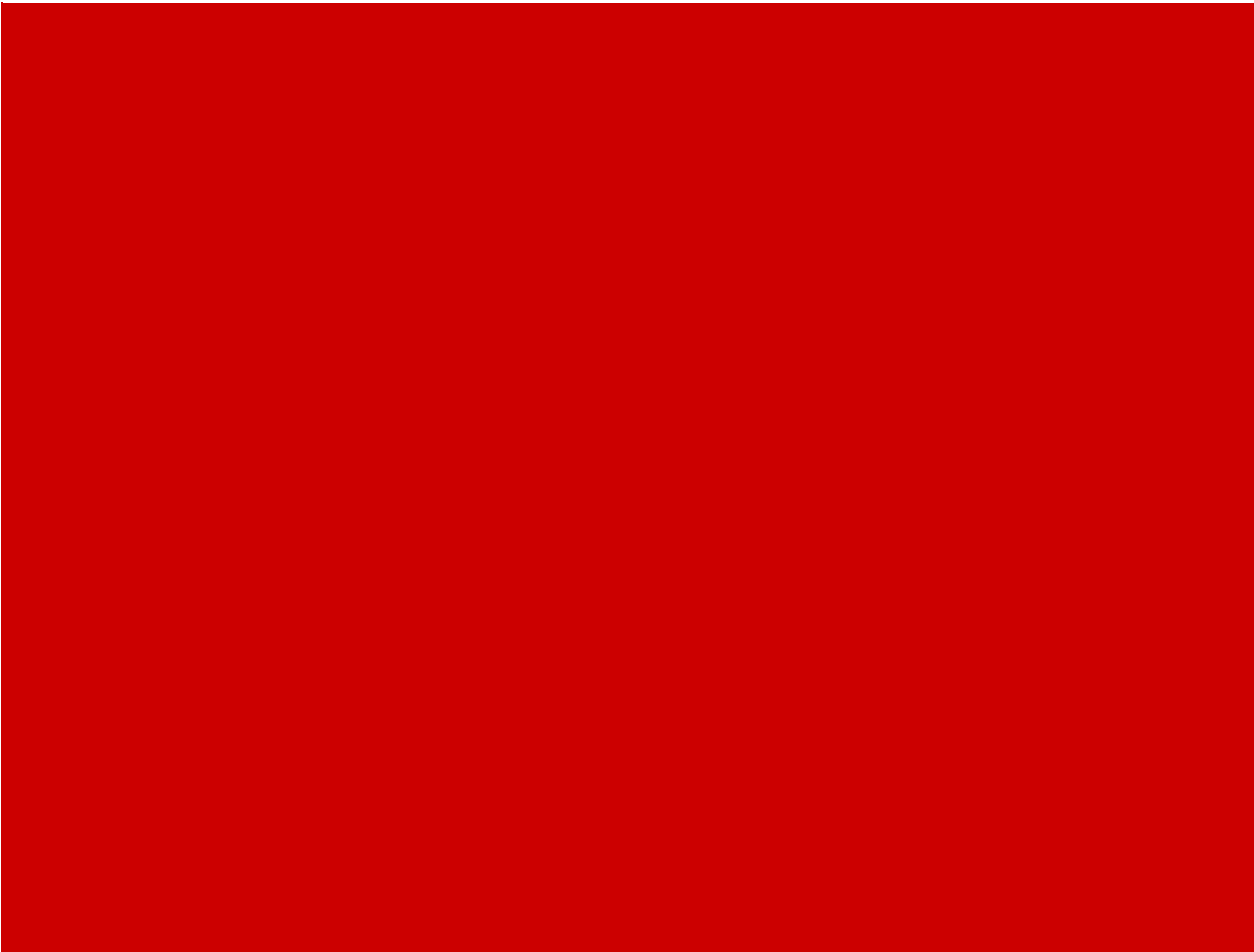




SWBL (Sydney Women's Baseball League)

Annual Report 2025

Shining bright like a diamond for 30 years



Contents



President's report	3
Team reports and thank you	6
Angels	7
Shamrock Players	9
Sliders	11
Stealers	12
Cooks River Cubs	13
Saints	15
Lions.....	16
Devils	17
Mittildas	18
Bandits	19
Social report.....	20
Financial report	24
Grants	25
Governance.....	26
SWBL Life Members	27
Information and contacts	28

President's report

Ruth Lindsay, SWBL President 2025



Our 30th anniversary year started off with a huge bang. After months of planning, 66 SWBL members and friends participated in the Mardi Gras Parade. This was only our second time in our history.

We spent months planning and practising our moves in a park in St Peters each week.

We were spectacular in our dance up Oxford Street to the tune of "Hit me with your best shot". The smiles and laughter coming from every single person were a joy to see.

This was only made so successful thanks to our Mardi Gras subcommittee, who put in hours and hours of work to make it happen.

Everyone on the subcommittee had a role but pitched in with everything that needed to be done, from ordering outfits to decorations to general logistics.

_Expertly led by Hayley Lockett (Shamrock Players)

_Choreography by Heather Gasper (Cubs) & Nicole Sultana (Social)

_General grunt work by Kellie Stromborg (Angels) and yours truly (Stealers)

_Float build led by Loretta Cosgrove (Shamrock Players)

We also had other members chip in to help assemble the float, as well as assist with many other tasks.

Thank you all, as this would not have happened, and happened in such a spectacular way, without all your hard work.

Fair Day was back again, and our recruitment drive was a success.

We had 51 new players join the league, from people who had never played sport to seasoned athletes. One of our rookies this year was Josie from the Shammies, making SWBL's first mothers-and-daughter pair with Janna and Lisa, and bringing Josie into the SWBL family.

We also won the tug of war for the second year in a row with a team of Kirby & VB Devils, Stacy & Gretel Saints, Ace & Kellie Angels, Ash Mittildas, Naomi Sliders and me as the caller – any excuse for me to yell at the top of my lungs. First, we took out the roller derby team in a very close, back-and-forth match, but we held on and ultimately emerged victorious. We then dispatched Amazon women's tennis like experts. Congrats and well done, team.

For the third year in a row, we welcomed another team, The Bandits. A big shout-out to Krissy for taking on coaching this team. They had 5 current players and 12 newbies. The Bandits were a delight to watch play as they clearly jelled as a team and loved being on the field. I also understand that the Bandits were one of the most social teams.

We were only able to do this with the help of the Inner West Council, who provided us with the ground for longer, enabling us to bring in an extra time slot.

