

**NEWCASTLE JUNIOR CRICKET ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**



SEASON 2023-2024



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Office Bearers 2023/2024

President:	Andrew Cornwell
Vice President:	Ange Razborsek
Treasurer:	Alex Dare (Acting)
Secretary:	Scott Marjoribanks
General Committee Members:	Marg Erwin
	Neil Hayes
	Steve Pratt
	Rod Unsted
	Chris Wharton
	Julie Wharton
	Leya Wilson
	Mel Crimmins
Girls Cricket Officer:	Leya Wilson
Child Safety Officer:	Scott Marjoribanks
Rules & Competition:	Julie Wharton
Infrastructure:	Chris Wharton & Andrew Cornwell
Judiciary Chairperson:	Andrew Hiskens (acting)
Cricket Blast Officer:	Mel Crimmins
NCSCA Umpires Delegate:	Neil Hayes
Cricket NSW Cricket Manager:	Leya Wilson
Association Administrator:	Sharon Dare

President's Report

It gives me great pleasure to present the NJCA President's Report for the 2023/24 season.

Wet Start Didn't Dampen our Passion for Cricket

There is an old saying that "*meteorology is a profession designed to make astrology look reliable*". This was certainly true of the 2023/24 season.

A hot dry summer had been predicted by the Bureau of Meteorology and consequently we prepared on this basis. However, a wet and mild season ensued.

This didn't dampen our players' enthusiasm and only a few games were washed out.

Strong Registration Growth

In October 1499 players took to the field including 207 female players. The all-girls competition showed strong growth with a 33% increase in the number of teams. The NJCA has been a leader in the development of our female players and this growth is a positive reflection of years of hard work. We now have young women representing our country who learnt their skills in our junior competitions.

Overall, our player numbers were up 4.9%. Our younger age groups have particularly strong registrations, which reflects both the popularity of our competitions and an overall recovery of junior sport post Covid.

Cricket for Life

Our role as an Association is to introduce as many kids to our wonderful game as possible and to transition them across to senior cricket with a love of our great game. The data indicates that if we keep players for 2-3 years, there is a strong chance they are a cricketer for life.

Bridging the Gap

Blasters and Summer Smash provide the initial introduction for young players, however we see significant player attrition between these offerings and competition cricket. To address this, the NJCA will introduce an under 9s competition on Saturday mornings. As an incentive the NJCA will waive our association fees. Additionally, the Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (NCIG) have kindly provided \$5000 to sponsor the competition.

Building Infrastructure

The season saw our commitment to improved infrastructure bear fruit. The infrastructure levy introduced last season replaced pitches at Pickering and Lewis Ovals as well as to co-fund the replacement of two pitches at Ballast Oval, Stockton and one at Hunter Barnett Field, Windale.

Major works at Smith Park are about to commence. This is due to our successful bid for a \$2.5 million grant for vastly improved amenities including drainage, resurfacing of the ground, and three brand new realigned pitches. The works will mean Smith Park will not be available for use for the next two seasons, we have a separate \$25,000 grant to upgrade Federal Park, Wallsend, as a replacement field over the period.

Impact of Basketball Stadium Redevelopment

The NSW government has provided funding to replace the dilapidated basketball stadium with a new facility on the site of Wallarah and Blakely Ovals. It is a state significant development which means the level of government that is financing the project is also the level of government which will either approve or reject the project. For this reason, the project is highly likely to be approved.

This is a great outcome for basketball however it will result in the loss of two cricket grounds in the inner city in an area of strong player growth. The position of the NJCA is that we will not accept any net loss of cricket grounds.

We have been working productively with Newcastle City Council to ensure we have new replacement grounds should the project be approved. We will continue to ensure we are constructive partners with government. An oppositional approach is a risk to junior cricket as it may result in no replacement grounds at all.

Appointment of Director of Coaching

One of the keys to player retention is a quality player experience. To achieve this, the NJCA has taken the innovative step to create the role of Director of Coaching. The Director of Coaching will work with the club's coaching coordinators to develop training plans for teams and to improve match day experience. This year we will have a particular focus on upskilling our incoming Stage One coaches.

