

Ainslie Park Cricket Club

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



AINSLIE PARK

#49

# Achievements



## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Nathan Croot

## PREMIERSHIPS

RDCA Community Big Bash T20

F Grade - Ian Dench Shield (4th XI)

u16/1 - Bill Wilkins Shield

## RUNNERS-UP

Women's East D-Grade (1st XI)

Don Smith Shield (3rd XI)

Stage 1 Koalas (Girls' Stage 1 Stars)

## MERRIL ANDERSON CLUB CHAMPION

Trent Sier

## ROSS FRANCIS BEST CLUB PERSON

Brendon Freeman

## DERRICK GUYE BOLT AWARD MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

Xavier Walles

## ROBERT PENDREY JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPION

Xavier Freeman

## LEN BETTESS JUNIOR MERIT AWARD

Archer Croot

# Committee, Officials and Life Members

## Executive

<b>President</b>	Matt Thomas
<b>Secretary</b>	Alan Moss
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sean Minetti
<b>Vice President</b>	David Sykes
<b>Senior Coordinator</b>	Leigh Jones
<b>Junior Coordinator</b>	Nathan Croot
<b>Women's Coordinator</b>	Jo Chong Wah / David Sykes

## Operations group

<b>Junior Secretary</b>	Brendon Freeman
<b>Blasters Coordinator</b>	Nicole Jones
<b>Clothing</b>	Max Moss
<b>Social Coordinator</b>	Kim Lamont
<b>Bar Managers</b>	Trent Sier & Ethan Stone
<b>Players Representative</b>	Jimmy Hunter
<b>Child Safety Officer</b>	Ryan Willmott
<b>Sponsorship</b>	Rick Forster
<b>Property Officer</b>	Sean Arbuckle

## Coaching and selection

<b>Senior Coach</b>	Leigh Jones
<b>Assistant Coaches</b>	Rowan Peters (Development Squad, strength and conditioning)
<b>Selection Committee</b>	Darren Walles (Chairman), Leigh Jones (1st XI), Josh White (2nd XI), Matthew Barr (3rd XI), Colin Guye (4th XI), Garry Walles (5th XI)
<b>Junior Coaches</b>	Brendon Freeman (u12/3), Dale Warren (u14/7), Darren Walles & Nathan Croot (u16/5), Will Macklin (u16/1), Leigh Walles & Kieran Crowe (Stage 1), Grant Stutsel & Jason Boyd (Stage 2), Mark Arnot (Blasters)

# Committee, Officials and Life Members

## Life members

Phil McCallum (dec)	Ian Britnell	Alan Wadsworth (dec)	Jeff Berry
Robert Pendrey (dec)	Derrick Guye	Chris Anderson	Graham Young
Lindsay Foulis	Dom Valeri	Russell Davison	Geoff Anderson (dec)
Frank Colverson	Garry Walles	Les Eaton (dec)	Jamie Davison
Andrew Peters	Stuart Minetti	Ian Cubitt	Sean Arbuckle
Jason Foulis	Matt Thomas	Barry Westgarth	Glen Thomas
Darren Walles	Leigh Walles	David Delahunty	Alan Moss
Trent Sier	Sean Minetti	Ryan Willmott	Nathan Croot

# President's Report

Welcome everyone to the Annual Report for the Ainslie Park Cricket Club for Season 2024 / 25.

Each Summer our club brings together hundreds of families, individuals, current players, supporters and past members. From kids and their parents just starting out, through to our club legends, some of which are in their 7<sup>th</sup> decade of club cricket. Our sport is unique in how it brings together such a large variety of ages and abilities, men and women, the serious and those just wanting some fun and then throws them together in a team environment. Not only does this allow for such scenarios as Grandparents playing with their Grandkids and Dads with their Sons & Daughters, but this year we also had club legend Dereck Guye get to watch his 3 sons and 2 of his Grandkids all win a match together.

This coming together also extends off the field. I love that we now regularly have multiple tables of Juniors at the Thursday night dinner, that our Women's team has created a 'Ladies' stand for Saturdays and that the men reciprocate and turn up in numbers to support the Women on a Sunday.

