees and the many volunteers that make our game what it is, and I hope to see you all next season.

Administrator's Report

Sharon Dare, NJCA Administrator

Season 2022/23 was another extraordinary one, for different reasons though to the recent few seasons that have been dubbed the same. 2022/23 was the season of change..... It saw a change in:

- NJCA Administrator
- CNSW personnel
- Junior competition offerings
- Weather (for the better, thankfully)
- and last but certainly not least, competition management system, aka PlayHQ.

Firstly, I would personally like to thank the NJCA executive & committee, all the NJCA club volunteers who I have worked with over the season, as well as the umpire allocators, not only for your dedication to our junior cricketers, but also for the patience and support you gave me as a brand-new administrator. Having the role of CNSW Cricket Manager vacated at the beginning of the season certainly added a challenge for us all, however we managed to produce a very successful season none the less. I look forward to bigger and better things next season with the support of the new Cricket NSW Area Manager for Newcastle, Leya Wilson.

Weather

The summer of 2022/23 saw some much-needed sunshine on our local sporting fields, something we haven't seen a lot of in recent seasons! I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say how relieved I was to see some relatively stable weather, once we got past the round 1 complete washout, of course. Not only did season 22/23 see largely dry conditions, but it was also free from air quality issues and, for the most part, extreme heat. I've ordered the same weather again next season.



Beautiful day for Reconciliation Round

Registrations

Season 2022/23 saw 137 teams from 15 clubs play junior cricket across 21 grades. 125 of these teams played in the traditional mixed competitions and 12 played in the All Girls competitions. 126 of these teams participated in the Friday/Saturday competition, with the remaining 11 playing midweek T20 Social Bash.

As a whole, registrations remained fairly steady from season 2021/22 to 2022/23. Participation went up slightly (around 5%) at approximately 1500 participants, with many participants playing across multiple formats, eg Saturday as well as midweek. Female participation remains around 15% of total participation. There was a slight decrease in female participants in the Junior competition however we saw an increase in females in Summer Smash.

PlayHQ

This season saw the move away from MyCricket, after approximately 20 years as the competition management System. MyCricket was no longer being supported so Cricket Australia had to find another platform; welcome PlayHQ....!

Love it or hate it, the inaugural season for PlayHQ was, overall, very successful. After an understandably nervous start, most teams were e-Scoring on PlayHQ by round 2 or 3 – a fantastic result from the wonderful NJCA volunteers! Of course, it wasn't without its faults, but full credit to everyone involved for making it work the best way we could. A huge shout out to club committees for the extra time and effort they put in to learn the system themselves as well as upskill and support their club community.

Change in formats.

This season NJCA tweaked the format of the older age groups to come in line with Cricket Australia recommendations, by combining U15 – U18 in one age group and offering multiple divisions. There was also the introduction of the Friday Night Premier League, which was Division 1 of this U15-18 competition, played on a Friday evening rather than Saturday morning. This opened the opportunity to our older and more developed cricketers to continue to play junior cricket with their friends whilst also extending their cricketing career in grade cricket. The Friday Night Premier League was a mix of 20 over and 40 over cricket, giving these older juniors experience with the longer format as they head into senior cricket.

The NJCA will continue with the same grades and formats into next season, with some minor improvements based on positive and constructive coach and manager feedback.



**Captains, coaches and umpires
Inaugural Premier League Grand Final - Newcastle City V Charlestown
No. 1 Sportsground**

Girls Cricket

It was wonderful to see girls cricket in Newcastle continue to grow this season. At the beginning of the season the Newcastle was the first region in NSW to offer a complete pathway for female cricket, from Blasters right through to Women's. Being the first season for some of these offerings there were not the numbers to get them all off the ground, however Newcastle cricket will continue to offer increased and improved experiences for female cricketers in the seasons to come. Refer to Leya Wilson's Girls Cricket Officer report for more details.

A wonderful event for females in sport is the Girls Day Out (GDO), a 1-day, annual event for 5-16 year old girls to try a multitude of sports, cricket included. It was inspiring to see some of our up-and-coming junior female cricketers involved in the GDO this season. I would like to thank Julie Wharton for making this event successful for cricket this year, with a moments notice!



Girls Day Out – NJCA players ready to go & Kate's fan club eagerly awaiting a signature

Summer Smash

Summer Smash is our all-important introduction to 'real' cricket for the younger kids who have either graduated Blasters or are completely new to cricket. It's the breeding ground for our future stars! This season saw a huge jump in numbers for Summer Smash. It's run in Term 1 in two hubs - Lake Macquarie and Newcastle. The Lake Macquarie hub remained steady, with 4 teams at Ulinga Ovals, Cardiff South, on a Monday afternoon. The Newcastle hub absolutely exploded, with a whopping 10 teams across 2 venues, including 2 all girls teams! The Newcastle hub is traditionally played at Smith Park, Hamilton South, and this year saw the introduction of Adamstown 4 & 5 to accommodate the growing numbers.

After some positive and constructive feedback from families, I look forward to seeing this competition get bigger and better next season.



Once again – well done and THANK YOU to each and every person who contributed to junior cricket, particularly in such a challenging season. It's 100% the contribution you all make, small or large, out of the goodness of your heart, that combines to create an invaluable experience for our local kids and promotes the great game of cricket.

Newcastle's 'Celebration of Cricket'

Sharon Dare, Carnival Coordinator

Newcastle's 'Celebration of Cricket' incorporates the U11 Ron Arendts Memorial Shield and the U14 Graeme Malcolm Shield and saw 450 junior cricketers participating in 90 games of cricket over 8 days in January.

This year Newcastle Cricket as a whole was successful in gaining \$15,000 of sponsorship from the City of Newcastle, which was shared between the NJCA and the NDCA (seniors). I would like to thank City of Newcastle for their financial support as well as their contribution to the presentations of the U11 and U14 carnivals. We were very honoured to have Counsellor Winney-Baartz involved in both carnivals in the absence of Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes. We look forward to a continued partnership with the City of Newcastle again next season.

Under 11 Ron Arendts Memorial Shield

Season 2022/23 saw NJCA host its 16th U11 Ron Arendts Memorial Shield Carnival, which has been going since 2007 (less one year for COVID). This very popular carnival was a huge success again. There were 200 participants across 16 teams who travelled from as far south as Wollongong in the Illawarra and as far north as Grafton on the Far North Coast, and everywhere in between!

One noticeable difference this year was the absence of the late, great Jim Brennan, who has been involved with these carnivals, as well as the NJCA and cricket in general, for more years than can be counted. His legacy will live on at the U11 Ron Arendts Memorial Carnival, with the introduction of the "Jim Brennan Player of the Carnival" award, for the U11 Ron Arendts player with the most umpire votes at the end of the carnival. This year's award winners were:

AWARD	RECIPIENT	ASSOCIATION
Jim Brennan Player of the Carnival	Digby Haran	Cricket Illawarra
Batter of the Carnival	George Hansen	Manly Warringah JCA
Bowler of the Carnival	Arya Varadhan	Blacktown City & District CA
Fielder of the Carnival	Finn Brownlee	Maitland District JCA



Ron Arendts Fielder of the Carnival
Finn Brownlee, Maitland

The grand final was contested at Smith Park between one of the two Parramatta teams and Hornsby Ku-ring-gai & Hills. It was very hard fought and closely matched, coming down to the last over. Congratulations to Parramatta, who came away with the win and the 2023 Ron Arendts Memorial Shield!



The carnival was run over 4 days, 3 of which were unaffected by weather. Day 3 was touch and go but after a lot of communication, squidding and patience all games proceeded, albeit shortened and delayed. The format of the carnival remained unchanged, with 2 x T20s on day 1 followed by 40 overs matches the following 3 days.

The coaches and managers meeting went ahead the morning of Day 1, just prior to team photos. Whilst this was successful, it will be improved on for next season by having more physical space between the two gatherings. Firstly to minimise external noise at the meeting, as well to minimise the unintentional ‘photobombers’ in the team photos! The team ‘show bags’ were well received, containing essentials such as toilet paper and garbage bags, along with a sweet treat.

All matches had official umpires, with 2 umpires on the 2 x semis and the grand final – a huge thank you to Alf Ellevsen for organising umpires for the 40 matches across the 4 days.

Newcastle region entered 3 teams, Newcastle U13 girls, Newcastle U11 boys & Lake Macquarie U11 boys. Despite between them only winning 4 matches across the 4 days, these local teams represented the Newcastle area with commitment and pride, and they had a lot of fun along the way.

