

RDCA JUNIOR COMPETITION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017/18 SEASON

From the President

The RDCA junior competition continued to expand in 2017/ 2018. This was driven by the increase in girls teams from 4 to 10 across the 2 age groups. We were pleased to see 8 under 12 teams in the competition. Overall we had 8 clubs enter a girls team as we welcomed Ainslie Park, St Andrews, Mooroolbark, Templeton and Mt Evelyn who joined Wonga Park, Montrose and Ringwood. Credit to Wonga Park who lead the way with under 12 & 15 teams.

The highlight of the summer was the FANTASTIC wins by our two under 12 representative boys sides in the VMCU carnival. These competitions are extremely difficult to win and they bring together the best young talent from across Metropolitan Melbourne. We had 24 young guns who came from 15 different clubs to represent our association. On top of these 24 boys we had Will Bellingham from Croydon Ranges who made the Victorian under 12 side. Our clubs are producing loads of good cricketers and fine young men!!

In total we had 158 teams entered which was 8 more than the previous summer. This may have been slightly helped by the new junior fomats and the reduction of the number of players on the ground. Croydon Ranges were a very deserving winner of the club champion award and they were our largest and most successful club over the summer. The premierships were evenly spread with 13 clubs winning a grand final. Templeton and Croydon Ranges both won 3 premierships.

The junior committee has been very stable over the last couple of seasons and this has allowed us to implement some big changes that have helped improve the competition. Mandy Dolman is the Junior Secretary and she is a savior to many of our clubs. She is very patient and helps many clubs get their seasons started smoothly. The under 10 round robin is a major event and it runs so smoothly due to the efforts of Mandy and the help of St Andrews and Croydon Ranges members.

Our junior rep program continues to improve and this was proven with the two under 12 teams winning their competitions this summer. This was largely due to the dedicated efforts of Bill Stafford. Bill is into his 4th season in this role and this was our most successful carnival ever. Bill runs such a professional process from the nominations, trials through to the final selections to ensure that we put nine strong teams on the park. As well as rep cricket, Bill looks after the fixturing, grading, rule changes and just about anything else you can think of. Quite simply our competition would not run as well as it does without Bill Stafford!

Andy Exley is the Vice President of the junior committee and this year he also did a fantastic job arranging our umpires for 16/1 & 16/2. Andy chimes in whenever we need with my cricket compliance, round robins and the rep program. His common sense and calm approach are very valuable to our committee and he is a great mentor to many people.

Our junior committee has a diverse range of people from various RDCA clubs who give their time to invest in our competition. I thank Luke Henderson from South Croydon, Sean Meehan from Templeton, Steve Toohey from Waranwood and our major sponsor, Paul Attfield from Saxon Sports for their valuable contributions to the day to day running of the competition.

David Brush from Norwood has decided to stand stood down from the committee after over a decade contributing to the RDCA juniors. David has balanced his efforts alongside running the Norwood Milo program and he has brought loads of wisdom to a committee who was sometimes in a rush to change things too quickly!

The clubs expanded the junior formats into 4 under 12 divisions this season which included the reduction of the pitch length as well as 1 day games in all these grades. Despite some initial skepticism, these changes were well received and we feel will produce better cricketers who gain greater enjoyment out of the game. We would again expect the junior formats to expand in the coming seasons at the encouragement of Cricket Australia.

The batting ball count is now in all under 12 & 14 cricket and we feel this is increasing participation but also challenging our better players to score faster and really develop their skills. We now have a ball count in 15 of our 17 grades and club feedback suggests it has increased player enjoyment levels as well as the skill acquisition of all players. We think the benefits will flow into our senior competition with more lifelong cricketers being created.

The under 10 round robins were hosted by St Andrews and Croydon Ranges. These clubs make big sacrifices to host these nights and to be honestthey are a logistical nightmare..... but the joy and pleasure the young players get out of the night make it totally worthwhile.

As mentioned earlier, the competition increased by 8 teams from the previous summer and has increased from 119 teams in 2013/14 to 159 teams in 2017/18, with breakdown for past season being:

Under 10	up from 35 to 38
Under 12	up from 52 to 55
Under 14	down from 35 to 33
Under 16	down from 24 to 22
Girls	up from 4 to 10 😊

We will continue to try to attract and retain young players and will require the ongoing support of our clubs. To assist this goal we will need strong coaching, an atmosphere of inclusion and the understanding that every player in the team has a role to play and in the future of that club.

