



The Pitch

This Month

The Story of
Don Washburn

NSW Country
Senior League and
Womens Country
Championships

NSW Country
Mens Europe Tour

Australian Nationals
Successes

Baseball5 Inaugural
Interschool
Competition



BNSW Game Day Pics

2023 May entries



Photo by Photo by Kirsty Tavae – 'Friends for life.'

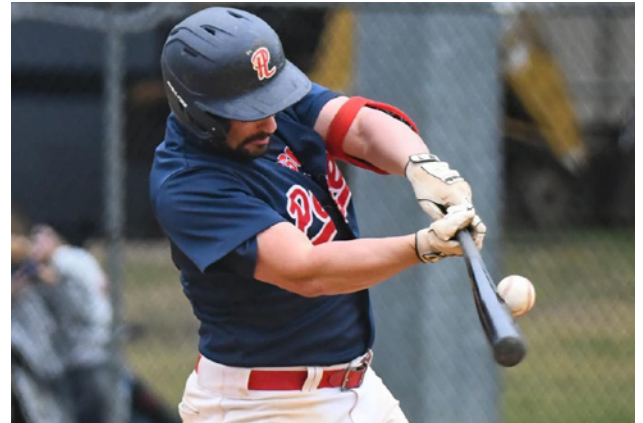


Photo by Mick Goddard – 'Contact.'



Photo by Carla Warren – 'The bird whisperer.'



Photo by Luke Hsieh – 'The tongue helps.'



Photo by Karen Jeffs – 'Is he going to make it – Slide, slide, slide!'



Photo by Jenna Attard – 'Home is where the heart is!'

Congratulations to the BNSW Monthly award winners!

A huge thank you to our nominees and all your hard work. We value all our members and it is for that reason we want to see more of YOU being acknowledged for all your hard work, all year round! Keep the comments and nominations coming in!

To vote for someone who deserves recognition [CLICK HERE](#)

Volunteer: Chris Hulford –
Dapto Chiefs Baseball
Coach: N/A
Umpire: Geoff Cooper –
Dapto Chiefs Baseball
Scorer: N/A

June Game Day Photo Winner

Congratulations to our #NSWGameDayPic winner this month, photo #2 by Luke Hsieh - 'The tongue helps.'

Entries are now open for next month's #BNSWGameDayPics. Send in your favourite photo through Facebook Inbox to be in with a chance to win!



Recognising Hard Work BNSW Monthly Award Nominees

Umpires

Geoff Cooper -

Dapto Chiefs Baseball

Geoff has dedicated over 30 years of his time to umpiring for the club and is a tireless volunteer as well. Can't thank him enough.

Volunteers

Chris Hulford -Dapto Chiefs Baseball

Most outstanding contribution to building part of our clubhouse, fixing our batting cage, and has dedicated years to the betterment of the club as a whole.



Click here to vote for someone in your club who deserves recognition.

Strike Zone

2023 NSWBUA Seminar – Baseball NSW Umpire School

NSWBUA announces the 2023 Umpire School is to be held on 8-9 July at Blacktown International Sports Park (BISP) Baseball Complex.

As the premier seminar on the calendar for this year, we encourage umpires of all levels to attend. Join us to gain your accreditation, or enhance and improve your skills of umpiring from some of the best instructors in the country,

Whether your interest lies in local junior or senior baseball, State League, Women's League or National Champions, join us to gain your accreditation, or enhance and improve your skills of umpiring from some of the best instructors in the country.

[Click here](#) – tickets are now on sale!



Club Corner

Attention all Club & Association Members who wish to achieve their Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) qualification for the 23/24 Season!!

BNSW in conjunction with the Office of Sport (OOS) are running a Baseball MPIO Certification for all members who have COMPLETED the online course component. The certification course will take place on Wednesday 6th September 2023 6pm-8pm via Microsoft Teams.

Due to the changes in the National Integrity Framework (NIF) and Sports Integrity Australia (SIA) now only handling Child safeguarding & Discrimination (Race, Religion, Gender & Age), the Club & Association MPIO's will have a significant role in the handling of complaints.

Baseball NSW wishes to remove any obstacles to our members in being able to complete their MPIO accreditation and invite all those interested members to participate in the certification.

The online component can be found [here](#).

Members can register via the following link [here](#).

If you have any questions or queries, please get in contact at: mpio@baseballnsw.com.au

Baseball NSW are hosting the last of three Season 2023/24 Game Day Registration Training session via Zoom for all BNSW Clubs.

The session will be held:

Monday 10th July 2023, 7pm - 9pm

Baseball NSW wish to run these sessions in the best interest of the clubs, so that you feel prepared for the influx of registrations in the upcoming season.

