



Annual Report

2025/2026



Minutes of the 75th Annual General Meeting of MWDBA

Held on 31st May 2025 at MWDBA Clubhouse, Aquatic Drive, Frenchs Forest, NSW, 2086

- 1. Meeting opened at 6.38pm**
- 2. Present (authorised Club representatives):**
 - Owen Harris (Forest)
 - Brook Russell (MEB)
 - Mark Gibson (Seasiders)
 - Col Rossello (Pittwater)
 - Matt Eisenhauer (Warringah)

Quorum achieved – Attendance Register saved to MWDBA Google Drive AGM 2025 folder

- 3. Apologies**
 - Helen Wyatt, Dave Tuckwell, Luke Mallam, Carly Clarke, Mel Bristow

- 4. Confirmation of previous AGM minutes**

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2024 AGM

Moved: Col Rossello

Seconded: Owen Harris

Carried

- 5. President's Address**

Thank you to all volunteers & outgoing directors. Congratulations all on a successful year. Keep the game growing.

- 6. Presentation & adoption of Annual Report**

Motion to accept the Annual Report

Moved: Mark Gibson

Seconded: Brook Russell

- 7. Presentation & Adoption of Financial report**

Financially very healthy. Cost savings achieved through in-house marketing and invoicing. Significant build up of infrastructure fund for future ground improvements.

Motion to accept the Financial Report

Moved: Joe Weller

Seconded: Matt Eisenhauer

- 8. Appointment of Auditor**



RL SMSF Audits to be appointed as the Association's Auditor for 2024/25.

Moved: Jay Drezner

Seconded: Michelle Camphuis

9. Nominations for Life membership

Nomination for life membership:

Stuart Hanrahan & Joe Weller elected as life members.

10. Appointment of Director Positions

All Board positions were vacated

The following delegates were nominated by their respective club/sub committee and those persons accepted the nomination:

Minor League: Joe Weller

Manly Eagles: Brook Russell

Junior Reps: Carly Clarke

JCC: Julie Hogan

Forest: Owen Harris

Pittwater: Katie Page

Seasiders: Mark Gibson

Warringah: Kate Murray

11. General Business

No general business.

12. Meeting closed at 6.53pm



1 = Present at Meeting

<u>Date of meeting</u>	B Russell	T O'Hagan	J Drezner	C Clarke	J Weller	O Harris	C Rossello	M Gibson	L Mallam	M Bristow
Jun 11	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		1
Aug 5	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sept 2	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	
Oct 14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nov 11	1		1	1	1	1	1		1	1
Feb 10	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1
Mar 13	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Apr 28			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Meetings Attended	7	5	7	8	8	8	6	6	7	7



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Congratulations to the Sub-Committees and Clubs on another successful year.

Well done to the MEBC committee, players, and officials on a great season of baseball. The senior club continues to be a strong presence in the State League competition. The MEBC Committee is committed to maintaining a strong senior club and being supportive of junior baseball, through coaching and cooperation to develop the juniors as the bedrock of all Manly Baseball.

Congratulations to the following players for selection in the following representative teams:

Australian Youth Championships, Under 16s NSW Team

Jack Phegan

Jessie Hanrahan

Austin Murdoch

Daniel Gereaux

Jack Kelly

Well done to the NSW Squad who took out the Championship

Australian Youth Championships, Under 18s NSW Team

Max Phegan

Harley Gibson

Michael O'Neill (Pitching Coach)

Well done to the NSW Squad who finished 3rd.

Under 16s ACT Team

Kai Harris

Under 16s NSW Country Team

Tennyson Bragg

NSW Gaynor Cup Team

Darci Madden

Olivia Cunningham

Caitlyn Air (Coach)

Madison Mumford (Coach)

Tashana Mottram (Manager)

Congratulations to Jaylin Rae on his selection to the Sydney Blue Sox this past ABL season.

Good luck to Simon Slapetta on being drafted by Yavapai College, Arizona, USA playing for the Roughriders.

The Minor League competition had another strong season across all competitions. The importance of the Minor League competition cannot be understated. It is a vehicle to keep graduating junior players in baseball, introduce new adult players to baseball and give baseballers of all ages a great competition to continue with their baseball career. Personally, one of the most satisfying sights is seeing baseball played for the pleasure of the game on the weekends and weeknights.

Congratulations to all of those that participated in the competitions and the winners of those competitions.

Congratulations to Minor League Committee, and all those industrious volunteers that maintained the grounds and produced an exceptional cadre of competitions.

The Junior Competition had another exceptional season, players numbers were strong, which is a tribute to the club committees. The Committee and the Clubs produce a quality competition with talented players, supported by their families. Junior baseball has always been a sport that the whole family can participate in and contribute to, and this is evident in the Manly Junior Competition. I enjoyed my visits to all club grounds during the season, seeing kids on the diamond, parents and carers coaching or working in the canteen or scoring or umpiring the games. More importantly, I always enjoyed the cheering and enthusiasm for the safe hit, the great pitch or the play made regardless of the team on the field or in the batting box.