U14 Graeme Malcolm Shield

Two weeks later the U14 Graeme Malcolm Shield got under way for the 42nd time, having been established in 1982. This popular carnival saw 250 participants from 20 teams compete across the four days. Like the U11 carnival, teams came from far and wide, from the Illawarra to the Far North Coast and everywhere in between. Newcastle region entered 2 teams, Lake Macquarie Attack and Newcastle Blasters.

Due to high demand, 20 teams were invited to participate in the carnival this year. The 20 teams were divided into 5 pools of 4 teams, with each team playing every team in their pool once over the first 2 days, and the top 4 teams on points and NRR going through to play the semis. The format remained unchanged from last year; 2 x T20s on day 1 followed by 40 over matches on the remaining 3 days.

The grand finalists this year were NJCA's own Lake Macquarie Attack and Penrith Black. Unfortunately, after 3 beautiful, sunny days, the grand final was delayed, interrupted and eventually abandoned due to the persistent wet weather on day 4, and these two teams were declared joint winners of the 2023 Graeme Malcolm Shield. Newcastle Blasters finished third in their pool.



As disappointing as it was to have the final day washed out, we were grateful for 3 dry days beforehand and the early finish on day 4. It should be noted that there was one of the ten scheduled matches completed on the final day, albeit shortened. This one was played at Lindsay Memorial Park in Beresfield between Manly and North Coast. A huge thank you must go to all the players and officials and particularly the curators for the efforts made and patience shown in trying to get the kids to play that day.

The Award winners for the U14 Graeme Malcolm carnival were:

AWARD	RECIPIENT	ASSOCIATION
Player of the Carnival	Fred Bell	Penrith JCA
Batter of the Carnival	Fred Bell	Penrith JCA
Bowler of the Carnival	Preston Jolliffe	Newcastle JCA
Fielder of the Carnival	Kaisei Doggett	Northern Districts JCA

There were 16 grounds used across the 4 days and 50 matches, 14 of these were turf wickets, including Townson Oval for the final. Many thanks to curators who worked hard in their January break to have these pitches prepped for the carnival – a fantastic experience for these juniors.

Like the U11 carnival, every match had at least 1 official umpire appointed with 2 umpires appointed to the semi finals and grand final. Huge thanks again to Alf Ellevsen for his tireless efforts in getting umpire allocations successfully filled for all 50 matches across the 4 days, which included umpiring a match or 2 himself to fill last minute vacancies. THANK YOU Alf.

Carnivals like these do not happen without the help of many, and the 2023 carnivals were no different. As a first-time carnival coordinator, I am boundlessly grateful for the assistance I received from many, both in the lead up to the carnivals and during the carnivals. So many people generously donated their time to make these events come to life so successfully, and I look forward to working with many of them again next season.



U14 Graeme Malcolm Shield final umpires, Eric Donne & Trevor Hudson, along with NCSCUA President & Life Member, Alf Ellevsen.

Cricket NSW Community Cricket Experience, Season Review

Neil McDonald, Area Manager – Northern NSW

On behalf of Cricket NSW I wish to thank all volunteers involved in the delivery of Cricket in Newcastle during the season whether administering at Association or Club level, coaching teams, providing transport, scoring matches, preparing pitches, making lunches or officiating – thank you for providing the inspiration for thousands of boys and girls to love and play Cricket.

The Community Cricket Experience stream employs staff across the state to lead and support clubs and associations to deliver world-class Cricket experiences. Some are in front-line roles such as Cricket Managers, Blast Specialists and Competition Administrators, others provide are Subject Matter Experts providing guidance and expertise in areas such as Governance, Compliance, Infrastructure, Competition Management and Coach Education.

The role of the Cricket Manager is to :-

- Maintain key relationships with clubs and associations.
- Support retention strategies.
- Drive incremental participation growth in clubs and associations.
- Assist clubs to grow school-to-club transition.

There are six Cricket Manager Regions servicing Northern NSW and we're thrilled with the latest member to join our team in Leya Wilson to manage Newcastle.

It's not that long ago that Newcastle and Lake Macquarie each had a Cricket Manager. This hasn't always been the case and for years earlier, the Newcastle Cricket Manager was responsible for Lake Macquarie and the Hunter Valley. Cricket administration has been affected like many other industries and, combined with a reduction in state distributions and an internal review, there have been changes to strategy, reduction in field force and re-alignment of regions.

The departure of Tim Cox in October and Frankie Walsh taking on another role within the organisation left a huge gap and I'd like to congratulate the NJCA on it's organisation and leadership to navigate the 2022/23 season with special mention to new Administrator Sharon Dare whose enthusiasm and focus on grass-roots participation has no boundaries. While Newcastle didn't miss out on any opportunities during the Summer, it's fair to say we were limited in hands-on club support until Leya's appointment.

The season started early with the inaugural Community Cricket Roadshows held in May at locations around the state featuring Cricket NSW CEO Lee Germon, members of the Executive Leadership team and local Cricket NSW staff. The purpose of the roadshows was to connect and listen to local volunteers and discuss emerging from the pandemic & floods, trends in organised sport, the health of club cricket and the Cricket NSW Strategy 2021-25. Attendees participated in workshops with several key themes emerging such as volunteer retention challenges, more support needed to administer competitions and education support for mum and dad coaches. The solutions included:-

- Build from the bottom, increasing the number of 5-12 year-olds playing the game.
- Offer Competition Administration to associations.
- Increase WW Cricket Blast participants including all-female and community centres.

- Work with associations to establish all-female junior competitions.
- Provide more support for Mum and dad coaches and promote use of the CA Coach App.

The introduction of a new competition management system, PlayHQ, replacing the ageing MyCricket platform was challenging for all. What wasn't properly prosecuted was the need to replace the twenty year-old technology, which on the surface looked to be doing what the customer wanted, however it caused all sorts of headaches in the back end with band-aids covering band-aids. While the new system may not have provided a great plug and play experience, it was interesting to note that associations with competition administration had less issues and the benefits moving forward will be significant for both players and volunteers.

There were several positives during the season in Newcastle:-

The annual Country Blitz featuring NSW male and female players visited the area in August to support club recruitment.

More that sixty kids attended a Sixers Super Clinic and BBQ featuring Sydney Sixers WBBL stars.

Association starter PlayHQ workshops were followed up by webinars to support clubs.

Supporting the NJCA's Blast 500 initiative, Cricket NSW provided coach education and training sessions for Blast Coordinators and Junior team coaches.

A number of coaching clinics and competitions were run during the school holidays.



Other highlights across Northern NSW included:-

The BBL fixture in Coffs Harbour was another sellout with Steve Smith scoring the first ever hundred by a Sixers male player.

Increased number of Associations signed up for Competition Administration.

Adam Gilchrist's T20 Flood Relief match in Lismore featured a number of former Test players.

Huge registrations were received for targeted Term 1 Community Blast centres at Kempsey and Woolgoolga.



Overall, participation in Newcastle was down slightly on the previous season across all formats from entry level Cricket Blast to junior mixed and female competitions.

Registrations	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
WW Cricket Blast	613	1096	832	659
Junior mixed competition	2082	2452	2212	2213
Female participation	228	316	376	336

Cricket NSW strategy is supported by the WIG – our Wildly Important Goal to double the number of 5-12 year olds playing registered cricket to 80,000 by 2026.

Delivery Priorities for FY24 are:-

Deliver exceptional experiences in Cricket for the community	Prioritise the delivery of programs that will have the greatest WIG impact	Scale professional delivery to 5-12 year olds.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grow volunteer engagement and support 2. Grow coach support and development. 3. Hone in on participant retention and progression opportunities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue the growth of female cricket. 2. Strategically engage the South Asian diaspora. 3. Build a Cricket365 suite of offerings. 4. Grow club delivered WW CricketBlast 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grow Competition Administration support partnerships. 2. Increase the number of CNSW Blast centres. 3. Establish partnerships with 3rd party providers to deliver Cricket Blast.

In addition to the Delivery Priorities above, the team has two other projects to deliver in the Grassroots Digital Transformation and the rollout of Cricket Blast 2.0.

We look forward to working with the NJCA and engaged junior clubs to significantly increase the number of boys and girls having world class experiences playing the game in 2023/24.



NSW Breakers, 6ers WBBL& Australian star Ash Gardner visited Newcastle for the Country Blitz

NJCA Girls Cricket Officer Report

Leya Wilson, NJCA Girls Cricket Officer

Season 2022-2023 saw great participation by junior female cricketers across Newcastle, in our NJCA mixed and all girls competitions, the various Woolworths Cricket Blast Centres within club run blast programs and Cricket NSW programs, and the continued growth of the Cricket Australia aligned Daughters & Dads Cricket program.

