



2012  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

## THE COMMITTEE

### President

Kelly Griffith

### Vice-President

Jackie Mills

### Honorary Treasurer

Tracey Lambert

### Honorary Secretary

Jacqueline Walden

### Social Coordinator

Narelle Macdonald

### Publicity and Communications

Aileen Leddy

### Media

Vourneen Ward

### Grounds and Fixtures

Roz Vanderzwet

Maggie Jenkins

### General Members

Felicity Martin

Karen Cooper

Karlie Wise

Lauren James

Nadine Brown

Wendy Stanton

## THE TEAMS

### Angels

Coach: Natalie Krikowa

Coordinator: Cheryl Bernhard

### Devils

Coach: Alison Rhoads

Coordinator: Aileen Leddy

### Jets

Coaches: Ellen Young & Milly Greenwood

Coordinator: Lauren James

### Rebels

Coaches: Kel Griffith & Jackie Mills

Coordinator: Bernadette Gillespie

### Saints

Coaches: Mandi Barnao & Karen Cooper

Coordinator: Jackie Mills

### Shamrock Players

Coach: Merryn Leo

Coordinator: Lisa OSullivan

### Sliders

Coach & Coordinator: Chloe Mulheron

### Stealers

Coach: Kelly Griffith

Coordinator: Shelley Tinworth

### Swingers

Coach: Gillian Mahony

Coordinator: Ali Miller

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

Amy Shaw

Belinda Evernden

Cathy Saunders

Elizabeth Haines

Hayley Lockett

Hetty Ashton

Janna Richert

Jordana Blank

Kelly Griffith

Ken Douglass

Lara Sabaddin

Lena Caruso

Mandi Barnao

Max Costello

Natalie Espinosa

Oriel Webster

Pete Anderson

Pip Marks

Shelley Tinworth

Stacey Warren

Vourneen Ward



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was another fabulous year for SWBL full of exciting baseball action, sisterhood, dress-ups, competitive rivalry, a little bit of controversy for good measure and of course a jam-packed social calendar full of laughs and fun times. You wouldn't want to be anywhere else!

One thing that delights me every year is hearing from our new recruits about how excited and happy they are to have become part of SWBL and part of their new teams, that it's the best run sports league around, we don't take ourselves too seriously, and we really know how to combine sport and fun.

So with that I can't thank the 2012 committee enough for the hard work, new ideas and constant dedication they put into making SWBL what it is. You are all champions. However, it's not only the committee but the coaches and coordinators, those who put their hand up to umpire, and the general good nature of all our SWBL members, that make it truly what it is.

For the committee the 2012 season was supposed to be one where we just kept the engines oiled and running smoothly after such a big program of change was delivered in 2011. However the year was one full of unexpected challenges and I've been fortunate to lead a talented and dedicated bunch of women who rose to each of the challenges we faced, with success. I won't bore you with the details but instead focus on what I saw as the highlights for 2012:

- the introduction of Clover Cam and its new perspective on SWBL imagery

- a new website for SWBL and the development of Facebook as a key communication tool
- the informative and entertaining SWBL Weekly loaded with weekly pics of our members
- our City of Sydney grant
- renegotiation of the ACON sponsorship; \$6000 over 3 years
- an increase in sponsorship on previous years from the Golden Barley
- a tightly run budget and healthy balance sheet that is ready for future investment into the league
- the on-going meat raffles that enticed the locals to spend up at the GB, and the excitement of the members draw each week
- our very own Mother's Day Classic with the pram race of all pram races!
- the talent and entertainment of the ACON All Stars extravaganza weekend
- our annual community fundraising support for: (i) ACON with Bingay, and of course (ii) Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) which raised a whopping \$12,677.22
- that BIG crazy wedding was an absolute hoot and of course the rest of the smoothly run social events that make SWBL more than just a weekend sport.

As I said last year, SWBL families continue to grow with more youngsters being added to the SWBL crèche. Keep breeding ladies, so we can secure the future of the league!

A big thank you to our sponsors, the Golden Barley Hotel and ACON. It was a great year and we look forward to our ongoing partnership and mutual support continuing next year.

I'm hanging up my President's hat and do so feeling very proud of the efforts of the committee and the massive achievements made over the past 2 years. My number one goal was to ensure we positively enhanced the culture of SWBL and I'm pretty sure we have managed to do that. Thank you to all who helped support my time in the role, particularly my gorgeous kids and first lady Cass.

x

**Kelly Griffith, 2012 SWBL President**



# FROM THE TREASURER

What an unforgettable SWBL year!

We had a great response from our Fair day sign ups and Open/ Training Day was a wonderful success. Thanks to our sponsorship this year from a City of Sydney local community grant of \$2500, we were able to advertise broadly and provide refreshments and BBQ on the day, all at no cost to SWBL.

We renewed our 3-year partnership with ACON and continue to enjoy a \$2000 annual sponsorship deal.

We also renegotiated our sponsorship with the Golden Barley and they increased their support to \$2500 per year whilst maintaining our member discounts on Sunday arvos, providing the venue for our pool comp, providing additional prizes for our pub raffles and supporting our fundraising drives. We were also able to create a new team this year although we did struggle a bit to maintain those numbers throughout the season and injuries certainly took their toll across most teams. Is this a new 'aging SWBLer' phenomenon? Perhaps we could look at 'off season' yoga classes to keep us all lithe and supple for next year?

We had a bumper 136 financial members this year, which always helps ensure that those increasing costs can be well managed.

Adding to the bottom line was the great success of our social events and fundraising this year, with all social events throughout the season being self-funded – well done Narelle on a sterling job there. And thanks to the team of GB raffle ticket sellers and scrunchers each week; all that support really adds up.