Tommy Anderson has been appointed to this role. Tommy is a Level 3 qualified coach with decades of experience. Welcome to the role Tommy!

Afghani Team Take to the Field

Cricket is the second most popular sport in the world and is experiencing rapid growth, particularly in the Asian subcontinent. Days before the competition commenced, we were contacted by a group of young Afghani cricketers who had just arrived in Australia. The boys learnt to play cricket while patiently waiting in camps in Pakistan. Many of their parents were interpreters for our diggers in Afghanistan, risking persecution or worse.

The NJCA found an appropriate competition for them and waived the association fees to enable the team to play. Lake Macquarie Juniors became their home club, and they kindly provided the team with uniforms and kits. The boys had a fantastic season, developing as cricketers and providing a rich cultural experience for their opponents.

Thank You Volunteers

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who make our competitions such a wonderful experience. Each week, hundreds of coaches, scorers, umpires, club committees and other volunteers work tirelessly for the benefit of our players.

I would also like to thank the NJCA committee whose expertise and hard work help guide our competitions. There are hundreds of hours of behind the scenes work that occur that our players and parents never see. All of our committee members have other jobs and full lives yet still make the time to improve the playing experience for all of our junior cricketers.

Sharon Dare – The Glue that Holds it all Together

Finally, we all owe a massive debt of gratitude to Sharon Dare, our wonderful administrator, whose diligence and passion for cricket ensures the smooth operation of the association. A day rarely goes by without hearing someone praising Sharon's professional and caring approach. I extend our sincere thanks not only on behalf of the NJCA committee but on behalf of everyone involved in junior cricket.

2024/25 – The Best Season Yet

Preparations are well underway for the 2024/25 season, and we look forward to providing fun, excitement and personal growth for our young cricketers for another season.

2024/25 will bring revitalised facilities, new competitions and even more smiling faces than last season!

Yours in cricket

Dr Andrew Cornwell
President NJCA

Administrator's Report

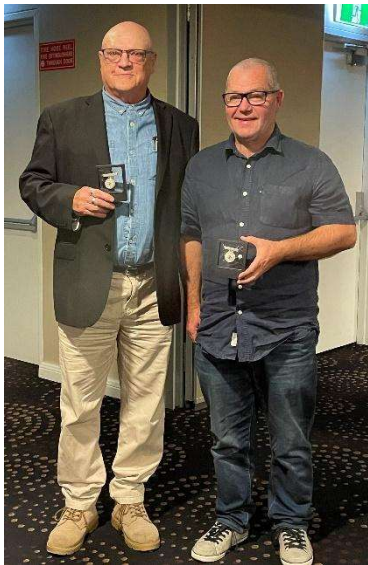
Another successful season done and dusted! Huge thank you to the NJCA, the clubs and all the volunteers who contributed to make this season what it was.

After a challenging 2022/23 season that was full of change, this season was a far more settled one for clubs and volunteers, now that we are all experts in PlayHQ.

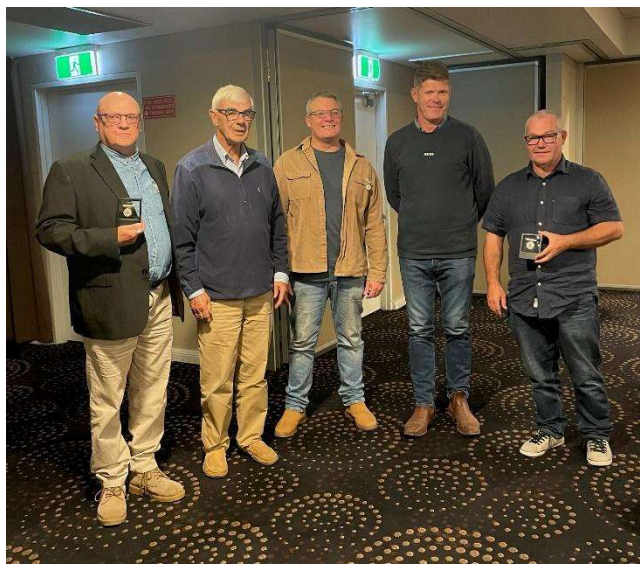
We very much welcomed the input of the new CNSW Area Manager, Leya Wilson, who provided wonderful support to clubs, the NJCA and myself.