As we're about to enter our 50<sup>th</sup> season, clubs like ours, and community cricket in general have never faced more challenges. We're all busier, with our members enjoying many more competing interests, costs and fees are always increasing and clubs are significantly more complex to run with increasing requirements from council and organising bodies and the club now operates 6 days a week for 6 months of the year. All of this with the same size committee the club has had for over 40 years. This coming season we will be asking for more help to share the load. This is vital so our amazing volunteers don't burn out and we can keep providing the type of experience we currently enjoy for many more seasons.

We've had so much to celebrate this season – 11 sides making the finals and premierships to our

16/1s and 4<sup>th</sup> XI, our Senior T20 side winning the entire tournament from over 40 clubs, our women's team making the Grand Final for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. Our Stage 1 girls and senior 3<sup>rd</sup> XI also took it all the way to the grand final, unfortunately missing out after great seasons. Off the field, we've had some incredible social functions including that huge country and western night, plenty of tasty Thursday night meals and weekend breakfasts with the best coffee in the RDCA.

Next season is the clubs 50<sup>th</sup>, something we will celebrate in multiple ways including a gala dinner and season launch. We will be looking to continue expanding our Women's and Girls programs, with extra investment in coaching and hopefully more teams. This season our Women played as Ainslie Park, not Ainslie Ranges for the first time, and from next season I'm proud to say our girls will also be playing as Ainslie Park as well.

From an investment point of view, we are hoping to replace the centre wicket, repair and modernise the nets, improve the honour board situation in rooms and hopefully get a split system in the kitchen. We are also aiming to significantly increase our investment in coaching and development throughout the whole club – from our Blasters, through Juniors, Mens, Womens and even the Vets if there's still something to teach the old dogs!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people. First of all, our Executive Committee.

**Alan Moss** – As secretary easily the hardest and busiest job in any club, Mossy manages to do it effortlessly without ever getting flustered and all between rounds of golf and power walks. In addition, he does a heap of extra work around the club, especially on match day and getting rooms ready and packed up at either end of the season. On top of this



# President's Report

he also looks after entering all the scores into Play HQ. Most importantly of all he orders all of our coffee supplies!

**Sean Minetti** – the role of Treasurer has never been more important and this guy is a rock star. Much, much more than 'just book keeping', we are effectively running a small business and Karl does this on top of his actual job. Karl is our financial brains and involved in every aspect of the Executives decision making. He also looks after all of our contracts and regularity obligations.

**David Sykes** – has been involved in everything this season. Whether looking after grants, helping with our female teams, jumping in the canteen, attending random meetings, knowing where things are in the storage container and basically handling every random thing thrown at him, he is constantly helping solve problems.

**Leigh Jones** – what can I say about this guy. Not only is he our club coach but also captain of the 1's, the Senior Representative (very much a separate job), heavily involved in our social media, helping run our huge Blasters program, involved clothing, merch and the clubs marketing in general. Our Best Clubman last season and someone who makes the club a better place with everything he does.

**Nathan Croot** – our newest life member and our Junior Coordinator. This is another huge and incredibly important job that Crooty has manage to nail yet again. Despite running the juniors and all of his other commitments outside of cricket Crooty is one of those guys who is always around just helping out with whatever is needed, especially in the canteen.

**Jo Chong Wah** – our Woman's Representative contributed a huge amount of work, especially at the start of the season when trying to establish who was playing, what teams we would have and where, our relationship with Croydon Ranges and any new rules /

playing conditions from the RDCA in these rapidly evolving competitions.

**Brendon Freeman** – Our very well deserved Best Clubman for season 24/25. Whatever you think this guy does around the club, triple it. Freeza is down there 6 days a week, involved in the U/12's, U/14s, Seniors, Junior Girls, Women's and Vets. He is also the Junior Secretary, on the Social Media Sub Committee, and effectively on the executive being at every meeting etc. The additional work he does around the club in general is immense, especially in packing the rooms up for the winter. He also puts in many, many hours pulling this report together.