The Sixers Girls League Stage 1 & Stage 2 competitions fielded over 116 junior female players, with the formats moved to align with the Cricket Australia Junior formats, and both Stage 1 and Stage 2 Sixers Girls Leagues played on a Saturday morning.

Sixers Girls League Stage 1 (U10 - U11)

Charlestown Kookaburras
Charlestown Stars
Merewether U11 Girls Blue
Sabres U11 Girls Sixers Stage 1
WSJCC U10 Girls Stage 1

Sixers Girls League Stage 2 (U12 - U13)

Charlestown Chargers
Charlestown Renegades
Merewether U12 Girls Gold
Merewether U12 Girls White
Merewether U13 Girls Blue
Sabres U13 Girls Sixers Stage 2
Toronto Workers Kookaburras

Both competitions ran the full junior cricket season, and the Stage 1 competition was won by the Charlestown Kookaburras, and the Stage 2 competition was won by the Sabres U13 Girls Sixers team.



Stage 2 Girls grand final winners – Newcastle City

Junior Cricket - Mixed formats

66 junior female players participated in the NJCA Junior Cricket Competition formats, from U10 right through to U18. The U14 Division 2 competition featured the all girls City Vixens team, composed of players from both Newcastle City and Valentine Eleebana. This team progressed through to the U14 Division 2 Grand Final with a narrow loss but commendable performance against Wests.

Senior Cricket - Women's Competition

While not an NJCA Competition, the developing Newcastle District Cricket Association Women's T20 Competition continued to grow to a two division competition, featuring 52 female players aged under 18, with 31 of those players exclusively playing their community cricket in this competition.

The Cricket Australia endorsed Daughters & Dads program has continued to support the growth of our junior female cricket participation with 96 girls participating in these programs over 2022-2023 in our area.

The various Woolworths Cricket Blast programs including both club run blast programs and Cricket NSW supported programs across community and schools saw 84 junior female participants.

This growth of female participation in junior cricket in Newcastle is very encouraging and strongly supported by the availability of development programs such as Daughters & Dads and Woolworths Cricket Blast, and the clear opportunities that NJCA is providing for girls to move to club-based competitions. By investing in these initiatives, we are providing young girls with invaluable opportunities for personal growth, resilience-building, and establishing meaningful connections. Moving forward, continued support for development programs is crucial to unlocking the full potential of female participation and creating a vibrant future for female cricket in Newcastle.



U14/2 City Vixens

Newcastle Cricket Zone Representative Cricket

alloggio:

U15s Girls Country Youth Championships (January, Singleton)

Coach: Chris Wharton

Manager: Julie Wharton

Newcastle U15 CYC Female Squad: Sophie Clune, Alexandra Cook, Madison Kedwell, Charlotte Kelly, Laura Knipe, Evie O'Brien, Molly Dare, Felicity Wharton (c), Cosette Thomas, Christine Fernance, Isabella Bliss, Ruby Morrison, Tilda Pola, Jasmine Old, Chloe Nguyen, Anwen McDougall



Newcastle's U15 Female Country Youth Champs

This year was the inaugural year for the U15 Country Youth Championships. Initially, we had been aiming to form two teams for this competition, however for a long range of reasons, this was consolidated into one. As a result, and given the competition was being held relatively locally, we selected a squad of 16 to enable some of our developing rep players the opportunity to play a couple of the games during the week, in amongst our more experienced players. A few days before the competition started, it was established that North Coast were short of players, which enabled a

number of our development players the opportunity to play additional matches during the week, and support North Coast players getting onto the field as a full team each day.

The Newcastle girls went through the week undefeated, and were deemed winners of the U15 Country Youth championships. Matches were all played in T20 format

Round			
1	Hunter Valley 35 <i>Isabella Bliss 3/3 (2)</i> <i>Charlotte Kelly 2/2 (1.4)</i> <i>Molly Dare 2/4 (2)</i>	Def By	Newcastle 2/39 <i>Molly Dare 17</i>
2	Newcastle 3/128 <i>Evie O'Brien 43*</i> <i>Sophie Clune 25</i>	Def	Northern Inland 9/61 <i>Molly Dare 3/7 (4)</i>
3	Newcastle 6/105 <i>Laura Knipe 20</i> <i>Sophie Clune 17*</i> <i>Felicity Wharton 17</i>	Def	Riverina 9/78 <i>Cosette Thomas 3/3 (3)</i> <i>Molly Dare 2/8 (3)</i>
4	Newcastle	V	Bye
5	Newcastle 7/115 <i>Laura Knipe 42</i> <i>Felicity Wharton 14*</i>	Def	Mid North Coast 9/87 <i>Molly Dare 3/10 (3)</i> <i>Felicity Wharton 2/2 (2)</i> <i>Madison Kedwell 2/16 (3)</i>
6	Greater Illawarra 5/91 <i>Ruby Morrison 2/12 (2)</i>	Def By	Newcastle 7/92 <i>Laura Knipe 18</i> <i>Cosette Thomas 13</i>
7	North Coast 9/33 <i>Felicity Wharton 2/0 (0.5)</i> <i>Molly Dare 2/0 (2)</i>	Def By	Newcastle 7/144 <i>Evie O'Brien 45</i> <i>Molly Dare 17*</i>

Of the Newcastle girls, Laura Knipe was the top run scorer for the team on 98 for an average of 19.6. Molly Dare was the top bowler for the team, taking 12 wickets at an average of 3.92. Molly Dare was awarded the medal for Player of the Championships.

Of the more than 100 players who participated in this competition, Laura Knipe and Evie O'Brien both finished in the top 10 batting honours. Molly Dare was the leading wicket taker for the competition.

A special mention to Isabella Bliss who took a hat trick in the match against Hunter Valley on the first day.



Isabella Bliss, after her hat trick



Molly Dare, Player of the Championship

U13s Girls NSW Youth Championship (Mollie Dive Shield)

Coaches: John Fernance & Michael Gaggin

Newcastle NSWYC / Mollie Dive Shield U13 Female Squad: Christine Fernance, Emma McRae, Evie O'Brien, Tilda Pola, Cosette Thomas (c), Evie West, Evie Gaggin, Bronte Morgan, Jane Cruckshank, Madeline Coyte, Jasmine Old, Emily Cameron

Newcastle entered the Mollie Dive Shield in season 2022/23 as defending champions and had a sound mix of returning players and those playing representative cricket for the first time. And with close to 30 players trialing for the team (many of which also had the opportunity to represent Newcastle in the Ron Ahrendts Carnival), it was fantastic to see such interest in junior female representative cricket.

The regular season both opened and closed positively with consecutive wins, but an unfortunate washout and a couple of batting collapses in the middle of season influenced our final position of 5th on the ladder. The team deservedly qualified for the finals, an accomplishment they should be very proud of, but unfortunately bowed out in the sudden death qualifying final.

The cricketing development of so many of the girls over the course of the season was clearly evident. The opportunity to play in such a competition, ranging from the quality of the opposition, to the way the games are officiated, right through the ownership the team had to take for its own on field decision making, is something that has accelerated not only the technical ability of each of the players but importantly their cricketing intellect.



1	North Shore Maroon 97 <i>Christine Fernance 4/9 (3.2)</i> <i>Emily Cameron 2/2 (2)</i>	Def By	Newcastle 2/100 <i>Emma McRae 59</i> <i>Tilda Pola 17</i>
2	Newcastle 4/142 <i>Cosette Thomas 62*</i> <i>Tilda Pola 33*</i> <i>Evie O'Brien 25</i>	Def	Paramatta 8/110 <i>Tilda Pola 2/8 (3)</i> <i>Christine Fernance 2/16 (6)</i>
3	Newcastle	V	Bye
4	Newcastle 62 <i>Jane Cruckshank 19*</i> <i>Evie Gaggin 11</i>	Def By	Inner West 2/63 <i>Christine Fernance 1/3 (3)</i> <i>Evie West 1/7 (3)</i>
5	Washed out		
6	Newcastle 67 <i>Evie West 15*</i> <i>Bronte Morgan 12</i> <i>Evie Gaggin 11</i>	Def By	Manly Warringah 8/86 <i>Christine Fernance 3/18 (6)</i>
7	Camden 9/132 <i>Bronte Morgan 5/12 (6)</i> <i>Evie West 2/21 (6)</i> <i>Christine Fernance 2/26 (6)</i>	Def By	Newcastle 4/158 <i>Cosette Thomas 78*</i> <i>Emma McRae 29</i> <i>Jane Cruckshank 15</i>
8	Newcastle 109 <i>Cosette Thomas 54</i> <i>Emma McRae 14</i>	Def	North Shore Blue 93 <i>Evie West 3/9 (5)</i> <i>Tilda Pola 2/15 (4)</i>

FR1	North Shore Blue 6/118 <i>Christine Fernance 2/22 (6)</i> <i>Evie Gaggin 1/1 (1)</i>	Def	Newcastle 49 <i>Bronte Morgan 20*</i>
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Of the Newcastle girls, Cosette Thomas was a standout with the bat, finishing on 204 runs, for an average of 51.0. Christine Fernance was the runaway leading wicket taker for the team, finishing with 15 wickets for an average of 7.2. Christine and Cosette shared the champion player award for the team, finished on equal points.