Our community fundraising was also impressive raising almost \$13,000 for Breast Cancer Network Australia. Bravo SWBLers!

The hoodies were back in an increasingly large array of rainbow colours and still at the bargain price of \$50 each. Our major purchases this year were new chest plates and kit supplementation.

Our challenges of the season were mid-season rain outs, when it felt like a very long time between games and the dreaded 'neighbour' complaint that forced a serious re-think of the BBQ payment system. Who knew there was such hidden logistical talent amongst the membership as we workshopped ideas at the BBQ and the GB? The timely construction of the SWBL Loyalty Card meant that SWBL was well positioned to deflect the complaint when the Ranger called. Cheers Mags – love your work. In fact, we love the card so much, it will be back in 2013.

And who could forget the Lucky Member Draw at the Golden Barley each week where several GB regulars took off the jackpot throughout the season.

Other season costs were well contained this year, leaving SWBL in a very comfortable position for 2013. Thanks for all your support and good humour, we couldn't do it without you

**Tracey (the outgoing Treasurer) Lambert**



## 11 SEPTEMBER 2011 – 10 SEPTEMBER 2012

2011	Income	2012
\$15,195	Registration Fees	\$17,655
\$12,141	BBQ Takings	\$7,445
\$4,000	Sponsorship	\$4,500
\$4,960	Government and Community Grants	\$2,500
\$2,580	Merchandise and Entertainment Book Sales	\$1,500
\$0	Social Events	\$1,497
\$290	Presentation Night 2011	\$130
\$1,590	Presentation Night 2012	\$2,540
\$280	Bank Interest	\$411
\$0	Fundraising – BCNA	\$6,580
\$513	Other Revenue	\$40
<b>\$41,549</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$44,798</b>

2011	Expenditure	2012
-\$5,290	BBQ Purchases	-\$4,823
-\$1,494	Equipment	-\$1,909
-\$100	Ground Hire	-\$2,369
-\$1,188	Insurance	-\$1,224
-\$1,430	Plate Umpire Fees	-\$800
-\$3,684	Merchandise	-\$1,668
-\$550	Website	-\$407
-\$746	Presentation Night 2011	-\$92
-\$6,474	Presentation Night 2012	-\$7,862
-\$1,039	Publicity	-\$1,878
-\$625	Social Events	-\$1,120
-\$2,572	Garage Rent	-\$3,000
-\$3,635	Vehicle Expenses	-\$3,047
-\$1,706	Depreciation of Assets	-\$1,841
-\$982	Printing and Communications	-\$1,186
-\$110	Bank Fees	-\$123
\$0	Fundraising – BCNA	-\$6,920
-\$4,498	Miscellaneous	-\$351
<b>-\$36,123</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>-\$40,621</b>
<b>\$5,426</b>	<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$4,177</b>

2011	Assets	2012
\$25,950	Cash at Bank	\$28,233
\$4,468	Fixed Assets	\$2,627
\$150	Accrued Revenue	\$500
\$270	Stock Held	\$315
<b>\$30,838</b>	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$31,675</b>

2011	Liabilities	2012
-\$5,840	Creditors	-\$2,500
-\$5,840	Total Liabilities	-\$2,500
\$24,998	Net Assets	\$29,175

## FROM THE SECRETARY

The 2012 SWBL season kicked off with some familiar faces returning to the committee. Kelly Griffith once again took control of the helm, accompanied by her trusty Vice-President, Jackie Mills, and keeping all the pennies in order we welcomed back Tracey Lambert as our trusted Treasurer. We also welcomed Aileen Leddy to a new role from general member to Publicity and, after her entertaining skills as MC at last year's AGM, Narelle Macdonald took over the mighty torch of Social Officer held by Loretta. We also welcomed new general members.

With all new and returning committee members quickly finding their feet in their roles so came the excitement of the pre-season ... the flurry to advertise, the emailing, the mobile texting, the booking of the grounds and of course shopping (for new equipment of course).

The committee kicked off the SWBL event season with the annual Mardi Gras Fair Day, a social must in any SWBLer's diary, and a huge success despite an afternoon washout. We managed to sign up 110 interested newbies for open day and one fella, Jake, who was interesting in coaching.

With such a strong interest, Open Day saw the committee form nine teams including a new team of rookies, the Rebels. Jake Boileau, SWBL's only male coach, and with assistance from Kel Griffith and Jackie Mills, coached this new team. The Devils also secured themselves a new coach in Alison Rhoads, always smiling, she fitted into SWBL like a well-loved glove!

This season saw the draw in two halves, just not quite two whole halves! The first half saw each team play all teams once and get a bye; a relief for most teams! With the unfortunate issue of the season being cut short due to Centennial Parkland needing to do some urgent grounds repairs, the committee had to readdress the 2nd half of the draw. Many options were thrown forward: double plays, pool A, pool B, double games on the all-stars weekend ... the endless list of options and mocked-up draws went on. With input from the coaches and coordinators, the decision was finally made to go with 'luck of the draw'. All teams selected a number that corresponded to a number on the draw.

As not all teams would have equal games, with Ellen Young's feedback, we moved to the Win-Loss% to form the weekly result and tally.

Strong, competitive spirit for that top spot saw the Shamrock Players, Stealers, Saints and Angels battling it out each week for that number one position. After 14 rounds the Stealers were sitting strong in that number 1 position, earning them the title of the minor premiers and securing them their 13th grand final. Maybe it was the number 13, or the absence of their coach Kel, but 2012 proved not to be the Stealers' year with the mighty Shamrock Players taking out the competition! Having played hard all season under the guidance of coach Merryn Leo (who legend has it only coaches the winning teams in SWBL), the Shammies took home a very well-deserved 10-3 win.