The Inner West Council awarded us a grant, enabling us to run coaching and umpiring sessions. Thanks to the council for all the support they give us.

This clearly worked as umpiring complaints dropped dramatically with the upskilling and confidence of our umpires.

On this, here's a quote from the Cubs:

"The grant for coaches and umpire development has been a fantastic initiative. This year, a few of the Cubs players attended the clinics, which not only increased their coaching skills, but given them the confidence to step up and lead the team (line-ups, hints and tips for improving gameplay, and so on). Not only has this had an impact on the players in the clinic, it's benefited

the Cubs overall. It has been an absolute pleasure to see the skill levels increase throughout the season, and I'm looking forward to seeing what we can do next season."

We also, for the second year, held Friday night training, which, combined with the umpiring and coaching courses, raised the skill level again.



The way I see it, all 10 teams showed improved skills:

THE ANGELS. Other teams would beg, borrow and steal to get two great pitchers and the Angels have six. What an amazing depth of talent this team has. Huge hitting again, winning four years in a row. What will it take for another team to take home the title from the Angels? Congratulations on being the 2025 premiers.

THE BANDITS, our newest team and what a great job Krissy did to take on coaching this team. They stepped up for their first game against last year's runners-up and only narrowly lost by one run. When they secured their first win, I had never heard a team sing so loudly and jump so high. With a couple more seasoned players next year, other teams should watch out.

THE CUBS missed out on the finals by only one point. Everyone must love playing on this team as they only had one player who didn't return, and that was only because the 2024 MVP moved overseas. It was great to see new players step up to the pitcher's mound. Also, congratulations to Heather, who, with her hoops and hips, took out first place in the SWBL talent quest.

THE DEVILS. Moved 2 places up the ladder from last year with some outstanding wins, improved all round, and having some new enthusiastic players in the team was great. They were very disappointed that there are no more boat races, but the Devils can claim forever that

they are the ultimate champions of the boat race.

THE LIONS had another great year, coached spectacularly by Chandler. Everyone loves playing and watching this team as it's always a fun, good game, thanks to their great attitude and baseball skills. Keep an eye on this team next year.

THE MITTILDAS. Year two for this team and building with some great wins, beating the Angels in round 5. They were overheard saying "we beat the premiers". I have heard that they are out hunting the softball players to bolster their ranks for next year. Let's see who they bring into the SWBL fold.

THE SAINTS. A solid year from the Saints with some great wins. Went from 8th out of 9 teams last year to 6th out of 10 teams. Movin' on up. Great coaching by Heather and Tash. It will be great to see how they go next season with the progress they are making.

THE SHAMROCK PLAYERS. After missing out on last year's finals by one run, I said they would be back with vengeance, and they were in a big way by being our minor premiers. They had a couple of guns return to the team after many years' absence, and with combined playing years of 252, there is just a tiny bit of experience here. Congratulations on Minor Premiers and 2025 runners-up.

THE SLIDERS: Another great year from one of the most consistent teams in the league. The nail-biting final they had with the Angels had the whole crowd on their feet as it came down to the last inning. As gracious as always and throughout the season displaying what our league is about with sportspersonship, always willing to share their knowledge with opposing teams to bring the league together.



THE STEALERS The longest-running team with the longest serving member, Kelly Griffith. Great to see some new blood in the team and switching up positions with everyone learning new skills. A slow start to the season, but came home extremely strong, which puts this team in a good position for 2026.

A huge thanks to The Golden Barley Hotel, our home away from home. For many years now, they have been our major sponsors. This year, they also gave us vouchers for the pool comp as well as \$250 for the grand final winners and \$250 for the tug of war winners. They also enable us to run the meat raffles each Sunday, which really helps our league out financially. We love our Sunday evenings at the Barley, and so do the locals – they greet us back each May and tell us they will miss us at the end of the season.

It takes a lot of good people and a lot of hard work to keep SWBL running smoothly.

A huge thanks to our 2025 committee.

Kylie on grounds and equipment, who managed to secure the ground in the morning, which enabled us to put on the Bandits and expand again.

Loren, Jess and Laura on social media, newsletter and photos.

Jojo the tong master (not sausage queen), who every week does the shopping to feed you all. She also introduced new things to the BBQ – and yes, we will have party pies and sausage rolls next year.

Kellie, who did a great job with our grants again, secured the funds to do the umpiring and coaching clinics, among other things.

Loretta and her subcommittee of legends who brought the magic to our many social events, how much fun did we have this year.

Our general members, Tash, Jenny, Naomi and Kirby, who help out with everything and anything each week.

And the executive committee of Laura, Lisa and Spike. We are four very different people who have jelled as a team unbelievably well. I appreciate and respect you all enormously, and SWBL and I will miss you on the committee next year. And personally, I love the friendship we have built over the last two years.

Once again, a heartfelt thank you to our coaches and coordinators. Each week, you step up to not only coach your players, you also organise duties each week. Each and every one of you has done an amazing job.

To all our volunteer umpires, it can be scary standing behind that plate. We wouldn't be playing without you all.

Thanks to all the players who make SWBL the close-knit community that we are.

And to the First Lady of SWBL, my partner Mary, thanks for putting up with me constantly on my phone and laptop, even on holidays.



Team reports and thank you

SWBL Team Leads 2025

Over the next few pages, you can read about the year that was, courtesy of our Team Leads and Friends. Thanks for this and everything else our Leads do for your teams and the league.

- Getting people to games
- Game lineups and pre-game training
- Scorer support
- Respectful dialogue with umpires
- Team communications
- Encouraging attendance at clinics and training nights
- Team social events
- Bringing your teams to Pub Sundays
- Answering a billion questions
- Liaising with the committee
- Hustling players for everything from fees paid to bakeoffs to personal-care donations
- Designing and distributing merch
- Fostering a welcoming environment for newbies
- Off-season conversations
- So much more!

Team reports

Angels

Primary colours

Pink and Grey

Final placing 2025

1

Team leads

Coaches: Claire, Nat and Beni

Coordinator: Kellie

Players

Melissa Absalom, Evangeline (Veg) Aguas, Bec Bochtler, Claire Gorman, Liz Gulson, Ace (Antonia) Hooke, Lisa Inglese, Natalie Krikowa, Kellie Stromborg, Benita McFadzen, Jenenne McKenzie, Amy Pisani, Allie Tame, Liz Todhunter, Lou Tong, Ami Wallace, Madeleine Kemlo, Clarissa Sloane, Emma Shirt, Candice Patey

Award nominees

Maddie Kemlo (Rookie), Kellie Stromborg (Most Improved), Naomi Munro (Sliders, Players' Player)



Well, what a season 2025 was.

