



The Pitch



This Month

Little League Girls
Make History at
First Ever National
Championship

Professional
Player Update

College Catchups:
Jimmy Nati and
Travis Bazzana
Back to Back

Barclay Cup
Expressions
of Interest

2023/24
NSW State and
Women's League
Award Winners

Recognising Hard Work BNSW Monthly Award Nominees



Volunteer

Andrew Pearson - Shoalhaven Mariners

Andrew was a Shoalhaven Mariners Junior Player who has now stepped up to be Senior Vice President, Equipment Officer and Registrar for the club, spending countless hours this Senior Season working behind the scenes to get players onto the field. Always the last to leave the ground!

Sab/Stacey Nicolas - Arncliffe Scots and UNSW

Sab and Stacey create an amazing menu every Friday night. Nothing is served twice! Now that summer season is over, they are now serving their delicious menu for UNSW and the winter comp.



Photo: Andrew Pearson.

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

BNSW Game Day Pics 2024 May entries



Photo by Crissha Staddon – 'Summer Daze.'



Photo by Lily Atkins – '450 dead centre.'

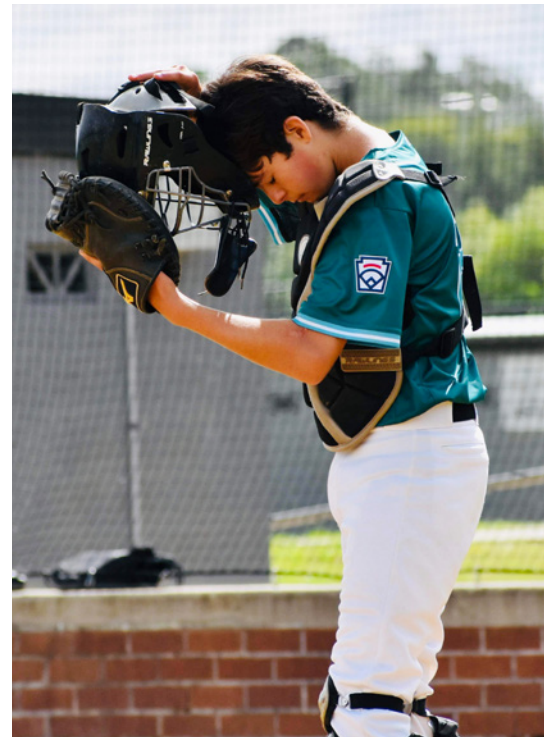


Photo by Hayley Marlborough – 'Disappointed, but not defeated.'



Photo by Kira Burrows – 'Headed to Nationals!!'

BNSW Game Day Pics 2024 May entries



Photo by MickGPhotography – ‘Duck.’



Photo by Luke Hsieh – ‘Ryde Black’s Awesome Foursome.’



Photo by Rachel May – ‘Home run!! Cronulla White Girls go wild.’



Photo by Rory Gately – ‘Get dirty.’

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!

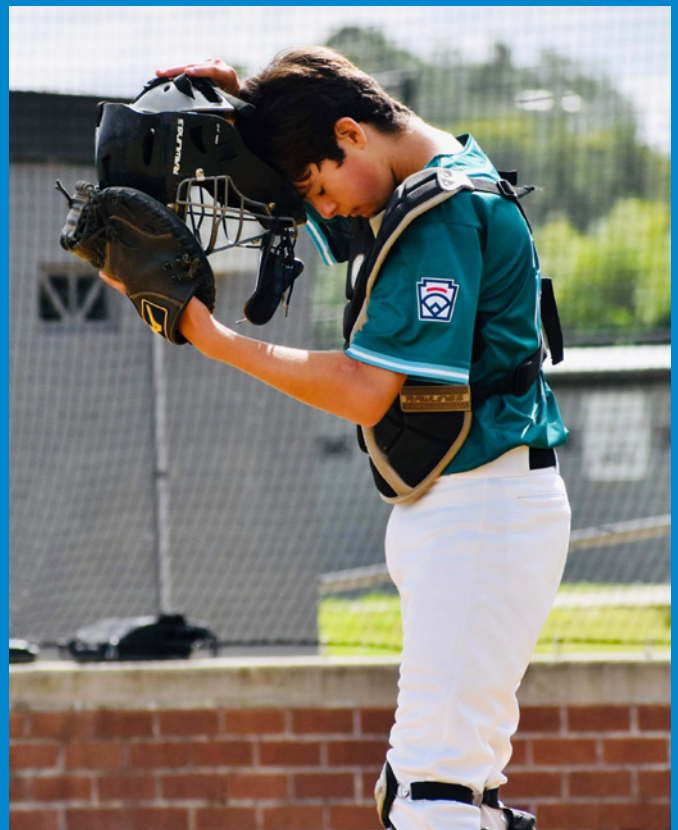
Joint Volunteers: Andrew Pearson – Shoalhaven Mariners
Sab/Stacey Nicolas – Arncliffe Scots & UNSW