Congratulations to the Junior Competition Committee, the Club Presidents, their committees, and volunteers for great season of baseball.

Well done to Pittwater Baseball Club committee and volunteers on a great Junior Competition Finals. Congratulations to all the division winners.

The Junior Representative Program is continuing to be a strong component of the Association.

Congratulations to the following representative squads:

Senior League, NSW Champions
Little League Division 2, NSW Champions
Manly Maroon, NSW Rookies Cup Champions
Manly Grey, NSW Rookies Cup Champions
Manly Pink, NSW Rookies Cup Champions

Well done to all the other division teams for their participation in their respective State Titles

Well done to the Representative Committee on fielding quality teams and managing the program.

I want to thank the Manly Warringah Baseball Association Committee. The way the Committee worked together this season is to be commended. The meetings and all the communications are collaborative and productive. I am proud of the way the members used their own personal skill set to enhance and improve the performance of the Association.

Personally, I want to thank the members of 2025-26 Board for their work and commitment to Manly baseball, and I wish those well that are not returning to the Board for the coming year.

Recently, we were all saddened by the passing of Grant "Buster" Anderson and Judy O'Neill. Buster has been an invaluable part of Manly baseball for many years, most recently coaching/managing the MEBC Under 18s team. Judy's passing came as a shock to everyone who knew her. The thoughts and condolences of all of Manly baseball go out to Buster's family and Michael, Adam and Jason.

Finally, to all the players, families, committees, volunteers, scorers, umpires, grounds keepers, canteen staff and everyone involved in Manly Baseball, I want to simply say thank you.

I encourage everyone that participates in Manly Baseball, who does not already volunteer your time to do so in some manner, no matter how large or small that contribution may be.

I also encourage you all to consider roles in Club Committees and Manly Baseball Committees. No sport can operate without enthusiastic Committee members who undertake the roles to provide enjoyment in the sport of Baseball.

Yours in Baseball,
Brook Russell
President



ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Annual Treasurer's Report

Fiscal Year - March 2026



INTRODUCTION

The 2025-26 season was a good one from a financial management perspective. The Association ran a nominal surplus while continuing to add the Infrastructure Fund. Operationally, player numbers increased for Juniors and we had two teams win State titles with one of those teams going to Nationals. Minor League participation continues to trend downwards but with the temporary closure of A2 and A3 during the FY, we are hopeful to turn this around in the current year. I'm pleased to report that our financial reporting by playing group has improved and is now going to be included in this report.

From my viewpoint, the Treasurer of MWDBA and management of MWDBA finances should be focused on the following facets of the organization:

- The sound fiscal management of each playing group, ensuring they are running at or very near breakeven
- Supporting our member clubs with clear communication around shared costs
- Assisting our high achieving players through sponsorship / defrayal of participation cost
- Managing administrative expenses
- Shepherding the Infrastructure Fund, accruing and tracking balances and investing those funds appropriately for our time horizons

FINANCIAL OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

- Breakeven or better performance for each of the major playing groups (Juniors, Reps, Minor League)
- Continued investment in our Infrastructure fund, including both earnings from interest income as well as from additional contributions, increasing the total from ~\$112k to almost \$127k by the end of FY 2025
- Over \$4k of support for high performing MWDBA players to defray cost of participation in State / National level competitions
- Over \$7k of financial support to upgrade the Manly Clubhouse – paying for construction to create a large closet to reduce clutter and improve layout
- Continued management of overhead expenditures – no material increases in any line items and cleaner reporting (elimination of a lot of Miscellaneous expenses)

FINANCIALS

MWDBA financials are a combined set of accounts reflecting all the activities of MWDBA which includes Juniors, Junior Representatives, Minor League and the MWDBA “parent” organisation which handles overhead and expenses across groups.

RESULTS

MWDBA's total revenues for 2026 were \$152k, which was down on the previous year for a few one-off reasons, including:

- FY 2025 had Miscellaneous Revenue from Council Grants (batting cages) and Reimbursements (A1 field work) which did not happen in FY 2026
- This was partially offset by increased registrations in Juniors following some healthy registration increases at Forest and Pittwater

Profits were \$15k in FY 2026 as compared to \$19k in FY 2025 with the difference being attributable to a whole myriad of factors. Most importantly, as noted above, each playing group ran at breakeven or better and while MWDBA ran a notional “profit” once you factor in the additions to the Infrastructure Fund, MWDBA operationally actually ran at a small loss due largely to the Clubhouse upgrade and the support of high-performing players – there is sufficient cushion at MWDBA to support a one year investment like this.