I know I will miss somebody here so my apologies in advance. However, I'd like to acknowledge the following in no particular order – **Derrick Guye** for hosting Bolt night and being our #1 supporter, **Sue and Stuart Minetti**, not just scoring but the assistance with the Scoreboard, Play HQ, flowers and general help is invaluable. **Dallas Delahunty** for all the extra help and just jumping in everywhere. **Garry Walles** captaining again, helping with training and managing the balls every week. **Trent Sier** and **Ethan Stone** for running the bar and organising all of that purchasing. **Kim Lamont** for her amazing social events, the time and energy you put in is huge. **Max Moss** for all of his hard work on the clothing and other Merch – huge job and it looks great. **Darren Walles** another great season as Chairman of Selectors, also playing where you were needed rather than wanted, doing the U16's and all the other help. **Jo Shanks** and **Troy Harris** for the Thursday night dinners. **Lewis Davison** for help with the merch, and also jumping in the bar / canteen without ever needing to be asked. **Rick Forster** for all of the sponsorship work. **Sean Arbuckle** for all the work around the club especially painting the lines each week, and anything else that needs to be done.

**Brendan McGuinness** for running our fantasy

# President's Report

competition and helping with social media. **Nick Delahunty** for your help with the Women's team and Social Media, **Jo Walton** for the Bunnings BBQs, **Jamie Davidson** for all of the random stuff in the background. **Ted** and **Nathan Dugdale** for constantly jumping in where needed, **Ryan Willmott** – thanks for the work you did. **Nicole Jones** and **Mark Arnot** for looking after the Blasters, they just keep booming. I also want to thank all the captains, coaches I haven't mentioned already – **Pieter Van der Berg, Rowan Peters, Tom Stray, Dale Warren, Will Macklin, Leigh Walles, Jason Boyd, Georgia Priestley, Josh White, Matt Barr, Colin Guye** and **Cam Eustice**.

I'd also like to thank all of our **Life Members, Players, Volunteers, Supporters and Sponsors** – you're all incredibly valuable members of the Ainslie Park community.

And finally, I'd like to thank my family – **Sarah** for losing Chels and I for yet another summer and supporting us, and **Chelsea** for being my #1 helper when it comes to club shopping trips, setting up and serving in the canteen and already at 14 understanding the Ainslie Park mantra of 'Club 1<sup>st</sup>, Team 2<sup>nd</sup> and Individual last' better than most.

Enjoy the break and I hope to see everyone for a huge 50<sup>th</sup> season 25 / 26.

*Matt Thomas*

**President**

# Secretary's Report

Season 4 of my Secretarial stewardship completed and again another successful year for the club. Finals for 4 mens sides with 1 Flag and great effort from the Ladies in their 2nd season to play off in the GF again.

The job of Club Secretary can fill your time in quite adequately with the endless emails from various authorities including Cricket Victoria, RDCA, Maroondah Council and Government agencies. We are currently working on Grants that will fund our next range of Asset improvements. Hopefully if all goes to plan this will include New Pitch and Synthetic which will allow for new run ups and improved Net end run up together remove the issue on Rainy days of Lake Ainslie. Further Nets work is planned if grants are successful which will see the whole internal netting/poles/boxes replaced to greatly enhance safety. All this helps the Club but also takes enormous work to be successful in the Grant process.

None of this can work and no club can operate efficiently without a team effort and when you see the operation in full swing it still amazes me what an amazing Committee we had this season at APCC with each member pulling their weight on the Club portfolio elected for them. Thanks from myself and all the club must go to these people for their outstanding jobs and no excuse was given and the job completed.

Our team consisted of Matt Thomas as newly appointed (President), David Sykes (Vice President), Sean Minetti (Treasurer), Rick Forster (Sponsorship), Nathan Croot (Junior Coordinator), Brendon Feeman (Junior Secretary) Leigh Jones (Senior Men's Rep) and Jo Chong Wah/David Sykes as the Ladies Coordinator.

Big thanks to all who assisted including Ship and Pebbles (Bar) Sykesy and Freeza (Reports) Big Stu (wherever required) Max Moss (Clothing). Just goes to show why this club is so successful with the amazing help and support we have.

Once again our Travelling Wine Salesman President Matt Thomas led from the front again and continued on some amazing revenue streams for the Club and his enthusiastic leadership that sometimes can be lost on retirees shows how great our club is. Also the help provided from all the Freeman family was amazing and special thanks for support provided.

Congratulations to our Senior Coach Leigh Jones and his support team. From committee level it provides great comfort to know Leigh is leading the club and hopefully can lead us back to the top of the mountain again. The Senior sides were again successful with Leeroy and his team leading the way. Thanks to all the captains, coaches, team managers, scorers and helpers for all senior and junior sides. For the club to continue to thrive we require more participation from more people to volunteer on our committee and sub-committees.