Thank you to my wife Maree and my two sons Harry and Archie for their support. It is a very time consuming role but I love trying to help our young people improve and giving them the chance to fall in love with the game and their club like I did as a young boy.

A massive thanks to the clubs for trusting me in this role. I am passionate about providing opportunities for players of all abilities to fall in love with the game. I want to change the game to make it better and I always want the game to be played in the right spirit. Every week in summer I see that we are on the right track to making cricket more enjoyable and accessible to young players and their families.

Sean Flynn

From the Secretary

2017/18 was a great season that I will remember as a season that came with a lot of rewards from the new formats and Ball counts that have been implemented to get more kids involved and enjoying the game of Cricket!

It's awesome to see the continued growth of the Girls Comp and I'm looking forward to seeing this competition expanding again this coming season. I congratulate the Clubs that are proactive and passionate about providing Girls Cricket to their members and community.

Thanks again to all the Junior Coordinators who put so much time and love into their Club's Junior Programs, you all were fantastic to work with this season. Your Clubs are lucky to have you!

We changed the Round Robin Mini Bash this past season by having it split between two venues as the number of teams competing has outgrown one venue. The St Andrews and Croydon Ranges people again did a wonderful job hosting this event and I want to thank you all and also my Assistant Secretary, Hayley Brown, who looked after one venue while I was at the other.

Our Junior Committee was again made up of invaluable individuals that help our association evolve and develop as we all share one common denominator "getting kids out on the Park!" We are very lucky to have Sean Flynn as our President as his enthusiasm and passion for the sport is unfathomable. I want to personally thank Sean for his support of my role this year especially while I battled health issues.

Our weekly fixtured games would not run as smoothly without Bill Stafford whose skills are abundant. The time it takes to Co-ordinate the Rep Teams and Coaches is a huge job and Bill is to thank for that too. Andy Exley our Vice President looks after our Umpire's and MyCricket Stats every week and also assists where ever he is needed. Hayley Brown stepped up this season to be my assistant, which eased my workload and she filled in for me while I was in hospital having surgery.

Sean Meehan, Luke Henderson, Steve Toohey and David Brush are wonderful members of our team and their input, ideas and wisdom is what makes our committee successful in working with our RDCA Clubs.

Presentation Night was a fantastic night where we congratulated and awarded those who won the individual batting and bowling awards and Jeff Luscombe and Bill Dean Awards:

Batting

12/1	Will Bellingham	414 runs @ 138
12/2	Pawaan Dave	272 runs @ 68
12/3	Aydan Baker	266 runs @ 133
12/4	Lachlan Payne	233 runs @ 77.67
12/5	Jayden Lynch	167 runs @ 41.75
12/6	Zac Day	174 runs @ 58
12/7	Tate Hodgson	300 runs @ 300
14/1	Phoenix Beck	271 runs @ 135.5
14/2	Romesh Martinus	423 runs @ 211.50
14/3	Nathan Flinn	192 runs @ 96.00
14/4	Ronan Culloty	208 runs @ 208
14/5	Graham Cameron	198 runs @ 66
16/1	Hayden Daniel	477 runs @ 95.40
16/2	Addison Forbes	516 runs @ 103.20
16/3	Aiden Begg	283 runs @ 141.50

Bowling

Will Bellingham	12 wickets @ 6.75
Pawaan Dave	11 wickets @ 7.45
Isaac Rakuscek	14 wickets @ 4.79
Lachlan Payne	25 wickets @ 4.56
Luke Cobelas	13 wickets @ 5.15
Ethan Holiday	16 wickets @ 5.00
Toby Potter	14 wickets @ 5.71
Will Spencer	21 wickets @ 6.19
Ryan Hogg	16 wickets @ 5.88
Jett Blumeris	14 wickets @ 5.79
Denuka Thalgaswatta	10 wickets @ 3.50
Matthew Haysom	12 wickets @ 7.50
Joseph Chamberlain	14 wickets @ 9.50
Jayden Wright	18 wickets @ 8.33
Max Fiorelli	14 wickets @ 8.14

Stars Girls Cricket League

U12's	Alex Sheedy	242 runs @ 242	Hayley McLaughlin	16 wickets @ 3.56
U15's	Chloe Poli	94 runs @ 94	Sky Wilson	5 wickets @ 6.00