Eight official committee and two coach and coordinator meetings were held this season with a number of items discussed and finalised. These items included amendments to the 2nd half of the draw, changes to the SWBL van on the grounds, and the concerns surrounding money being exchanged on the grounds, to name but a few.

We thank the continued support of our sponsor The Golden Barley Hotel which remains the home of SWBL. This year the Golden Barley hosted many SWBL events such as the annual pool comp, and every Sunday the weekly meat raffles were enjoyed by both league members and locals alike, not forgetting the weekly members draw and the hope of taking home the top prize of \$250. This rolled over three times, and the lucky winners were: myself, Felicity Martin and (a final one as it was GF) Bernadette Gillespie. And who could forget the Mother's Day Gala with pram races; all in aid of raising awareness for breast cancer and funds for the Breast Cancer Network Australia. We also thank



the support of ACON who along with the Bingay crew offered not only an entertaining evening but also an opportunity to raise money for ACON.

After three years I am stepping down as secretary. I would like to thank all the players. I would especially like to thank the committee who have always worked hard to ensure the smooth running of the season; together they redefined the phrase 'great team work', working through all the challenges that have presented themselves this season. To all the coaches and coordinators, thanks for all your help and much needed feedback this season. To Tracey Lambert and Jackie Mills for the collection of those important score sheets whilst I was overseas.

And finally ...

My special thanks to Kel Griffith, *El Presidente*, for her support and emails!!!

See you next season.

**Jacqueline Walden,**  
**Outgoing SWBL Secretary**

What a sensational year for SWBL and fun! A huge thanks to everyone involved in making the 2012 social calendar chock full of fun with some phenomenal fundraising achieved along the way. We have had an impressive turnout to events this year, wonderful outfits, great laughs and possibly even a few sore heads along the way.

The Meet & Greet saw around 75 SWBLers rock up to the Rose of Australia for a fun night of socialising and meeting and greeting. Old and new alike mingled and talked and shared some liquid libations. This really helped to set the scene for a welcoming year of baseball and socialising.

The annual Mother's Day Gala was a huge success in 2012. We welcomed Councillor Irene Doutney from City of Sydney to join with some well-credentialed mums to help judge the annual league bake-off. The mild controversy surrounding a near clean sweep to the Saints in every category of the bake-off (except best cupcake, good on you Alice from the Sliders) led to some speculation about spiked cups of tea and sandwich bag deals but everyone enjoyed a good feed and valuable funds were raised. While fun was had by all, special thanks must go to all the gals who put their hands up for the Everyday Heroes fundraising and to all who supported them. Congratulations to the reigning pram racing champion,

Cass Boyle who managed to avoid the congestion of the outside barriers and took out the event. Through all of your efforts, including the mega-mother's day raffle, and everyone who donated prizes, we raised almost \$13,000 for the Breast Cancer Network of Australia. Three cheers to all.

While less than a huge crowd this year, Bingay still provided a belly laugh for all with Torah Hymen and her wicked sense of humour ably assisted by the golden-tongued Naomi Palmer. Thanks to ACON for their ongoing and mutual support of SWBL for 2012 and keep an eye out for another opportunity to attend Bingay during the 'off' season and support ACON in return. Eyes down, shush please.

We returned in droves to our spiritual home of pool, the Golden Barley, for our annual SWBL Pool Comp, where there were a few upsets on the night, not least of which the de-throning of 2-year reigning pinball wizard, Collie, by an enthusiastic young Shamwow supporter, David, well done. Consolation to Collie was found in the form of a runner-up pool comp trophy with Tash, just pipped at the post by Hayley and Jude also from the Shammies ... was it a sign of things to come?

Well, Julia may say no and the mad monk may say no, but the SWBL girls gave

My Big Fat Pikey Dykey Gypsy Wedding a resounding yes as the social highlight of the year! Oh the pink taffeta, the bling, the beautiful brides and bevies of beautiful bridesmaids and all manner of groom types and even a little sergeant pepper swinging sixties action, not to mention the appearance of not one but two Elvises to help celebrate our night of nights. The stunning Glemma Rays added extra pizzazz and what is a wedding without a little Billy Idol action? The bouquet toss saw a bit of up there Cazaly action and while the garter snatch descended into chaos, the waltz-off was a thing of beauty. Congratulations to Helen and Lara, the ultimate dancing queens. There were many winners for costumes on the night, but Hayley and MJ you truly embraced the pikey wedding; thank you!

The SWBL social calendar is now drawing to a close with one final event to cap off the year ... over 120 tickets sold to the AGM/Presentation night and I hope as you read this you are enjoying a wonderful night out for the final SWBL event of the year.

Big thanks again this year to our principal sponsor the Golden Barley Hotel for providing support for our weekly meat raffles as well as a welcoming environment to enjoy post-game bevies and friendship. The meat raffles have proven hugely popular again this year and have seen the proceeds go back into the league and helped subsidise other events throughout the season. Special thanks to the committee, to Webby for her fabulous support throughout the year, and to Felicity, Tully, Jack, Janet and all of those who have helped flog raffle tickets through the season. Thanks to Loretta, Webby and MJ for your work on the pool comp. And finally, to you all for participating in the year's events and making 2012 a wonderful year for SWBL Social. (And of course to my wonderful, patient, partner Aileen for all of her help, creating the invitations to events, and helping out with all things social! X)

**Narelle Macdonald, Social Officer**



# PUBLICITY, COMMUNICATIONS + MEDIA REPORT

The 2012 season kicked off for Publicity, Communications and Media in November 2011 when we organised a new SWBL banner, bumper stickers, temporary tattoos (who didn't enjoy sticking those on to potential new recruits at Fair Day) and a swanky, and oh so useful, SWBL bottle opener.

