



# The Pitch



## This Month

School Holidays  
Camps and  
Clinics Recaps

Doosan Bears  
return to Sydney

Australian Youth  
Championships

Orio Aishin  
Finalise the Year  
with a Sydney Tour



# Recognising Hard Work BNSW Monthly Award Nominees



## Coaches

### Brian Calderwood - Oakville Raiders

Brian always treats the kids so well. He gives up his time to mentor them and praise them. He has so much patience and kindness and is a real asset to our team.

### Samantha Webster - Rouse Hill Wildcats

Raising a generation of players that are focusing on learning skills, being humble and being taught to love the game. Winning is secondary at this age, it's all about joy and skill.

## Umpire

### Mark Highfield - Carlingford Baseball

Mark, who is also our club president, still has time to umpire our juniors. Mark always sets an example to all our umpires!



Photo: Brian Calderwood – Oakville Raiders.



Photo: Samantha Webster – Rouse Hill Wildcats.

# Recognising Hard Work

## BNSW Monthly Award Nominees cont.



### Volunteers

#### Brett Lennox - Rouse Hill Wildcats

Brett is the essential clubman, selflessly giving his time. You can find him coaching, maintaining the grounds, helping out in the canteen and always ready to lend a hand. In short, he took left over kids from four clubs to make a team and then coach them. He is also on the committee and helps out every weekend. Every club needs a Brett Lennox!

#### Kerry Roper - Camden Red Sox

Kerry goes above and beyond for the club. She has been able to craft an excellent social media presence, be first to help on the BBQ and come up with great ways to celebrate our weekly MVPs. She's definitely one in a million.

#### Adrian Hobson - Macquarie Saints

Adrian continues to work tirelessly as our Club President years after his kids finished playing with the Saints. He's de facto Grounds Marshall, Council Liaison, Maintenance Crew and team organiser putting heaps of time into our Club for the love of the game.

#### Aaron DeVries - Penrith Baseball

Aaron is the epitome of a clubman. He's a player, coach, dad, umpire, committee secretary and a real advocate for our club. He's recently helped the club upgrade our first aid facilities including a new defibrillator, he's our competition coordinator and liaises with other clubs for additional opportunities outside of GWBA. He heads the committee in our monthly meetings, and he will even run the canteen on a Friday night when we need the helping hand. Thank you, Aaron, for all you do, for advocating not only for our juniors, but for our club in all areas!



Photo: Aaron DeVries – Penrith Baseball.

# Recognising Hard Work BNSW Monthly Award Nominees cont.



Photo: Elaine Scotney – Mayfield Boomerangs.

## **Elaine Scotney - Mayfield Boomerangs**

Elaine has brought a new light and life to the game in Newcastle. She is nothing but sunshine and all the kids and families alike love her. She makes every feel welcome and included. She has ignited a new passion for Little League here in Newcastle and we are forever grateful for her enthusiasm and energy she brings to the game.

## **Ed Sweeney - Concord Comets**

Ed is an outstanding member of our club and community, gives endlessly of his time as a valued member of our committee, maintaining our fields, coordinating our junior teams, coaching his Rookies, and willingly helping anyone that needs a hand. Ed is always positive and a great mentor and role model for our junior players and their families. He sets the bar high for volunteers in our sport and we would be much less of a club without him.

[Click here](#) to vote for someone in your club who deserves recognition.



# BNSW Game Day Pics 2024 January entries



Photo by Lyndal Roberts – 'Watching Coach play.'



Photo by Mick Goddard – 'Hi-5.'



# BNSW Game Day Pics

## 2024 January entries cont.



Photo by Karen Jeffs – Got to get the field ready for the big game.



Photo by Kirsty Tavae – 'Drum roll.'



# 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:** Aaron DeVries – Penrith Baseball  
**Coach:** Samantha Webster – Rouse Hill Wildcats  
**Umpire:** Mark Highfield – Carlingford Baseball  
**Scorer:** N/A

## January Game Day Photo Winner

Congratulations to our #NSWGameDayPic winner this month, photo by Kirsty Tavae - Drum Roll.

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!



Winner - Kirsty Tavae's - Drum Roll!

# Strike Zone

**Thank you to all of those who umpired at this year's Australian Youth Championships. We could not have games without the assistance of umpires and officials, inclusive of the scoring team!**

We especially recognise the efforts of the umpires who showed up early on the days when we had rain delays and assisted with pulling and rolling up the tarps!

Once again, huge thank you to Brett Robinson, Trent Thomas and the umpiring team!





# Club Corner

## Don't miss out on redeeming your last Active Kids vouchers!

Thank you for your participation in the NSW Government's Active Kids program. The Active Kids program ends on 31 January 2024.