Jeff Luscombe Award – Volunteer Award

Steve Toohey

Bill Dean Award – Best Leaving U16 Player

Will Parker

Congrats to all teams who played this season but especially the following teams who won the Premiership Flag in their grade:

16/1 – Montrose	16/2 – Wonga Park	16/3 – Templeton/Bayswater Park
14/1 – Croydon Ranges	14/2 – Templeton	14/3 – Lilydale
14/4 – Croydon Ranges	14/5 – South Warrandyte Hawks	
12/1 – North Ringwood	12/2 – Templeton	12/3 – Warranwood
12/4 – Croydon Ranges	12/5 – Chirnside Park	12/6 – St Andrews
12/7 – Warrandyte	Stars Girls U12 – Ringwood	

It is a privilege and rewarding role being Secretary of the RDCA Juniors but it does take up a fair amount of my time and I thank my three kids and hubby for their patience and understanding. I am proud of our association and all our club volunteers who do a wonderful service for their communities and I look forward to seeing the continued growth and development in the coming years.

Mandy Dolman

VMCU Junior Carnival

This has to have been our most successful junior carnival of all time. We won two premierships, had two teams make semi-finals and another team made the quarter finals. The VMCU carnivals commenced in 1984/85 and we have now won 9 flags.

Our successful teams were:

- **Keith Mitchell U/12 Shield – premiers**
RDCA 7/129 defeated South East CA 10/113. Cam Livingstone won player of the match and Archie Flynn was overall player of the series. We were also premiers in 1985 and 2005
- **Josh Browne U/12 Plate – premiers**
RDCA 9176 defeated South East CA 73. Lewis Miller was player of the match. This is our first premiership in this grade.
- **Keith Mackay U/16 Shield – semi finalists**
RDCA 101 lost to Mornington Peninsular 7/117. Jordan Blair was player of the series.
- **Claudia Fatone U/12 Girls Shield – semi finalists**
RDCA 17/155 lost to Box Hill Reporter 12/175
- **Russell Allen U/14 Shield – quarter finalists**
RDCA 6/132 lost to West Gippsland 5/134

This season, a girls U/14 grade was added and the girls won one of the three games they played.

In addition to the VMCU carnival, we had a further 19 boys and 15 girls play in state/national carnivals. Another 20 boys represented Bayswater and Croydon in the GJ Craig U/15 carnival.

Thank you to all our clubs who continue to support and encourage their players to attend trials and make themselves available to play in the carnival.

Congratulations to our trophy winners, as follows:

Team	Best Player	Coaches Award
U/12 Girls - Claudia Fatone	Alexandra Sheedy	Jessie Arbuckle
U/14 Girls – Julie Savage	Sky Wilson	Jazmine Hood
U/12- Josh Browne	Lachlan Quinn	Joseph Humphreys
U/12- Keith Mitchell	Riley Weatherill	James Johnstone
U/14- Des Nolan	Jaylan Ross	Michael Yuan
U/14 - Russell Allen	Daniel Roe	Jacob Bellingham
U/16 - Keith Mackay	Jordan Blair	Charlie Lawson
U/16- Jim Beitzel	Rhys Smith	Jackson Braunthal
U/18 - Phil Arnold	Lachlan Anderson	Jack Meehan

There were two standout individual performances during the carnival:

- Lachlan Anderson 100no U/18 Arnold
- Ethan Alderman hat trick U/16 Mackay

Thank you to our coaches and team managers for all the time and effort they put into the selection process, practice games and throughout the carnival. We are very fortunate with the quality of coaches we have been able to appoint.

Team	Coach	Team Manager
U/12 Girls - Claudia Fatone	Jas Harrison	
U/14 Girls- Julie Savage	Wayne Hartley	
U/12- Josh Browne	Tim Sugumar	Daniel Sheers
U/12- Keith Mitchell	Matt Fotia	Dave Sherlock
U/14- Des Nolan	Tom Humphries	Debbie Holdsworth
U/14 - Russell Allen	Dale Ingleton	Jayce McMeeken
U/16 - Keith Mackay	Josh White	Nick Chourci
U/16- Jim Beitzel	Jordan Roberts	Charmayne Thompson
U/18 - Phil Arnold	Josh Exley	Melissia Bowyer

Finally, a big thankyou, once again, to Paul Attfield, major sponsor of the RDCA, in making his indoor training facilities available to us whenever required.

Bill Stafford
Representative Coordinator