Of the more than 150 players in the competition, Cosette finished 6th for batting and Christine finished 3rd for bowling.

U11 Ron Arendts Carnivals

In addition to the above competitions, an U13s representative girls team also participated in the Ron Arendts here in Newcastle in January.

A highlight of the carnival included Christine Fernance being the top wicket taker from all three participating Newcastle teams (ie Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and U13 Girls); and Christine taking home the Patrick Sharpe Memorial trophy as the champion player from amongst the three Newcastle Teams.



Christine Fernance
Ron Arendts Champion Player



Ron Arendts U13 Newcastle Girls.
Photo courtesy of EMG Photography

U15s Girls NSW Youth Championship (Margaret Peden Shield)

Coach: Chris Wharton

Manager: Julie Wharton

Newcastle NSWYC / Margaret Peden Shield U15 Female Squad: Sophie Clune, Alexandra Cook, Aaliyah Hiskens, Madison Kedwell, Charlotte Kelly, Laura Knipe, Ruby Morrison, Felicity Wharton (c), Caoimhe Bray, Isabella Bliss, Cosette Thomas, Molly Dare, Evie O'Brien, Tilda Pola, Emma McRae, Sienna Edwards



This year's Peden team comprised about half of last year's Peden team who made the semi finals, and about half of last year's Mollie Dive Shield winning team. The draw this year was gruelling, with a huge commitment from families to a compressed set of fixtures held mid week from late December through to mid January. There was overlap with a number of other pathway programs, which meant that there were several games where some of our stronger players were not available due to other representative commitments. Combined with a mix of T20 matches and 40 over matches, where a win did not gift you the same points each time, and an unfortunate wash out, our girls were unlucky not to make the finals and finished sixth.

Nonetheless, our Newcastle girls represented us very well, and we can all be proud of the manner in which they approached every game. We were fortunate to have some great support from a few of our older Mollie Dive girls, when we found ourselves short of players.

Unless otherwise noted, matches were played as 40 over format, with results and notable achievements as follows:

1 (T20)	Central Coast 6/107 <i>Madison Kedwell 1/5 (2)</i>	Def By	Newcastle 1/109 <i>Caoimhe Bray 68*</i>
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	<i>Felicity Wharton 1/12 (3)</i>		<i>Sophie Clune 32*</i>
2	Newcastle 124 <i>Sophie Clune 38</i> <i>Caoimhe Bray 14</i>	Def By	Sutherland St George 137 <i>Caoime Bray 2/12 (6.3)</i> <i>Felicity Wharton 2/16 (6)</i>
3 (T20)	Hornsby Kurringai & Hills 8/74 <i>Madison Kedwell 3/17 (4)</i> <i>Molly Dare 2/13 (3)</i>	Def By	Newcastle 8/142 <i>Sophie Clune 38</i> <i>Caoimhe Bray 30</i> <i>Felicity Wharton 15*</i>
4	Newcastle 75 <i>Madison Kedwell 13</i> <i>Felicity Wharton 12</i>	Def By	Paramatta 3/77 <i>Felicity Wharton 1/7 (4)</i> <i>Alex Cook 1/11 (2)</i>
5	Washed out		
6	Camden 128 <i>Felicity Wharton 3/12 (6.1)</i> <i>Alex Cook 3/25 (6)</i>	Def By	Newcastle 7/129 <i>Felicity Wharton 19*</i> <i>Madison Kedwell 15</i>
7	Newcastle 132 <i>Laura Knipe 39</i> <i>Sophie Clune 28</i>	Def	Bankstown 70 <i>Ruby Morrison 1/1 (0.4)</i> <i>Caoimhe Bray 1/3 (3)</i> <i>Cosette Thomas 1/7 (2)</i> <i>Molly Dare 1/9 (3)</i>

Congratulations to Sophie Clune who led the batting for the team, finishing with 149 runs, at an average of 29.8. Felicity Wharton was the leading wicket taker finishing with 9 wickets at an average of 7.89, and also took home the champion player award for the team based on combined points.

Of the more than 200 players in this competition, Sophie Clune finished in the top 10 batters for the competition. Special mention to Caoimhe Bray who finished in the top 20, despite missing almost half of the games due to other / higher representative commitments. Felicity Wharton finished in the top 10 bowlers for the competition.

U11 Boys Academy & Ron Arendts Carnival

Coaches: Oscar and Charlie Walker

The 2022/23 U11's squad had a fantastic first season of their representative careers, beginning their junior pathways with a bang. The squad underwent a six-week academy that developed the basic principles of the game and gaining exposure to competitive cricket. Positive batting, tight bowling and electric fielding were priorities of the academy sessions, as well as developing young leaders on and off the cricket field.

The squad of twenty-four players was split into Newcastle and Lake Mac sides to take on the Ron Arendts Carnival in January 2023.

Lake Mac Attack:

Squad: Axl Williams, Billy Moule, Charlie Booby, Finnegan Rogers, Freddie Hare, Taj Burrows, Rory Najor, Lucas Hood, Nideesh Phad, Ollie Watson, Riley Cross, Viktor Johansson



Photo courtesy of EMG Photography

The boys gained two fantastic wins over the course of the Ron Arendts tournament, facing some very tough competition throughout. Key performances from Axl Williams (33* vs Hornsby) and Nideesh Phad (50* vs North Coast) demonstrated the high level of cricketing talent within this group. As well as the boys performed, their character, commitment and tangible excitement for the game was impressive to see, and was a pleasure to coach. Massive thank you to Dylan Cross for his much-appreciated help, and the parents for their willingness to help out on gameday.

Newcastle Blasters:

Squad: Amos Hunt, Angus Quinnell, Austin Mcmanus, Charlie Wicks, Conor Hazell, Fletcher Davies, Jasper Grainger, Johnny Staunton, Koby Walton, Lucas Chaff, Xavier Catterson, Ashley Newell, Harrison Smith



Photo courtesy of EMG Photography

The Blasters' carnival was one of resilience and determination, as an early run of competitive games couldn't quite produce a victory. Development as the tournament progressed was clear and exciting, as the time spent in the academy, post-game huddles and watching the Aussies play in the rain break culminated in a well-deserved win over Tamworth. Notable performances included Jasper Grainger's 55* and 35, Conor Hazell's 37*, Charlie Wicks' 3-29 and Ashley Newell's 3-13. The tournament was a huge success and an honour to coach, special thanks to Nathan Wicks and the parents for their amazing support.

U12 IDCA Foster Shield – Newcastle Blasters

Coach: Tim O’Neill

Manager: Rob Berry

Squad: Louis Berry, Elliott Bullen, Ethan Young, Matthew Priestley, Evan Moller, Hayden Moller, Nebin Liby, Isaac Dean, Sulaiman Muhammad, Damon O’Neill, Callum van Huisstede, Benji Ruse.



Round 1	Newcastle	Draw (washout)	SEJCA
Round 2	Newcastle 5/165 <i>I Dean 38</i> <i>N Liby 3-18</i> <i>C Van Huisstede 3-5</i>	Def	IWHJCA 112
Round 3	Newcastle <i>E Moller 32</i> <i>I Dean 27</i> <i>I Dean 2-11</i>	Def	C&WSCA 7/135
Round 4	Newcastle 7/123 <i>E Bullen 29</i> <i>I Dean 27</i> <i>S Muhammad 1-8</i>	Def	PJCA 8/122
Round 5	Newcastle 9/113 <i>B Ruse 39</i> <i>I Dean 24</i> <i>C Van Huisstede 4-12</i>	Def	Parramatta 103

	<i>E Moller 2-6</i>		
Round 6	Newcastle 8/140 (40 overs) <i>L Berry 28</i> <i>E Moller 28</i> <i>E Moller 1-6</i>	Wash out	Sutherland 2/38 (17 overs)
Round 7	Newcastle 131 <i>M Priestly 32</i> <i>C Van Huisstede 19</i> <i>S Mohammad 4-25</i> <i>C Van Huisstede 2-2</i>	Def by	Hornsby 170
Round 8	Newcastle 7/239 <i>I Dean 62</i> <i>B Ruse 50</i> <i>M Priestly 2-1</i> <i>D O'Neill 2-2</i>	Def	St George 26
Quarter Final	Newcastle 77 <i>L Berry 15</i> <i>L Berry 2-15</i> <i>E Moller 2-20</i>	Def by	Sutherland 137

U12 IDCA Foster Shield – Lake Macquarie Attack

Coach: Scott McIlveen

Manager: Alex Dare

Squad: Billy McIlveen, James Dare, Charlie Ingold, Connor Fitzsimons, Harvey Filipcevic, Jack Cameron, Liam Belfield, Yousef Jahangeer, Oliver Howard, Ray Nowlan Goodsir, Siva Sashank Nutalapati, Xavier Minto, Aarav Shah, Ethan Hunt.