Life Members

At the AGM at the very start of the start of the season, the NJCA welcomed two new life members. Alf Ellevsen & Dave Stanbridge have contributed immensely to junior cricket in Newcastle over many, many years, and thoroughly deserve the life membership honour. It was wonderful to have Ross Leonard and Andrew Standing, existing NCJA Life Members, in attendance to present the pins to Alf and Dave.



Alf Ellevsen & Dave Stanbridge

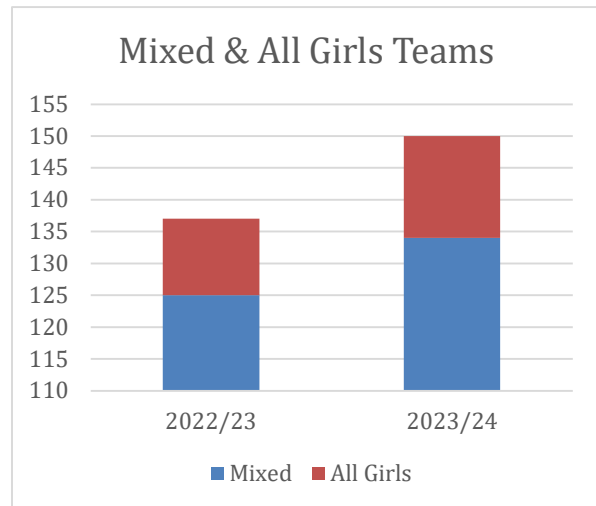
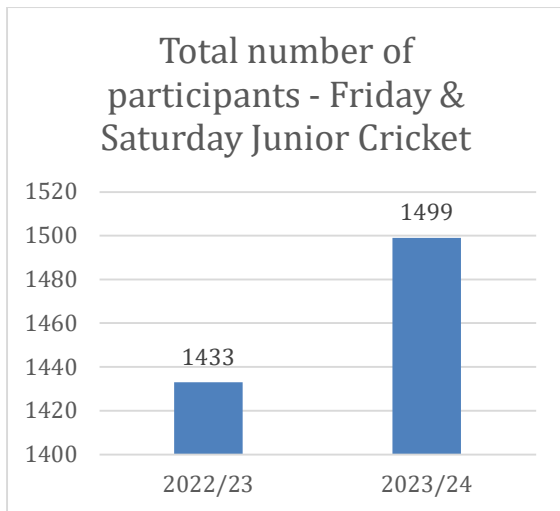


Alf, Ross, Andrew S, Andrew C, Dave

Registrations & Grades

There has been a slight but steady increase in participant numbers over the last few seasons, which is pleasing.

Season 2023/24 saw 150 teams from 15 clubs play junior cricket across 23 grades. This is an increase of 13 teams (8.8%) from last season, and an extra 2 grades. Interestingly, overall participant numbers are only up by 4.6%, from 1433 in 2022/23 to 1499 this season. This perhaps suggests fewer players allocated in teams than last year.



Of the 150 teams, 16 were in all girls competitions and 134 in mixed competitions. This is an increase of 33% in the number of teams in the All Girls competitions from last season. Midweek participation dropped this season, with only 7 teams playing in the midweek T20 Social Bash, as compared with 11 last season.

NJCA had 1499 participants this season, of which 207 were females. This is a 10% increase in female participation from season 2022/23, which is fantastic.

Summer smash participation was up slightly from 103 participants last season to 109 this season; an increase of 5.8%. Female participants in Summer Smash dropped significantly, from 23 female participants in 2022/23 to just 10 this season.

After some format changes last season, the competition remained largely the same in 2023/24, with some expansion of the U15-18s and the All-Girls comps. U15-18 Friday Night Premier League expanded to 12 teams, allowing 2 divisions on a Friday night, with division 3 being played on Saturday morning. The Friday Night Premier League was again a mix of 20 over and 40 over cricket, giving these older juniors experience with the longer format as they head into senior cricket. A highlight of the Friday night comp was welcoming a team of Afghani refugees to the NJCA. These boys all had a passion for cricket but none of them had played competition cricket. By all accounts they had a blast and improved along the way. Thanks to Kamran for facilitating the team.