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

May Game Day Photo Winner

Congratulations to our #NSWGameDayPic winner this month, photo by Hayley Marlborough - 'Disappointed, but not defeated.'

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!



Club Corner

What are Variety Heart Scholarships?

Variety Heart Scholarships support school-age children to reach their full potential in the arts and sport.

Who can apply?

These scholarships are open to young people aged 6 – 18 years and help children who face financial or physical barriers to fulfil their dreams.

What can I apply for?

The scholarship can assist with tuition fees, personal development, coaching, training equipment, travel or accommodation. No field of the arts or sport is too large or too small to be considered.

All that is needed is a young person who is proficient in their field and shows passion and commitment to achieve a long-term aspirational goal.

Contact Variety Heart at:

kidssupport@variety NSW.org.au

or 02 9818 1000



The graphic is a red banner with a white heart shape on the right side. On the left, there are two logos: 'variety the children's charity' and 'Variety HEART Scholarships'. In the top right corner, it says 'Find out more:' with a QR code. The main text in the center reads 'VARIETY HEART SCHOLARSHIPS' in large white letters. Below that, it says 'Open 1-31 May 2024' and 'Scholarships are awarded up to the value of \$5,000.' The heart shape on the right contains a photo of a young girl, Layla Sharp, wearing a blue and yellow athletic top.

Picture above: Layla Sharp, aged 16 years. Received Variety Heart Scholarships in 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Current 2023 National Junior Champion T38 (Cerebral Palsy) in 400m and 800m.

Club Corner Carlingford Baseball Club 50th Anniversary Dinner

Tickets on sale now

50th Anniversary



16th November 2024 The Epping Club

book via our website or use the QR code
[carlingfordfordbaseball.com.au /latest](http://carlingfordfordbaseball.com.au/latest)



It's a party 50 years in the making

College Catchups

Best friends and NSW natives, Jimmy Nati and Travis Bazzana received back to back Golden Spikes Performances of the Week!

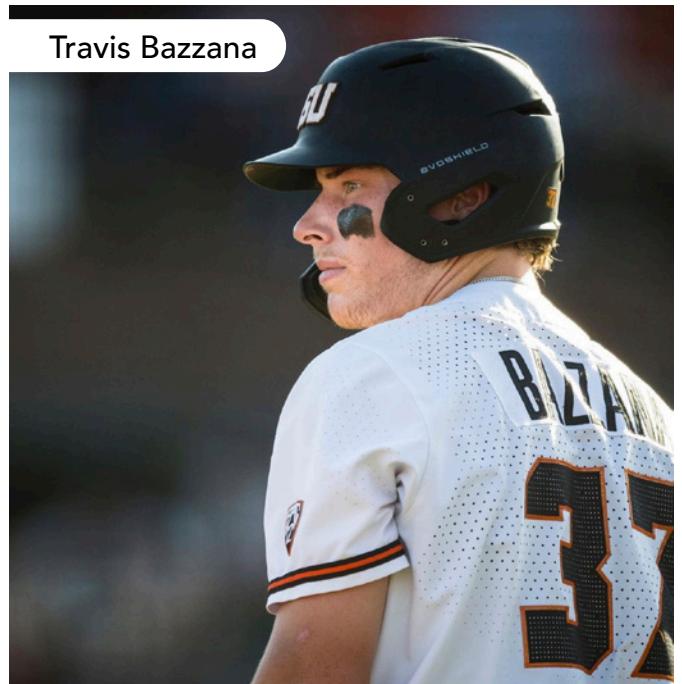
These men are putting Australia on the map, named as the best players in amateur baseball across the nation, two weeks in a row! Nati the Week 11 recipient was followed by his best friend and fellow college rival, Travis Bazzana. This achievement highlights the growing prowess of Australian athletes in the US baseball arena.