The 2022/2023 U12 Lake Mac Attack Boys rep cricket team had a rushed start to the season, with the commencement date of the Foster Shield brought well forward to what we had expected. The team was made up of some of the previous year's U11 Newcastle Rep's and new players who were playing Stage 2 "real" cricket for the first time. The team quickly gelled and started producing some good performances with lots of different contributors with bat and ball in each game.

One of the team's biggest strengths in the competition was their team spirit. The boys really played for each other and exhibited plenty of encouragement towards each other's efforts, which was great to see.

The Fosters Shield season was a success making it through to the 1st Round of Finals, beaten by the eventual winners in an extremely close tussle.

Round 1	Inner West Harbour	Washout	Lake Mac Attack
Round 2	Lake Mac 10/162 (39) <i>Jack Cameron 47</i> <i>Billy Mcilveen 4/14 (6)</i>	Def	Canterbury/Wests 9/154
Round 3	Penrith	Washout	Lake Mac
Round 4	Lake Mac 10/142 (37) <i>Ray Nowlan Goodsir 24</i> <i>Charlie Ingold 23 (25)</i> <i>Harvey Filipcevic 4/3 (2)</i>	Def	Parramatta 10/88 (28)
Round 5	Sutherland 5/125 (40)	Def	Lake Mac 10/96 <i>Jack Cameron 24</i>
Round 6	Lake Mac 7/119 (40) <i>Jack Cameron 29</i>	Wash out	Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai 2/52 (15)
Round 7	St George 10/78	Def by	Lake Mac 8/296 <i>Jack Cameron 70 (53)</i> <i>Harvey Filipcevic 67 (57)</i> <i>James Dare (33)</i> <i>Liam Belfield 2/6 (5.1)</i> <i>Ray Nowlan Goodsir 2/6 (3)</i>
Round 8	Lake Mac 8/124 (40) <i>Siva Sashank Nutalapati 29</i> <i>Billy Mcilveen 2/12 (6)</i> <i>Ethan Hunt 2/17 (5)</i> <i>Ray Nowlan Goodsir 2/19 (5)</i>	Def by	Northern Suburbs 10/128 (39)
Quarter Final	Northern Suburbs 9/126 (38.3)	Def	Lake Mac 10/122 (37) <i>Billy Mcilveen 27</i> <i>Charlie Ingold 3/25 (6.3)</i> <i>Ethan Hunt 2/4 (4)</i> <i>Liam Belfield 2/19 (5)</i>

Lismore U12 Carnival

With some minor changes to the team, including the addition of Lucas Holt, we headed off to the Lismore Carnival in January. This was a great experience for the boys and the first time any of them had played on turf wickets. Whilst the team performed well with 4 wins from 6 games, again the highlight was the team spirit and camaraderie with the boys cheering and supporting each other's achievements on the way to team success.

Round 1	Lake Mac Attack 10/71 <i>Jack Cameron 20*</i> <i>Charlie Ingold 30*</i>	Def by	Parramatta 8/137
Round 2	Lake Mac Attack 10/66 <i>Siva Sashank Nutalapati 17</i> <i>Charlie Ingold 4/5 (3)</i> <i>Ethan Hunt 2/4 (1.4)</i>	Def	FNC Sixes 10/34
Round 3	Lake Mac Attack 3/140 <i>James Dare 31</i> <i>Jack Cameron 30</i> <i>Xavier Minto 3/12 (3)</i> <i>Ray Nowlan Goodsir 2/2 (1.2)</i> <i>Connor Fitzsimons 2/13 (3)</i>	Def	Tamworth 10/66
Finals Rd 1	Lake Mac Attack 1/98 <i>Billy Mcilveen 32*</i> <i>Jack Cameron 31*</i> <i>Billy Mcilveen 3/6 (4)</i>	Def	Central Coast 7/97
Finals Rd 2	Lake Mac Attack 9/145 <i>Billy Mcilveen 39</i> <i>James Dare 33</i>	Def	MNCJCC 3/146
Finals Rd 3	Lake Mac Attack 7/165 <i>Connor Fitzsimons 40*</i> <i>Muhammad Yousef Jahangeer 32</i> <i>Lucas Holt 31</i> <i>Charlie Ingold 3/6 (3)</i> <i>Ray Nowlan Goodsir 3/10 (3)</i>	Def	FNC All Stars 10/102

U13 NSW Country Youth Champs – Newcastle Blasters

Coach: Rob Thornton

Managers: Paul Langworthy & Andrew Freeman

Squad: Ben Wiehahn, Cooper Digney, Corban Byrne, Isaac Moran, Izaan Nadeem Mohammed, Joseph Vandenberg, Leo Langworthy, Leo Thornton, Mason van Huisstede, Samuel Gallagher, Samuel Hunt, Thisas Ratnayake, Archer Freeman, Oliver Burns, George Waskett and Isaac Catterson.

The season again required a large squad due to COVID and injuries. These changes always felt seamless as each new team member fitted straight into the group. It was a season that started with some great wins, through a combination of some outstanding individual performances and a committed team approach, starting with great efforts against Lake Mac Attack, Hunter Thoroughbreds and Far North Coast and finishing with an outstanding run to the Ballina Carnival grand final where we had great wins against strong Brisbane and Sydney teams and challenged perennial winners Manly Warringah right to the end. The team should be proud of the 12 run outs during the carnival including five in one game against the very strong Brisbane BEARS.



After starting the season on fire, there were games during the Youth Championships in Armidale where complacency and a lack of focus led to some disappointing results. The team deserves great credit for quickly learning from this and performing so well in Ballina.

Individually;

Izaan Mohammed had an outstanding season with the bat, his 83 not out in the Ballina semifinal against Inner West Harbour was great to watch and he took the tournament batting trophy.

Joe Vandenberg was the best bowler in the Youth Championship. Leo Thornton had the top figures 6 for 12 off 8 overs when his left arm wrist spinners were unplayable v North Coast and some important innings opening the batting in big games.

Corban Byrne continued his excellence in the field and behind the stumps, taking out another fielding trophy. Corban was also part of a fantastic last wicket partnership with Ben Wiehahn who bravely returned from injury with Sam Gallagher as runner to nearly get us a victory from nowhere v Mid North Coast.

Special mention to Sam G who made the captaincy role his own, quickly earning the respect of teammates and showing great intuition when making decisions with conviction and leading with example, particularly creating run out opportunities with his fielding in the covers and mid wicket.

Isaac Moran, our Nathan Lyon, had another great season, when illness and injury meant a number of fast bowlers were unavailable Isaac put his hand up to open the bowling where his ability to contain and dismiss key batters was outstanding. Isaac and Mason van Huisstede should also be applauded for their commitment to batting and fielding, previously weaknesses. They have turned these into strengths by working very hard.

Isaac Catterson's fantastic attitude and tenacity in the field, and, along with George Waskett and Sam G, aggressive strokeplay in the middle order, were key factors to some great success.

Archer Freeman, Mason, Thisas Ratnayake and Olly Burns all took crucial wickets bowling intelligently and accurately.

Sam Hunt showed his class in the Ballina semi final and grand final and will go into next season with a lot of confidence.

Lastly I don't think any of us will ever forget Cooper Digney hitting a six into the roses at Jesmond to win the game v Hunter Valley.



Thank you to Paul Langworthy who started the season as Manager, and Andrew Freeman who took over after Leo Langworthy unfortunately missed the season through injury. Thank you also to our scorers Dan Hunt and Justin Moran and our wonderful mums, especially Megan Hunt, Anna Byrne and Ainsley Vandenberg who organised things brilliantly to make the weeks in Armidale and Ballina so much fun for everyone.