Once the season started, the focus was again on communication with SWBL members. First off was the Players' Handbook. The 'SWBL Weekly' newsletter continued as a primary source of information for members and popped into your nbox 23 times this season. The SWBL facebook page was split into a page for all things SWBL and a member noticeboard where you could post anything you liked to SWBL members. This seems to have

worked out quite well with members able to sell their kittens, announce their garage sales and the like without diluting the SWBL baseball message.

Publicity, Communications and Media also supported Narelle in advertising the League's great social events: the Meet and Great, the Big Fat Pikey Dykey Gypsy Wedding, Meat Raffles at the GBH, the Mother's Day Extravaganza, the Pool Comp and the AGM/ Presentation Night.

It's been a busy and exhausting but very rewarding year.

Time for a little lie down now.

**Aileen Leddy, Vourneen Ward**







# THE ANGELS

The Angels had a fantastic season and one they will look back at as being a fantastic result but maybe a missed opportunity.

It was a season of 2 halves for us. The first half of the season we snuck under the radar of a lot of teams. We played solid consistent baseball with everyone chipping in to provide fantastic team performances. Regulars from last season Wendy Stanton and Sandy Francis succumbing to season ending (or starting) injuries leaving our Roster 2 players down but still in a healthy state.

We had fantastic new rookies join the team in Tanya Poole, Amanda Petkovski and Candice Patey all contributing to the improvement of the 2012 Angels. On top of that all of the players in their 2nd season including Susanna Daalmeyer and JoJo Sperring looked much more at home on the diamond. Our batting across the team was consistent and the number of errors in the field was down heaps on last year.

We got off to a flyer winning five of our first six games, only losing to the Jets after our team BBQ where we led after the first 2 innings but to fade dramatically to lose 3:9. Strong pitching from Jenenne McKenzie and Eryn Clark helped to build a solid platform that we could build our performances around.

Mother's Day was both a highlight and a lowlight for the Angels. A fantastic win over the Stealers 4:2 followed by a catastrophic accident in the charity pram race where a Hit & Run resulted in a serious shoulder injury to Maria Lupia impacting the remainder of her season.



Mid-season was severely interrupted by washouts and byes resulting in both the opportunity to get over some niggling injuries but also grow some rust in the joints. Our first game in four weeks was probably our best win of the season a tightly contested 4:3 win over the Jets that saw Safe Hands Annie (Porter) join us for a very rare beer.

From that point on however things did not quite go to plan. Unavailability of personnel due to both Injury and holidays resulted in numbers being low, players not being consistently available resulting in inconsistent performances and results not going our way. Poor Vanessa Dickson suffered her 2nd serious calf injury. We lost our last 3 games of the regular season and finished with a Bye where the Shammies helped us out by defeating the Jets to help us sneak into our first finals series.

The lack of games however was not the best preparation for the finals but our spirit remained strong. Our Quarter-Final

against the Saints will be an opportunity that we look back at as one that got away. Four crucial errors throughout the game, including a clanger by myself, made an enormous difference to the outcome. The result of the game was a really close 4:3 loss and the end of our season.

One will never know what may have happened the following week. The Stealers beat the Saints after playing an A-class game but we did beat them twice throughout the regular season, so never say never...ever the optimist.

There are 4 people I would like to thank enormously for their contributions this season:

**Natalie Krikowa** as always for her coaching efforts, in ensuring that everyone got an opportunity to shine whilst keeping us competitive

**Benita McFadzen** for being the spiritual leader of the team

**Karen Mossman** for her efforts in taking all of our umpiring duties

And last but not least (and probably most importantly):

**Jacqueline 'Waldo' Walden** for her thankless work on the committee, without which SWBL would not function as smoothly as it does.

And to all Angels thank you for yet another wonderful season and I hope to see you all back next season ... especially Safe Hands Annie

Cheryl 'Boss' Bernhard



# THE DEVILS

Coming off the back of our 2011 wooden spoon excitement, all Devils eagerly returned for 2012. Our mantra: "The only way is up ... baby", that's how the Devils started the 2012 season.

Always improving our United Nations credentials, we welcomed a fabulous new coach, Alison (aka Coach Hellspawn, thank you laser tag) who didn't disappear after two weeks, and three new rookies, Nova, Rozenn and Bui, who have been great additions to the team. This brings our melting pot of backgrounds to 1 Irish, 1 Chilean, 1 Pom, 1 German, 1 Thai, 1 Filipino, 1 French, 5 Yanks, and 5 Aussies; but through and through all Devils, each and every one. We even got a new mascot to start the season courtesy of Kirsten (and Rachel) – welcome to the world Ollie.

The Devils had a great season, in spite of our position on the ladder. We had bookend wins to start and finish the season and a couple along the way to keep us motivated. One of our proudest moments was the team effort that gave us a draw against grand final winners, the Shamrock Players. Shock and awe all round, washed down with many cleansing ales at the GBH.