Infrastructure

The infrastructure team have been busy this year putting the Infrastructure Levy to good use. Season 2023/24 saw this fund contributing to new wickets at Pickering Oval, Lewis Oval, Hunter Barnett and Ballast 1 & 2.

The major refurbishment of Smith Park is due to begin imminently and will see Smith Park out of action for the whole of season 2024/25. Whilst this will be very inconvenient, the new look Smith Park will be a fantastic facility on completion, that cricket in Newcastle will benefit from for years to come.



Afghani team

Summer Smash

Summer Smash is our all-important introduction to ‘real’ cricket for the younger kids who have either graduated Blasters or are completely new to cricket. It’s very popular each season and this season was



no different. It’s run in Term 1 for around 7 or 8 weeks. Participants wear all the gear – pads, helmet, gloves – and play modified Stage 1 rules. Summer Smash is run in two hubs - Lake Macquarie and Newcastle. The Lake Macquarie hub grew this season from 4 to 6 teams, so we had to expand from just using Ulinga Ovals, Cardiff South, to also including Feighan 3, Warners Bay. The Newcastle hub saw 10 teams again across the 2 venues, Smith Park and Adamstown Ovals.

Community Officiating Course (junior umpires)

The NJCA team up with Cricket NSW each year to put keen juniors & willing adults through their Community Officiating Course, which allows them to umpire junior fixtures for the NJCA. This season saw a huge 17 players and parents compete the course, many of whom took to the fields to support our juniors. As always, a massive thank you to Claire Polosak from Cricket NSW for bringing the course to Newcastle.



Community Officiating Course participants

Farewell

This season saw Newcastle cricket bid farewell to one of the regions great umpires, Kevin Jarvis. Kevin has umpired junior club cricket for 20 years, he has umpired every U11 Ron Arendts Memorial Shield since its inception in 2007 and has umpired the U14 Graeme Malcolm Shield since 2004. Kevin has had to retire for medical reasons and will be missed not only out in the middle as an umpire but also off the field as a friend and mentor.



Finally, a huge THANK YOU again to each and every person who contributed to the success of junior cricket in Greater Newcastle this season. The NJCA and I look forward to working with you all again next season!

Sharon Dare, NJCA Administrator

Newcastle's 'Celebration of Cricket'

Newcastle's 'Celebration of Cricket' incorporates competitions from across the whole of cricket in the Newcastle Region – juniors and seniors. Each year, the NJCA host the U11 Ron Arendts Memorial Shield and the U14 Graeme Malcolm Shield, and the Newcastle District Cricket Association (NDCA) host the Summer Bash & Women's T20 Competition.

As has been the case for multiple years now, Newcastle Cricket as a whole was successful in gaining financial support from the City of Newcastle via their sponsorship of the 2023/24 Celebration of Cricket. The NJCA sincerely thanks the City of Newcastle for their financial support as well as their participation in the presentations of the U11 and U14 carnivals. We were very honoured yet again to have Counsellor Winney-Baartz involved in both carnivals in the absence of Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes. We look forward to a continued partnership with the City of Newcastle again next season.

Under 11 Ron Arendts Memorial Shield

2024 was the 17th U11 Ron Arendts Memorial Shield carnival, which has been going since 2007 (less one year for COVID). This carnival is the only one of its kind, offering hard ball cricket to under 11-year-olds. Interest was high again and places were filled in no time, with teams opting to go on a wait list in the hope of a late withdrawal. This year saw the need to restrict each association to only 1 team due to high demand; a great problem to have. The exception to this is of course the host association! NJCA fielded the usual 3 teams: Newcastle boys, Lake Macquarie boys and the U13 Mollie Dive Shield Girls team. There were over 200 participants across 16 teams who travelled from the Illawarra and Far North Coast, and everywhere in between.



The carnival was run over 4 days, with 2 x T20s on day 1 followed by 40 overs matches the following 3 days. We were fairly lucky with the weather this year and managed to get all 320 overs of cricket in. Not so lucky for the presentation though! An untimely massive downpour saw us inundate the Hamilton North Bowling Club with zero notice – huge thanks to the club for accommodating the large group of drowned rats!