**Active Kids vouchers expire at 11.59pm, 31 January 2024.**

### What does this mean for me?

- The \$50 Active Kids vouchers expire at 11.59pm on 31 January 2024.
- Any vouchers not redeemed in the system by 11.59pm on 31 January 2024 will not be processed or reimbursed. This deadline will not be extended.
- All vouchers must be accepted by the expiry date 31 January 2024 and redeemed in your Active Kids dashboard by 11.59pm on 31 January 2024.
- You may choose to stop accepting vouchers earlier than the cut-off date to allow time to redeem vouchers in your Active Kids dashboard. This is at the discretion of each provider.

- Applications for the new combined Active and Creative Kids voucher program are now open. For details about the new program and how to apply, please visit the Service NSW website. Please note: This is a new program, administered by the Department of Customer Service. Registrations will not be carried over.

**Access to your Active Kids dashboard closes on 15 February 2024.**

### What does this mean for me?

- All records in your Active Kids provider dashboard should be downloaded and saved prior to 11.59pm on 15 February 2024.
- You will no longer be able to access your Active Kids dashboard after 15 February 2024.

Our Active Kids team is still available to provide support or information you may require.

Please email us at [activekids@sport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:activekids@sport.nsw.gov.au) for any assistance.



# School Holidays Camps and Clinics recaps

## BASEBALL NSW SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINIC 28TH & 29TH DEC

Over the christmas break, this group of young superstars came together for the Baseball NSW school holiday camp.

It was an awesome day for all, with the group split into tee-ball and baseball ages. The camp was lead by State Development Officer, Team Australia and Blue Sox Player, Coen Wynne, alongside fellow [Sydney Blue Sox](#) players! It was an awesome opportunity for these kids to learn new skills to help improve their game.

The players got two jam packed days of baseball/tee-ball, a t-shirt and hat, and a



FREE ticket to the Friday night Blue Sox game to support their "coaches"!

Thank you to everyone who attended, and we can't wait to continue offering more camps in this new year.

Thank you to Kirsty Tavae for the awesome photos of the day!!





# School Holidays Camps and Clinics cont.

## Baseball NSW Holiday Clinic Gallery





# School Holidays Camps and Clinics cont.

## 2024 Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association Clinics

What a way to kick off our 2024!! We opened our new year with plenty of camps and clinics and one that stood out was the Legends for Youth Clinic with Jonny Gomes and Ryan Rowland-Smith!

A huge thank you to the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association (MLBPAA), and the NxtGen Baseball coaches for the clinic!

The rain couldn't even keep everyone from having fun. It was great to see some familiar faces who had come through the NSW baseball pathways themselves, coaching the youngsters!

The team also took time to chat with the four NSW State teams ahead of

their Australian Youth Championships that week! The panel was made up of many players who had participated in that tournament and represented NSW themselves, and they gave the guys some great advice heading into the nationals. It was an amazing opportunity for these players to ask questions and soak up as much information as possible before the tournament began.





# School Holidays Camps and Clinics cont. MLBPAA Camp Gallery





# School Holidays Camps and Clinics cont.

## NxtGen Driveline Camp

Thank you to Ryan Rowland-Smith and his NxtGen team for their time, working with our AYC players before the year ended.

A large group of our NSW representative players took the opportunity to participate in a private camp run by NxtGen in collaboration with Baseball NSW and Driveline Baseball's Maxx Garrett. The five-day camp offered player assessments, live competitive at-bats, data-driven approaches using Driveline's traq software, information on recruitment opportunities and programming post the camp.

This event also offered first time access to one of the best hitting coaches from the Premier Baseball Training Facility on the planet, trusted by players like Mookie Betts, Shohei Ohtani, and Nolan Arenado. Rowland-Smith has acknowledged that coming back to Australia for these camps is his first chance in a while to impact our Aussie athletes in person. "To have the chance to work with Baseball NSW is a true blessing and a collaboration I look forward to continuing. I have long strived to work alongside BNSW, and now we have the chance to create the most impactful streamlined opportunities; I am beyond honoured and excited" says Rowland-Smith.

Baseball NSW CEO Mark Marino says "Any opportunity to share time with someone whose primary focus is to help our young players simply get better is something we cannot pass up. Ryan's proven record of helping players get into college is



significant which has been a major goal of BNSW's over the years."

Thank you to Maxx, Ryan and the NxtGen team, and we're excited to see what the future camps have in store.