If you have any further questions, please get in contact with our Memberships and Registrations Manager, Mel Goodrich at mel@baseballnsw.com.au

[Zoom link](#) Monday 10th July.

Club Corner cont.

Showcase your Club with BNSW Try Baseball Days

Attention Baseball NSW clubs! We have an exciting opportunity for all of you to showcase the wonderful world of baseball to potential new players.

We know that your clubs are each organizing "Try Baseball Days" across the state, aimed at introducing the sport to individuals of all ages and skill levels. If you would like Baseball NSW to assist in promoting your days, please provide us with the essential information about the upcoming "Try Baseball Days" by sending an email to our Communications Manager.

Include essential information such as dates, locations, and any specific requirements, and attach a high-quality jpeg of your logo that we can use on social media content. Baseball NSW are happy to assist in promotion through our various channels, reaching a wider audience and maximizing participation. This is an incredible chance to inspire



newcomers, ignite their passion for the game, and grow the baseball community in New South Wales.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to showcase your club and attract potential players.

Please send us the necessary information to communications@baseballnsw.com.au today, and together, let's make these "Try Baseball Days" a huge success!

Club Corner cont.

2023 June

Long Weekend

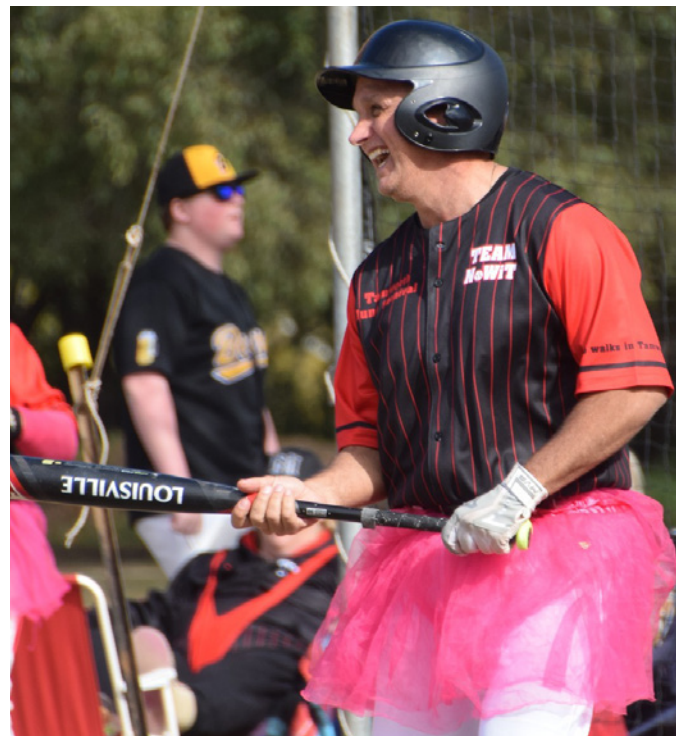
Tamworth Carnival

This month, Tamworth Baseball Association hosted another successful June Long weekend carnival!

As each year proves more successful than the last, it's great to see enthusiastic participation in the carnival and the participants' dedication, sportsmanship, and passion for the game make the event a resounding success.

Congratulations to all the winning teams in their respective grades, from 'A' all the way to 'I' grade! We also recognise the commendable efforts of all the teams who participated in the event. We hope it was an enjoyable weekend for all!

Baseball NSW appreciates the hard work of the Tamworth Baseball Association committee and volunteers to ensure the event is a success. Thank you to the coaches, managers, and support staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the weekend was enjoyable for all.



Your dedication and commitment to the development of baseball are instrumental in fostering a love for the game within the community.

Club Corner cont.

2023 June

Long Weekend

Results

A Grade Final				
Country BNSW	16	def	Tamworth	11
B Grade Final				
Canberra	5	def	Bluegrass Baseball	4
C Grade Final				
Sydney Deadstars	14	def	Rumble Roos	5
D Grade Final				
Sydney Deadstars	9	def	Braves	2
E Grade Final				
Team Duff	12	def	Shoalies B&B	7
F Grade Final				
Beers	5	def	North Sydney Saints	4
G Grade Final				
Team Duff	12	def	Beer Pigs	11
H Grade Final				
Heroes & Villains	9	def	Trash Pandas	3
I Grade Final				
Central Coast Hammerheads	12	def	Beers	7

2023 June Long Weekend Tamworth Carnival Gallery



Photo's by David Hamilton.

Club Corner cont.

Active Kids Vouchers Announcement

A recent announcement was made by the NSW Office of Sport, regarding the future of the Active Kids and First Lap voucher programs.