We didn't think, in our wildest dreams, that we would make it to the Grand Final, let alone win it.

2025 was the year of the Angels shake-up.

We had most of the 2024 Angels team returning, and we were lucky to welcome two new rookies,

Maddie and Clarissa, into the Angels family this year. Both slotted in seamlessly, bringing fresh energy and plenty of skill. It's never easy stepping into an established team, but the way they both threw themselves into every game and every position proved just how well they belong here.

This year we made a point of mixing things up. Instead of sticking to our usual spots, we shifted people into different positions. Some players went back to places they hadn't been in years, while others tried something completely new. Our normal pitchers were all carrying injuries, so we had Liz G, Lisa, and Maddie step up to the plate, literally.

Of course, not everything went according to plan. A perfect example came with the batting line-up. What started as an accident ended up being one of the season's most entertaining changes. Beni handed me what I thought was the batting order, but it turned out to be just the team list written alphabetically. Instead of scrapping it, we decided to run with it and, surprisingly, it worked. Each week we stuck with the randomised line-up: oldest to youngest, youngest to oldest, first name alphabetical, last name alphabetical, longest time to shortest time in SWBL etc. It kept things fresh, gave everyone a chance in different spots, and often led to unexpected but brilliant results (not to mention a lot of laughs - which is why we are all here, right!).

Our games this year showed what makes the Angels so special. When someone pulled off a big play, the whole team lifted. When things didn't go our way, we stayed positive and dug in deeper. That's the Angels spirit.

And the ultimate reward came at the end: another Grand Final win, our fourth in a row. We know how fortunate we are. Every team we faced showed us that their time will come, whether that means reaching the top for the first time or returning there again.

Looking back, this was more than just another year of awesome baseball. It was another chapter in our Angels story, a chapter that reminded us that trying new things can make us stronger, that fresh faces bring new energy, and that, above all, playing as a team is what makes us who we are.

One of the highlights of the 2025 season came off the diamond. At the SWBL 30th Anniversary Main Event, our rookie, Maddie, stepped up to represent the Angels in the Hidden Talent Show. We knew Maddie had many talents, but she surprised and delighted the crowd with a rap performance of Moana's "You're Welcome". Her confidence, energy, and willingness to embrace the moment, perfectly reflected the spirit of the Angels, having fun, supporting one another, and contributing to the wider league community. For a rookie to take the stage in front of the entire SWBL family was no small feat, and Maddie's performance will be remembered as one of the most entertaining and uplifting moments of the celebration.



Team reports

Shamrock Players

Primary colours

Green and Blue

Final placing 2025

2

Team leads

Coaches: Jude and Gabby

Coordinator: Hayley

Players

Aimee Isbister, Caroline 'Collie' Patterson, Gabby Rennard, Hayley Lockett, Jacqui Brooks, Janna Richert, Joanna Sperring, Jude Hartnett, Kier Velini, Lauren Austin, Leigh Woods, Lisa O'Sullivan, Mary Brewer, Rebecca Parker, Stacey Warren, Tatiana Sibirsky, Trish Donohue, Loretta Cosgrove, Josie Newman, Kate (Chuckie) Howe, Rob Taylor

Award nominees

Josie Newman (Rookie), Lauren Austin (Most Improved), Janna Ricjert (Players' Player)



30 years of SWBL is mindblowing! Our Shamrock Players team has had the privilege of playing in this league for 15 years. However half of our team have been playing for 20 years or more, collectively we have 252 years of SWBL membership. That's not even counting all the years of service to the committee.

Established 15 years ago, our Origin story and slightly confusing name came about due to the

2010 season struggling for numbers. So 3 teams merged, Kaos, Celts and Players, to form the Shamrock Players. However "Shammies" is and will always be the nickname. Janna, Loretta and Aimee are the only remaining Players. Collie, Jude and Hayley are the remaining O.G.s from Kaos, and Jacqui, Lisa and Loretta from the Celts.

A special shout-out to Loretta for being our 'heart & soul' and the founder of the Shammies. For her exceptional Social Committee skills over the years, particularly this year – making sure SWBL's 30th year has been a legendary celebration!

This season our Shammies took out the minor premiership!! We were more united and positive. Our skills noticeably improved from batting to fielding. We discovered the "magic" white bat... which led to some epic and consistent smacks. We got 'snappy' new shirts that look like good and proper old school baseball uniforms!

We are very grateful to our coaches, Gabby and Jude. Organising 20 players, holidays, shift work etc is never easy, and they did it with class and sass. Attending coaching clinics and soaking up the skills to lead us to a Minor Premiership!

Thank you Hayley, our ever pink and perky coordinator. Our WhatsApp chat was off the charts this season with all the info, but more importantly, it created a team 'love-bubble'.

A super big thank you to Secretary Lisa and BBQ Goddess JoJo for your contributions to the SWBL committee.

Lisa and Trish, we appreciate your scoring abilities and booming voices to call out who's up next. And of course, our volunteer Umpires need a round of applause.

We had a couple of legends return, Kate 'Chuckie' Howe and Rob Taylor dusted off their mitts and hit the diamond with gusto!

We picked up one rookie, Josie, Janna and Lisa's daughter. Her competitive spirit and youth (bringing our average age way down) are a lovely injection for the Shamwows. Not to mention her speed which, yep, showed up the oldies.

Our lead pitcher/catcher duo, Collie and Jacqui brought home the wins. However, when they

were away (or Collie went too hard on the dance floor!) we began to hear a new sideline whisper: “Collie who?”. Way to go Rob, Amy, Gab, Kier and Bec for stepping up to the plate! We are grateful to you for giving it a red-hot go. Also to Chuckie, JoJo and Janna for catching.

Our 2nd base goddesses! Leigh and Lauren, your skills and game understanding have greatly and noticeably improved – getting so many outs by paying attention, and knowing where to throw or stand. Chef’s kiss.

To the players ending in Y, there is no why, just WOW. Thanks, Mary and Stacy for always bringing the calm and collectedness, level-headed game play, and the occasional cheeky one-liner to keep us smiling. Love your energy.