The importance of knowing and following the Playing Conditions of each carnival was highlighted at this year’s U11 Ron Arendts, where a breach of the playing conditions in a semifinal saw the result overturned. The grand final was contested at Smith Park between our very own Lake Mac Attack and the incredibly polished Manly Warringah JCC. Manly proved too strong for the locals on the day, winning the final 86 (37.5 overs) v 5/88 (17.4 overs). Congratulations to Manly, the 2024 Ron Arendts Memorial Shield winners!



This year’s award winners were:

AWARD	RECIPIENT	TEAM
Jim Brennan Player of the Carnival	Christine Fernance	Newcastle
Batter of the Carnival	Christine Fernance	Newcastle
Bowler of the Carnival	Joshua Harris	Mid North Coast
Fielder of the Carnival	Jett Adlington	Lake Macquarie

The coaches and managers meeting went online this year, which worked well. Coaches and managers joined the online catch up the evening before Day 1, from wherever they were. This change meant a more relaxed meeting atmosphere and gave better opportunity for teams to ask questions. It also allowed the morning of Day 1 to be a little more relaxed for team photos by EMG Photography.

Alf Ellevsen was a star of the show again, ensuring all 40 matches had official umpires, with 2 umpires on the two semifinals and the grand final – thank you Alf! He shared the spotlight this year with Eden James. Eden was invaluable on the ground throughout the carnival; she got things organised effortlessly everyday, whilst spreading joy with her radiant smile everywhere she went – thank you Eden!



Alf & Eden

U14 Graeme Malcolm Shield

Two weeks later the U14 Graeme Malcolm Shield got under way for the 43rd time, having been established in 1982. The lesson learned from last year is that 20 teams is too many, so this year the carnival was reigned back in to the optimal 16 teams. There were still over 200 participants their families who congregated on the Newcastle LGA to compete in the 4-day carnival. Like the U11 carnival, teams came from the Illawarra to the Far North Coast and everywhere in between.



Alex

The format remained unchanged from previous year; 2 x T20s on day 1 followed by 40 over matches on the remaining 3 days. The point of difference for the U14 carnival is the use of turf wickets. Of course, the carnival was interrupted by rain – we couldn't have 2 relatively dry carnivals! – so several matches were played on the synthetic back up grounds due to rain rendering the turf unplayable. Alex Gallagher was the on the ground at the U14 carnival whilst I was away, and he worked extremely hard to get all matches on with as few changes and disruptions as possible across the 4 days – huge thank you to Alex.

In addition to Alex, NJCA also extends its sincere gratitude to the curators and club contacts for their work over the 4 days to get our juniors on turf as much as possible. The carnival utilised 12 turf grounds over the 4 days. As many people in cricket know, turf wickets add significantly to the experience for the players, but with that comes a whole new level of complexity and commitment behind the scenes as well – particularly in the middle of January! So a heartfelt thank you to the curators and club contacts, especially Adam Smith from Hamwicks.

As with the U11 Ron Arendts carnival, the grand final involved one of the NJCA's own – Newcastle Blasters went up against another very polished Manly side, at Townson Oval in Merewether. Again, Manly were too strong for the home side, taking the honours 9-162 (40) V 102 (35.5) to be crowned winners of the 2024 Graeme Malcolm Shield.

The award winners for the U14 Graeme Malcolm carnival were:

AWARD	RECIPIENT	TEAM
Player of the Carnival (joint)	Izaan Mohammed & Jonathan Yeo	Newcastle & Cricket Illawarra
Batter of the Carnival	Leonardo McNeil	North Shore JCA
Bowler of the Carnival	Josh Charlton	Blacktown Warriors
Fielder of the Carnival	Ryan Sood	Blacktown Warriors



Like the U11 carnival, every match had at least 1 official umpire appointed with 2 umpires appointed to the semifinals and grand final. Huge thanks again to Alf Ellevsen for his tireless efforts in getting umpire allocations successfully filled for all 40 matches across the 4 days. THANK YOU Alf.

As I said last year, carnivals like these do not happen without the help of many. I am once again very grateful for the assistance I received from various people and organisations, both in the lead up to the carnivals and during the carnivals. I look forward to working with many of them again next season.