All NSW Sports have been informed children enrolled in school will be eligible for a new \$50 Active Kids voucher from 1 July. The new Active Kids voucher will be valid until 31 January 2024.

On 1 February 2024, a new means-tested Active and Creative Kids voucher program will be launched for children enrolled in school. The voucher will be for \$50 and will be issued twice a year, at the start of terms 1 and 3. The new program will cover activities currently available under both the Active and Creative Kids voucher programs.

The Office of Sport, Create NSW and Service NSW are working closely together to develop the business and operational model for the new program and we will continue to keep us updated regularly.



In the immediate term, the Office of Sport voucher and communications teams will be focusing on encouraging the redemption of the \$100 Active Kids and First Lap vouchers before they expire on 30 June this year.

Read the full media release from the NSW Office of Sport [here](#).

View the BNSW announcement on the Active Kids Voucher Update [here](#).

College Catchups

Knight's Junior, Chris Rofe, has been making some waves over in America lately!

He comes home later this year after a successful college career.... but first, he will complete his duties for Willmar Stingers in the Northwoods league.

In May of this year, Rofe became the Lancers' single-season record holder for strikeouts (90), passing Blake Svoboda (89). Chris played juniors for Castle Hill Knights, State Championships for Hills, represented NSW Country and City teams at nationals (including winning the U18 tournament in 2016). He also played Senior baseball in the State and Winter Leagues for Baulkham Hills and Marrickville.

Congratulations to Chris, and it's great seeing our NSW players thriving overseas!



Representative Events 2023 Dates & Venues Announced

Baseball NSW is pleased to announce the dates and venues of our major tournaments taking place in the new year.

Be sure to mark your calendars as some of the most exciting junior competitions of the season approaches!

Thank you to the clubs who have volunteered to host these events.

We can't wait to see everyone out there in 2023!

Event	Date	Venue
Senior League World Series	29th July - 5th Aug	Easley, SC
Senior Mens A and B Division Country Championships	4th-6th Aug 2023	Blacktown International Sportspark
Coasties Cup	Aug 2023	TBA (Central Coast)
Little League World Series	16th-27th Aug	Williamsport, PA
Junior Country Championships	30th Sep - 2nd Oct 2023	Coffs Coast Sport and Leisure Park
Barclay Cup	1st - 7th Oct 2023	Perth, WA

The Story of Don Washburn, a Local Legend

Don Washburn is one of the most well-known umpires around Baseball NSW for umpiring multiple games at a variety of levels. This month, BNSW, with the help of his son Alan Washburn, wanted to share the story of one of our local legends.

Don grew up on the South Side of Chicago in White Sox territory. He became interested in baseball at six years old and his first live game was a White Sox match at Old Comiskey Park in 1952. He attended his first Cubs game at the Friendly Confines of Wrigley Field with his father in 1957. As a child, Don played little league, as did every child in the Midwest. You can't deny, his love for baseball was something that started very early on!

When Don moved to Australia in 1975, he realised quickly that there wasn't much baseball to watch! As his son, Alan, became of age to play, Don had the chance to relive his youth by enrolling him in t-ball. He spent time with Alan



out in the front yard playing catch with his original old worn mitt, pictured below. When Alan was 14, they had the opportunity to then play in the same team for the first and only season (Attached below) It was a low-grade team based on having fun, but a chance nonetheless to create cherished memories. The two got to spend plenty of time around the diamonds in the coming years across the various Baseball NSW competitions!

Through his unwavering commitment to taking his children to the games, Don ended up talking with some people and

The Story of Don Washburn, a Local Legend cont.

found out more about the “professional” umpiring scene. The family likes to say that was the weekend they ‘lost him for good’. Don would say that was the weekend that he learnt how to beat the system – he began getting paid for watching a ball game from the best possible vantage point. Later that year, the BNSW umpires’ association awarded him the “Rookie of the Year” award as a late 50-something-year-old! It was a great acknowledgment and his immediate rise up the ranks to the Sydney state league was due credit to someone who knows the rules inside out and is one of the best to ever do it.

Don would possibly say one of the proudest moments of his umpiring career was umpiring a Sydney Blue Sox pre-season game, which he alludes to in his article [“You’ve got the plate, mate.”](#) His sons and their friends showed up to support (and cheekily pull some pranks on their father), but at that point in time Don felt a bit out of his depth, quite fresh to umpiring but still yearning to improve and push himself further. In the article, he recounts the game and highlights how he “conquered Everest”

Don has gone on to umpire almost every single level of baseball conceivable in this country. He still loves to do junior baseball games on a Saturday morning, metro league on a Saturday afternoon, women’s games on a Friday night, masters comps throughout the Summer, and Sunday state league baseball year-round. He umpires school baseball tournaments and helps umpire bull-pen sessions to practice



The Story of Don Washburn, a Local Legend cont.

calling balls and strikes. He's never far away from a game, and even when he isn't rostered on, he'll still have his gear in the back of the car, and hang around a game, hoping to be asked to help.