Jimmy Nati, who first clinched the award, set high standards with his exceptional performance for Stanford against California. Jimmy went 5 for 6 with 2HR and 6RBI and currently holds a .316BA for his season. Making waves in his second season with the Cardinals, Nati has been pivotal to his team's successes and is inspiring young athletes across NSW and Australia. When asked what this achievement meant to him, Nati said "It's pretty surreal winning an award like this, and to go back-to-back with Trav is special."

Jimmy Nati



Travis Bazzana



College Catchups Jimmy Nati and Travis Bazzana Back to Back cont.

To receive recognition on a national scale against the best of the best in college, is something they won't forget. Jimmy continued to say "watching and playing against him [Travis] this year has been one of the coolest experiences ever. He's the best player in the country and he's my best mate, it doesn't even feel real to me!"

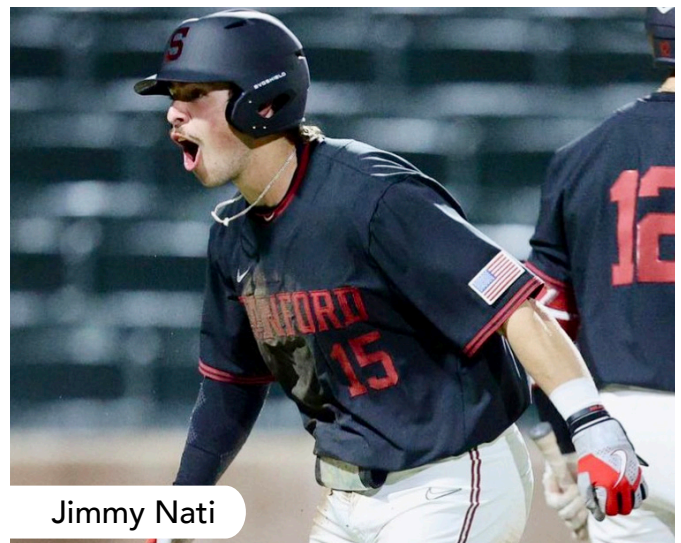
Following Nati's exceptional week, Travis Bazzana put on a show against Washington State making headlines and earning the Week 12 Golden Spikes Performance of the Week. Bazzana, a versatile player known for his agility and powerful hitting, has shown immense growth and consistency in his time at college. He went 3 for 4 with 4RBI and got a one up on his best mate with 3HR. Bazzana also made history, breaking the 42 year old Oregon State home run record!

Their journeys from local NSW leagues to becoming nationally recognised players is a testament to their hard work and dedication. Additionally, Bazzana's performance this season has not only helped him earn the accolades, but carved his name in the history books of one of the best college baseball programs in the country.

The consecutive wins by Nati and Bazzana are significant for Australian baseball, shining a spotlight on the sport's development and the high level of talent emerging from NSW. Their achievements are paving the way for future generations, proving that Australian players can stand shoulder to shoulder with the world's best.



Travis Bazzana



Jimmy Nati

As we celebrate these back-to-back Golden Spikes POTW awards, it's clear that the state is a significant hub for baseball talent. Both athletes have not only raised the bar for Australian baseball but have also become role models for aspiring players. Their journey from local fields in Ryde to international acclaim is a powerful narrative that underscores the possibilities within reach for dedicated and talented athletes.

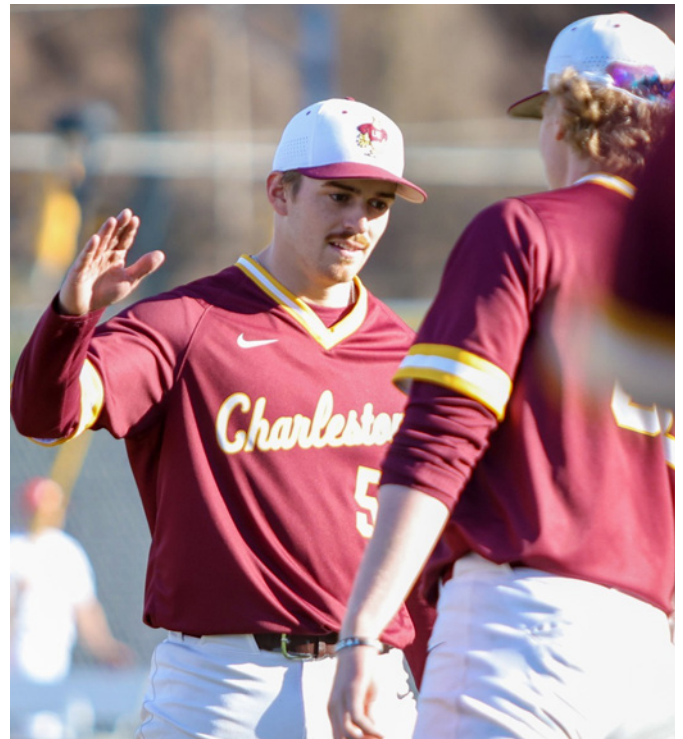
Congratulations to them both! We are very excited to see where their futures take them.