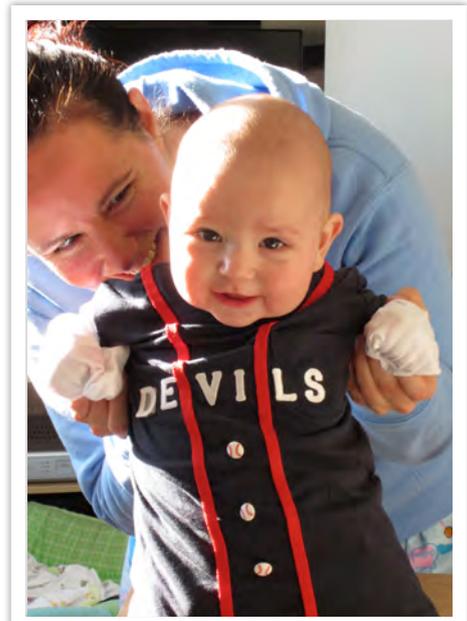
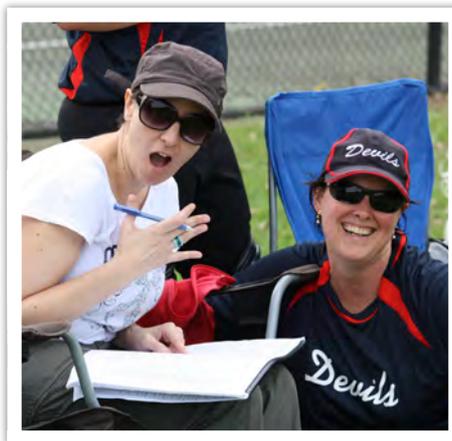
Each player contributed to the team spirit and improved her skills immensely in 2012.

More importantly, we supported each other and still remembered to smile and enjoy ourselves on the diamond ... it's a game after all and we're here for fun.

Thanks to the other teams for a great season and a big welcome to the Rebels – hope to see you all back in 2013 and that once again SWBL has proven it's an amazing league to belong to.

Finally, a huge thanks to the committee. Without you there is no league; without the untold hours behind the scenes, there are no social events. So the Devils say: "Thanks girls, for the community, the friendships, the support, the fun and of course the baseball."

See you all in 2013.





The Jets 2012 started off with five new recruits joining the ranks: Jo, Amy, Brenda, Mina and Jen. The old faithfuls also returned including Lara, Helen, Simone, Milly, Ellen, Petra, Renee Lauren and Stacey scoring and being the general fill babysitter!

Milly & Ellen assumed the role of Coaching and provided a fresh outlook which came to the game each week with their raw passion and enthusiasm for the game we all love BASEBALL!

The season started off a little shaky for the Jets, regardless of us having made the grand final and coming away with the silver medal, the first few games established that the Jets were slightly rusty and still had some fine tuning to work on with our ability to gel as a team and absorb the new players. Jo and Amy (even though they are keen Rugby union players) had no baseball experience and what they lacked in ball skills, they certainly made up for in enthusiasm and raw aggression to play as hard as possible at all times. We all learned to move quickly if Amy the steam roller was running towards a possible catch! Jo is of the same mould and behind her mild mannered Dutch persona lies a hard core competitive team player who always has a smile even when she is on the losing team!

The other new recruits came to the Jets with a varied level of baseball experience. Jen & Brenda are both personal trainers and all

round exercise freaks and had years of high quality experience in softball, combined in the outfield they formed a great partnership which helped the Jets move towards some wins a few games into the new season. Mina was the final new recruit to the Jets for the season and contributed to the team with her personal attributes and her enthusiasm for the game. Unfortunately Mina's season came to an end mid-way through the season with a foot injury.

Lara and Helen both returned under the assumption that they would be playing half games to allow someone to be watching the boys on the sideline – now that they are running about, but due to the dwindling of jets players throughout the season both ended up having to play full games almost every week, their performance on the field was both strong and consistent, with Helen stepping up to pitch also.

Milly- behind every good pitcher is their catcher and Milly proved this with her unwavering commitment to the team and relentless positive reinforcement (wether yelling from the sideline or home plate)

Ellen the Jets pitcher extraordinaire and baseball guru. Ellen's contribution to the team through pitching week in and week out and co coaching made the Jets season as successful as it was. Her expertise in baseball has been invaluable to both new and returning players.

Petra brought her infectious positive can do attitude to the team, along with her willingness to play wherever needed and every team needs a true utility player and Petra is our girl. Petra would be an asset to any team in any situation!

Simone returned to the Jets and displayed a strong batting standard most weeks with some superb hits and some good infield plays at first, second and third base.

Renee and Stacey were both missing in action this year, Renee getting shipped off to sea for work and Stacey still not recovered from her bike riding injury in the off season, both players were sorely missed and will hopefully be back in action for the Jets next season.

Lauren was named the most over-extended player in the team- for a few reasons- 1st base was her main position and some of the throws she needed to retrieve most certainly required her to be fully extended! Being on the committee, she was required to be at the grounds on almost every weekend for either set up or pack up. Lauren also did more than her fair share of umpiring – she certainly pulled her weight and was an invaluable member of the Jets team!

The Jets would like to acknowledge the Committee for the time and effort they put into the league- getting it to run as smoothly as it does takes dedication, commitment and selflessness. We would also like to thank the other SWBL teams who made playing in the league so enjoyable.

Bring on the 2013 season!



# THE REBELS

The Rebels have had an interesting entrance to the league starting the season as a brand new team with all new players, most of who had not played baseball before.

We had about 13 players and a coach, but within the first five weeks this changed with players leaving and the coach resigning. We didn't know if the team could last the season.

Thankfully new players joined us as we hung in there with immense support from the league and the other teams offering to fill positions for us when needed.

We are grateful for this support as the experiences of seasoned players has helped The Rebels understand the game and improve our abilities to bat, field, and read the state of play.

We are especially thankful to our fill-in coaches, Kelly and Jackie, who encouraged us to 'only hit at strikes -that's only between boobs and knees girls' and to 'hang and bang' our way to first base.

To say it was an eventful season is an understatement as we achieved our goal of winning a game, and not being slaughtered week after week (although there were a couple of whoopings).

