

Dear MWDBA Members,

The following 11 members have nominated for the President, Secretary and/or General Director positions on the MWDBA Board.

Please see below the information each of the nominees provided to assist you in voting.

The nominees were asked to provide an answer to the following questions.

- What baseball, personal and or business experience do you bring to the role?
- What do you believe that MWDBA needs to focus on to ensure ongoing success?

Brook Russell (President)

To the Manly Baseball Community,

I am the current President of the Manly Warringah District Baseball Association. Previously, the Chair of the Junior Competition Committee for 4 years.

I have been involved in Manly baseball since 2010 as a player, coach, and administrator. My family are all active members of Manly Baseball. This past season, I coached in the Forest Futures Program and coached the first grade State League team.

I have been involved in baseball for more than 50 years.

Manly Baseball is unique in the NSW baseball community, being a collaboration of the Junior Competition, Junior Representatives, Minor League, and State League. We are unique geographically in the Sydney baseball community.

My goal for the coming season would be to continue the collaborative approach of the Committee and the Clubs to continue the growth of baseball through investment in the infrastructure.

The Annual General Meeting is at 6.30pm on Saturday, 6 May 2023 at the Manly Baseball Clubhouse at Aquatic Reserve. Each of you have a voice and a say on how Manly baseball is managed, I invite all of you to attend, use your voice and cast your vote.

Yours in Baseball,

Brook Russell

Stuart Hanrahan (President)

I have been involved in baseball in Manly for over 40 years having started playing at Pittwater in 1982. I have played juniors, minor league and state league all at Manly and have coached Manly Junior Representative teams for almost 20 years. I was the Head Coach of the state league First Grade team that won the Championships for the first time in 31 years in 2007/08. I am a current committee member at Pittwater and have served on the MWDBA Board as secretary. I have coached numerous NSW and Australian Junior Baseball Teams. Professionally I have spent my life in Sports Teaching, Coaching and Sports Administration and Management. In recent years I have led and managed departments with up to 18 sports administrators and head coaches and over 100 casual coaches with a budget of over \$4 million. I founded a successful Sports and Travel management company that was turning over \$11 million within 5 years of trading. I have a Masters of Law and am a qualified solicitor with an eye for detail and experience in contracts and governance.

I can confirm that as a leader I will be present at ALL Board Meetings and will be available to respond to Board and Community queries in a timely manner. MWDBA has a unique but enviable structure and I will do my best to ensure collegiality and good governance across all facets. It is essential that the Board continues to strive for fiscal accountability and responsibility following on from the good work that was done over the past 3 years. Let's work together to create a positive, friendly and welcoming environment that caters for all current local baseball lovers and the new ones we continue to unearth.

Renee Phegan (Secretary)

Experience:

- Current MWDBA Board Secretary. Worked cohesively within the board and with other committees to ensure effective management and decision making
- 3 years on Forest Baseball Club committee as the media manager, growing our social media presence on several different platforms
- 3 boys, a husband and myself all playing baseball.
- Helped to form the first women's team in Minor League.
- Scored at club and Representative level
- Managed teams over the past 9 years.
- Assistant Principal at a Primary School has allowed me opportunities to make connections between schools and baseball and promote the game.

I believe MWDBA needs to focus on growing player numbers at a grassroots level, which will in turn strengthen our rep program, minor league and state league. In my role as a Primary Teacher and committee member, I have helped to promote baseball in schools and used Sporting Schools funding to give young children the chance to engage in the awesome sport that is baseball. This has helped to grow junior player numbers for FBC. As part of the board this year we have already begun working on plans to implement for the 2023/24 season. I believe we can use the amazing resources MWDBA has to further grow baseball through fostering relationships with local schools and I'm excited to work with the board and committees to develop some innovative and effective programs.

Philip (PJ) Patterson (Secretary)

I have been involved in baseball in Manly for the last 18 years serving as Club President at Forest from 2006-2012, Manly Junior Baseball Committee (now the JCC) for 7 years, a founding board member of the RSA in 2012 and its chairman for 7 years. I've coached both junior and representative teams in Manly for the last 18 years with notable achievements being a national's qualification in 2019 with Little League Major and in 2022 coaching the Manly U16 rep team to a NSW State Championship for the first time since 2001 and at Nationals finishing 3rd winning a Bronze medal.

I am a member of the umpires association (MWBU), umpire regularly, and have played in the minor league for the last 16 years in winter, summer and Masters.

As a qualified financial adviser with a BA in Economics I've owned and operated a financial advisory firm for the last two decades servicing over 200 clients, managing funds exceeding 30 million; all with a team of 5.

I believe the key areas of focus for MWDBA going forward are: growing junior baseball, improving facilities, continuing the governance initiatives including fiscal accountability, promoting and expanding the pathways available for all levels of baseball player.

David Gledhill (Director)

My time within MWDBA goes back to my youth as a junior player for MSBC from the age of 9.