Thank you for the loyalty of our sensational sponsors in what has been a very trying year globally. Please make sure we all support and promote our sponsors as much as we can.

*Alan 'Mossy' Moss*  
**Secretary**



# Treasurer's Report

The club recorded a trading surplus of \$5,702 for the 2024/25 season — an improvement of \$3,761 on last season. Our true net cash position, adjusted for amounts held on trust, receivables, payables, and accruals, increased by \$17,511 as at 30 April 2025.

This was the first season the club was required to register for GST. Aside from sponsorship the committee chose not to increase prices to cover this and so turnover and profit reduced as a result.

An unexpected bonus was the T20 Senior Premiership which saw the club collect a \$6,000 winners cheque. Thank you to the T20 squad for their hard work which the club rewarded with bar credits and complimentary tickets to presentation night.

## **Bar, Canteen and Social**

Profits from the bar, canteen, and social events were significantly down on last season. Some of this is due to increased costs of food and drink which we absorbed at the counter. Other reasons for a net reduction were no reunion this season, always a high turnover event. The club also covered Presentation Night tickets for the winning T20 squad and drinks for Grand Final teams.

There is a definite rebalancing of the types and time of sales, with more canteen and less bar becoming the norm. Thursday night has become a more consistent and reliable social evening than Saturday's which has seen a significant reduction in bar sales.

Thank you to Kim Lamont and her band of helpers for again managing our social calendar. Thank you to Trent and Ethan on the bar and to Matt for managing the canteen along with many other helpers.

## **Sponsorship**

General sponsorship fell, a not unexpected result given tougher conditions for small businesses who represent our sponsorship base. This was somewhat offset by increases on the player sponsorship side.

Sponsorship remains crucial to meeting our day-to-day operating costs and is a whole of club effort.

Thanks must go to Rick Forster, Alan Moss, and Jason Eaton for managing the general sponsorship program. Thank you to Leigh Jones and players who attracted a player sponsor for continuing to grow the program.

## **Membership Fees**

Player membership fees dropped this year due to a smaller senior player base, with more juniors who don't pay senior fees playing Saturday afternoons. A greater share of senior players took up the weekly payer program, something I only see growing in future.

The social membership program was reintroduced helping balance total membership fees to last season. Some work is needed to ensure this represents value for members next season.

## **Fundraising**

Fundraising activity was down again this season. We only ran one Bunnings BBQ again, thank you to Jo Walton for tackling this important job. Ladies day saw a good turnout but much lower funds raised than last season, a great effort nonetheless and the club contributed \$500 in donations from reserves for this worthy cause.

We received grants from Cricket Australia and Maroondah Council for the nets surface upgrade, such that there was no cost to the club.

Thank you to Brendan McGuinness for running the fantasy competition again, which nets a small profit.

## **Clothing**

Max Moss continues to do a wonderful job with our clothing. We again cleared old stock at heavy discounts but were able to turn a small profit. We are

# Treasurer's Report CONT.

still carrying old supplier stock which will have to be cleared next season. Quality issues from last season seem to be behind us now but lead times for in season orders are still a challenge.

## **Operating Costs**

Administration and playing costs were again tightly managed. Adjusted for capital expenditure (covered by aforementioned grants) administration costs were significantly reduced. Playing costs were on par with last season.

## **Financial Position**

Our balance sheet remains very healthy with significant cash reserves and only minor liabilities. We build up these reserves so we can continue to invest in our player programs and facilities.

The committee remains committed to investing in junior development and continuing to strengthen our senior playing group, both come with their challenges and we ask for patience as we attack both head on.

We expect that investments in the centre wicket and nets at Ainslie Park will impact cash reserves next season but bring great benefit to all players.

To our entire committee and all club members — your contributions, both formal and informal, are what make this club so special.

And to my wife Andrea, thank you for your support, both as a player and as Treasurer.

*Sean 'Karl' Minetti*

**Treasurer**

# Treasurer's Report CONT.

## Financial Report Notes

These notes are provided in the interest of clarifying key aspects of the Ainslie Park Cricket Club Financial Report for the year ended 30 April 2025.