College Catchups cont. Cody Godbold University of Charleston

Congratulations to Penrith Junior and University of Charleston attendee Cody Godbold, who alongside his team defeated the West Virginia State Yellow Jackets to claim their third consecutive Mountain East Conference Tournament title.

The game took a dramatic turn in the bottom of the third inning as the Golden Eagles surged ahead, scoring seven runs on six hits, establishing a commanding 10-4 lead. They finished up the game 17-4 securing their third consecutive MEC tournament title.

With the conference title, Charleston will get an automatic bid into the NCAA DII baseball tournament. The Golden Eagles are seeded in the Atlantic Regional and we wish the team and Cody the best of luck in the college postseason.



College Catchups cont. **Brent Iredale** **Voted WJCAC MVP** **two years running**

The All-WJCAC Baseball selections were released at the end of May and it revealed some exciting news for NSW native Brent Iredale.

Brent Iredale, who comes from the Blacktown Workers and Hills pathways has been recognised this month by the National Junior College Athletic Association in the WJCAC Baseball Selections.

[Brent Iredale](#) was voted the WJCAC MVP and took home All-Conference and All-Region V honors. The shortstop batted .411 for the year with 81 hits, 67 RBIs, 64 runs scored, 19 doubles, and 17 homers.

Last year Iredale was named as one of the WJCAC first team infielders of the year, and the New Mexico Junior College represent was also honored with the Most Valuable Player accolades in 2023, making this his second consecutive season winning this title.



Professional Player Update: Rixon Wingrove

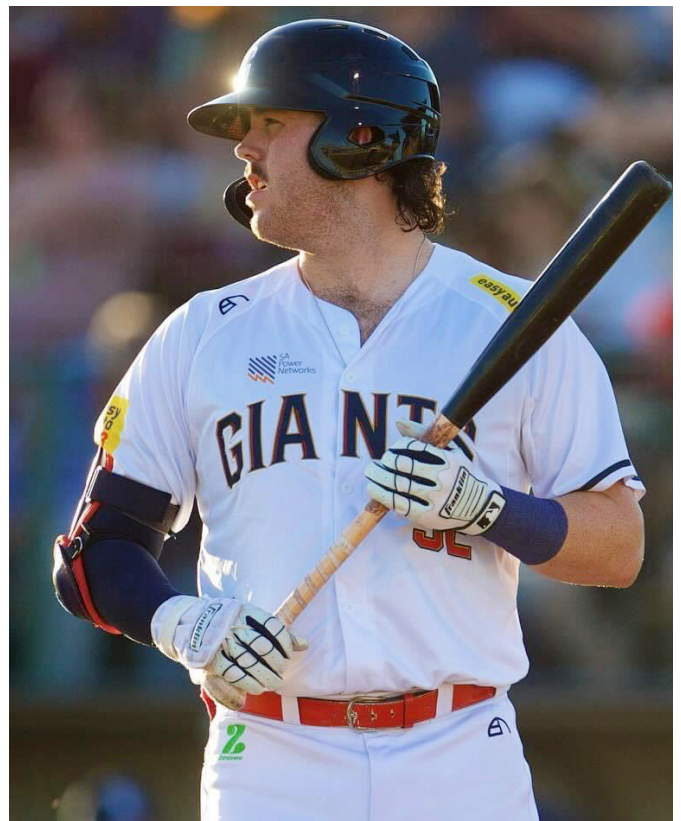
This month we give you a professional player update for one of our many athletes in the MLB pathways in the states!