While still umpiring now, his involvement with the game has only increased. He is frequently a guest commentator for the Baulkham Hills Kookaburras Baseball YouTube channel. His eloquent way with words writing and speaking, especially with his mid-west American accent, brings a new type of comfort to the viewers and knowledge to the broadcasts.

Thank you, Don, for all your service and commitment to our great sport, Baseball NSW and the amazing clubs in and around our Sydney Metropolitan area. Your unwavering support has surely inspired many more to follow in your footsteps.

If you would like to read more about Don's story, feel free to read his article by clicking [here](#).



BNSW Successes at Australian Nationals 2023

Baseball NSW would like to recognise the hard work and talent of the teams who attended their respective Australian Championships over the past couple of months.

The lead-off event for the Australian Championships was Senior League. This year Ryde and Cronulla represented NSW and their associations at the event. Congratulations to both teams on their success, with Cronulla finishing in 3rd and an outstanding victory for Ryde finishing as Champions of the Senior League division. They have won the opportunity to represent Australia at the World Series, a stage that showcases the very best in youth baseball from around the globe. Best of luck Ryde!

In the Intermediate League division, Ryde Hawks came away with a silver medal this after contesting a spot in the world series against Brisbane North! Hills secured the bronze defeating the Southern Hills Warriors in their final game also. To have both teams finish in the top three at Nationals in the first two National tournaments is a huge accomplishment.



For our Junior Leaguers, congratulations to Cronulla who finished in third place and Ryde Hawks finishing 9th. With rain delays and reschedules, the teams persevered and competed over the four days, pushing through all the changes.

Finally, a huge congratulations to Hills, Cronulla and Ryde Hawks on their successes at this year's Little League Nationals across both divisions.

The Hills Division II teams finished in first and second place at this year's event, with Blue coming away victorious in the grand final. A huge achievement for these teams!!

BNSW Successes at Australian Nationals 2023 cont.

The Hills Little League Majors team were also victorious and secured their spot to go to Williamsport for the Little League World Series later in the year. Cronulla and Ryde also finished in 4th and 5th place, respectively, in the Majors

division. Congratulations to all these teams for their hard work over the week-long tournament!!

Enjoy the rest time now as we conclude the representative season.



Above: Senior League Champions – Ryde.



Above: Little League Champions, Hills.

BNSW Australian Nationals 2023 Senior League Gallery



Above: Cronulla's Matthew Trainer slides home Top: Winners are grinners, Senior League Champions, Ryde celebrate.

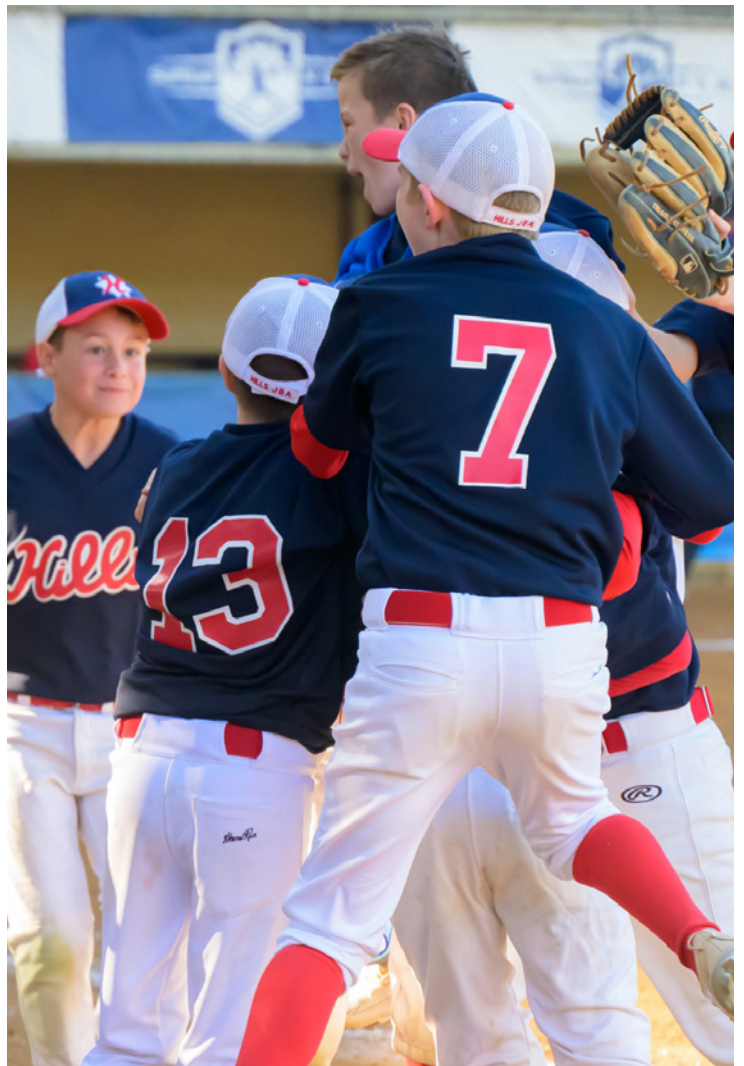
BNSW Australian Nationals 2023 Intermediate League Gallery