Notes are only provided where there is a change in income or expenditure from the previous financial year that is sufficient to warrant explanation. All figures are adjusted for GST:

1. Bar/canteen and social event gross profit fell by 31% (~\$15,200) due to a decrease in social functions, increases in all food and drink costs and comping drinks and presentation night tickets for Grand Final teams.
2. Clothing saw a major improvement with the line profitable again ~(\$600) even after clearing some old stock at a heavy discount. There remains old stock that will likely be cleared next year at a discount.
3. Fundraising was up 280% (~\$19,300) due to grants received for the nets surface replacement.
4. Membership was up 8% (~\$2,400) due to the reintroduced social membership (~\$3,000) which was reduced by fewer player fees (~\$600) due to a reduction in full fee paying senior players.
5. Sponsorship was down 2% (~\$800) due to decreased general sponsorship (~\$3,200) but offset by an improvement in the player sponsor program (~\$2,400).
6. Other income (excluding recoveries from ERJFC) increased by 439% (~\$7,400) due to T20 winnings (~\$6,000) and increases in interest on savings and term deposits (~\$800).
7. Capital expenditure increased by 187% (~\$15,400) due to the nets resurfacing.
8. Light, power and heating decreased by 23% (~\$2,000) due to a decrease in rates and usage.
9. Non playing equipment decreased by 30% (~\$1,400) with investments in POS, scoreboard laptop, internet and BBQ.
10. Cricket ball costs increased by 40% (~\$2,300) due to an increase in per ball costs.
11. Playing equipment decreased by 96% (~\$4,300) with no major purchases.
12. Matchday streaming (~\$1,700) has been separately itemised for the first time and includes platform costs, internet and the purchase of a new camera.
13. Afternoon teas increased by 115% (~\$1,500) due to an increase in food prices and more reimbursements made to club volunteers.
14. Training expenses increased by 37% (~\$2,700) due to increased investment in school programs delivered by SEDA.
15. The nets redevelopment as per previous seasons continues to be depreciated on a straight line basis of \$8,000 per annum.

# Profit and loss

## Ainslie Park Cricket Club Inc

For the year ended 30 April 2025

# Profit and loss CONT.



# Profit and loss CONT.





# Balance sheet

## Ainslie Park Cricket Club Inc

As at 30 April 2025

# Coach's Report

At Ainslie Park, we continue to pride ourselves on punching above our weight as a club, and this season was no different. We put in some hard yards in the preseason, starting in July with our Development Squad and finishing with a couple of strong practice match performances. We had a few more players committing to weekend sessions of fielding and conditioning which was great to see, but we'd always love to see even more next preseason.

For a club of our size, we've also gone above and beyond to give back to the community, working with the Glenallen School for more than a decade. This was an area that we slipped a little bit in the previous season with fewer numbers attending the annual working bee. We called for a reaction to that and we got it, which was pleasing to see. We got back up to the attendance we expect when we're putting others before ourselves and pitching in to help the less fortunate. Thanks to those who attended the Glenallen working bee this season. It's an important part of who we are and what we're about.

We've produced another season with widespread success stories. The 4th XI premiership, 5 out of 6 teams in finals, Grand Final appearances from the Women's XI and the 3rds. Although we'd love to win every grade we compete in, success comes in many forms. Our women's program is two seasons in and has seen two grand finals, Jimmy Johnstone debuted in the 1s and played every game, young Xavier Walles took out the Bolt Medal, more young players filtered up the grades and played key roles. All really important measures of success.

Adding to a bit of a mixed bag, at the other end of the scale, the 1st XI managed to fight their way out of a relegation battle. As grim as that may sound, from top to bottom it was the tightest and most hotly contested Trollope Shield season we've ever seen, and shows what kind of challenge they face every single game. The last month of the season galvanised

the group and highlighted what our 1sts are still capable of, and we'll be doing whatever we can to bring those types of performances more consistently.

The Women's 1st XI had a consistent season, back to back Grand Final appearances and another season full of development across all players. Well done ladies! I have been so impressed, although not surprised with the improvement in our girls' skills and knowledge of the game. I'm not surprised because they always ask questions, all want to learn and all chip in to help their teammates improve. We couldn't ask for better attitudes towards their team and the club to inspire the next generation. Well done to Georgia in her first year of captaincy, and a big thank you to Pieter van der Berg for leading the Women's Program development and providing the women's team with a dedicated coaching resource.