A last but not least to JoJo – congrats on finally getting that booty of yours into some actual baseball pants! You look dead-sexy on the diamond girl!!

What a season, what a team! We showed up and gave it our all. Bring on 2026!

Team reports

Sliders

Primary colours

Purple and Black

Position 2025

3

Team leads

Coach: Randi

Coordinator: Julie

Players

Randi Irwin, Holly Creenaune, Amy Ryan, Naomi Munro, Co Skyllas-Vosota, Neha Madhok, Rebecca Green, Julie Kalceff, Kylie Benton-Connell, Jenny Gunther, Lyn Doherty, Ngoc Thy Anh, Chloe Mulheron, Jamie Lee, Annalises Constable, Alice Linderman, Anna Terer, Georgie Curtis, Bea White

Award nominees

Georgie Curtis (Rookie), Holly Creenaune (Most Improved), Naomi Munro (Player's Player)



2025 was a standout year for the Sliders. We made it closer than ever before to playing in the grand final, losing a hard-fought finals match to the Angels by one!

Looking back on the season, the thing that stands out most is the amount of fun we had. There was a real sense of camaraderie amongst the team. We're proud to have gone out every week and play in a way that's supportive of each

other and whoever we're playing. When we took to the diamond, the emphasis was on playing as a team, working together, and enjoying a (sometimes sunny) Sunday afternoon. If we won, that was a bonus and a nice complement to Becky's weekly gummy worms.

We've developed a strong core of returning players over the past few years. This year we added incredible rookies: Georgie, Anna, and Bea! They immediately rose to the challenge of joining a new team with contributions that spanned their on-field play and off-field humour.

It was a great year for us on the diamond! But we also enjoyed spending time together as a group and getting to know each other better. One of the best things about playing baseball is the chance to hang out with people you might not otherwise meet in your day-to-day life. What a joy it's been to share this season with such an incredible group of people!

Huge thanks to our partners and those who came along each week to support us. And a big shout out to Lyn, who makes scoring an artform!

Thanks to the league and to the rest of the teams for a great year. Not only will the Sliders be back in 2026, we're eyeing off a charge forward to book our place in the grand final!

Team reports

Stealers

Primary colours

Red and White

Final placing 2025

4

Team leads

Coach: Kel

Coordinator: Ruth

Players

Kelly Griffith, Sarah Marsden, Renee De Celis, Cass Boyle, Antonella Schulte, Anna Needs, Ruth Lindsay, Charlotte Price, Kali Hourn, Paulette Anderson, Jenevieve Kovacevic, Anne Condron, Del Bernardi, Helen Price, Samantha Miles, Vanessa Narayan, Ash Cairncross

Award nominees

Sam Miles (Rookie), Paulette Anderson (Most Improved), Antonella Schulte (Players' Player)



Heading into our 27th year on the diamond, the mighty Stealers started the season with a mix of fresh faces, seasoned veterans, and everyone in between.

With a collective dream of making the finals and no more torn hamstrings, we stretched, we flexed but it wasn't to be, hamstring #3 fell to one of our new recruits (Vanessa)! On the bright side, Marsie was back in action strutting her

stitched up hammy and Ruth will be ready to go with her new knee in 2026.

With a new category 'play of the day' and an extra sausage up for grabs the team WhatsApp lit up with some healthy competition to claim the Stealers Sausage Hog title. But the real play of the day equally goes to Jen and Renee for

their fitted sheet folding prowess at the main event, and to Annie and Ruth for taking out the annual pool comp.

As for our baseball prowess it was a slow start to the season for the Stealers this year, but a strong finish with some fantastic team and individual play, big hits and a stolen base or three. The rain bumped us out of the finals this year so we will be back and out of the gates a little faster next season.

A big thanks to the whole 2025 crew that is the Stealers family for how you all showed up in support of each other every week Cass, Anna, Helen, Vanessa, Jen, Sami, Ash, Charlotte, Spike, Paulette, Karli, Renee, Del, Annie, Ruth, Janette, Al and Brad for the fun and friendship that spans many decades and mixed ages. Stealers are just 27yrs young and I'm so proud to be part of the 30th celebration alongside the rest of the SWBL teams.

2026 here we come!

Kel

Team reports

Cooks River Cubs

Primary colours

Teal and Black

Final placing 2025

5

Team leads

Coach: Jasper

Coordinators: Bec and Kathryn

Players

Laura Barbat, Jasper James, Loren Utterson, Stephanie Falk, Danielle Castle, Ash Malbury, Heather Gasper, Bec Crick, Natasha Robertson, Simone Howarth, Laura Boyd, Jaci Dyball, Elle Allsop, Kathryn Myers, Kate Mulbury, Maddy Liiv, Emily Bainbridge, Rachel Taylor, Jodie (Social Member)

Award nominees

Rachael Taylor (Rookie), Aislin Malbury (Most Improved), Bec Crick (Players' Player)



As the season slides into home, it's time to celebrate players and supporters that brought something unique, and together we built more than a team – we built a family.

We had a few lineup changes this season, saying goodbye to some familiar faces and happily welcoming new ones to the dugout. Emily joined the Cubs and hit the ground

running, her fielding's already showing promise, and her baked goods? Absolute home runs. She's sweetened up the team in more ways than one.

Rachel and Maddy also stepped up to the plate as fresh recruits. Rachel's quick wit had us in stitches all season, and she's been a solid utility player, holding it down at third and shortstop. Maddy brought calm confidence to the outfield, chasing down fly balls like she had a magnet in her glove, cool and collected. It didn't take long for all our rookies to feel like veterans.

Kate and Ace welcomed a new cub into the pack this season—little Franklin! Despite the sleep deprivation, Ace had a standout year, stepping into the lead pitcher role with precision and power. It's been two seasons in the making, and she absolutely delivered. Toward the tail end of the season, we were lucky to have Kate back on first base, and watching the chemistry between her and Ace was pure magic.

Bec was our infield anchor this season, covering first, short, and second with skill and smarts. She's been laser-focused on strengthening our defence—coaching us through positioning and boosting our baseball IQ. Whether leading warm-ups or offering one-on-one tips, Bec's helped sharpen our game and lift the whole team. Dani was our rock at third base this season, quietly consistent, always ready to scoop up a grounder, and never one to miss a play. But off the diamond? She crimped her way into Cubs folklore with that standout '80s look at the mid-season party.