Manly Warringah District Baseball Association

MWDBA	FY 2026	FY 2025	Variance	Change
Revenues	\$152,272	\$159,954	(\$7,682)	-5%
Cost of Goods	\$121,886	\$103,977	\$17,909	17%
Gross Profit	\$30,386	\$55,977	(\$25,591)	-46%
Other Expenses	\$19,668	\$37,616	(\$17,947)	-48%
Infrastructure Spend	\$0	\$4,113	(\$4,113)	-100%
Interest Income	\$4,690	\$5,018	(\$328)	-7%
Net Profit	\$15,407	\$19,266	(\$3,859)	-20%

The largest difference between FY 2025 and FY 2026 was in the Juniors playing group where in 2025, a much higher gross profit was realized due to minimal spending on trophies (typically purchased every other year) and then a refund to member clubs of \$9k being processed in Other Expenses. 2025 Infrastructure spending was on batting cages (funded via Grant) while there was no spending done by MWDBA in 2026.

ASSETS

The vast majority of Assets are Cash and Cash equivalents with the remainder consisting of Trade Debtors.

For the \$10k listed under trade debtors this mainly represents invoices sent out towards the end of the Fiscal Year around All-Stars and a few other matters which are expected to be collected.

LIABILITIES

Liabilities consist of Accrued Expenses and Accounts Payable. Key accruals / accounts payable at the end of FY 2026 include council charges for Summer field usage, audit fees, moving some All-Star revenue to FY 2027 to match expense incurrence and State competition invoices received late in the Fiscal Year.

EQUITY

Total Equity as of March 2026 was \$204k of which retained earnings was \$189k and current year's surplus \$15k.

PERFORMANCE BY PLAYING GROUP – FY 2026

	Juniors	Reps	Minor League	MWDBA	Total
Trading Income*	\$24,527	\$52,405	\$40,695	\$39,335	\$156,962
Cost of Sales	\$22,774	\$47,397	\$36,787	\$13,211	\$120,170
Gross Profit	\$1,753	\$5,007	\$3,908	\$26,124	\$36,792
General Expenses	\$0	\$5,003	\$1,185	\$15,197	\$21,385
Net Profit	\$1,753	\$5	\$2,723	\$10,927	\$15,407

* includes Interest income which is assigned to MWDBA

This is the first year we are reporting financial results by playing group. While not audited figures, they do tie in to the Association's P&L in our audited financials and should be considered reliable. As previously noted, each playing group ran at a surplus. All Net Profit at the end of the year is carried over in to the MWDBA equity and does not accrue into future years for these playing groups (unless otherwise agreed / accrued).

While MWDBA appears to have run at a fairly significant profit of \$11k, once you subtract out funds contributed to the Infrastructure Fund (both through invoicing to Minor League teams and from Interest Income earned on our Term Deposit), MWDBA ran at a loss of ~\$3.7k which is reasonable given the investment made in the Clubhouse which should not be replicated in future years.

PLANNING

The two key challenges that MWDBA continues to face are providing adequate grounds and growing player numbers. The Infrastructure Fund that has been established (along with working with the NB Council on ground improvements) is meant to address the former while a more coordinated effort with our member clubs may be required to address the latter.

i. Grounds / Facilities:

The use and demand of our sports fields in Northern Beaches is forever increasing and the Northern Beaches Council is actively looking to improve sports ground use.

Northern Beaches Council has almost completed a refurbish of Aquatic's baseball grounds (A2 through A5) with a focus on a complete re-grading and new infields / fencing. Official handover back to the Association is imminent. There should be at least one follow-up project around drainage in 2-3 years (once grounds have settled). Ideally the Association would also like to see lighting additions to A2 and A3 and Rat Park to increase availability / usage. It is likely that MWDBA will need to spend money from its Infrastructure Fund on these initiatives should NB Council not be able to properly fund them.

We are also aware that Manly State League (Eagles) are pursuing a covered batting cage / indoor practice facility at Aquatic in place of the existing outdoor facilities.

ii. Playing Numbers:

Player numbers in MWDBA juniors have substantially rebounded and are at a high point in recent history, despite losing an entire member club back in 2019. The composition of our member clubs continues to change though with Forest now representing 47% of all Junior registrations, up from 35% in 2020. The growth at Forest has almost entirely replaced the previous contribution from North Sydney but our other clubs have largely stayed flat or slightly down over that same period. Having an Association with more balance amongst its member clubs would be beneficial from a competition standpoint, particularly if Seaside, Warringah and Pittwater are able to achieve growth like Forest has historically to provide better overall growth.

Juniors by Club	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Var 2026:25	CAGR 2018:26
Seaside	136	130	151	158	135	147	147	165	149	-10%	1%
Warringah	114	90	50	85	77	91	92	85	83	-2%	-4%
Forest	193	204	214	253	229	256	331	350	387	11%	9%
Pittwater	156	168	174	205	152	164	139	143	163	14%	1%
North Sydney	153	184									
Dragons	24										
North Shore			26								
TOTAL	776	776	615	701	593	658	709	743	782	5%	0%

Senior playing numbers were down marginally in FY 2026. We continue to see challenges in 1st grade which is also being seen by other organizations (including PCBL). We are seeing a continued increase in parent-child registrations though as those children age out of Juniors and this could be the feeder for future 1st grade competitors. Our focus needs to be on the retention of our Junior league participants as well as renewed efforts to recapture lapsed players who stopped playing for a variety of reasons. The Forest club ran an innovative program in 2026 called Fazball which offered adults (both current players and others who were interested in trying) an opportunity to get live reps in both batting and fielding in an accelerated multi-team format. If this effort is able to result in conversion to increased Summer / Winter participation, it might be something that the Association could also support.