Our 2nds started strongly, winning 6 of the first 8 games in an impressive show of our depth. Whilst we never want to make excuses, I think some of the momentum loss in the second half was due to the important players missing from that team. Cam Eustice (injury) and Lewis Davison (up to the 1s) were big losses in particular. We remain committed to filtering as much youth as possible into the 2s, and the fact we have the depth to do that allows us to look to the future with optimism. Taj, JC and Lith all had great seasons, with all the young 2s guys learning a lot playing with and against quality players in that grade every week. A big thanks and congratulations to Josh White for navigating his first season of captaincy.

Another big year for the 3rds as they got very close to a back to back season. A measure of our success as a club is seeing our juniors transition into seniors, then progress through the grades, and the 3rd XI this season has definitely been witness to that. We saw our juniors like Xavier Walles, Jobe Walton and Blake Gregson taking huge strides in the 3rds this season,

# Coach's Report CONT.

and Kento Inoue getting a taste of some higher cricket in the 3s. Thank you to Matty Barr who has done a brilliant job in managing the toughest team to captain.

It feels like a case of another season, another 4th XI premiership! Col Guye is an outstanding leader, so it was no surprise that the 4ths had a great year. Thanks Col for always thinking of our youth and the future of the club. It was great to see more young talent shining in this grade, with Kento second on the wickets tally, and Archer Croot gaining some valuable experience. These young players are learning from experienced heads like Troy, Nugget, Kieran and Hayden who led the way, so the premiership was a great reward for a bunch of players who all create a great environment for each other.

The 5ths finished 2nd in a tight grade. Gaz again led the troops, managing the mix of experience and youth well. The theme of more young players continued in the 5ths with Archer Croot, Jack Simpson, Benny Wallis, Xavier and Jas Freeman, Jarrod Crowe, Rob Stacey, Marek Rainczuk, Jayden Bullen and Chelsea Thomas all making appearances, as well as a few mentioned further up that went through the 5s and played higher. Thanks to the experienced seniors in this team who have welcomed these kids into senior cricket, that's what it's all about, and I hope to see all of them progress through the grades in years to come.

Thanks to Rowan for managing the Development Squad and strength and conditioning again, and helping with general coaching duties. He helped out when I couldn't be there as well and that is much appreciated. Spreading the coaching load is one of the main areas we'll see improvement next season. A subcommittee has already been working to appoint a broad and sustainable structure of coaching that covers all aspects of skills, as well as leadership, player welfare, development and more. The feedback

we often hear is that more players want access to more coaching, more often. We hear that, and we will be providing an exciting panel of coaching that will be accessible to the whole club, filled with names that you see filling our honour boards. I can't wait to see it in action.

A shout out to the committee who remained nothing but supportive. I appreciate the chats, check ins and everything else, over and above the hours that you all put into the club amongst busy lives. Thanks to our scorers Stu and Sue, our dinner organisers Troy and Jo, barmen Ship and Ethan, fantasy league manager BJ, and all of our other volunteers and supporters. A big thanks to Nicole who always supports me in putting in the time for the club.

It is and always will be the people that make the club, and that's why we'll go into our 50th season in great shape, because great people make it tick. See you all next season.

*Leigh 'Roy' Jones*  
Senior Coach

# Junior Coordinator's Report

We entered the 2024/25 season with the following teams:

- U16/1
- U16/5
- U14/7
- U12/3
- Girls Stage 2 Stars
- Girls Stage 2 Spirit
- Girls Stage 1 Stars
- Mini Bash Red
- Mini Bash Yellow
- Woolworths Blasters Program

First and foremost, a huge thank you to all the players who dedicated themselves to APCC this year. It was fantastic to see so many new players and families joining the club, which always brings a sense of excitement. Our training attendance was consistently high throughout the year, reflecting the commitment from both the boys and girls to improving their cricket skills.

As the season began, with a fresh mix of players, it was clear this year would be one of growth and development. Our teams enjoyed another successful season, making significant progress, while our Blasters program continues to thrive and is in great hands.

It was also wonderful to see so many of our junior players participating in Senior training sessions whenever possible. This provided them with a chance to further develop their skills while being surrounded by experienced players. Not only did they take part in training, but many also stepped up to play in matches and represented themselves with great pride. Well done to all!

A huge congratulations to Xavier Freeman, who took home the Junior Club Champion award – an incredible season and truly well-deserved! We can't wait to see many more seasons of runs from you mate!