# School Holidays Camps and Clinics cont. NxtGen AYC Camp Gallery





# School Holidays Camps and Clinics cont.

## Baseball5 School Holiday Camps

BNSW Baseball in collaboration with Street Ball Baseball5 hit the ground running to start off 2024, running camps in Sydney and on the Central Coast with some of the Youth World Cup players!

The Baseball5 speed and agility camps were run at Chipping Norton Community Centre and at the Wyong Wildcats Baseball Club. The program covered all aspects of Baseball5 athletic development which included explosive speed and agility, hand-eye coordination drills, quick reactions and reflexes drills, fielding and plenty of games.

Skills learnt at this camp are extremely beneficial for the development of all junior baseball/softball/baseball5 players. A sport that is for all skills levels and ages – anyone can play Baseball5! We cant wait to be able to host more of these camps in the future and continue growing the game.

Thank you to Adrian Medina (Head of Baseball5 NSW and Baseball5 National Team coach), his Baseball5 supervisors and local Baseball5 National team players Wil Klein, Lachlan Miller, Mattea Karn as well as assisting coach Chase Karn. The knowledge and time they put into this game is very much appreciated.

For more information about Baseball5 in NSW contact [Adrian Medina](#)





# Return of the Bears

## Doosan touch down in Sydney

We are SO excited to be welcoming back the KBO Doosan Bears for their 2024 Spring Training at Blacktown International Sports Park.

The first group of players have arrived and are already stuck into trainings! The team will make the best use of the facilities we have on offer, including the new BEST sporting facilities that Blacktown City Council have recently finished building.

The team are excited to be returning to Sydney and we are very privileged to be able to continue building our relationship with this powerhouse KBO organisation.

[Click here](#) to check out some of the action from training in 2023!

To visit the Doosan Bears Official Facebook page, [click here](#)



# Doosan Bears return to Sydney 2023 Photo Gallery





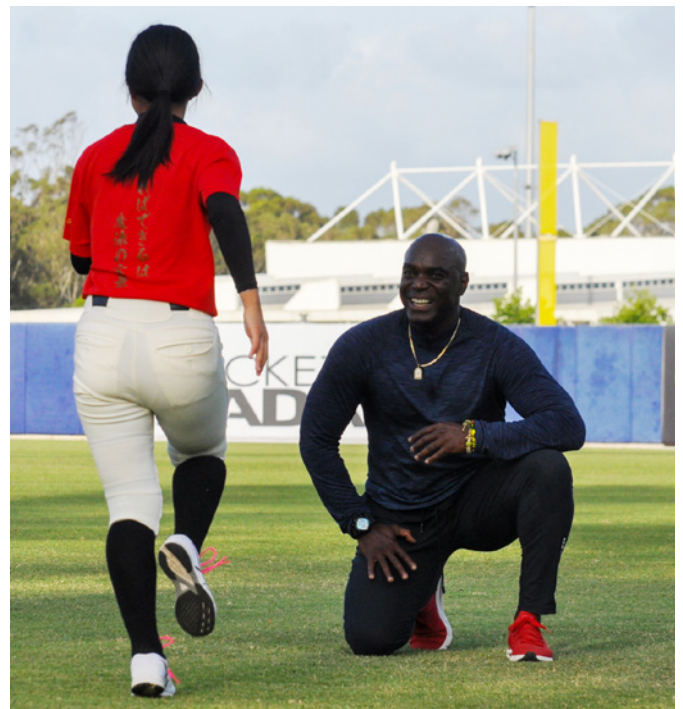
# Orio Aishin Finalise the Year with a Sydney Tour

**Baseball NSW were privileged to begin building a relationship with the Fukuoka prefecture in 2023!**

At the end of last year, we hosted the Orio Aishin Girls High School team at Blacktown International Sportspark. They got to partake in training at our facilities and participated in practice games against our female High-Performance teams (Women's and Under 16's). They also spent some time immersing themselves in Australian culture, visiting the local wildlife park and iconic places in Sydney such as Bondi Beach, the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Luna Park.

It was a great experience hosting this group! They boasted strong talent across the team and brought a great vibe to the park before we went into our Christmas break.

In October of last year, Baseball NSW had the privilege of sending a roster of female players including one coach, to Fukuoka, Japan in order to solidify the first steps in the relationship with Japan. A major element of this partnership is a strong focus on female talent. This visiting



team from Orio Aishin was a chance to reciprocate the tour opportunity we were given.

The Prefecture's teams, the SoftBank Hawks and Kyūshū Honeys are among the premier baseball teams in Japan. Through the MOU, they are committed to sharing resources such as players and coaches and creating opportunities for tours in order to further develop and strengthen local players.

We look forward to many more opportunities in this new year!