Minor League	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Var 2026:25	CAGR 2018:26
Winter	250	257	258	273	304	226	253	247	220	-11%	-2%
Summer	100	111	133	172	210	174	193	104	111	7%	1%
Masters	47	47	47	76	69	80	73	68	77	13%	6%
							43				
TOTAL	397	415	438	521	583	480	562	419	408	-3%	0%

*Aquatic unplayable - 62 refunds

iii. Coaching & player retention

We continue to be well supported by eager and qualified coaches across most clubs and the rep program. The baseball community is incredibly grateful for the time and effort that they commit to the sport as well as our umpires, scorers and supporters. We would note that this year's Senior rep team, which went to Nationals, has a number of coaches / parents who are heavily involved in baseball, with MWDBA and our various committees. We would like to express our gratitude to those people and hope to see them continue at the Minor League level.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Committee, our member clubs and the baseball community to sustain, promote and improve Baseball in the region.

Many thanks

Jay Drezner
MWDBA Treasurer

Manly Warringah District Baseball Association

Combined Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 31 March 2026

	FY 2026	FY 2025
Revenues		
Club and Player Registration	\$149,222	\$147,529
Presentations	\$2,345	\$2,184
Other Income	\$706	\$10,240
Revenues	\$152,272	\$159,954
Cost of Goods Sold		
Club and Player Registration	\$35,027	\$35,590
Uniform Costs	\$9,607	\$6,107
Presentations	\$15,473	\$5,158
Coaching Fees	\$4,150	\$8,045
Game, Ground & Equipment	\$57,630	\$49,076
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$121,886	\$103,977
Gross Profit	\$30,386	\$55,977
<i>Gross Margin</i>	20.0%	35.0%
General Expenses		
Administrative Expenses	\$11,319	\$28,499
Finance Costs	\$773	\$1,314
Advertising and Marketing	\$7,576	\$7,802
Total General Expenses	\$19,668	\$37,616
Infrastructure Improvements	\$0	\$4,113
Operating Profit	\$10,717	\$14,248
<i>Operating Profit Margin</i>	7.0%	8.9%
Interest Income	\$4,690	\$5,018
Net Profit	\$15,407	\$19,266

Manly Warringah District Baseball Association

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 March 2026

As at:	2026/03/31	2025/03/31
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$229,770	\$201,853
Trade Debtors	\$10,830	\$7,552
Uniforms at Cost	\$0	\$0
Total Current Assets	\$240,599	\$209,405
Fixed Assets		
Fixed Assets, net	\$3,433	\$0
Total Assets	\$244,032	\$209,405
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors and Other Accruals	\$39,567	\$20,348
Total Current Liabilities		
Total Liabilities	\$39,567	\$20,348
Net Assets	\$204,465	\$189,057
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	\$15,407	\$19,266
Members' Retained Earnings	\$189,057	\$169,791
Total Equity	\$204,465	\$189,057

Combined Statement of Cashflows

For the year ended 31 March 2026

	FY 2026	FY 2025
Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	153,875	159,089
Payments to suppliers and employees	(133,715)	(136,371)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	0	556
Cash payments from other operating activities	(1,716)	(1,724)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	18,444	21,550
Investing Activities		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	1,716	1,724
Payment for property, plant and equipment	(5,149)	0
Other cash items from investing activities	33	0
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(3,400)	1,724
Financing Activities		
Other cash items from financing activities	12,872	6,614
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	12,872	6,614
Net Cash Flows	27,916	29,889
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	201,853	171,965
Net change in cash for period	27,916	29,889
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	229,770	201,853



**JUNIOR COMPETITION
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

2025-26 JUNIOR COMPETITION COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Overview

Executive Committee:

Julie Hogan (Pittwater) Chairperson
Kate Parkes (Pittwater) Secretary
Mel Bristow (Pittwater) Competition Convener

Board Members:

Owen Harris (Forest Baseball Club)
Nick Thompson (Manly Seaside Baseball Club)
Anthony Dixon (Pittwater Baseball Club)
Matt Eisenhauer (Warringah Baseball Club)

Season Overview

I would like to thank the Junior Competition Committee (JCC) for their outstanding work in administering junior baseball in the Manly Warringah District. The Committee continue to dedicate a significant amount of their time to baseball, both as representatives of Manly Baseball and their own clubs.

This season Aquatic Reserve fields 2-5 were unavailable due to significant and welcome ground resurfacing. Thank you to the Pittwater, Seaside and Warringah baseball clubs who hosted Forest teams for both home games and training sessions. Thank you to the Forest club teams for their flexibility in playing away each week.

Participation and Competition Data

The Competition was run across all age groups from U8 Teeball to Senior League with a total of 60 teams participating from all four clubs. The same number of teams as last season, but up from the 56 teams in 2024-2025. The following team numbers show changes since last season in brackets.