Bring on 23/24!!

U13 NSW Country Youth Champs – Lake Macquarie Attack

Coach: Clint Daniels

Manager: Troy Goodwin

Squad: Sam Cross, Logan Cashmore, Drew Saxby, Ollie Daniels, Preston Jolliffe, Krish Gulati, Ash Rallage, Jack Gaggin, Max Badior, Hamish Allan, Henry Batchelor, Artie Zukowski.



Another solid season for the Lake Macquarie U13 boys without achieving the results we had hoped for.

We finished the NSW Youth Champs with a 3/4 win/loss record with all losses being close games. The highlight was a near perfect performance against eventual winners Central Coast. Lake Mac bowled exceptionally to dismiss Central Coast for 63 before achieving a 9 wicket win which showed what the team was capable of.

Drew Saxby continued to show his exceptional talent and was leading run scorer, whilst Preston Jolliffe again topped the wicket taking list. Special mention again to Preston for his leadership skills which certainly make the coaches job easier.

The boys had a fantastic time away at the Ballina carnival with only 1 close loss costing them a place in the finals, finishing with a 4/1 win/loss record. Highlights included an amazing 100 by Krish Gulati,

top run scorer to Ollie Daniels and leading wicket taker again to Preston. Congratulations to the Newcastle team who finished the carnival as runners up.

Highlight for the coaches is that all team members are currently contributing and starting to develop some consistency. We have been lucky enough to maintain almost the same team for the past couple of seasons and this is reflected by the friendships that are being built between the boys and their families. Well done boys and hope to catch you next season.

U14 NSW Country Youth Champs – Newcastle Blasters

Coaches: Steve Pratt & Rob Parkinson

Manager: Mark Vella

Squad: Lachlan Cornwell, Felix Vella, Fraser Pratt, Jack Hughes, Will Parkinson, Koby Blight, Patrick Dunn, Isaac Flanagan, Archie Wicks, Hayden Checker, Harrison Najor, Riley Sharples, Xavier Dean.



The Newcastle Under 14s boys impressed both on & off the field, in a Summer where we competed in both the **NSW Youth Championships (Northern)** & the **Graeme Malcolm Shield**.

The boys were a delight to Coach - our reward was to see them grow as cricketers, & as young men. The boys are a credit to their families, & represented our town proudly, & with great sportsmanship.

The NSW Youth Championships (Northern) saw us finish 4th (of 8) on the ladder, with 3 wins, 1 tie, & 3 losses, from our 7 rounds.

Our batting was held together by **Will Parkinson** (165 runs @ 55), & **Hayden Checker** (125 runs @ 18). **Will Parkinson** was a deserved winner of our Batting Award for Season 2022/2023.

Our bowling was probably our strength & remained fairly reliable throughout the Summer.

Jack Hughes (11 wickets @ 12), **Koby Blight** (10 wickets @ 12.2), & **Riley Sharples** (10 wickets @ 15.5) were the pick of our attack.

In a tight contest, **Jack Hughes** took out our Bowling Award for Season 2022/2023, & was our most consistent bowler all Season.

Our Coaches' Award went to **Koby Blight**, who continues to impress. Koby's teammanship & work ethic is to be admired.

Special mentions to our glovemen, **Isaac Flanagan & Hayden Checker**, who did a fantastic job behind the stumps, & to **Fraser Pratt & Will Parkinson** who did a terrific job captaining the squad throughout the Summer.

Five (5) of our Squad were rewarded with higher honours – selected in the U14 State Challenge Squad. We were very proud of these lads' selection.

Congratulations to **Koby Blight, Riley Sharples, Harrison Najor, Hayden Checker, & Will Parkinson**.

Overall, a very pleasing performance from a great bunch of boys – a vast improvement from the previous Season.

The Graeme Malcolm Shield saw us finish with 1 win, 1 draw, & 3 losses, from our 5 rounds.

For various reasons, our Squad was depleted for the Carnival.

We thank the following lads for helping us out:

Izaan Mohammed, Abu Basnayake, Jacob Chaff, Alby Grange, Hamish Mulcahy, Sam Gallagher.

Our better batsmen for the Carnival – **Izaan Mohammed** (68 runs @ 68), **Hamish Mulcahy** (74 runs @ 25). Our better bowlers for the Carnival – **Jack Hughes** (7 wickets @ 12.9), **Alby Grange** (4 wickets @ 21.3).

Once again, it was an honour & pleasure to be involved with the Coaching & Development of these thirteen (13) young men.

U14 NSW Country Youth Champs – Lake Macquarie Attack

Coach: Dan Beckett

Manager: Kate Drew

Squad: Angus Saunders, Charlie Drew, Clancy Moore, Elvis Blyth, Garvish Gulati, Hunter Croft, Kye Velich, Max Langworthy, Sam Worland, Tasman Davidson, Thijs Beckett, Thomas White.

Lake Macquarie Under 14's had a highly successful representative cricket campaign, participating in the 14's Country Youth Championships, and then winning the Graham Malcolm Shield held in our hometown of Newcastle.

This group's major strength was its connectedness, mate ship and spirit. Their "team first" mentality, often unseen in representative arenas, combined with some individual talent and brilliance made for a memorable representative season and a team culture second to none.

The group began its campaign chalking up strong wins over Newcastle, Hunter, North Coast and Mid North Coast but went down to Central Coast, who we have established a strong rivalry with over the last two seasons.



Leading the way with some strong individual performances were **Hunter Croft, Clancy Moore and Angus Saunders** with the bat; and **Tom White** who dominated the competition with the ball to be leading wicket-taker. He was ably supported by **Max Langworthy, Garvesh Gulati, Tas Davison and Sam Worland**.

At the conclusion of the Youth Championships **Tom White and Tas Davison** were selected in the U/14 State Challenge in Dubbo. An incredible achievement. And whilst many Lake Macquarie players may have felt disappointed that we were not more heavily represented in Dubbo, they picked themselves up to win the Graham Malcolm Shield held annually in Newcastle in January. Young guns **Ollie Daniels and Preston Joliffe** joined the squad and produced some memorable performances. **Elvis Blythe's** and **Charlie Drew's** spin, key runs from **Kye Velich** and some silky glovework from **Thijs Beckett** all contributed to massive wins. The group's steel and mental toughness saw them overcome pressure games, defeating North Coast, Parramatta Presidents, Hornsby and then completely outplaying a confident Parramatta to make the final. Only the weather denied this special group an independent title and we ended up sharing the Shield with Penrith as Joint Winners.

Special mention to Tom Croft, a gifted coach and mentor to the boys. His hard work saw an acceleration in the boy's development, both on and off the pitch. And to Kate Drew, the team's hard-working manager. Her communication was next level, and helped grow the culture so that parents and family members were not just part of the team, but friends and mates.

I look forward to seeing such a talented group continue to grow.

U15 NSW Country Youth Champs – Newcastle Blasters

Coach: Ian Harborne

Manager: Chris Rheinberger

Squad: Kunwar Gaidhu, Tom Harborne, Tyler McInnes, Hamish Mudford, Oliver O’Brien, Rohan Power, Harry Price, Jonah Rheinberger, Jacob Sheather, Lucas Vincent, Jake White, Jack Woodbridge



The Newcastle U15's rep team showed much improvement on their previous season, even with six new players coming into the team. With the addition of new players Jacob, Jack, Jake, Rohan, Hamish and Kunwar, all managed to slot in straight away and become integral members of the team. The local game against Lake Macquarie to start the rep season was a thriller with Lake Macquarie winning by only 6 runs. An outstanding bowling performance from Rohan with 4/33 gave us a good chance to chase down 191 runs. A solid batting performance from Tyler with 67 and 40 from Harry placed us within reach of victory. With a last-ditch effort from Jake with 28 runs and Jacob as number 11 batsman holding one end saw Newcastle go agonisingly close. This performance identified the fighting spirit that was going to continue throughout the season.

Our second match saw a solid win over Hunter Valley with Lucas attaining 76 runs and Tyler achieving 4/37 with the ball setting the tone heading into the Grafton carnival.