Jasper, our resident legend and coach, held the team strong for another season. Whether he was batting, pitching, or fielding, he brought skill and heart to every game. Off the diamond, his genuine care and passion for his teammates shone through – he's the glue that keeps us together. Game days were brighter thanks to Jodi's smile, rain or shine. As our resident scorer, she kept us on track and reminded us to have fun, even when the scoreboard didn't.

B2! always fashionably late but never misses a game. We see the hustle in warm-ups and training, and it's been awesome watching your game grow this year. Also, those dance moves!? Hall of fame material.

Heather brought quiet strength to second base this season, making smart plays and backing up

her teammates with calm consistency. And when it came time for the mid-season party, she swapped ground balls for hula hoops, stealing the show (and the prize) with skills no one saw coming. Jaci (Madonna) had a tough season with a few injuries, but she showed grit and resilience. Getting multiple outs at second base was a highlight – proof that she’s got game.

Steph brought quiet determination and a creative spark to second base this season, approaching each play with focus and flair. She made key outs, crossed home multiple times, and added her own artistic touch to the rhythm of the game.

And then there’s Tash the Flash – levelled up and swinging for the fences. Her batting this season? Suspiciously good. We’re convinced she made a deal with the devil for that magic bat.

After a bruising 2024 season, where Boston wore more pitches than she connected with, Boston came back swinging – literally. Her turnaround at the plate this year was nothing short of brilliant, racking up a batting average that made pitchers nervous and teammates proud.

Simone lit up centre field with her trademark enthusiasm and infectious energy. Whether she was charging after a fly ball or rallying the team with a grin and a cheer, she brought heart to every moment.

Elle took charge behind the plate this season, doing the heavy lifting as our catcher and keeping the defence sharp. She was always ready to test new plays, support the team’s structure, and racked up some key outs at the plate when it mattered most.

Loren held it down at third with a cannon of an arm, making those throws to first look effortless. Her sharp defence and cool composure were matched only by her big life news – congratulations on getting married! The team couldn’t be happier for you.

A huge shoutout to Bec and Kathryn for stepping into the coordinator roles this year and Jasper for being our reliable coach.

Here’s to another season of laughs, line drives, and legendary moments. Cubs forever. 🐾

Team reports

Saints

Primary colours

Blue and White

Final placing 2025

6

Team leads

Coaches: Heather & Tash

Coordinator: Christine

Players

Heather Craig, Kimberley Ashton, Christine Haiss, Gretel Friend, Natasha Smith, Katie Hughes, Emma Hughes, Kristi Pokoati, Danielle Roussy, Sexy Galexxy, Hetty Ashton, Tania Viskovich, Michelle Balogh, Tina Angelo, Liza-mare Syron, Maricris Miquiabas, Indigo Phibbs, Karen (Shep) Boyle

Award nominees

Kristi Pokoati (Rookie), Karen "Shep" Boyle (Most Improved), Heather Craig (Players' Player)



"Oh, when the Saints go marching in"

What can I say, but what another fantastic year it's been for the 'Saints', for all our new players and returning players.

Building on last year's foundations of 'back to basics', this year we focused on teamwork, tactics and understanding the play.

And it paid off! Leveraging the strength and depth of our experienced players with the eagerness of our newbies, and with everyone wanting to learn, upskill, and try new positions, we continuously improved and grew in strength throughout the season.

The rookies this year were a complete standout with Kristie, Shep, Liza and Mari taking the field. Each one of them were eager to learn, put their hand up and put themselves out there by taking on new positions. I couldn't be prouder to have you all join the league and become a 'Saint'.

Our return players from last year Tina, Christine, Sexy Lexi, Tania, Kimmy displayed a willingness to put the team first and try any position asked. You all nailed it and had a lot of fun doing it. Especially funny was when Kimmy would do her cartwheels and rolls to avoid being tagged. This was inspiring and what the league is about.

And our seasoned veterans, through and through 'Saints', Emma, Katie, Dani, Stacy, Gretel and Hetti. Your knowledge, experience and willingness to help our newbies shone through. Your commitment to the team was unwavering, and it was felt each game.

Thank you to everyone who put their hand up to fulfill team duties, especially duties outside their comfort zone. I am immensely proud of all our Saints players for their commitment, resilience, contributions, and respect on and off the field. Nothing goes unnoticed.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Tash. In only her second season with the league, she stepped up as the 'Saints' co-coach and regularly umpired on behalf of the team, and she demonstrated commitment and leadership to the league. Tash, not only are you an all-rounder on and off the field and an asset to the 'Saints', but you're an asset to the league.

Finally, a huge shout-out to our families, fur babies, and supporters who showed up to each game to encourage us – your support means the world.

Thank you and see you next year! - 'Saints'

Team reports

Lions

Primary colours

Orange and Blue

Final placing 2025

7

Team leads

Coach: Chandler

Coordinator: Anna

Players

Rebecca Chandler, Maureen Madden, Lily Petrovic, Anna Manning, Jenny White, Caroline Bugeja, Peta Wallace, Rebecca Keys, Fiona Anderson, Steph Gan, Jesse Noble, Charlee , Dani Briers, Brenda De Wit, Jo Brown, Irene G, Carly Brailsford, Olivia Miley-Dyer, Paula Klass, Laura Waite (Social Member)

Award nominees

Carly Brielsford (Rookie), Paula Klass (Most Improved), Peta Wallace (Players' Player)



In 2026, SWBL's 30th year brought the Lion's a new season of baseball, new teammates and new teams to play against. Picking up right where we left off last year, the Lion's welcomed their new members into a fun filled, enthusiastic group of friends who loved nothing more than being together out on the field!

Even before the season started, the celebrations had kicked off – many of our members from the

Lions were those amongst the SWBL crew to be featured in the Sydney Mardi Gras 2026 parade! What a fabulous celebration of self and community, and damn did y'all look good!

Our season on the field proved to be another where we were constantly learning and growing our skills. There must have been something in the water as the team as a whole's batting seemed to be turbocharged. Using this confidence from sending out screamers to the outfield, the continued improvement in our base running and fielding, lead them to become a well-oiled machine by the end of the season. While we did end up 7th overall, it was a delight that the Lions always made every game feel so close, and so much fun to be a part of.

Thank you to SWBL for having the Lions this year, and we can't wait to join you all again in 2026!

+ From the coach:

Lovely Lions! This season was a bit of a weird one for me, and I was disappointed that I couldn't participate more. However, you lot stepped up from that first game – helping out running warm ups, in coaching and scoring, and looking out from your teammates. Even taking up the mantle of unwavering enthusiasm when I couldn't! I can't fully express what it means to me but know that I appreciate it so much and think the world of y'all! You're the most wonderful team and I can't wait to do it all again next season!