BNSW Australian Nationals 2023 Junior League Gallery



BNSW Australian Nationals 2023 Little League Gallery



NSW Country Senior League & Womens Country Championships

Last weekend, NSW Country Baseball held its State Championships for the Under 18's and Women's divisions.

Congratulations to Illawarra Under 18's and Central Coast Women's teams for winning their respective competitions at this year's championships!

Thank you to Tamworth Baseball Association for hosting the tournament, and to all the amazing volunteers, umpires and scorers who dedicated their time over the weekend.

Next up for Country, we have the Senior Men's Country Championships which will be held on the 4th-6th August in Sydney! For all upcoming representative dates, head to the events page on the **Baseball NSW website** [here](#).



BASEBALL
NEW SOUTH WALES
COUNTRY

NSW Country Senior League and Womens Championships Gallery



Photo: Women's Champions – Central Coast.

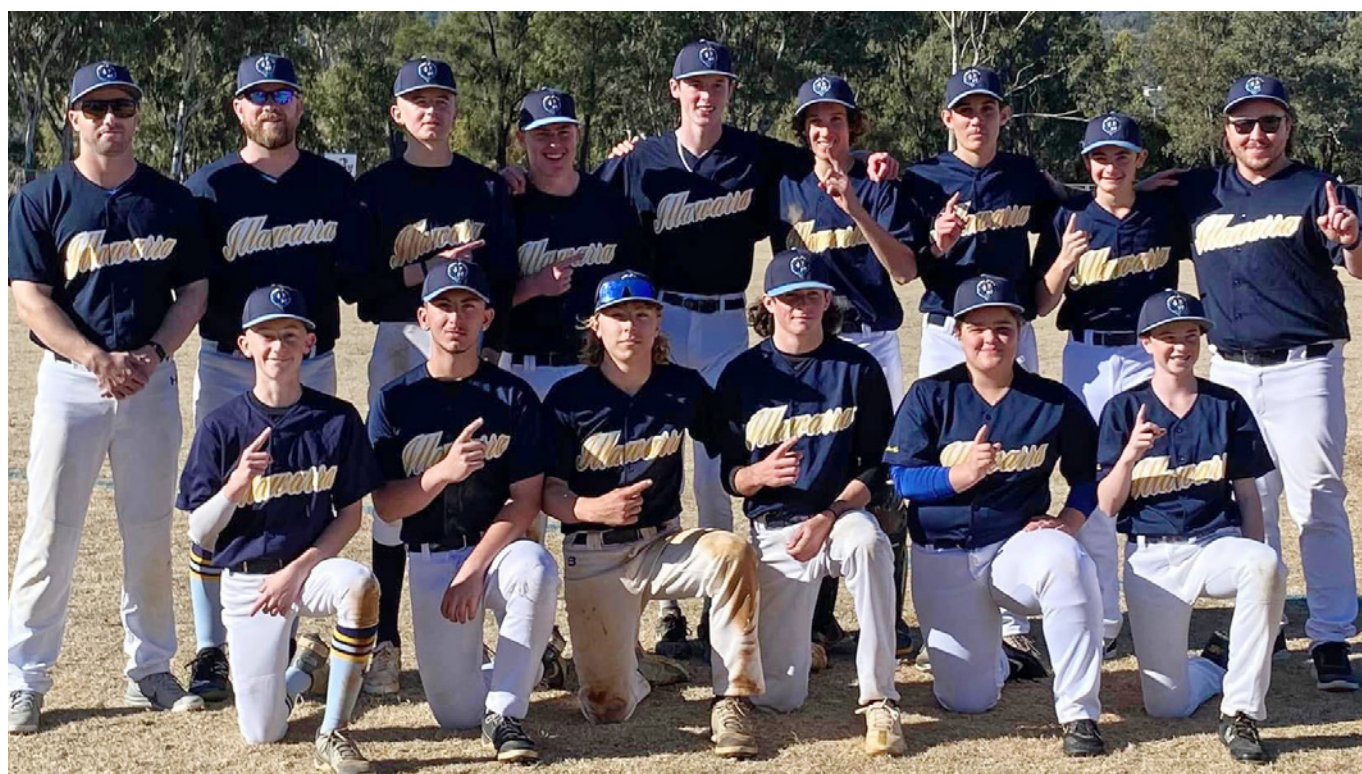


Photo: Under 18's Division Champions – Illawarra.