Results at Grafton were very pleasing for the Newcastle team this time, winning 4 out of the 5 matches compared to the previous carnival where only one victory was achieved. To start the carnival Newcastle beat Central Coast by 7 wickets with shared wickets by Tyler and Rohan to keep the total low, and then an impressive batting partnership between Jonah and Tyler scoring 64 and 40 runs respectively saw us get home easily. A slight hiccup in our campaign saw us beaten in a T20 match against Far North Coast even after a solid 40 from Lucas Vincent, but this made us hungry to win the remaining matches. The next T20 saw us bounce back against Mid North Coast where we scored 190 after solid innings from Lucas 62, Jonah 40 and Tom 32. Then tight bowling saw us easily get home

with wickets shared between Hamish (2), Jonah (2), and Olly (1). Our next match saw a big victory against top of the table North Coast due to performances from Jonah 3/14, two direct hit runouts from Lucas, and then Lucas scoring 44* and Jonah 17*. An easy win! Last match was against Northern Inland where we rolled them for 94 and then chased the score 3 wickets down. Stand out performances from Jack with 3/18, Jacob 2/10 and Tyler 2/17 with the ball, and Harry 24 runs with the bat.

A big thank you to Chris for managing and assisting with coaching, and to our scorers Christina, Mandy, Richard, Murray, Andrew, and finally to Grant for all the wonderful team and individual photos throughout the season. Finally, to all the U15 Newcastle boys who worked hard, played with good team spirit, and were respectful at all times. Well done!!!

U15 NSW Country Youth Champs – Lake Macquarie Attack

Coaches: Matt Voigt & Luke Harradine

Manager: Rob Jolliffe

Squad: S Voigt (C), D White (VC), H Jolliffe, A Mills-Punshon, J McKay, O Harradine, I Preston-Poole, A Gibson, C Taylor, Z Nugus, N Westcott, W Goeldner, A Berry.



I am pleased to present the coach's report for the Under 15 Lake Macquarie Youth Championship cricket team for the 2022/23 season. It was an exciting and rewarding season for our team, filled with growth, development, and memorable moments.

Overall, the team performed admirably and showcased tremendous skill and teamwork. They finished the season with a 6:1 Win:Loss record in the Norther Region Youth Championships, securing the title of Northern Region winners. The team went on to the play off for the overall country title against the southern region winners and won the game convincingly.

The dedication, commitment, and sportsmanship displayed by the players has been commendable, and they have made great strides in their cricketing abilities which have culminated over multiple years playing representative cricket.

Round 1	Lake Mac 191 <i>O. Harradine 67</i> <i>D. White 28*</i> <i>S. Voigt 5/28</i> <i>D. white 2/28</i>	Def	Newcastle 185
Round 2	Lake Mac 3/165 <i>J. McKay 53</i> <i>S. Voigt 32</i> <i>A. Mills-Punshon 32</i> <i>A. Gibson 3/18</i> <i>A. Berry 2/44</i>	Def	Central Coast 164
Round 3	Lake Mac 6/98 <i>A. Berry 36</i> <i>A. Mills-Punshon 20</i> <i>D. White 3/17</i> <i>C. Taylor 2/11</i>	Def	Hunter Valley 92
Round 4	Lake Mac 4/142 <i>C. Taylor 50</i> <i>H. Jolliffe 41</i> <i>I. Preston Poole 3/18</i> <i>W. Goeldner 1/3</i>	Def	Northern Inland Bolters 8/101
Round 5	North Coast 5/131	Def	Lake Macquarie 59 <i>A. Berry 13</i> <i>I. Preston Poole 11</i> <i>W. Goeldner 2/26</i> <i>A. Gibson 2/35</i>
Round 6	Lake Macquarie 226 <i>A. Mills-Punshon 61</i> <i>I. Preston Poole 49</i> <i>A. Berry 4/25</i> <i>J. McKay 3/14</i>	Def	Mid North Coast 108
Round 7	Lake Macquarie 175 <i>J. McKay 37</i> <i>S. Voigt 33</i> <i>N. Westcott 5/20</i> <i>D. White 2/21</i>	Def	Far North Coast 123

FINAL	Lake Macquarie 2/148 <i>L. Vincent 60</i> <i>H. Jolliffe 52*</i> <i>S. Voigt 3/14</i> <i>T. McInnes 3/25</i>	V	Western Plains Outlaws 8/147
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I would like to express my gratitude to the players for their hard work, dedication, and commitment throughout the season. The support from the parents and guardians has been invaluable, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to them. Additionally, I want to acknowledge the efforts of the coaching staff, team managers, and the cricket association for their support and guidance.

The Under 15 Lake Macquarie Youth Championship cricket team has had a memorable and successful season. The players have shown great promise and improvement, and I am confident that with continued dedication and focus, they will achieve even greater heights in the future. I look forward to the upcoming seasons and witnessing the growth of each player in the squad.

Matt Voigt

Season 2022/2023 Awards

Newcastle Cricket Zone Representative Player Award Recipients 2022-23

Team Awards

	Batting Award	Bowling Award	Coaches Award	Champion Player
U12 Foster Shield - Newcastle	Isaac Dean 193 runs @ 32.17	Callum van Huisstede 11 wkts @ 6.27	Matthew Priestley	Isaac Dean 312 points 193 runs 6 wickets 2 catches 1 runout
U12 Foster Shield -Lake Macquarie	Jack Cameron 202 runs @ 28.86	Billy McIlveen 8 wkts @ 7.0	Ethan Hunt	
U13 Female Youth Champs – Mollie Dive Shield	Cosette Thomas 204 runs @ 51.0	Christine Fernance 15 wkts @ 7.2	Evie West	Cosette Thomas & Christine Fernance 255 points
U13 Country Youth Champs – Newcastle	Izaan Mohammed 135 runs @ 22.5	Joseph Vandenberg 8 wkts @ 9.38	Isaac Moran	Samuel Gallagher 218 points 93 runs 7 wickets 4 catches
U13 Country Youth Champs – Lake Macquarie	Drew Saxby 126 runs @ 25.2	Preston Jolliffe 11 wkts @ 8.45	Logan Cashmore	
U14 Country Youth Champs – Newcastle	Will Parkinson 165 runs @ 55.0	Jack Hughes 11 wkts @ 12.0	Koby Blight	Thomas White 274 points 67 runs 13 wickets 1 catch
U14 Country Youth Champs – Lake Macquarie	Hunter Croft 140 runs @ 23.33	Thomas White 13 wkts @ 4.54	Garvish Gulati	
U15 Female Youth Champs – Margaret Peden Shield	Sophie Clune 149 runs @ 29.8	Felicity Wharton 9 wkts @ 7.89	Isabella Bliss	Caioimhe Bray 218 points 116 runs 4 wickets 6 catches 1 runout
U15 Female Country Youth Champs	Laura Knipe 98 runs @ 19.6	Molly Dare 12 wkts @ 3.92	Sophie Clune	Molly Dare 264 points 63 runs 12 wickets 1 catch 2 runouts
U15 Country Youth Champs – Newcastle	Lucas Vincent 244 runs @ 40.67	Rohan Power 12 wkts @ 10.17	Jacob Sheather	Tyler McInnes 374 points 185 runs 11 wickets 3 catches
U15 Country Youth Champs – Lake Macquarie	Jin McKay 147 runs @ 29.4	Darcy White 10 wkts @ 10.8	Cooper Taylor	

U16 Female Country Champs	Kate McTaggart 209 runs @104.5	Felicity Wharton 5 wickets @ 6.2	Madison Kedwell	Kate McTaggart 323 points 209 runs 5 wickets 3 catches 1 runout
U16 Bradman Cup	Lachlan Williams 286 runs @ 71.5	Jamie Dickson 13 wickets @ 12.7		Lachlan Williams 286 runs 3 wickets 1 catch

Major Awards

Female Player of the Year	Felicity Wharton
Male Player of the Year	Lucas Vincent
Fielder of the Year	Cossette Thomas
Best in Ron Arendts (Patrick Sharpe memorial medal)	Christine Fernance



Newcastle Cricket Zone
Representative Cricket
Major Award Winners
2022/23

Other Awards

U15 Female CYC	hat trick	Isabella Bliss	3/3 off 2 overs v Hunter Valley
U13 Female YC - Mollie Dive	5 for	Bronte Morgan	5/12 off 6 v Camden District
U13 CYC	5 for	Preston Joliffe	5/5 off 6 overs v Far North Coast
U14 CYC	5 for	Koby Blight	5/26 off 10 overs v Hunter Valley
U14 CYC	5 for	Thomas White	5/20 off 8 overs v Newcastle
U14 CYC	5 for	Samuel Voight	5/28 off 10 overs v Newcastle
U15 CYC	5 for	Noah Westcott	5/20 off 10 overs v Far North Coast