Congratulations to Rixon Wingrove who has just signed a contract in the Minnesota Twins' organisation! He started the season in the Atlantic League for the Long Island Ducks and reports say his contract has been purchased giving him another shot in MLB pro ball.

The Newcastle native and former NSW Country representative has been assigned to the Twins' Single-A affiliate, the Fort Myers Mighty Mussels, in Florida.

Rixon has seen lots of success in these past few years with both his ABL team the Adelaide Giants and Team Australia, being crucial in Australia's progression to the quarter final at the World Baseball Classic in 2023. We wish him the best of luck with the Twins organisation!

[Click here](#) for the full story via Baseball.com.au



Little League Girls Make History at First Ever National Championship

Lismore, NSW will now forever be marked as the first ever host location of an ALL-GIRLS Little League Championship, and what an event it was!

This month, two NSW teams travelled North to make history in the inaugural Little League Girls Championship. It was reported via the ABC that the event has been 50 years in the making, going back to 1974

when American Little League was taken to court over its ban on girls playing the sport.

We congratulate both teams on their efforts at the event, as they took to the diamonds and competed against the top Girls teams across the country! Our NSW Blue team reigned victors at the end of the tournament, coming away undefeated and by the end of the week scored 89 runs in just six games. NSW Blue defeated the Victoria Belles 15-1 in the gold medal match to become the first ever national Australian Little League Champions!



Little League Girls Make History at National Championship cont.

The event would not have been possible without the efforts of the trailblazing Victorian 'Belle's' Team who were the first all-girls team to play against the boys at the Little League national championships in Sydney last year. The success of the Belles sparked interest in other states and the NSW clubs and associations have all been pushing to develop their girls' programs over the past few years! As a result, NSW were extremely excited to be able to send two teams to the event, full of young female talent.

Led by extremely talented coaches, the girls also enjoyed the opportunity to be coached by some of NSW and even Australia's top female talent, with Laura Neads, Claire O'Sullivan, Amy Saliba, Issy Lambert and Abbey Ninnes, among the NSW staff.

We are so excited to see how this event has impacted the future of the girls pathway, and with the Championships coinciding the return of the Australian Women's Baseball Showcase, these young girls were given the chance to watch the top Australian and International talent compete with the hope that they one day aspire to be on that stage!

Today, female athletes are impactful role models for young women and with NSW stars prominent throughout the roster of the three ABL teams participating in the showcase, we hope that our NSW players are guided by their work ethic and talent both on and off the diamond!



Little League Girls National Championship Gallery



Little League Girls National Championship Gallery cont.



Barclay Cup Expressions of Interest

Experience the pinnacle of junior female baseball at the prestigious Barclay Cup, proudly coming to Baseball NSW.

The event is scheduled to be held in Penrith, Sydney for 2024 with thanks to Mackillop Baseball Club who will be hosting. This highly anticipated event brings together talented young female players aged 13-16 from across the nation for a week-long showcase of skill and sportsmanship.

We are now accepting expressions of interest from players who wish to compete

in the Barclay Cup this year. Baseball NSW have confirmed that we will be placing two teams into the tournament once again, with potential of a third team if the interest is high enough and there are adequate players. In this tournament all NSW teams are named after Jacinda, in celebration of the impact she has had on the game of women's baseball.

Having debuted in Queensland in 2022, this is only the third edition of the Barclay Cup, and Baseball NSW is thrilled to welcome teams for another unforgettable year of competition.

Join us for an action-packed celebration of female baseball talent!

[Click here](#) to submit your EOI.



2024 Emerging Pathway Program Information Pack

Don't miss the chance to register for the BNSW Emerging Pathway Program this winter!

Baseball NSW are very excited to be running our Winter High Performance programs once again this year. The Emerging program is our youngest winter development program, and will consist of two sessions per week with some of Baseball NSW's best coaches who excel at early game learning and the fundamentals of the game. Our Emerging Program is targeted towards players who are turning or have already turned 12, 13, 14 or 15 years old in 2024.

This program will be led and directed by Baseball NSW State Development Officer, Coen Wynne and will run out of three regionalised venues in the North, West, and South.

The trials for all 3 venues will be held at Diamond 2, Blacktown International Sports Park (BISP), 81 Eastern Road, Rooty Hill.