The team distribution across each age group is set out below, with changes from last season shown in brackets.

- U8 Teeball 8 teams (6)
- U9 Teeball 7 teams (8)
- LL Zooka 14 teams (13)
- LL Minors 7 teams (8)
- LL Majors 8 teams (10)
- Intermediate League 7 teams (3)
- Junior League 5 teams (8)
- Senior League 4 teams (4)

The 2025-2026 Junior Competition had 736 player registrations (down from 745) in 2024-25) with the following breakdown by Club and league age. Last season numbers in brackets:

- Forest Baseball Club 391 (350) players
- Manly Seaside Baseball Club 153 (161) players
- Pittwater Baseball Club 161 (141) players
- Warringah Baseball Club 84 (83) players

The player distribution by league age is outlined below and highlights where retention pressure becomes more pronounced in the older age groups.

League Age	Number
9	87
10	87
11	86
12	77
13	62
14	58
15	34
16	19

The league age and team numbers show the significant drop off in players from league age 14 and where we require new ways to continue player retention from Intermediate League onwards. The age is often where players/families elect to leave as players move into high school and priorities compete with studies and other sports or where non-representative players choose to leave with potentially no suitable grade to enjoyably participate. We find that retention is higher where siblings also play the sport and parents are part of volunteering roles.

Competition Format and Key Challenges

The 2025-26 season continued cross-club play on Saturday mornings for U8 Teeball, U9 Teeball, Zooka, Little League Minors, Little League Majors and Junior League. The Intermediate League competition returned to the cross-club format on Saturdays. The mid-week Intermediate League competition hosted in previous years where teams were formed using a draft system had insufficient numbers to form a competition this season. It also suffered from a clash with players committed to representative and club trainings.

After the first round of play the JCC reviewed ladder standings and despite there being quite a difference in skills across the Intermediate, Junior and Senior league divisions, the team numbers made it difficult to split divisions further. The relatively small size of the team numbers continues to pose the most significant challenge for the competition, as it limits the ability to grade players/teams and provide a more even playing field. This creates challenges for enjoyment of the game at all levels of capability.

The Friday night Senior League Competition saw 4 teams participating from only 2 Clubs. Forest and Pittwater both had 2 teams each, highlighting the need for the JCC and clubs to work on retention of players in the older age groups.

I would like to congratulate the Senior League players who have completed their Junior Baseball careers and hope they continue with baseball in the Manly Senior Competitions.

Development Initiatives and Future Priorities

This season, all clubs made a strong effort to recruit younger players and took advantage of the new BBNSW Play Well program. The program offered financial support and player incentives to NSW clubs that delivered a structured, low cost 10-week program for children aged 4 to 8. It was well received by both families and clubs. Its structure also enabled less experienced coaches and older players to confidently run one-hour Saturday morning sessions, with each participant receiving a glove and ball from BBNSW and a T-shirt from their club. Pittwater was able to transition one group from the program into the U8 Teeball competition in February, filling a bye in the draw and creating a strong pathway into competition for new players

The Manly Warringah Umpires Association dissolved during the season after more than a decade supporting the development of junior umpires and organisation of umpires for each junior competition finals series. We want to acknowledge the long-term dedication of the MWBU to the Manly Junior competition.

We are always looking to improve the Manly Junior Competition. The key areas for future focus continue to be collaboratively working together to increase new player registrations and player retention (particularly post majors age); providing skills clinics for players in all levels, but particularly up to Minors to develop core live pitch skills, improving umpire and coaching numbers and capability across the association.

Finally, it is worth noting that further loss of field allocation at Rat Park this year will be difficult to halt if we can't demonstrate demand for fields. I recommend working across the JCC and the Junior Rep committee to maximise field presence throughout the year.

Finals and Recognition

Congratulations to the following teams for being Minor Premiers at the conclusion of the Competition Rounds:

- LL Zooka Pirates (Forest Baseball Club)
- LL Minor Braves (Forest Baseball Club)
- LL Major Red Sox (Forest Baseball Club)
- Intermediate League Cardinals (Forest Baseball Club)
- Junior League Barracudas (Pittwater Baseball Club)
- Senior League Sharks (Pittwater Baseball Club)

The Pittwater Baseball Club hosted the finals series. Congratulations to Colin Rossello and the Pittwater Baseball club on running a successful finals series. Rat Park was a great place to host junior games and Matt Eisenhauer worked hard again to ensure Aquatic 1 was in perfect condition for the Senior League finals series.

Grand Final day brought sunshine and great baseball again this year. The opening ceremony was held on RP 4 to start the day with teams, officials, and spectators gathered.

Congratulations to the championship winners of the respective Grand Finals:

- LL Zooka Pirates (Forest Baseball Club)
- LL Minor Dingoes (Warringah Baseball Club)
- LL Major Red Sox (Forest Baseball Club)
- Intermediate League Cardinals (Forest Baseball Club)
- Junior League Barracudas (Pittwater Baseball Club)
- Senior League Sharks (Pittwater Baseball Club)

Congratulations to the clubs, their teams, team officials and importantly the parents for supporting the Manly Warringah Baseball Junior Competition by allowing their children to participate in this year's competition.