I have since played in the Manly Minor League competitions over various periods over the last 25 years

I have been a coach and parent at the Seaside as well as being on the MSBC board for 10 years and the last 8 of those years as President of Manly Seaside.

A member of the Manly Junior competition committee for the last 8 years.

I have also served on the RSA board for 3 of the last 5 years.

Items I feel the RSA needs to focus on for our continued success are

- implementing the constitutional changes regarding the board make up (if approved) as well as continual review.
- continued pushing of the timeline for the redevelopment and the lighting of Aquatic reserve to make sure it remains on track for it to be the proud home of Manly baseball as it has always been.
- RSA to continue the monitoring of unnecessary costs and cutting them if deemed excessive.
- Having the funds used for running recruitment programs for our future junior players being easily accessible and accounted for.
- Continue to be a strong supporter of further competitions for all our members and I will continue to push to make sure these have a clear path to be run.

Melissa Bristow (Director)**What baseball, personal and or business experience do you bring to the role?**

My baseball experience is at grassroot level being a parent, manager and registrar at Warringah Baseball. I understand the experiences new families have when starting baseball and the steep learning curve involved in a new, unfamiliar sport. I have 2 vastly different sons in the sport and I can understand how the sport supports each of them for different reasons as well as what will turn them away from the sport as a whole.

My personal and business background is revolved around building confidence, resilience and self-esteem in youth. This in particular is one of the reasons I would like to be on the board as sport in particular is one of the many ways we can build our kids (and adults) mental fitness which in turn will help with the ever evolving mental awareness and build a micro community of support. I also have experience organising events and project management in the building industry and high school exchange programs. All of this experience can be used in youth and adult programs.

I am also the fundraising committee member for Cromer Public School's music committee and grant writer at Warringah Baseball Club,

What do you believe that MWDBA needs to focus on to ensure ongoing success?

I feel MWDBA has done a great job at growing the sport but there are always ways to continue moving in a positive direction and improving.

I think all 4 clubs should be brought together to work as one to promote baseball on the Northern Beaches with all clubs benefiting from marketing and anything else used to

promote the sport. I believe a combined marketing campaign for baseball as a sport and appropriate involvement of schools and the wider community we can grow the sport from a grassroots level.

It is also important to understand how we can keep the kids playing baseball during their high school years, it has been proven that kids who stay in sport throughout their teen years benefit not just physically but mentally as well and this age group feed into the adult league which in turn will grow and develop.

The development of the Junior reps program and number of participants in the program is growing which is great for the association, we need to continue to work on this and add similar development for coaches and umpires which is also important as the association grows.

Joe Weller (Director)

Experience:

- 30 years of playing, coaching and administering baseball, at Junior, Minor and State League levels.
- Current roles:
 - o MWDBA Board Director
 - o Infrastructure Group sub-committee (reports to the Board)
 - o Minor League Vice President
 - o Minor League Treasurer
 - o Forest Baseball Committee
 - o Aquatic Maintenance Manager

My Goals for the Board: My goal for the MWDBA Board remains simple: *to maximise the growth of baseball on the Northern beaches, for the enjoyment of all participants, across all competitions.*

This requires the ongoing development of a 5 year plan (something we are currently still working on), covering recruitment, marketing, investment, infrastructure and an evolution map for the competitions that we currently offer. It needs to engage participation from our Clubs (Manly, Pittwater, Warringah, Forest & Manly Eagles) as well as our player/parent stakeholders.

As a Director, my priorities will be to continue to ensure that the Board focuses on these high level issues: knowing where we want to go and how we are going to get there. I will also continue to work closely with Northern Beaches Council to ensure the pledged multi-million dollar investment in Aquatic Baseball Reserve is implemented within the next 2 years.

Luke Mallam (Director)

I began my baseball career forty years ago at Forest, and today I am actively involved in Pittwater Baseball Club and Manly Baseball as a player, coach, and committee member. Additionally, I coached the Rookies Cup girls team and served as the EO for the Manly JL team.

With a professional background in eCommerce and digital marketing, I have utilised these skills to assist in the development of various aspects of Manly Baseball.

Throughout the past 12 months, I have been an active participant on the Manly committee, contributing to the increased awareness of baseball, developing and implementing a strategic plan, and helped reduce committee expenses by over \$10K annually.

Moving forward, I believe that we need to focus on several key areas to ensure the continued success of Manly Baseball. I will take responsibility for these initiatives to ensure they are delivered effectively.

- Create one central social hub where all clubs/committees can be unified to promote games, events and information.
- Review the strategic plan and establish key performance indicators to meet our goals.
- Promote baseball to the next generation via the 'Sports in School' style program to generate interest and awareness around baseball and engage potential players ahead of the summer season.
- Continue to work with the Manly Eagles Baseball to promote state league home games and boost attendance.
- Unite our baseball community under the #OneManly banner, encouraging greater cohesion and strength among our members.

By focusing on these areas, I am confident that we can guarantee the ongoing success of Manly Baseball.