NSW Country Mens Europe Tour Prague Baseball Week 2023

This month, the NSW Baseball Country League sent a team to compete in the Prague Baseball Week in the Czech Republic.

Their 3-week tour began in Austria, with some warm-up games in Vienna, and then on to Czech Republic to compete in 42nd Annual Prague

Baseball Week competition, where they played against the Czech national team, Austria and the Baseball Jobs Overseas 'Globetrotters'.

Congratulations to the team on successfully securing the bronze medal at this year's tournament and we hope that it was a memorable tour for all!

NSW Country Baseball commented "It doesn't matter who you are, what role you played, or how little or how much,



NSW Country Mens Europe Tour

Prague Baseball Week 2023 cont.

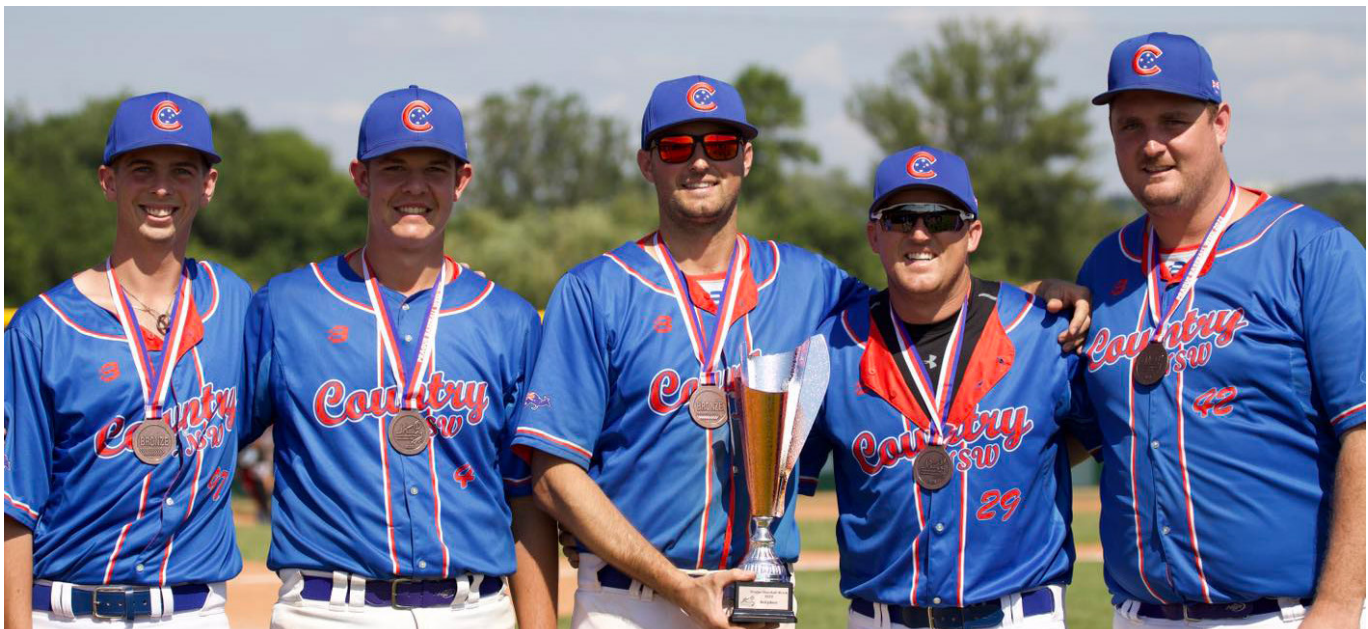
everyone on this tour contributed to this team's success...This tour will forever cement some core memories for over 20+ players, coaches and support staff."

It was an amazing tour to follow along and we can only image an even better event to get to be a part of!!