Thank you to Katie Page who took on the task of umpire allocation and support throughout the finals series. This was the first time the JCC took over umpiring management from the MWBU. Katie co-ordinated with each club and together were able to ensure a very well-supported series with junior umpires gaining more experience at this level. I recommend the JCC review the approach to identify any further refinements and continue to encourage more junior umpires to participate.

Closing Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Manly Warringah Junior Baseball Committee, I thank the Manly Warringah District Baseball Association Committee, the Minor League Competition Committee, the State League Competition Committee, and the Manly Warringah Baseball Umpires Association for their support of the Manly Warringah Junior Competition as coaches, mentors, umpires, parents, and supporters.

I want to particularly acknowledge the 8 years of service to Manly Junior Baseball and the Forest Baseball club by Owen Harris who is stepping away from the role of President of the Forest Baseball club and the JCC. The period saw a substantial growth in Forest player numbers, particularly from the U8 age group, many minor premiers and grand finalist teams and a regular strong contingent of representative players at all levels. Owen has personally made a substantial contribution the JCC, Manly Board, the Junior competition and representative teams and I thank him for this and wish him and his son all the best in their baseball ventures.

This is my last year as part of the JCC, having served as secretary and Chair over the last 4 years. I appreciate the support from each club and the executive team during this time and wish the next Chair all the best for a successful 2026-2027 season.

Julie Hogan
Chairperson

on behalf of the Manly Warringah Junior Competition Committee



JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT



MWDBA Jnr Reps – Committee Report 2025/26

The 2025/26 season was another highly successful year for Manly Junior Reps.

Manly Junior Reps entered 4 teams (1 x Minors, 1 x Majors, 2 x Junior League) into the Greenies tournament over the October long weekend. Teams faced some quality opposition and received valuable experience against strong pitching and hitting. Congratulations to our Manly Minors team who won their Division!

Manly had a highly successful Sydney, Association & Gaynor Cup campaign, proudly represented by 6 teams across the U16 (x1), U15 Girls (x1), U14 (x2) and U12 (x2) age groups. Players and coaches were able to develop their skills and gain experience against quality teams in each age group. We are excited that our Manly U12 Association Cup squad were crowned Champions of their division!

All the Manly teams had competitive Sydney, Association and Gaynor Cup campaigns and gained valuable experience. All the teams represented Manly with pride, seeing strong growth as players throughout the competition. A huge thank you to the coaches for providing this valuable experience.

February brought the Rookies Cup Tournament, hosted locally by Pittwater Baseball Club, where Manly fielded 4 teams. Rookies Cup is where Manly's representative pathway begins and is always a great experience for the players, coaches and parents. This year Manly had nearly 50 players who participated in 4 teams across 4 Divisions, including a Rookies Girls Division.

Manly dominated the Rookies Cup tournament, with 3 teams winning their Division and one team finishing 2nd. For many of these players this was their first time as a Manly Representative player and it was exciting to see so many talented girls and boys starting their baseball journey. It was also the first-time coaching and being an EO for many of the teams, we appreciate the time and effort from all those involved. The future is bright for Manly Junior Representative Baseball.

The April 2026 All Star season saw Manly enter 6 teams across all 5 different divisions in the State Championships. We also had two Development Squads that trained through All Star season, LL Minors and Intermediate League.

This was an exciting year with Manly winning two State Championships – LL Minors and Senior League – both teams going undefeated! LL Minors does not have a Nationals pathway, so we are excited to see what this age group is able to accomplish in the coming years. The Senior League Team proudly represented Manly at Nationals held mid-May in Blacktown, finishing 3-3. We are extremely proud of the boys and coaches. It is worth nothing that 11 of the 14 boys on the squad are ageing out of Juniors and we wish the best in the future baseball journeys.

The LL Majors Maroon, LL Majors White, Intermediate League and the Junior League teams each put in strong performances with some outstanding individual plays along with some amazing team moments.

Here are a few interesting stats from the 2026 All Star Season:

- 1 - Manly National Qualifier (Senior League)

- 2 - Manly State Champions & Undefeated Teams (Senior League & LL Minors)
- 3 - Manly Teams in the Semifinals (Senior League, Intermediate League & LL Minors)
- 6 - Total Manly All Star Teams
- 20 - Total Manly Wins
- 36 - Total Manly Games Played
- 75 - Total Manly All Star Players
- 199 - Total Manly Ks pitched
- 234 - Total Manly Hits
- 285 - Total Manly Runs Scored

These achievements are not accomplished in isolation—they are the result of the collective effort of the entire Manly community. As a committee, our goal is to continue strengthening this community so that we become a formidable and united force.