The trial dates are:

Tue 18th June – 6pm to 9pm

Thu 20th June – 6pm to 9pm (if required)



For any enquires please refer to the below information pack or contact Coen Wynne, directly via email [here](#).

[Click here](#) for the 2024 Emerging Pathway Program Information Pack.

2024 State Championships Survey

As our 2023/24 Season comes to a close for many, we wish those teams attending Nationals the best of luck and ask our members to reflect on the representative season passed.

We are always looking for ways to improve on our offerings at Baseball NSW and as such invite all members who attended the Championships in 2024 to complete the following survey:

[Click here](#) to complete.

Thank you very much and enjoy your off season!



2023/24 NSW State League Award Winners

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Team of the Year | |
| Starting Pitcher of the Year | Matthew Rae (Blacktown Workers) |
| Relieving Pitcher of the Year | Thomas Stancic (Blacktown Workers) |
| Catcher of the Year | Jack Dormor (Baulkham Hills) |
| 1st Base of the Year | Shanin Hislop (Macarthur Orioles) |
| 2nd Base of the Year | Jesse O'Connell (Ryde Hawks) |
| 3rd Base of the Year | Mitchell Austin (Blacktown) |
| Outfielder of the Year | Dylan Martin (Blacktown Workers) |
| Outfielder of the Year | Tom Newbold (Manly Eagles) |
| Outfielder of the Year | Tim Nelson (Macarthur Orioles) |
| Short Stop of the Year | Lachlan Bojarski (Blacktown Workers) |
| Utility of the Year | Jaedan Cavill (Cronulla Sharks) |
| Designated Hitter of the Year | Ben Martin (Blacktown Workers) |

2023/24 NSW State League Award Winners cont.

1st Grade Winners

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Lionel Harris MVP | Timothy Nelson (Macarthur Orioles) |
| Rookie of the Year | Josh Nati (Baulkham Hills) Cooper Wilson (Ryde Hawks) |
| Pitcher of the Year | Matthew Rae (Blacktown Workers) |
| Hitter of the Year | Timothy Nelson (Macarthur Orioles) |

2nd Grade Winners

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| MVP of the Year | Ashley Roberts (Manly Eagles) |
| Pitcher of the Year | Harrison Riley (Blacktown Workers) |
| Hitter of the Year | Daniel Schroot (Greater Western) |

3rd Grade Winners

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| MVP of the Year | Charlie Steer (Ryde Hawks) |
| Pitcher of the Year | Charlie Steer (Ryde Hawks) |
| Hitter of the Year | Ashley Hapgood (Canterbury Vikings) |

2023/24 NSW State League Award Winners cont.

Under 18's Winners

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| MVP of the Year | Luke Donaghey (Manly Eagles) |
|------------------------|------------------------------|

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pitcher of the Year | Damien Wilson (Baulkham Hills) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Hitter of the Year | Luke Donaghey (Manly Eagles) |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|

Additional Categories

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Umpire of the Year | Ben Nash |
|---------------------------|----------|

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| State League Manager of the Year | Matt O'Neill (Ryde Hawks) |
|---|---------------------------|

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Women's League Manager of the Year | Maddison Tabrett (Blacktown Workers) |
|---|--------------------------------------|

2023/24 NSW Women's League Award Winners

| Team of the Year | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Starting Pitcher of the Year | Mackenzie Jackson (Blacktown Workers) |
| Relieving Pitcher of the Year | Maddi Erwin (Blacktown Workers) |
| Catcher of the Year | Maddison Heath (Blacktown Workers) |
| 1st Base of the Year | Laura Neads (Eastern Suburbs Dolphins) |
| 2nd Base of the Year | Sayaka Mori (Eastern Suburbs Dolphins) |
| 3rd Base of the Year | Claire O'Sullivan (Eastern Suburbs Dolphins) |
| Outfielder of the Year | Mahaela O'Neill (Ryde Hawks) |
| Outfielder of the Year | Ticara Geldenhuis (Blacktown Workers) |
| Outfielder of the Year | Ashleigh Bruce (West Sydney Boomers) |
| Short Stop of the Year | Jordan Richardson (Eastern Suburbs Dolphins) |
| Utility of the Year | Maddi Erwin (Blacktown Workers) |

2023/24 NSW Women's League Award Winners cont.