Love Chandler xxx

Team reports

Devils

Primary colours

Blue and Red

Final placing 2025

8

Team leads

Coach: Kirby

Coordinator: VB

Players

Kirby Mugford, Vanessa Braddon, Narelle Macdonald, Kylie Whittam, Lucinda Brown, Sunshine Cunningham, Kate Gardiner, Lisa Aizenburg, Anja Peschler, Kristy Oliver, Alex McCotter, Jess Rooke, Elena Zagoudid, Heidi Lin, Jodi Bruce, Anna Penaranda, Moree Pena, Rhiannon Hopely, Jai Miller

Award nominees

Lisa Aizenberg (Rookie), Anja Peschler (Most Improved), Narelle Macdonald (Players' Player)

This year, the Devils doubled our wins – 4 glorious victories (yep, twice as many as last season!). And in every other game? Let's just say we've mastered the art of coming in a close second – basically our unofficial team trademark.

More importantly, the vibes never dipped. We welcomed 10 fresh Devils, all of whom trained hard, improved heaps, and showed up week after week. Couldn't be prouder of the energy and spirit they brought.

And of course, one thing remains untouchable: the boat race trophy will always be ours. End of story.

Go Devils – same spirit, double the wins, eternal boat race champs.



Team reports

Mittildas

Primary colours

Green and Purple

Final placing 2025

9

Team leads

Coach: Shae

Coordinator: Ash

Players

Ash Martin, Shae Mclean, Laura Haylen, Pip Mowat, Katho Murphy, Marina Antunes, Charlie Brie (Charlotte Rydstrand), Beth Wren, Lizzie Matkovich, Jessica Cassar, Rebecca Bradberry, Katina Gregory, Noris Rodriguez, Emma Osborne, Alana Hicks, Kristin Mihalarias, Alison Brooker

Award nominees

Alana Hicks (Rookie), Kat Gregory (Most Improved), Lizzie Matkovich (Players' Player)



The 2025 season has been one of growth, resilience, and teamwork. From the first pitch to the final out, our players have shown commitment both on and off the diamond.

While results on the scoreboard tell part of the story, the true success of our season lies in the development of our team, the bonds built within

the team, and the way we represented our team with pride.

Thank you to every player, volunteer, and supporter who made this season possible.

Shae & Ash

+ A note from Noris:

Baseball has been with me since I was a kid. Playing endless games on the street with friends until the sun went down. And later came the magic of the stadium, watching the greats. Today, I still love the game so much, not just watching but playing... even if every inning reminds me, "I'm too old for this shit" and my body fully agrees. Still, this league has brought back all those amazing memories and proved once again how a "simple game" can create lifelong friendships and moments that stick forever. Thanks for another unforgettable season, sore muscles and all!

Team reports

Bandits

Primary colours

Black and Orange

Final placing 2025

10

Team leads

Coach: Krissy

Coordinators: Charlie and Lauren

Players

Krissy Magill, Lauren Hiller, Marsha White, Charlie Rose, Bernadette Gillespie, Sam Wellham, Lulu George, Zacharee Yew Hui Aw Yong, Sharleen Weerakkody, Jo Bonifacio,, Niamh Riznyczok, Ainslie Griffin, Karen McPherson, Melody Gleeson, Chris Dolino, Mona Singh-Mand, Joyce Wilson, Nat Fulton

Award nominees

Jo Bonifacio (Rookie), Marsha White (Most Improved), Chris Dolino (Players' Player)



"The Bandits: A Merry band of Outlaws here to steal hearts and maybe some bases."

In a league that's celebrating its 30th anniversary, the Sydney Women's Baseball League (SWBL) has welcomed its newest team on the diamond: The Bandits.

Our merry team of bandits are a mix of seasoned veterans, keen rookies and a few who have returned to the game after a brief hiatus

(raising kids and saving lives) and a scorer so keen, she bought her own table and stationery!

Camaraderie? Check. New friendships? Check. Learning the rules as we go? Well, let's just say we're still figuring out the whole "dropped third strike" thing, but we'll get there!

Whether it's showing up to a spontaneous mid-week training or celebrating good time game moments with high-fives, the Bandits are learning that baseball isn't just about runs and hits; it's about the friendships and the laughs you have along the way and also the pool games and doco making at the GB on a Sunday.

Together, the Bandits encompass a perfect combination of experience, enthusiasm, and pure commitment to having a great time and enjoying the game as we go.

So, watch out for us in our orange and black and come to a game where you might hear us celebrate our dropped catches or overthrows with our motto: "Bandits don't say sorry... unless you've hurt someone".

Thank you for welcoming us, SWBL, and we look forward to growing as a team, sharing more shenanigans, stealing some runs, and maybe getting another win.

Social report

Loretta Cosgrove, SWBL Social 2025



It is with great pride that I present my report on the past season's social calendar. What a year! On our 30th anniversary, we set out with big plans to lift the social side of the league to new heights. The attendance at events, the enthusiasm from members, and the overall engagement across the league filled me with pride to be part of this very special community.

This league brings together so many people, and it fuses together some of my favourite things in life — sport, friends, laughter until it hurts, community, sausage sandwiches, a Sunday at the Golden Barley Hotel, and humouring some of my crazy ideas to keep you all social!

A huge thank you must go to Penny, Andrew, and the entire team at the Golden Barley Hotel. You've given us a true home away from home every Sunday. Your generosity in allowing us to run raffles and providing weekly prizes directly funds the SWBL social calendar each year. The GBH also proudly sponsors the Pool Competition and our newly contested Tug O' War, and this year even donated a bar tab to the winning Grand Finalists. On top of that, you gave us a very handsome initial donation to kick off the social calendar. Quite simply, the league would be much more baseball and a lot less social without your incredible support. Thank you for everything you do for SWBL.

This year was a perfect mix of fun, entertainment, competition, and community spirit. I don't know about you, but I can't quite believe we're already at the AGM — where did 2025 go?

We started the year with our always-popular Meet and Greet, rebranded as the Season Launch Party, held at Darling Nikki's with a 1995 throwback theme. New members were welcomed warmly, and long-time friends reconnected with laughter and energy. It was wonderful to see so many dressing up and getting into the spirit. With music from DJ Estée Louder, unforgettable performances from Shaun Bollix and Rusty Gates, and some spectacular wordsmithing from Antonio Mantonio, the night set the tone for a milestone year.