With that in mind, we would like to recognise the many individuals who have dedicated an extraordinary amount of time and effort to the program. A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all coaches and assistant coaches—without your commitment, there would be no program. We are also deeply grateful to our EO's, scorers, pitch counters, and grounds crew for their expertise and invaluable contributions. We would also like put a special thanks out to those coaches leading the development squads during All Star season. This is a lot of work without the big tournament at the end. Your care and dedication to develop these kids is appreciated!

Finally, thank you to the families who consistently support the players, the coaches and the program. We understand the commitment is high and appreciate the effort everyone puts forward.

Reflecting on the season, the committee has worked diligently, alongside our dedicated volunteers, to provide outstanding opportunities for development and competition. We remain committed to continuous improvement and to delivering a positive and rewarding experience for players, families, and volunteers within the Junior Representative Program.

The Junior Rep Committee

Carly Clarke (Treasurer)

Kate Murray (Uniforms)

Bron McDougall (Equipment)

Jodie Van Buizen (Coaching Coordinator)

Charmayne Connelly (Acting Secretary)

Jayson Page (Rep Coordinator)



MINOR LEAGUE COMMITTEE REPORT

MINOR LEAGUE REPORT 2025–2026

Each year, as I sit down to write this report, I am reminded of just how much Minor League contributes to MWDBA and to the broader baseball community on the Northern Beaches. The 2025–2026 season has been one of genuine progress and transition, and once again the strength of our competition has come from the people who make it happen. Over the past year, Minor League delivered a full calendar including the 2025 Winter competition, the 2025/26 Summer season, and the 2025/26 Masters Tournament.

None of this would be possible without the exceptional support of our committee and the volunteers who give so generously of their time. My sincere thanks go to **Joe Weller** (VP Minor League) and our dedicated Minor League Committee—**Andrew Turner** and **Michelle Camphuis**—as well as our Senior Coordinators: **Matt Eisenhower** (Warringah), **Ben Blackshaw** (Seasiders), **Mark Bernardo** (Pittwater), and a warm welcome to **Ben Wiley** who joins us as Forest Senior Coordinator from this winter. Their energy, leadership and commitment continue to be the foundation of everything we do.

This year also marks a changing of the guard on the committee, and it is a moment worth acknowledging with both gratitude and reflection. We farewell **Dave Tuckwell** and **Michelle Camphuis**, who have both given enormously to Minor League over many years. Dave served as VP Winter with great dedication and Michelle's contributions have been immeasurable—as Team Manager, Grade Manager, scorer, past President, Results Recorder and long-time member of the ML Executive. Her result sheet requests written as song lyrics will be sorely missed. On behalf of everyone in Minor League, a heartfelt thank you to both.

We are delighted to welcome **Rob Findlay** as VP Winter, **Natalie Brosseau** as our new Results Recorder, and **Maddison Mumford** as Umpiring Coordinator. These are vital roles and we are fortunate to have such capable and enthusiastic people stepping into them.

Looking ahead to 2026/27, we are also very pleased to welcome **John Farrant** as incoming VP Masters. John brings tremendous ideas and vision to the role, including exciting plans for a two-grade Masters competition. Watch this space.

More broadly, as **Joe**, **Andrew** and **Helen** look to begin passing on their respective batons, we are actively looking for the next generation of Minor League leadership. We are committed to making this a slow and supported transition—there is no cliff edge here. If you have some time, enthusiasm and love of the game, please put your hand up. We will walk alongside you every step of the way. Minor League has always been built on people who care, and that will not change.

This year we acknowledge a significant change to our umpiring arrangements. After many years of outstanding service to the competition, the **Manly Warringah Baseball Umpires (MWBU)** has disbanded. We extend our deepest gratitude to all the Blues who have given their time over the years to officiate our games—their contribution to the quality and integrity of Minor League baseball cannot be overstated. Under the coordination of **Maddison Mumford**, we are actively building a new umpiring model to sustain the competition going forward. Umpiring remains

one of our most critical priorities, and we continue to strongly encourage players to consider accreditation. If you are interested, please reach out to Maddison.

Our grounds crews, led by **Joe Weller & Matt Eisenhauer** at Aquatic and **Garry Coggan** at Rat Park, continue to be the unsung heroes of Minor League. The hours invested in preparing fields each week—often in very difficult conditions—are extraordinary, and the whole competition owes them a great debt.

Winter 2025

Winter 2025 saw Minor League run a competition across 3 grades with 20 teams and 220 players. The weather was again unkind, with 1st Grade participating in the PCBL competition where the finals were washed out entirely. Forest Mavericks finished 2nd in Group 1 and Pittwater Marlins finished 2nd in Group 2. Across the local competition, the quality of play was excellent, with some memorable finals series performances.

Grade Winners:

1st Grade (PCBL): Finals washed out — Forest Mavericks (2nd, Group 1) and Pittwater Marlins (2nd, Group 2)

2nd Grade:

Winners: Pittwater Eskies

Runners Up: Forest Smokies

3rd Grade:

Winners: Forest Giants

Runners Up: Forest Fires

Summer 2025/2026

The 2025/26 Summer season saw 111 players take part across 2 grades (4 teams in 2nd Grade and 4 teams in 3rd Grade). While registration numbers remain below the highs of previous seasons, the competition delivered a full and enjoyable season for all involved.