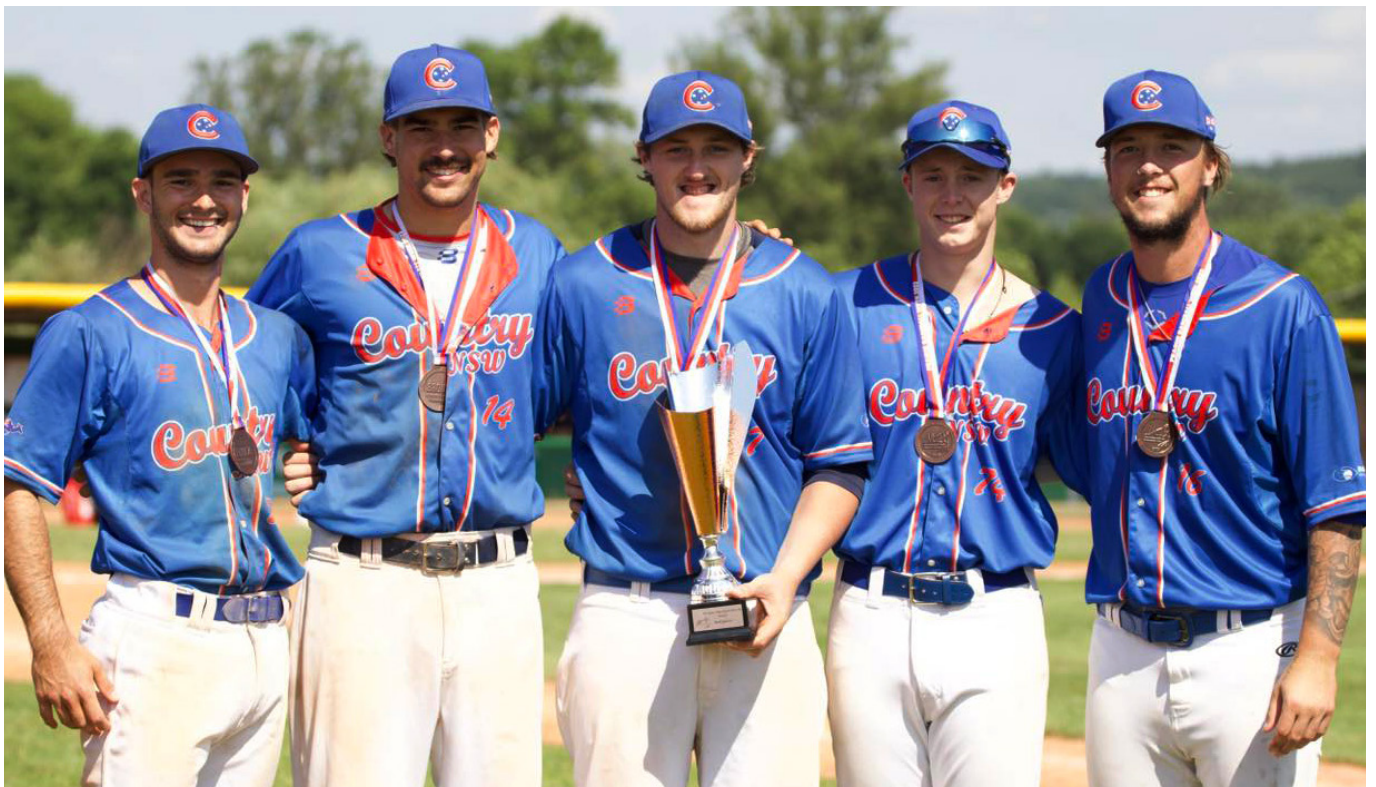
It was great to see some familiar faces (former Macarthur Orioles player Jimmy Jensen (far left) and Jake MacDonald (far right)) competing for the Baseball Jobs Overseas Globetrotters.



Photo: Catching up with old Macarthur Orioles friends, past imports Jimmy Jensen (far left) and Jake MacDonald (far right)



NSW Country Mens Europe Tour Prague Baseball Week Gallery



NSW Country Mens Europe Tour

Prague Baseball Week Gallery



NSW Country Mens Europe Tour

Prague Baseball Week Gallery



BNSW Baseball5 Inaugural Interschool Competition

**Baseball NSW Baseball5
Program continues to grow,
with the first-ever interschool
competition having been
played this month!!**

Thank you to Wattle Grove, Chipping Norton, Dalmerly and Oran Park Public School who participated in the inaugural event, and we are excited to open this up to more schools in the



BNSW Baseball5 Inaugural Interschool Competition Cont.

coming terms/years! If your school would like to be a part of this great event in the future, please reach out to Adrian Medina via email adrian@baseballnsw.com.au.

Our Baseball5 Co-ordinator Adrian has been working closely with multiple schools across the state through the "Sporting Schools Program", an Australian Government initiative designed to help schools increase children's participation in sports and connect them with community sports opportunities. As a result of this initiative, many schools across NSW have had the chance to enjoy learning and playing more Baseball5.