We also celebrated our history with a special 30th Anniversary Screening of *A League of Their Own*. This was more than just a movie night — it was a tribute to the grit, glory, and game-day chaos that has shaped our league over three decades. Sitting in the cinema, smashing popcorn with 60 of your closest rivals, watching the film that inspired the league and so many of us to pull on a glove and throw a ball, was simply magic.

The Pool Competition was once again a massive success, showcasing not only sharp skills on the table but also the kind of light-hearted rivalry, laughter, and camaraderie that makes this event a favourite on our calendar. Behind the "Herpes Cup," the pool comp trophy remains one of the most coveted in the league!

In Round 11, we held our now-famous Pyjama Party Round, where players turned up to the diamonds in flannel, fleece, onesies, and slippers. This round was also tied in with our Share the Dignity fundraising drive, featuring cake sales and essential donations. The creativity, generosity, and sense of fun on display made it one of the most memorable rounds of the season. Together, we raised \$1,347 in cash donations and delivered the biggest haul of sanitary items that Share the Dignity has ever received from a community group. Well done, SWBL!

The Main Event stood tall as the centrepiece of our calendar. This year's celebration was bigger than ever, bringing back three decades of classic SWBL themes and topping it off with the

revival of the Ms SWBL Pageant – Hidden Talent Showcase. From lip-syncs to dance routines to outrageous hidden talents, our league members reminded us that fun, flair, and fearless self-expression are at the heart of everything we do. With DJ Sveta keeping the dancefloor alive and costumes spanning all three themes, it was like Pretty in Pink and Bridesmaids crashing the Pink Pony Club — unhinged, unforgettable, and uniquely SWBL.

The season wrapped up with Carnival Day, bursting with colour, fun, and family spirit. Families, players, and supporters all came together, and the turnout was incredible. The smiles, laughter, and energy captured everything our league represents — community, inclusivity, and joy.

It was wonderful to see the kids of SWBL pitching in with games, crafts, and the kids' corner — special thanks to Jack, Travis, Sydney and Billie for your hard work. Carnival Day also saw the introduction of the SWBL Dog Show, with events like Owner Lookalike, Best in Show, and Tricks. Dogs have always been part of our sidelines, and it was brilliant to see them in the spotlight, dressed in team colours and celebrated as the league's best friends. Thank you, Chandler and Sydney, for hosting so brilliantly.

And finally, the Tug O' War – replacing the outdated boat races – was a huge success. The Devils fought hard to defend their crown, but it was the Angels, riding high after a Grand Final win, who pulled through to claim the double on Carnival Day. In years to come I'll proudly say, I remember the first Tug O' War challenge!

On a personal note, this marks my 13th season as Social Co-ordinator. Over the years, I've had the privilege of serving under many presidents, each bringing their own strengths and leadership. I especially want to thank Ruth, who has brought fresh energy and helped to grow and amplify the social side of the league. No idea was too mad, and every event was fun. The social side of the league is what makes SWBL the league that it is. Long may it last!

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the support behind the scenes. A special call-out to Hayley, Stacy, Kelly G, and Bec for feet on the ground, and to Stacey and Benita for their input and advice on the social

subcommittee WhatsApp. Your help, organisation, and dedication ensured every event ran smoothly. I am so grateful for all you do and never forgetting Mal Moody and Jay, our biggest cheerleaders, always ready to lend a hand and one of the best 2up co-hosts a gal could ask for!



Thank you for trusting me to lead the social team on the 30th anniversary. I look forward to seeing the next wave of social leaders bring fresh ideas, new events, and even more enthusiasm to the league.

Best,

Loretta

SWBL Party Planner 2025 and full-time Sham!







Financial report

**Antonella (Spike) Schulte, SWBL
Treasurer 2025**



30 years! Congratulations SWBL. What an amazing achievement!

In recognition of this momentous milestone, the Committee this year pledged to spend everything we earned back on you. We continued to prioritise the needs of the league, focusing on ensuring you had the right gear and skills development opportunities, including new equipment, extra training as well as keeping the sidelines fun with a beefed-up meat raffle and extra choices at the BBQ. Social events? We've got you covered. The amazing Social Committee was told to make it a year to remember, and boy did they deliver. From a financial perspective, we wanted to ensure there were no barriers to participation in SWBL, either on the field or at our events. We also sought to give back as much as we could, raising \$1,347 for charity (along with all the generous in-kind donations for Share the Dignity. Thank you!) and we did more Member Draw's than we have ever done before. We can say with certainty, it is always worth going to the pub on a Sunday.

I won't go on too long, needless to say, you all support the league every day, on the diamond, at our events and by just being you. So we wanted to say thank you and give back as much as we could. We spent almost as much as we made, but hey...gives us another goal for next year! Bring on 2026!

For the 2025 SWBL season, here is a snapshot of our finances:

Cash received from sponsorship: \$6,000

Cash received from grants: \$10,000

Income from registration fees: \$25,315

Operating cost (income - expenses) of BBQ and meat raffle: +\$10,804

New equipment purchased: \$7,949

Umpire payments: \$1,400

Members draw: \$2,100

Raised for and donated to charity: \$1,347

End of year surplus: \$7,941 (compared to \$13,662 last year)

End of year net assets \$53,026

The Financial Statement covers the period of 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025 – the entire 2025 Sydney Women's Baseball League season.