Philip (PJ) Patterson (Director)

I have been involved in baseball in Manly for the last 18 years serving as Club President at Forest from 2006-2012, Manly Junior Baseball Committee (now the JCC) for 7 years, a founding board member of the RSA in 2012 and its chairman for 7 years. I've coached both junior and representative teams in Manly for the last 18 years with notable achievements being a national's qualification in 2019 with Little League Major and in 2022 coaching the Manly U16 rep team to a NSW State Championship for the first time since 2001 and at Nationals finishing 3rd winning a Bronze medal.

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Sam Casper-Richardson (Director)

I have a long history with Manly Baseball through my children, adding to my own extensive softball experience. I have managed a number of junior teams over the years, in addition to over 6 seasons of coaching in junior baseball (the most recent being in Intermediate League 2023).

My son is plays in the junior representative program and has been involved for 5 seasons. I have played softball since I was 11 years old and have been involved in club committees helping in various areas for both softball and baseball for over a decade. I am part of the first all-women's team in the MWML competition, as well as playing Masters. Consequently, I consider I offer unique insights that can benefit Manly Baseball in helping to target the growth of both women's baseball (juniors, seniors and representatives) and the overall representative program.

I have a graphic design background and regularly provide professional photographs that are used by Manly to help personalise our social media.

The key areas of focus for Manly Baseball has to be on growing the game at the club level to increase participation and skill.

I firmly believe our representative program will get stronger when our clubs get stronger.

Hannah Vaughan (Director)

I have been a member of Manly State League Women's team since 2019. I transferred over from softball and found a love for the sport. I have since also played minor league during winter and played at the Tamworth tournament. I have been a member of the Manly Eagles women's committee for the past three years and have volunteered my time through scoring and helping with the livestream. I have significant relevant and translatable experience through softball including 15 years of playing, 10 years as a levelled blues umpire, experience as both a coach and manager, and I currently volunteer my time to Softball NSW to run their scoreboard and livestream for state championships. I also have extensive coaching experience through swimming and strength/conditioning to a national level. I have a sport and exercise science degree and am completing a Masters of High Performance sport. This offers me unique insights into the needs and challenges of progressing from community sport through to professional levels of sports.

I am passionate about quality coaching and participation at all levels and want to help provide development opportunities for whoever needs them. I am also passionate about women in sport and hope to create an environment where we grow the women's game through quality resources and time. We need to create a pathway for our girls to see that there is a future for them in baseball. It is these areas which I think would see the greatest development of people and should, thus, be the focus of MWDBA.

John Hughes (Director)

John Hughes – Manly Baseball - Life Member

Special Qualification: Administrator - Manly State League

Experience relevant to the role of Director of MWDBA

Baseball career:

Player.

Manly State League player – 1979 to 1986

Manly Minor League player – founding member Godfathers: 9 years 8 premierships

Administrative career.

Manly State League committee - player representative – three years – 1981 to 1984

North Sydney President – 4 years

Manly Juniors President – 3 years

RSA founding board member. Four years

RSA President – two years (concurrent with above).

Manly State League Committee member – 5 years, current responsibility – Canteen coordinator

Coaching career.

Manly Juniors

- North Sydney juniors coach – 5 years
- Manly Little League rep coach – one year – 2nd place
- Manly U14's rep coach – two years
- Manly U16's rep coach – one year – 4th place

Manly seniors

- U18's assistant coach – two years – one 4th place
- Second grade coach – two years

Business career

My business career allows me to bring to this position significant marketing experience as follows:

Coca-Cola Amatil: 9 years.

- Analyst
- Market Research Project Manager
- Brand Manager
- Senior Brand Manager

Founder market research firm Emerson & Hughes Pty Ltd.

1991 – 2016: 100 staff across Australia and New Zealand

Founder: marketing consulting firm Spyglass Solutions Pty Ltd

2002 – 2015: 6 staff

Founder: online marketing software firm SMP Software Pty Ltd

Sydney – Beijing. 2004 - current

Founder: online publishing firm POP Inc

2021 – current

Principal strategic focus of the incoming RSA board.

1. Grow juniors. As Manly Juniors president we grew the juniors' numbers to approximately 950 players alas falling short of my goal of 1,000 players. This should be the principal goal of the incoming RSA board as junior players become senior players feeding into both the minor league and state league.

2. Repair the current constitution. The wording of the current constitution is weak and unclear however the established principles of equal representation across the competition

committees needs to be maintained and made clear. This requires the addition of 2 more board members to allow for the representation of the new Junior Rep Committee (an excellent addition).

This should be achieved in the first month of the new board.

3. Grow minor league. Goal - to offer a graded minor league competition in both winter and summer such that an adult player of any ability, age, and gender can participate.

4. State League: Goal – to provide an elite baseball experience for any player wishing to develop and test their abilities at senior levels and provide a pathway to higher levels such as the ABL.

The AGM will be held on 6th May 6:30pm at the Manly Clubhouse.

We encourage all members to attend.

Please click here to RSVP <https://bit.ly/42eQpZR>

Thanks,
MWDBA