1st Grade Winners

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| MVP of the Year | Claire O'Sullivan (Eastern Suburbs Dolphins) |
| Rookie of the Year | Jess Burnett (Baulkham Hills) |
| Pitcher of the Year | Maddi Erwin (Blacktown Workers) |
| Hitter of the Year | Maddison Heath (Blacktown Workers) |

2nd Grade Winners

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| MVP of the Year | Clarissa Sloane (Eastern Suburbs Dolphins) |
| Rookie of the Year | Aaliyaah Te Ahuru-Kostic (Penrith Blackcats) |
| Pitcher of the Year | Seveene Patakos (Eastern Suburbs Dolphins) |
| Hitter of the Year | Mariam Arifaki (Macarthur) |

2023/24 NSW State and Women's League Awards Night Gallery



Photo above: NSW Womens League - 2023/24 Season Team of the Year including Manager of the Year Maddison Tabrett.

Photo below: NSW State League - 2023/24 Season Team of the Year including Manager of the Year Matt O'Neill.



2023/24 NSW State and Women's League Awards Night Gallery



Janine on behalf of Lyn McDonald – Scorer of the Year.



Ben Nash – Umpire of the Year



Seveene Patakos – Womens League 2nd Grade Pitcher of the Year.



Maddi Erwin – Womens League 1st Grade Pitcher of the Year



Damien Wilson - Under 18's Pitcher of the Year



Charlie Steer - 3rd Grade Pitcher of the Year.

2023/24 NSW State and Women's League Awards Night Gallery



Matthew Rae – 1st Grade Pitcher of the Year.



Mariam Arifaki – Women's League 2nd Grade Hitter of the Year.



Maddison Heath – Women's League 1st Grade Hitter of the Year.



Award received on behalf of Luke Donaghey – U18's Hitter of the Year.



Ashley Hapgood – 3rd Grade Hitter of the Year.



Daniel Schroot – 2nd Grade Hitter of the Year.

2023/24 NSW State and Women's League Awards Night Gallery



Timothy Nelson – 1st Grade Hitter of the Year.



Clarissa Stone – Women's League 2nd Grade MVP.



Claire O'Sullivan – Women's League 1st Grade MVP



Charlie Steer – 3rd Grade MVP.



Ashley Roberts - 2nd Grade MVP.



Aaliyah Te Ahuru-Kostic – Women's League 2nd Grade Rookie of the Year.

2023/24 NSW State and Women's League Awards Night Gallery



Jess Burnett –
Women's League 1st Grade Rookie of the Year.



Cooper Wilson –
Joint 1st Grade MVP with Josh Nati (absent).



Timothy Nelson –
1st Grade Lionel Harris Award Recipient (MVP).



Timothy Nelson and family celebrating a successful awards night.

2023/24 NSW State and Women's League Awards Night Gallery



Left to Right: Lionel Harris (Hall of Fame), Mark Burns (BNSW Board Member and State League President) and Jason Chabi (Director of the BNSW Board).



BNSW Staff – Tyson, Georgia and CEO Mark Marino.



Congratulations to the Blacktown Workers on a very successful awards night, across the board.

Vale Blacktown Mayor Tony Bleasdale OAM

It is deeply saddening to share the passing of Blacktown City Council Mayor, Tony Bleasdale OAM.

Cr Bleasdale served the community with energy and dedication since first being elected as a councillor in 1996. Elected mayor in 2019, Cr Bleasdale proved a visionary leader and guided projects that will transform our city, such as Blacktown Quarter.

He loved working for the community and forged countless friendships with people from all backgrounds. Tony was a great supporter of the Baseball NSW endeavors and our thoughts are with his family during this time.

His loss will be felt deeply.

Vale Tony.



Vale Blacktown Mayor Tony Bleasedale OAM cont.



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](#).