# Orio Aishin Finalise the Year with a Sydney Tour cont.





# Future Baseball Stars Unveiled at 2024 AYC

The Under 18 and Under 16 National Championships are a huge attraction. This year, 14 MLB scouts made an appearance in Sydney to cast their eyes on the best young Aussie baseballers.

Baseball Australia reported that “nearly all of Australia’s 37 Major Leaguers have played in this tournament,” highlighting the calibre of talent that comes from this event.

Our Under 16’s Metro team secured the trophy for the third year in a row! The team maintained a solid performance throughout the tournament going 8-0 with a combined team batting average of .400, putting them in the top position overall. Congratulations to Tahlán Cavill (Golden Bat), Fletcher Willard (MVP) and Kobe Cusbert (Golden Arm) for receiving major awards for the tournament. Cavill, with a batting average of .692, finished his tournament 9 for 13 with 5 RBI’s! Kobe Cusbert was consistent on the mound, with a .700ERA, with 8 strikeouts, only giving up 3 hits in his 10IP. Fletcher Willard



**2024 AUSTRALIAN**  
**U16/U18 YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS**

stunned on both fronts, finishing with a .667 batting average, going 8 for 12 and holding a 1.312ERA in 5.1IP with 8SO’s. Consistently stunning stats are showcased throughout the team, and congratulations to Matt O’Neill and his coaching staff on their victory!

The U16’s Country team came out firing winning their first game 8-3 against ACT! The team, a combination of NSW Country and Metro players, were full of energy and gave it their all throughout the tournament, finishing with a tied game against South Australia before the rain came through! Stand out performances from Will Klein-Schiphorst and Draven

# Future Baseball Stars Unveiled at 2024 AYC continued...

Fatu, with a combined 21AB and 9 hits, each with a .429 average.

The NSW Under 18's boasted talent across the board and stood up against some tough competition. Congratulations to Josh Nati who received the Golden Glove award. Nati played at third and made no errors in 21 total chances, with 16 assists and 5PO. Josh put up a solid performance across all areas of his game, also looking dangerous with the bat. James Fergusson and Ben Karakasis lead the pitching for the Metro team, with Fergusson in 7.1IP giving up only 1 hit and 1 run, finishing with a .000ERA. Karakasis in 11.0IP had 10SO and finished with a .636ERA. Country Under 18's also started strong with a 13-1 win over ACT, and finished up their finals with a 4-1 win against QLD. Lewis Mercieca's pitching stood out with a .000ERA in 5.1IP only giving up 2 hits!

Congratulations to all the teams for their efforts throughout the AYC's. Wishing those players who now face discussions with college and MLB scouts about their prospective futures, all the best in their decisions.

We love being able to share the good news stories of our members, so any news regarding college or pro ball opportunities. Please feel free to [email us at Baseball NSW](#) at to discuss a possible story or article.





# Australian Youth Championships 2024 U16's Gallery



Photo: Australian Youth Championships U16's Metro Team.



Photo: Australian Youth Championships U16's Country Team.



Photo: Australian Youth Championships U16's Winner – Metro Team.



# Australian Youth Championships 2024 U16's Gallery cont.



U16's MVP Award Winner – Fletcher Willard.



U16's Golden Arm Award Winner – Kobe Cusbert.



U16's Golden Bat Award Winner – Tahlan Cavill.



# Australian Youth Championships 2024 U18's Gallery



Photo: Australian Youth Championships U18's Metro Team.



Photo: Australian Youth Championships U18's Country Team.



U18's Golden Globe Award Winner – Josh Nati.





# Australian Youth Championships 2024 U18's Gallery cont.





# 2023 State Championships Dates & Venues Announced

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

The Rookies Cup and NSW State Championships will follow national tournaments such as the Australian Youth Championship and Australian Women's

and Youth Women's Championships early in 2024. We have an exciting year ahead.

Be sure to mark your calendars as some of the best competitions of the season approach!

Thank you to North Ryde RSL Junior Baseball and Far North Coast Baseball Association for volunteering to host each of the respective events.

We can't wait to see everyone out there in 2024!

Event	Date	Host	Venue
<b>Rookies Cup</b>	25th Feb 2024	North Ryde RSL Junior Baseball Club	Magdala Reserve
<b>Senior League</b>	13th-16th Apr 2024	Baseball NSW	Blacktown International Sportspark
<b>Little League &amp; Division II</b>	18th-21st Apr 2024	Baseball NSW	Blacktown International Sportspark
<b>Junior &amp; Intermediate League</b>	24th-27th Apr 2024	Far North Coast Baseball Association	Albert Park Baseball Complex

# ***Raging Waters*** **SYDNEY**



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# 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](#).



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