"Baseball5 is a lot more than a game" and Baseball NSW cannot wait to continue having opportunities to share it with the world.



High Performance Programs 2023

Squad Selected

Baseball NSW wish to recognise the players who have been selected in the Performance and Developing Pathway Programs for this year.

These top-tier athletes will undergo training from Baseball NSW's highest calibre of coaches over three sessions per week. These programs will be led and directed by Baseball NSW High-Performance Manager, Grahame Cassel.

Held at Blacktown International Sports Park, these sessions will also include Sprint Training from Baseball NSW's in-house certified speed and Sprint Coach Adrian Medina.

We wish these players all the best over their ten-week program and hope they take away plenty of great resources throughout its duration.



High Performance Programs 2023

Squad Selected Cont.

Performance Pathways Program Squad		
Caleb Tunkin	Mikah Targett	Cooper Wilson
Connor Bell	Lewis Mercieca	Riley McGregor
Zac Morris	Lachlan West	Dylan Andrade Paez
Olivier Flokstra	Campbell Harris	Cal Fingleson
Phoenix McFarland	Sam Levick	Jack Lenton
Ed Noy	Christian Lane	Mason Malkoun
Matt Harris	Lachlan Heap	Jack Fletcher
Damien Wilson	Miguel Nixon	Christopher Morgan
Hayden Elliott	Riley Puckett	Max Hagger
Joel Webb	Lincoln Gruppelaar	Akira Bastianon
Eddie Morgan		Lucas Gallardo
Coaches		
Travis McDonald	Gavin Fingleson	Phil Hemmer
Jack Dormer	Jason Dormer	

High Performance Programs 2023

Squad Selected Cont.

Developing Pathways Program Squad		
Frank Clarke	Draven Fatu	Zander Highland
Ryan Chou	Kai Stacey	Jackson Griffiths
Ashton Kennedy	Hunter McAdam	Kobe Cusbert
Brady Stockdale	Bailey Richards	Bailey Thorne
Cameron Howay	Benjamin Andrieux-Dibben	Cash Robinson
Lincoln Stead	Fletcher Willard	Ryan Reekie
Ryley Fletcher	Ryan Luker	Lucas Seda
Liam Worne	Aiden Riddle	Lucas Williams
Kai Ueki	Cohen Ryan	Benjamin Sawyer
Kenta Shimamoto	William Hooper	Angus Taylor
	Jesse Walker	
Coaches		
Vince Bates	Nathan Willard	Max Brennen
James Sammes	James McCallum	Nick Chappell

Sporting Grants Now Open for Application

Each year there are various grants provided by organisations and government departments that can provide much-needed support and funds to nurture sporting talent, help build sports facilities and develop the sports industry as a whole.

Purpose:

As part of Sport NSW's commitment to advocating for and strengthening the sports sector – grants information and updates are a regular feature of the fortnightly Blues eNews newsletter.

Join the network and subscribe to Blues eNews [here](#).

The full Sport NSW Grants Schedule Summary document is regularly updated and details available grants with the view to making this information easily accessible and in one place.



Bookmark the [Sport NSW Grants page](#) and check back regularly for updates.

The full summary of all grants available throughout the year can be downloaded [here](#).

CLAIM TWO \$100 ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS



All NSW school-enrolled children are eligible for **two \$100 Active Kids vouchers** each year. The vouchers can be used with any approved Active Kids provider, to help cover costs towards registration or membership fees for sport and active recreation. **Voucher one is valid January to December** and **voucher two is valid July to December**. After 1 July 2020, the second voucher can be claimed immediately after the first voucher.

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR VOUCHERS



Mary Sm|



- 1** Visit service.nsw.gov.au and login to your MyServiceNSW Account
- 2** Click on the Active Kids icon found in your SERVICE tab
- 3** Fill out the requested information (you will need your current Medicare card)
- 4** Print a copy of each voucher or email it to yourself

Visit sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids for terms & conditions and FAQs

HOW TO USE YOUR VOUCHERS

- 1** Find a provider by visiting our website: sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids
- 2** Once you have chosen an activity give the voucher number to your activity provider, or log onto your provider's website and enter the voucher number



*Vouchers can always be found in your MyServiceNSW account by looking in the My Applications tab



Derringer is a compact creative agency with big ideas and extensive experience. We're responsive, resourceful and adapt quickly to change and opportunity. Our team of award-winning designers, strategists and creative thinkers are experts in building relevant and transformative brands that help businesses evolve and prosper.

Derringer is the proud design agency of Baseball NSW.

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