Sharon Dare, Carnival Coordinator

Cricket NSW Community Cricket Experience, Season Review

Sunday 14 April 2024 saw the official end to Season 2023-2024, and just two weeks short of my first year in the Cricket Manager-Newcastle role. First and foremost, I must extend a huge thank you to the Newcastle Junior Cricket Association Committee, particularly President, Andrew Cornwell, and Administrator, Sharon Dare, for their unwavering support throughout the season. Endless thanks must go to every volunteer administrator, committee member, coach, manager, umpire, scorer and parent, whose commitment to our sport is what provides our young players with the opportunity to learn, love, and play Cricket.

Reflecting on all that the NJCA, the 16 Clubs affiliated to the NJCA, and our Cricket NSW team have delivered over Season 2023-2024 is impressive, and testament to the dedication of our volunteers, our clubs, and our wider cricket community across Newcastle.

To wrap up and review Season 2022-2023, Cricket NSW delivered a series of Roadshows across NSW, with the Newcastle event held on 25 May 2023 at Beresfield Bowling Club attended by 46 volunteers, the largest attendance across both regional and metro NSW. Cricket NSW CEO, Lee Germon, presented the State of Play, including a season review, the current CNSW Strategy and the Future of Cricket. Members of the Cricket NSW Community Cricket leadership team, including General Manager, Martin Gleeson, presented information on the Cricket Australia Grassroots Digital Transformation, including a PlayHQ update and next steps, the background and implementation of Cricket Blast 2.0 with key recommendations for clubs and volunteers, and roll out of Cricket NSW's Competition Administration Support Program. Positive feedback from this session highlighted that our volunteers appreciated hearing directly from Lee Germon and senior Cricket NSW staff, understanding the direction of Cricket NSW, and valued the ability to network with other cricket volunteers. The previous season's implementation of PlayHQ and the impact to our volunteers was the most common area of concern raised by those who attended our Roadshows and identified the need for further PlayHQ information sessions to be delivered.

This feedback from our Roadshows led to a series of in-person PlayHQ training sessions delivered across NSW, with Newcastle once again hosting the largest session with over 100 volunteers registering to attend our PlayHQ Community Information Session on 9 October 2023. This session covered high level information for both volunteers and parents, and club and association administrators, and while appreciated, the feedback collected from this session highlighted the need for specific Play HQ e-Scoring training and information sessions. This will be a focus for our local Cricket NSW team in the lead up to Season 2024-2025.

Coach Education & Female Coach Development

With a focus on upskilling and educating our junior cricket coaches, Cricket NSW facilitated the delivery of 5 CA Community Coach Workshops across the 2023-2024 Season, 1 Community Coach information session, and 3 Cricket Blast Coordinator training sessions. This included a NSW first, with an all-female CA Community Coach Workshop led by accredited CA High Performance Coach, Kate Jackson, supported by coaches from the Cricket NSW Cricket Performance team, Dean Burke, Sarah Aley and Hannah Trethewy, and attended by 44 women and girls. This session led to the formation of the Newcastle Female Coach Collective; a project focused on providing opportunities to develop local female coaches to deliver skill development sessions to female players. This project, supported by



funding from the NSW Office of Sport – She Can Play Grant, has so far delivered 150 hours of face-to-face development for 13 female coaches through the delivery of 4 junior cricket coaching clinics. Local CA accredited Representative Coach, Clare Webber, had the chance to engage in 21 hours of leadership development leading the delivery of 3 of our 4 coaching clinics. Across these, 121 junior female players were coached by female coaches, and 45 male junior cricketers were coached by female coaches. This initiative saw our female coaches developing their coaching experience through both practical hands-on coaching of junior cricket coaching sessions, as well as developing experience in planning and designing programs for junior cricketers. In Season 2024-2025 we look forward to continuing the development of our existing female coach cohort and expanding the delivery of coach information, education and accreditation sessions.