Pieter Van Den Berg was awarded the Junior Volunteer of the Year Award. Thanks so much Pete for all your hard work and dedication this year, helping out our Girls and Mini Bash programmes with coaching, scoring, umpiring and general assistance—it's greatly appreciated.

Jobe Walton earned the Most Improved Junior Cricketer award. Jobe continues to go from strength to strength and once again played well above his grade and performed admirably. Well done Jobe on an outstanding year!

Archer Croot was honoured with the prestigious Len Bettess Merit Award, a recognition that speaks volumes about his dedication, character, and love for the APCC community. Archer truly embodies the spirit of the club. He's not only focused on his own success but is always looking to uplift others, offering support and celebrating their achievements. His genuine commitment to the collective success of the club makes him an invaluable member of APCC. Well done, Archer!

## Woolworths Blasters Program

Once again, led by the dedicated efforts of Mark Arnot and the fantastic team at SEDA Activate, we had over 50 enthusiastic Blaster registrations this year—an incredible achievement! This remarkable turnout reflects the growing excitement around the program, and it was heartwarming to see so many young faces engaged and having an amazing time. We truly hope to see many of these budding cricketers around APCC for years to come, continuing to develop their skills and passion for the game.

A special thank you goes out to Nicole Jones for her unwavering dedication and commitment to running the Blaster program. Nicole's hard work and meticulous management throughout the year

# Junior Coordinator's Report CONT.

ensured everything ran smoothly, creating a fun and nurturing environment for all involved.

We'd also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Andrea and Sean Minetti, who generously gave up their Friday nights to assist with the program's operations. Their time, effort, and enthusiasm were invaluable in ensuring the sessions were well-organized and enjoyable for the kids.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this year's Blaster program such a resounding success. Your dedication and support are deeply appreciated, and we look forward to continuing to build on this fantastic momentum in the future!

## Mini Bash Red and Yellow

Our Mini Bash program was in great hands with Leigh Jones taking the reins for this season, with wonderful support from his dad Gordon, Pieter van Der Berg, Brendon Freeman and also Ali Mulder as manager of the Red team. Big thanks to all the parents who contributed their time and energy. It was fantastic to see so many kids, some playing their first-ever season of cricket, turning up each Friday night, making new friends, and thoroughly enjoying themselves.

## Stage 2 Stars, Stage 2 Spirit and Stage 1 Stars

The Ainslie girls continue to go from strength to strength. The Stage 2 Stars were in a very strong competition but made it all the way through to a semi-final. Some stand-out individual years, with Chelsea and Elsie finishing third and fourth in the competition batting totals and Minuki equal top in the wickets, show we had plenty of talent but just not quite the depth and consistency to go all the way. The Stage 2 Kangaroos struggled more but had some good wins and a thrilling tie against Heatherdale. A

great year for Emmazelle taking out the batting and the bowling awards.

The Stage 1 Stars had a fabulous year ending in an exciting Grand Final which see-sawed to the end. Congratulations to Knox Gardens on their win but our girls held their heads up high and participated at the highest standard ever seen (by some knowledgeable observers) for this grade of cricket. A huge thank you to all the coaches and team managers who made girls cricket fun and successful in 2024/25.

## Under 12/3

Led by Brendon Freeman, the team made it through most of the year sitting in the Top 4 however fell just short in the finals. Fantastic effort nonetheless and it was great to see all the kids enjoying their cricket and developing their skills. Some players in only their second year of cricket showed great improvement so look forward to seeing what they can produce in years to come for APCC. Special thanks to Jo Chong Wah and Kelly Dohle who helped with most scoring for most of the season.

## Under 14/7

The team had a season full of growth and improvement, building on their progress from the previous year. Despite some early challenges, they consistently posted competitive scores and showed resilience in both batting and bowling. The team's determination paid off with stronger performances and a significant increase in runs scored, wickets taken, and improved fielding. Special thanks to Dale Warren for coaching and Trent Denham for being team Manager,

# Junior Coordinator's Report CONT.

## Under 16/5

Once again led by Darren Walles the team welcomed new players Kento, David, and later Will, who integrated seamlessly and strengthened the squad. Despite starting the season with a challenging run of results, the team remained competitive throughout the year and finished 5th, just narrowly missing finals.

Special thanks go to those who supported the team, including Len Simpson, Deb Stacey and parents who helped with scoring, canteen duties, and other contributions.