We also managed to take a few scalps namely in the Mother's day pram race and one ball to face incident against our good friends The Devils. They promptly responded with a ball to the spine!

We have had the privilege of bonding as a team as bodies were put on the line with balls to the head and legs and the odd face-ball; fitness was tested as overthrows were chased down and arms strengthened for the long toss back. We have come together as a team of friends as the season progressed and look forward to next season.

So, to our fellow teams, look out for a band of women clad in black and glowing with neon green letters as The Rebels will be back next season with a competitive spirit.



# THE SAINTS

Well another season comes to an end, and what an end for Saints. Finishing a very respectable 3rd is none too shabby – well done girls and look out 2013 the Saints are a coming!

We had the usual suspects' line up for another year, Jackie, Tracey, Hetty, Mel, Felicity, Michelle and Lee all laid the foundation and inducted our new players into the hallowed saintly arena with heavenly precision. We lost Kiki in the first few games with a torn calf muscle and she couldn't recover in time for finals but should be ready to go next season.

Our Rookies – where does one start?

- Princess – pulling a few O rings as she stretched and lunged her way on 1st base
- Stacey – Wow did she come up with the goods. Spectacular catches, enormous hitting and ripped pants every Sunday
- Tre our quiet achiever (on the field that is!) solid in the outfield and when she connected – 'out of the park' was the call

- Liz did her wiggle in the batters box to distract the pitchers and slowed play down in style when given the signal
- Sarah – well Sarah is already in training for next year to be No. 1 pitcher for Saints
- June was our part timer due to work commitments, but when she was on, she was on fire
- Linda always in leather and always giving a 100% even when she was a 'little under' 100% herself.

We had a slow start to the season, but as the season progressed the team gathered momentum, built skill, grew in confidence and told a lot of tall stories each Sunday back at the Barley. Mel and Lee were our dynamic strike team on the mound and pitched a fantastic season – thanks gals! Felicity and Hetty were solid behind the plate keeping the umpires honest. We finished a stronger batting team, and at times a pretty shmick group of fielders.

To our fantastic support crew on the sidelines: Nicola, Tre's crew, Bea, Kim, Nic

and Em, Meredith, Kylie, Mel, Tully and Bec a huge thank you. We loved having you there each Sunday xx

To Little One (our Lynn timer) our brilliant scorer - we will buy you colored pencils for next year and we want to see all green please xx

We were very fortunate to have Mandy available to coach for a few games this year and we wish her a speedy recovery and to see her back on the Saints bench next year.

The team is keen to get into their off season training starting with golf – good drinking game they tell me and to feel confident it will help with their skill development!

A big Saintry thank you to all teams for another great season of baseball and socializing.

Also to the committee and other volunteers who work tirelessly each week, Saints thank you for efforts – on and off the field.

See you all in 2013



# THE SHAMROCK PLAYERS

Big thanks to the tops people in every single team in the League AND the Committee. This year, not only did we have some absolutely cracking games – whether a draw, loss or win – we also had a shockingly cool end of year result, which made us all feel generally rather merry (Mezz perhaps more merry than most, if that quick exit from the Barley was any kind of indication).

Meet the team

Rather than do a massive recap of the whole season, we wanted to give a nod to all the mental individuals who make up our gang.

**Alison** – most improved player in the League last year and yay, pretty feckin’ amazing this year too.

**Ally** – through injury, a dicky appendix and all sorts of big life stuff, this lady blew us away.

**Amy** – yeah I’ll catch one person out, then I’ll catch another one, then I’ll wallop the ball.

**Aoife** – sweet rookie who went from strength to strength and then a little bit more.

**Collie** – concentrated determination saw this pitcher play some of her most intense games ‘under the weather’.

**Hayley** – a true sportsperson of honour and a total pleasure to be around.

**Jacqui** – what a blessing she is with her ability to run and catch, literally like no other.

**Janna** – if you haven’t noticed how she runs, you should check it out some time.

**Jude** – how one person can catch so many people out when her hands spend so much time in her pockets is a mystery.

**Karlie** – stepped away from coaching only

to play like a trooper, and having walked one million miles in the process.

**Lisa** – hmmm, she sends a good email.

**Loz** – having dislocated and relocated her own finger, this woman is one tough, loveable, nut.

**Mezz** – who knew that knowing where we play and stuff would actually do something? WoW. We thank you so much.

**Michelle** – did your pants stay up this season?

**Nikki** – lightning strikes when this girl is on the field. Ka-boom.

**Our supporters** – from the raucous blokes, to the kidlets, families, puppies, better halves and besties, we so appreciate you coming along – it makes it really noice.

**Sam** – holy crap lady, you can do just about anything. That is all.

**Tash** – stealth performer, sneaks onto the field and does all sorts of amazingness.

**Vourneen** – swoops in and makes us giggle with more than the occasional clever aside.

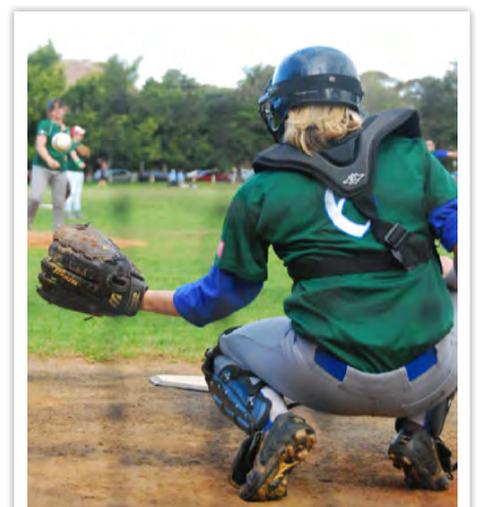
**Webby** – no-one cracks that whip like Webby does.