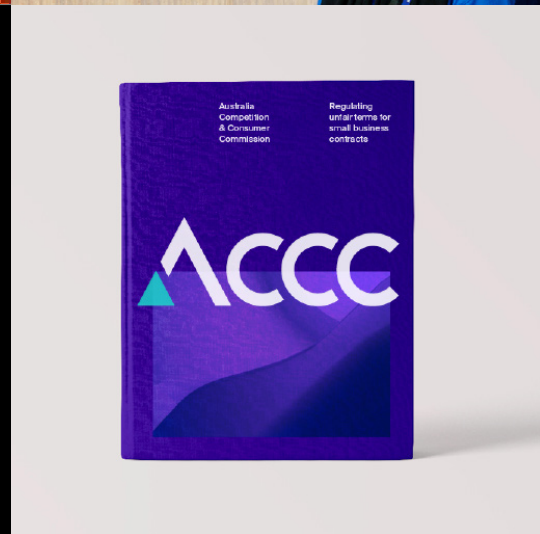
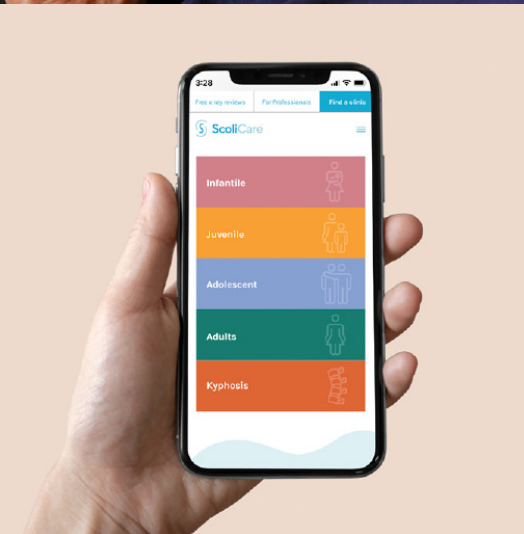
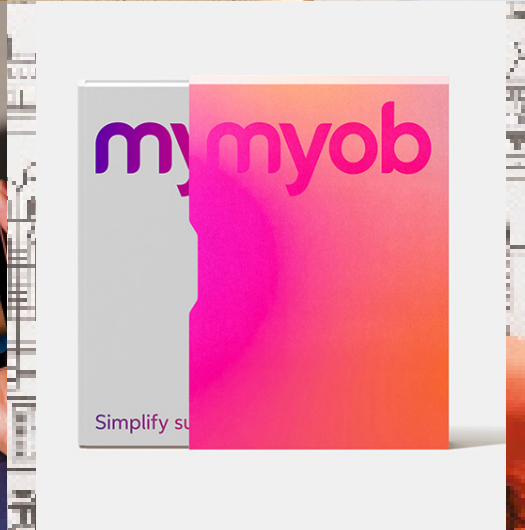
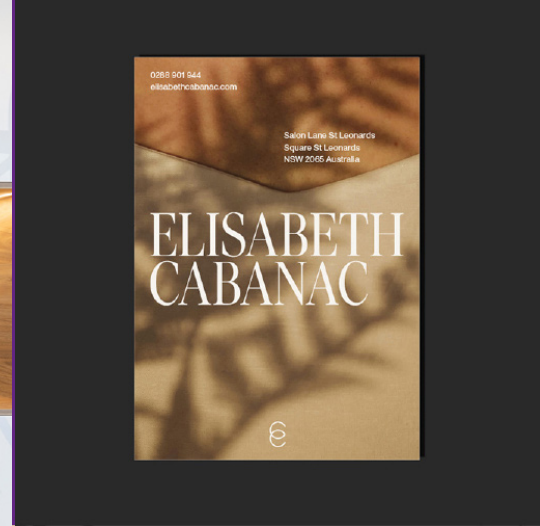
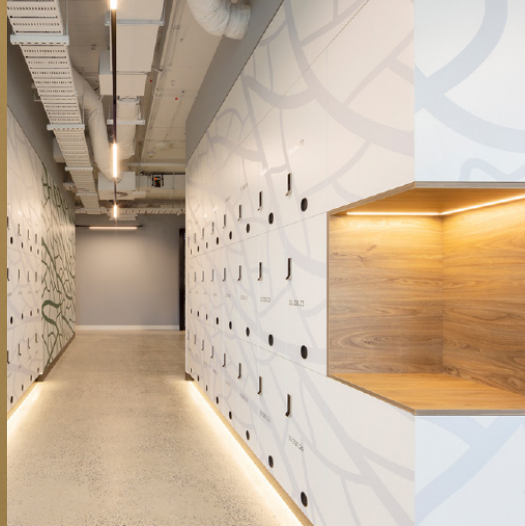


Keep it Positive.
Keep it Fun.

Think Before
You Speak



Learn More
sport.nsw.gov.au/shoosh-for-kids
[#ShooshForKids](https://www.instagram.com/ShooshForKids)



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- Installation

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