Grade Winners:

2nd Grade:

Winners: Redbacks 2

Runners Up: Forest Smokies

3rd Grade:

Winners: Mosman Blue Whales

Runners Up: Forest Wahoos

Masters 2025/2026 (Over 35's)

Our Masters competition continues to be one of the most popular events on the Minor League calendar. Played on Monday nights under lights at Aquatic 1, the 2025/26 season welcomed 6 teams and 77 players—one of our strongest Masters fields in recent years. As always, the post-game atmosphere was as competitive as the baseball, with eskies and conversation keeping players at the ground well past time.

Winners: Forest Mud Hens

Runners Up: Redbacks

Simon Lowde Perpetual Trophy — President's Award

The President's Award is presented each year to an individual who has contributed above and beyond to the smooth running of MWML. This year it gave me great pleasure to present the Simon Lowde Perpetual Trophy to **Matt Eisenhauer**.

Matt is a constant presence behind the scenes of Minor League—quietly and consistently getting things done without fanfare. Whether it is preparing and maintaining grounds, working on infrastructure, coordinating Warringah, managing teams or simply turning up and rolling his sleeves up when it needs to be done, Matt is always there. He represents exactly the kind of selfless contribution that makes Minor League possible, and we are enormously grateful for everything he does.

Congratulations, Matt. It is very well deserved.

Facilities Update

After many years of advocacy and planning, the long-awaited remediation works on **Aquatic 2 and Aquatic 3** is completed and the diamonds are expected to be playable in **June 2026**. This is genuinely exciting news for Minor League. The improved drainage infrastructure will significantly reduce the number of washouts that have plagued our competition—particularly over the winter months—meaning more baseball, fewer cancelled rounds, and better conditions for players and grounds crews alike.

The completion of these diamonds will give us up to four first-class playing surfaces at Aquatic (A1, A2, A3) and Rat Park 1. The next priority will be securing floodlighting for A2 and A3, which will open up evening game times and training and allow us to grow participation further. We are grateful to everyone who has worked to make the Aquatic redevelopment a reality.

Our Future

There is never any downtime in Minor League, and 2026/27 is shaping up to be one of our most exciting seasons in some time. The completion of the Aquatic diamonds gives us a genuine platform to grow, the incoming Masters leadership brings fresh vision, and our new committee members bring energy and enthusiasm.

Our focus will be on rebuilding 1st Grade, expanding the umpiring pool, driving participation across all grades, and beginning a considered leadership transition that ensures Minor League is in good hands for many years to come. If you have some spare time and want to be involved, please reach out—whether that is as a team manager, a volunteer on game day, an umpire, or a future committee member. We will welcome you with open arms and hold your hand through the process for as long as you need.

The future of Minor League is bright. We just need the people to make it happen.

Helen Wyatt

Minor League President 2026



INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

MWDBA INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE AGM REPORT 2025/26

The MWDBA Infrastructure Committee (MIC) was formed by the MWDBA Board in August 2021 with a charter to:

- Identify, prepare and keep updated a list of infrastructure requirements for the ongoing development of the sport of baseball within the Association
- Liaise with and lobby Northern Beaches Council (NBC) and the State Government to gain the appropriate funding resources for the delivery of that infrastructure.

The Committee comprises of one delegate from each of Forest, Pittwater, Seaside, Warringah and Manly Eagles baseball clubs.

The MIC has continued to jointly work with NBC on the current agreed priority major projects, being:

1. Recapping, drainage and releveling of Aquatic Diamond 2, 3, 4 & 5
2. Indoor batting cages adjacent to A1

Aquatic 2,3,4 & 5 (senior & junior diamonds)

In May '25, a project that has been led for nearly 4 years by the MWDBA Infrastructure Committee, in planning with Council, finally commenced to re-grade the four diamonds that are the home of MW Minor League and the Forest Baseball Club.

The scope of works included levelling the playing field surface to ensure a standardised grade to improve drainage and remove ponding, with approximately 6,000 tonnes of new topsoil brought in. Whole of field irrigation has also been added.

Two existing dugouts, all four diamonds and back & perimeter fencing have also been upgraded at a total cost of around \$1.7m. The project has taken 12 months to complete (with frustrating delays caused by weather and some elements of sub-optimal implementation) and represents a major investment by Council in our sport. As at the time of writing, the diamonds are almost ready to be played on, with just the finishing touches required.

In time, and subject to gaining the required funding grants, we have additional plans to install slit drainage and game quality lighting, to turn Aquatic Reserve into one of the premium baseball facilities in NSW for both juniors and seniors.

Indoor Batting Cages

Lead by Jeff Bertram & Manly Eagles, an enclosed/covered Batting Cage area to replace the existing facility, has gained Council Development Approval. The next step will be to apply for grants to help us with the financial challenges that such a facility presents....watch this space!

We look forward to bringing further good news to our baseball stakeholders over the coming year.



Thank You

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