Special mention to all the umpires

It’s often a thankless task so we wanted to pay tribute to you guys for being so brave to step up and make your voices heard. Onyas.

Here’s to you all and thanks for everything.

x The Shammies



# THE SLIDERS



2012 was the Sliders most successful season on a number of fronts. We beat the Jets (who according to rumours were too scared to play us in the fifth/sixth playoff) and finished fifth on the ladder and had the best uniforms in the league, with a brilliant new logo designed by our resident GD, Sharon.

The Sliders, were led by our dedicated coaching team of Rob and Chloe, new Sliders this season included, Megan, Casey, Tegan and Alice and we increased our international import roster with Gemma, Emma and Sharon.

In round four, we had our first win of the season, and Rochelle won the player of the round.

We all wore our best dresses in round five for the mother's day extravaganza; Robbie represented us in the Pram Races and Alice took out best cupcake.

We racked up our second win of the season in round six. Despite rounds eight and nine being rained out we still had a win with Ann, winning the FB caption competition.

In this year's pool competition, the Sliders were well represented both at the bar and on the tables.

In round ten we notched up our third win for the season.



And two weeks later we kept the wins coming with some great batting, and extreme base running, highlighted by Robbie's sensational slide into home in her Hockey shorts. We won by one run in a tight and tense encounter. In a first for the season we took out back to back wins, with another great game in round 13.

Several players took on some key roles during the season.

Neddy, had a great first season of pitching. She was joined by Tegan and Megs, who also stepped up to the mound.

Casey and Jules were fantastic at catcher.

Rochelle, kept the outs coming at first and Ann, did a brilliant job of keeping us all up to date on what was happening in the league and put her body on the line in warm up of our last game, sustaining a suspected broken nose.

Ant, learnt the art of scoring, and took on the infield.

Jo played several new positions including first and our imports were also sensational.

Gemma, Hannah and Sharon, did some solid batting and where enthusiastic on and off the field.



# THE STEALERS

2012 saw The Stealers celebrate their 15th consecutive SWBL season! Where does the time go?

Suiting up yet again, were our trusty original Stealers: Kel & Cath. So consistent have these two been in turning out for the league, they must almost be worthy of the accolade – ‘SWBL National Treasures.’

Our core group of committed regulars were also back with a vengeance: Shell (for her 14th season on the trot) and Bel (11th season), Marsy, Annie, Chuckie, Nat, Nadine, Roz and Mags.

This year we were very fortunate to welcome back the very-talented Michelle Link. Michelle played one game with us many moons ago, and we thought we had lost her forever. However, it didn't take long to spot her at Open Day – that girl can hit! – and we promptly snaffled her back into the Stealers' fold. She has been an absolute asset to our team this year, and I think you'd be hard-pressed to find a piece of baseball equipment she doesn't own... she's practically a mobile version of the Dugout!

This year we lost the services of Amy Kermode and Cass Boyle, the former to roller derby and the latter to the sidelines. Fortunately the League allocated us a couple of 'newbies' – Denise Mao & Kylie Mexon to fill these gaps.

Despite Denise being the most excited person I have ever met in terms of wanting to play baseball, we didn't actually see her at many games. Study and overseas travel commitments appear to have played a role in keeping her from joining us, however I will never forget her utter delight at hitting a ball early in the season. She was so shocked and excited, she forgot to actually run to first base, but hey, minor details. Denise had the most marvellous mentor in Mags "Patience" Jenkins, and I believe if she had been able to play for the remainder of the season, we would have seen that girl cross home plate eventually.

Kylie, on the other hand, rocked up to almost every game. Her presence singlehandedly doubled the Kiwi representation on our team (woo hoo!) and with her came the cute-as-a-button, Reese, adding yet another mini Stealer to our group.



Despite being an inexperienced baseballer, Kylie went from strength to strength as the weeks passed – helped in no small part by having the always-calming Sarah Marsden as her mentor.

We started the season well, recording several wins on the trot, before losing momentum with the rain interruptions and long weekends. We never seemed to be able to field the same team consistently, as several of our girls were juggling other commitments throughout the year. Bel and Shell were madly training for the Oxfam 100km trailwalker, Nat was overseas more than she was in Sydney, and Chuckie's shiftwork and a long-awaited trip to Africa kept her from us for most of the season.

Coach Kel led from the front as always, and we continued to mix up the field positions, to give people a taste of something new. This approach continues to bear fruit, and also helps to give our girls more diverse skills.

There was a high level of competition in the league this year, but amazingly we only lost one game throughout the regular season – with the Angels getting one over us in the first round. The contests with the Shammies were always hotly-contested and tightly-fought affairs, with our teams drawing the first game, and us taking first blood in the second round. However, they had the last laugh with a 5-4 win over us

in the first game of the finals. Well done ladies.

The sudden-death semi-final v the Saints was a glorious day for baseball. The sun shone, the wind stayed away and a great game was played.

We were fortunate to prevail over the always-dangerous Saints, and so the scene was set for a rematch with the Shamrocks, in the Grand Final.”

7th time lucky...not this time. The Shammies played an amazing game and beat us on the day to deservedly claim the 2012 trophy. Well done girls. We're looking forward to many rematches next season.

We've all really enjoyed this season and would like to acknowledge the sterling work of the Committee in making it one of the greatest in recent memory. The regular social events were fantastic, the information dissemination was extremely effective and the season ran smoothly, despite all of Mother Nature's best effort to disrupt things. We are all incredibly grateful for the time and effort you all put in, and know it takes a lot of work and effort to get SWBL up and running each year, and keep it going week to week throughout the season.