## Under 16/1

Didn't lose a game all year! A fantastic effort from these boys who have come together over the past few seasons and coming off a challenging year in 2023/24 where they struggled to win a game.

Huge thanks to Will for the amount of work he has put into the coaching and kids reaped the rewards on GF day. The team played with great energy and that shone brightly on GF day with great support from parents/family and APCC players/supporters.

## Representative Cricket

A big congratulations to the following players who took part in the various representative competitions over the summer break. A huge honour to be selected and well done on your efforts. We are very proud to have such a large number representing our club at a higher level and more importantly representing our club in the proper manner.

## VMCU CARNIVAL REPRESENTATIVES

### RDCA u12 Girls - Claudia Fatone Shield

- Zoe Walles
- Rosie Sykes (coach)

### RDCA u14 Girls - Julie Savage Shield

- Elsie Dohle
- Emily Mulder
- Matilda Jarrett
- Minuki Vidanagamage

### RDCA u12 Boys - Keith Mitchell Shield

- Xavier Freeman

### RDCA u14 Boys - Russell Allen Shield

- Jobe Walton
- Will Macklin (coach)

### RDCA u16 Boys - Keith McKay Shield

- Kalen Tahirovski

### RDCA u16 Boys - Jim Beitzel Shield

- Cooper Doughty
- Luke Spencer

## PREMIER & SUB DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

### Premier u15 Girls - Marg Jennings Cup

- Jas Freeman (Carlton CC)

### Premier u15 Boys - Dowling Shield

- Jack Evans (Camberwell CC)
- Taj Johnstone (Ringwood CC)
- George Lyons (Ringwood CC)

### Premier u18 Boys

- Mason O'Neil (Ringwood CC)

### VSDCA u15 Boys - Craig Shield

- Mitch Cliff (Bayswater CC)



# Junior Coordinator's Report CONT.

## Summary

To all the coaches, team managers, scorers, and others that helped in various aspects throughout the year, we thank you for your tireless efforts.

It takes many volunteers to make what happens on the weekend a success and to you I can't thank you enough.

To Brendon, thank you for everything you do behind the scenes. A lot of it goes unnoticed to the wider AP community but without you none of this happens.

To the Ainslie Park committee thank you for all your support as Junior Coordinator, your help and guidance made the job a lot easier and just a fantastic committee to be a part of.

To Amber, Harley and Archer, thanks for all your patience and understanding and allowing me to be part of this amazing club. The sacrifices you make allows me to do what I do and I really can't thank you enough.

See you all next season.

*Nathan Croot*

**Junior Coordinator**

# Our Sponsors

## Club Sponsors



# Our Sponsors CONT.

## Player Sponsors



# 50th Anniversary Season

Now we're heading towards season 2025/26 and it's time to celebrate the 50th year of our great club.

We have an exciting program of events coming up to mark the big 5-0, including a Gala Weekend and 50th Anniversary Dinner.

## Call for photos and stories

To mark the occasion we're also going to pull together a commemorative photo book but we'll need everyone's help to make it the best it can be.

If you have any photos from the 50 years of APCC you'd like to chuck in the mix for this chance to be immortalised with the legends of the club, please email to Sykesy ([apcctrivia@gmail.com](mailto:apcctrivia@gmail.com)) or if you only have hard copies and want assistance turning them into digital versions, send an email to let us know and we'll sort something out.

It doesn't have to be an action shot, or even have a bat or ball in it. Let's see pictures of games, social events, special people and places, anything that tells the AP story.

If you have a great photo, surely it will come with a great story. Let us know who's in the photo, when it was taken and where, and what makes it significant for our history.

Please pass this message on to anyone and everyone you think might have something to send in.

Looking forward to seeing the contributions.

*Dave 'DSVP' Sykes*

**Vice President**

## Follow APCC on social media

If you're not already following our socials, here's where to find us and keep up to date with all the APCC news and events!



### Main club page:

[facebook.com/ainslieparkcricketclub](https://facebook.com/ainslieparkcricketclub)

### Members group:

[facebook.com/groups/ainslieparkcc](https://facebook.com/groups/ainslieparkcc)  
(Search for 'Ainslie Park Members')



[instagram.com/ainslieparkcc](https://instagram.com/ainslieparkcc)