Income & Expense Statement	2024 Season	2025 Season
Income		
Operating Income		
Registration fees	\$ 22,981	\$ 25,315
Grant (Office of Sport)	\$ 7,400	\$ -
Grant (Lesbian Inc)	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Grants (Inner West Coaching Clinics)	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Grants (Canva Mardi Gras)	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Sponsorship (ACON)	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Sponsorship (GBH)	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
BBQ and Sunday raffle	\$ 23,394	\$ 25,344
Social events (Incl Mardi Gras)	\$ 12,823	\$ 14,280
Total Operating Income	\$ 76,598	\$ 80,939
Non-Operating Income		
Interest	\$ 136	\$ 76
SWBL Merchandise	\$ -	\$ 3,769
Raised for charity	\$ 1,954	\$ 1,347
Total Non-Operating Income	\$ 2,090	\$ 5,192
Total Income	\$ 78,688	\$ 86,132
Expenses		
Umpires Payments	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,400
BBQ & Sunday Raffle	\$ 13,375	\$ 14,541
Member's draw	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,100
Ground hire	\$ 3,012	\$ 4,443
Playing equipment	\$ 14,474	\$ 7,949
Batting cages	\$ -	\$ 550
Coaching Clinics	\$ -	\$ 5,000
Insurances	\$ 5,899	\$ 8,056
Social events (Incl Mardi Gras)	\$ 22,657	\$ 25,324
Bank fees	\$ 547	\$ 621
Non-playing equipment & Miscellaneous	\$ 3,116	\$ 1,584
SWBL Merchandise	\$ -	\$ 4,764
Trophies	\$ -	\$ 511
Given to charity	\$ 1,954	\$ 1,347
Total Expenses	\$ 65,026	\$ 78,190
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 13,662	\$ 7,941

Balance Sheet		
Assets		
Cash at bank @ end of season	\$ 67,963	\$ 74,551
Petty cash	\$ 150	\$ 150
Accounts Receivable (AGM)	\$ 1,605	\$ 2,670
Total Assets	\$ 68,693	\$ 77,371
Liabilities		
Accounts payable (AGM)	\$ 13,643	\$ 24,345
Trophies	\$ 1,625	\$ 2,165
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,980	\$ 24,345
Net Assets	\$ 65,713	\$ 53,026

Grants

Kellie Stromberg, SWBL Grants Coordinator 2025

Sydney Women's Baseball League was fortunate to receive valuable grant support that strengthened both our community engagement and the development of our programs.



Canva "30 Years of Unity and Home Runs" Mardi Gras Grant

SWBL was awarded \$5,000 to support our Parade entry at the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. This funding enabled us to celebrate the League's 30th anniversary in style, proudly showcasing the inclusivity, diversity, and community spirit of women's baseball on one of Australia's largest cultural stages.



Active Inner West Council "Diamond Inclusion" Grant

SWBL gratefully acknowledges the support of the Inner West Council, who awarded \$5,000 in 2025 for our "Diamond Inclusion: Women and LGBTQIA+ Sydney Women's Baseball League Coaching and Umpiring Clinics." This funding allowed us to deliver tailored training that built capacity across our league, developed grassroots skills, and created more inclusive pathways for women and LGBTQIA+ participants to engage as coaches and umpires.



With thanks...these grants were instrumental in allowing SWBL to deliver impactful initiatives that not only benefit our members but also strengthen our connection to the wider community. We thank Canva and the Inner West Council for their generous support.

Governance

Lisa O'Sullivan, SWBL Secretary 2025

Our 30th year saw a lot of fresh energy and celebration. So, a big thanks to the committee and friends for the time and care you gave the league this year (likewise our team leads and supporters). A few standouts:

_ Spike and the Rules sub-committee's work on the consultation and rollout of changes to our rules.

_ Umpire training! It's had a real impact on consistency, understanding, and fair play – thanks to Kellie and her Grants, as well as Brad and his wisdom, wit and time.

_ Mardi Gras, the events, and the magnificent grand final, made possible by Loretta and the Social sub-committee, including special MG guest Hayley Lockett.

And just as nice – the wonderful new faces (and talents!) joining the league; all the interest in nominating for the 2026 committee; and Ruth, Laura and Spike, of course.

SWBL Executive and Committee 2025

President: Ruth Lindsay

Vice President: Laura Barbat

Secretary: Lisa O'Sullivan

Treasurer: Antonella Schulte

Grounds and equipment: Kylie Whittam

Publicity: Loren Uttersen, Jess Stagg

Social: Loretta Cosgrove

Grants: Kellie Stromberg

General: Jo Sperring, Naomi Munro, Natasha Smith, Jenny White, Kirby Mugford

Thanks to our community partners

We appreciate our long-time sponsor, The Golden Barley Hotel. Likewise RBI Australia, our generous grants partners, and the many talented sporting, creative and events folk who work so hard for our community in all the nice ways.



SWBL Life Members

Bernadette Gillespie	Jenny Gunther
Cass Boyle	Pip Marks
Olivia Liu	Jordana Blank
Holly Creenaune	Rochelle Peen
Randi Irwin	Jude Hartnett
Shae McLean	Robynne Taylor
Alice Lindeman	Karlie Wise
Jane Tsai	Roz Vanderzwet
Aileen Leddy	Kate Howe
Lee Griffin	Sarah Marsden
Allyson Witten	Kelly Griffith
Lena Caruso	Shelley Tinworth
Amy Shaw	Ken Douglass
Lisa O'Sullivan	Simone Roco
Anne Condren	Kylie Jordon
Loretta Cosgrove	Stacy Warren
Belinda Evernden	Lara Sabaddin
Maggie Jenkins	Jasper James
Benita McFadzen	Tracey Lambert
Mandi Barno	Warner Ward
Cathy Saunders	Anna Manning
Mary Brewer	Davina Pye
Cheryl Bernard	Mel D'Arcy
Max Costello	Claire Gorman
Chloe Mulheron	Stacy Speer
Mel Garrett	Kate Gardiner
Mel Murphy	Vanessa Braddon
Elizabeth Haines	Jo Sperring
Michelle Link	Lyn Doherty
Ellen Young	Mellissa Tallon
Nadine Brown	Jenenne McKenzie
Hayley Lockett	
Nadine Lutherborrow	
Hetty Ashton	
Narelle MacDonald	
Jackie Mills	
Natalie Espinosa	
Jacqui Brooks	
Natalie Krikowa	
Jacque Walden	
Oriel Webster	
Janna Richert	
Pete Anderson	
Collie Patterson	

Lifer criteria:

_Registered player for 10 years

OR Registered player for 7 years, including 3 full years' fulfilment of duties as a SWBL committee member

OR Outstanding contribution to the league



Information and contacts



To get involved as a player, social member or volunteer in 2026, please get in touch. We are always looking for new recruits and will resume in the autumn of 2026. First up will be Open Day, and the first games are slated to kick off in either March or early April.

Follow us on our socials to stay up to date —
[@SydneyWomensBaseballLeague](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

More league contacts

www.swbl.org

info@swbl.org

SWBL history and information

Established in 1995, SWBL is a community baseball league based in Marrickville. We are LGBTQ inclusive. For the folks reading online, you can click the following links to learn more about the policies and principles that guide us.

[Code of Conduct](#)

[SWBL Constitution](#)

[Gender Diversity Policy](#)