Thank you all,

Stealers 2012.

# THE SWINGERS

2012 was a season of mixed fortunes for the Swingers. The start of the season saw the Swingers' infield decimated through births, injuries and migrations. Gone were the pitcher, catcher, shortstop, 1st base and 3rd base.

Our usual Swingers, Lex, Jodi and Gillian, were back. Nic and Ali both returned soon after having recovered from broken bones (note to self: don't dance with cars). Unfortunately for Cath she was taken down by Lex in one of the first games and was retired for the season. Steph Foster and Ms Katie G ultimately returned following their respective sporting and travel adventures coming to an end and also returning to the Swingers club was new mum Simone and our other parent type, Mausey.

The decimation of the infield brought into the fold new Swinging lasses who appeared to know more about Swinging from roof beams than swinging a bat. Needless to say it resulted in much fun on the diamond, if not always for me, at least for the umpires and our opposition. Our new Swingers were a glamorous bunch – Olga Kol, Sarah Walsh, Justine “J-Ham” Hamilton; Rachele

Fletcher, Deb “Patsy” Davies; Elisa “Dragon Rose” Choy, Pina Tigani, and Ann “D’oh” Do.

On the downside in 2012, Swingers didn't win a game but on the upside we came second every week. There were SM moments (Swingers Magic) which cannot be left unsaid, including:

- More than one of the new Swingers asking “Do I need one of those glove things?”
- The beloved “Patsy”, connecting bat to ball straight to first base and deciding she would re-take the hit as:
  - she wasn't up to strike three; and
  - she didn't really like that hit;
- Ms Katie G, playing her first game as catcher, throwing herself superman style at the runner heading home, taking a fantastic tag only to find out that the runner was, in fact on a forced walk to home and therefore safe;
- A number of the girls charging to first base still swinging bat in hand accompanied by a battle cry that would have spooked even William Wallace;

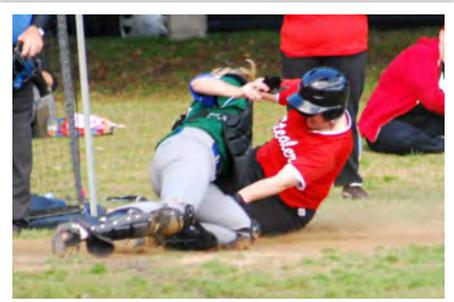
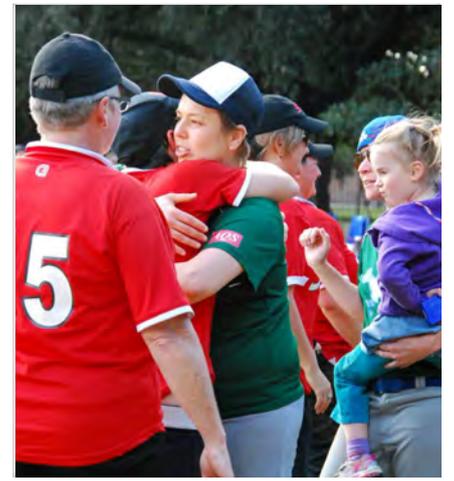
- Following a triple play by Jets a joint cry of “Ohhh... That's what you mean by 'hold up on a fly ball'.”

Swingers cooked for the Mother's Day bake off (Damn that Tully for beating us – we were sooooo close). Rachele “Fletch” Fletcher came 2nd in the Mother's Day Pram Race (Damn whoever for beating us – we were sooooo close), and through Dragon Rose's efforts, we came 2nd in the race around the base (Damn that Belinda for beating us – we were sooooo close). We attended Shelly and Belinda's fundraising trivia night (Damn those other teams for beating us – we were sooooo close). Swingers proudly arranged for donations to the Mother's Day Raffle at a value of approximately \$1000 – thanks to Patsy for her beautiful jewellery and Via Spiga (Neutral Bay) for their spa package donation.

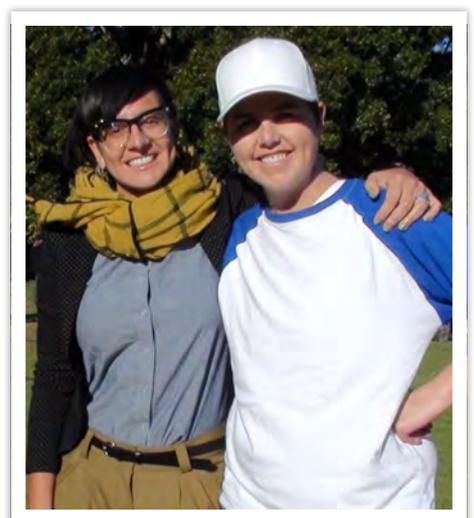
Will Swingers be back? Undoubtedly so. We love the game of baseball. We love debriefing at The Kurrajong (our sponsor for the last 6 or so years). Next year we look forward to winning a game (or at least coming a close second) and enjoying the camaraderie of our wonderful Swinging women.



# FINALS



# ALL-STARS



# MOTHER'S DAY



# MOTHER'S DAY



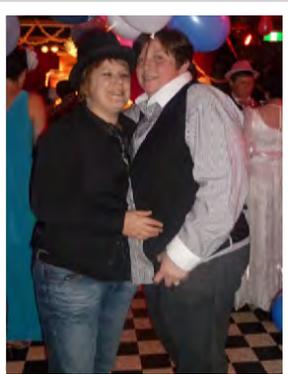
# POOL COMP



# POOL COMP



# BIG FAT PIKEY DYKEY GYPSY WEDDING



# BIG FAT PIKEY DYKEY GYPSY WEDDING