NJCA Competition Awards 2022/2023

Major and Minor Premiers

Grade	Minor Premiers	Major Premiers
Sixers Girls League - Stage 1	Charlestown Kookaburras	Charlestown Kookaburras
Sixers Girls League - Stage 2	Sabres Girls Sixers	Sabres Girls Sixers
U10 Clarke	Sabres Blue	Sabres Blue
U10 Holland	Toronto Workers Kookaburras	Toronto Workers Kookaburras
U10 Poulton	Merewether U10 White	Belmont Whips
U11 Division 1	Merewether U11 Green	Merewether U11 Blue
U11 Division 2	WSJCC White	Lake Macquarie Sixers
U11 Division 3	Charlestown Sixers	Charlestown Sixers
U12 Division 1	Merewether Gold	Merewether Gold
U12 Division 2	Lake Macquarie Sixers	Lake Macquarie Sixers
U12 Division 3	Stockton Gold	Stockton Gold
U13 Division 1	Merewether U13 Green	WSJCC Red
U13 Division 2	WSJCC U13 Green	Merewether Brown
U14 Division 1	WSJCC Red	WSJCC Red
U14 Division 2	Charlestown U14 Sixers	WSJCC Green
U14 Division 3	Merewether Silver	Merewether Silver
U15-U18 Division 1 - Friday Premier League	Sabres Premier League	Sabres Premier League
U15-U18 Saturday Division 2	Charlestown Sixers	Charlestown Sixers
U15-U18 Saturday Division 3	Toronto Workers Yellow	Lake Macquarie Thunder
U15 Monday Social T20 Bash	Merewether Blue T20	Sabres T20
U18 Monday Social T20 Bash	Valentine Eleebana CC	Valentine Eleebana CC

Major Award Recipients

AWARD	NAME	CLUB
Female Player of the Year	Caoimhe Bray	Newcastle City JCC
Male Player of the Year	Isaac Craik	Charlestown JCC
T20 Player of the Year	Alex Gallagher	Newcastle City JCC
Wicket Keeper of the Year	Laura Knipe	Newcastle City JCC

Club Champions

Unrestricted Club Champion:

Merewether District Junior Cricket Club

Restricted Club Champion:

Cricket Southern Lakes

Individual Award Recipients – Champion Player

Grade	Name	Club
Stage 2 Girls League	Bronte Morgan	Newcastle City CC
U12 Division 1	Callum van Huisstede	Newcastle City CC
U12 Division 2	Charlie Ingold	Merewether DJCC
U12 Division 3	Kaydn Macauley	Stockton JCC
U13 Division 1	Isaac Moran	Newcastle City CC
U13 Division 2	Oliver Croft	Lake Macquarie JCC
U14 Division 1	Preston Jolliffe	Lake Macquarie JCC
U14 Division 2	Caoimhe Bray	Newcastle City CC
U14 Division 3	Hunter Chappell	Nelson Bay JCC
U15-U18 Div 1 Premier League	Jayden O'Connor	Western Suburbs JCC
U15-U18 Div 2	Samuel Woods	Merewether DJCC
U15-U18 Div 3	Isaac Craik	Charlestown JCC
U15 Monday T20 Bash	Cooper Davies	Western Suburbs JCC
U18 Monday T20 Bash	Alex Gallagher	Newcastle City CC

Individual Award Recipients – Batting

Grade	Name	Runs @ average	Club
Stage 1 Girls League	Emily Hughes	145	Newcastle City CC
U10 Clarke	Thomas Porter	325	Newcastle City CC
U10 Holland	Enoch Sagayam	230	Charlestown JCC
U10 Poulton	Saxon Logan	322	Merewether DJCC
U11 Division 1	Blake Wildermuth	455	Merewether DJCC
U11 Division 2	Reid Hampton	245	Lake Macquarie JCC
U11 Division 3	Angus Quinnell	252	Lake Macquarie JCC
Stage 2 Girls League	Bronte Morgan	456 @ 228	Newcastle City CC
U12 Division 1	Liam Belfield	340 @ 56.67	Hamilton Wickham JCC
U12 Division 2	Charlie Ingold	319 @ 35.44	Merewether DJCC
U12 Division 3	Gus Mitchell	242 @ 48.4	Western Suburbs JCC
U13 Division 1	Ben Wiehahn	284 @ 56.8	Newcastle City CC
U13 Division 2	Matthew Priestley	289 @ 48.17	Merewether DJCC
U14 Division 1	Izaan Mohammed	428 @ 38.91	Newcastle City CC
U14 Division 2	Riley Sharples	412 @ 37.45	Merewether DJCC
U14 Division 3	Rajbir Singh Gujral	263 @ 65.75	Merewether DJCC
U15-U18 Div 1 Premier League	Lucas Vincent	390 @ 78	Charlestown JCC
U15-U18 Div 2	Samuel Woods	385 @ 192.5	Merewether DJCC
U15-U18 Div 3	Jack Woodbridge	456 @ 57	Cricket Southern Lakes
U15 Monday T20 Bash	Izaan Mohammed	241 @ 80.3	Newcastle City CC
U18 Monday T20 Bash	Alex Gallagher	381 @ 63.5	Newcastle City CC

Individual Award Recipients – Bowling

Grade	Name	Wickets @ average	Club
Stage 1 Girls League	Harriet Morton	16 @ 6.44	Newcastle City CC
U10 Clarke	Thomas Porter	24 @ 4.83	Newcastle City CC
U10 Holland	Harry Lulham	23 @ 3.04	Cricket Southern Lakes
U10 Poulton	Saxon Logan	31 @ 2.87	Merewether DJCC
U11 Division 1	Blake Wildermuth	32 @ 4.69	Merewether DJCC
U11 Division 2	Spencer Davies	24 @ 5.71	Western Suburbs JCC
U11 Division 3	Martin Hallin	20 @ 6.75	Charlestown JCC
Stage 2 Girls League	Chloe Nguyen	19 @ 4.58	Merewether DJCC
U12 Division 1	Callum van Huisstede	15 @ 8	Newcastle City CC
U12 Division 2	Kenneth Brown	21 @ 6.76	Stockton JCC
U12 Division 3	Kaydn Macauley	11 @ 6	Stockton JCC
U13 Division 1	Isaac Moran	17 @ 10.71	Newcastle City CC
U13 Division 2	Angus Beck	24 @ 4	Merewether DJCC
U14 Division 1	Xavier Dean	18 @ 9.67	Merewether DJCC
U14 Division 2	Caoimhe Bray	21 @ 5.29	Newcastle City CC
U14 Division 3	Lachlan Walter	16 @ 5.06	Merewether DJCC
U15-U18 Div 1 Premier League	Cooper Wilmott	14 @ 9.07	Western Suburbs JCC
U15-U18 Div 2	Tej Swaroop Nutalapati	20 @ 8.95	Western Suburbs JCC
U15-U18 Div 3	Isaac Craik	22 @ 5.59	Charlestown JCC
U15 Monday T20 Bash	Cooper Davies	11 @ 8.73	Western Suburbs JCC
U18 Monday T20 Bash	Jonas McLean	15 @ 11.2	Waratah Mayfield CC

NJCA Inc Financial Report

Profit and Loss, year ended 31 May 2023

Carnivals		
Income	45,318	
Expenses	- 28,608	16,710
Competition		
Rego income	45,852	
Training levy	11,305	
Competition expenses	- 40,789	
Contribution to Projects	- 2,000	
Blasters 500	- 5,955	
Summer Smash	- 4,730	
Girls day out	- 880	2,803
Administrator		
Levy	48,014	
Expenses	- 53,145	5,131
Representative		
Income	17,806	
Expenses	- 29,692	11,886
Other		
Interest income	1,025	
Smith Park nets income	1,409	
Storage costs	- 2,593	
Other overheads	- 5,526	5,685
Net profit/(loss)	-	<u><u>3,189</u></u>

Financial Position, at 31 May 2023

Assets		
Cash		223,575
Smith Park nets infrastructure		55,838
Other equipment		4,758
GST Refundable		958
		<u>285,129</u>
Liabilities		
Wages tax payable		1,048
<u>Infrastructure Contributions not spent</u>		
- Contributions received	25,382	
- Less Payments to projects	- 2,500	22,882
<u>Grants Received not spent</u>		
- Ulinga Park upgrade	5,500	
- Heaton Park Wicket	3,636	
- Adamstown Park	27,000	
- Lewis Oval Pitch	10,000	46,136
		<u>70,066</u>
Net assets		<u><u>215,063</u></u>



Photos from grand finals 2023/24



Thank you

Thank you to all our supporters and sponsors including Alleggio, City of Newcastle, Kingsgrove Sport, Kookaburra, Lings Trophies and EMG Photography. We appreciate your ongoing support and assistance and look forward to working with you during the next season.

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