Cricket Blast

Season 2023-2024 saw Cricket Australia implement a change in our entry level program through a single Woolworth Cricket Blast program designed for 5–10-year-olds. This change aimed to simplify the registration process for parents and carers and focused on providing our cricket blast coordinators and coaches with the theory and practical experience to deliver fun, engaging cricket blast sessions. Starting in August, Cricket Australia launched a nationwide marketing campaign across television, digital marketing and social media, and the National PlayCricket Player Blitz featured our Australian Players and Bluey, following the premiere of the Bluey Cricket episode on ABC TV in June 2023. Girls specific marketing campaigns targeted regions where existing Stage 1 Girls cricket is offered, locally we identified postcodes across Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens.

Newcastle saw 16 Club-run Cricket Blast programs hosted by all NJCA affiliated clubs with 389 Cricket Blast players in our Club delivered programs, an increase from 265 players in 2022-2023.

Across the region, we successfully delivered nine cricket programs via Sporting Schools funding, an Australian Government initiative where schools apply for funding via Sport Australia and can nominate a sport to deliver a sporting program within their school. Across these nine schools' programs, our casual program coordinators provided cricket activities to 1320 primary aged students over the 2023-2024 Season.



Country Blitz

Over three days, 21-23 August 2023, our region hosted the Cricket NSW Country Blitz, where Breakers player, Sarah Coyte, and Blues opening bat, Ryan Hackney joined our local staff to deliver cricket blast activities to over 550 students at 4 school visits. We hosted two volunteer engagement activities, including a visit to the Charlestown Golf Club Driving Range with junior club presidents or representatives. We also ran a small Beach Blast pilot on Dixon Park beach, where we were visited by Cricket NSW General Manager, Martin Gleeson, and our media team for photo opportunities to be used for future promotions.

Infrastructure & Local Government

In September, Cricket NSW attended the City of Newcastle Sports Forum and represented Cricket at the Lake Macquarie City Council Sports Forum for sports organisations. These forums were valuable opportunities for our team to hear updates and information from our local government counterparts, and to present to Lake Macquarie City Council, the direction, current challenges and local opportunities for our sport.

Infrastructure planning continued to feature across the season, our local staff have been supported by our Northern NSW Infrastructure Specialist, Gary Fisher, State Infrastructure Manager, Dean Hunter, and Head of Government Relations and Infrastructure, Erin Todd across several proposed projects and negotiations with our local governments and council staff. We have worked closely with the clubs impacted by the proposed State Significant Development for Newcastle Basketball to build the Hunter Indoor Sports Centre at Broadmeadow. Cricket NSW have represented our cricket community and liaised with the impacted clubs to negotiate proposed replacement grounds for Wallarah and Blackley Ovals, should the project be approved by the State Government. The progress of this project can be followed on the NSW Government Planning Portal <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/hunter-indoor-sports-centre-hisc>.

At the start of June 2024, the project is sitting at Environmental Impact Statement stage, where advice from all agencies for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements can be viewed. Cricket NSW will share all updates provided by the State Government portal to our Associations and impacted clubs as we closely follow the progress of this proposed project.

Cricket NSW have focused on building on the existing relationships with our local government colleagues with scheduling regular operational and strategic planning meetings with our own staff, and representatives of our cricket associations. Our goal is to ensure that cricket is represented in constructive and strategic conversation with council staff, and at the forefront of future planning for our sport.

On Ground Experiences – Players and Volunteers

We were able to share some great on-field experiences with our local clubs and cricket players over the W/BBL and International season. This started with 22 Cricket Blast players from Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens and Newcastle having an on-ground experience at North Sydney Oval for the WBBL Double Header of Scorchers Vs Heat, and Sixers Vs Thunder. Each group of blasters received a themed Cricket Blast shirt and WBBL team cap for the 2 teams and were able greet both teams and players for a cap signing on the field at the start of their bowling innings and participate in on field activities during the innings break.

On Sunday 26 November, girls from Cricket Southern Lakes participated in a Lap of Honour at the start of the Sixers Vs Thunder WBBL game at the SCG as part of the WBBL Stadium Series and Women & Girls Week Lap of Honour.

Onto the January test, and on Day 2 of the Sydney Test, Lake Macquarie JCC participated in the on-ground Cricket Blast Experience where Blast Coordinator Daniel Williams & 11 Blast Players were a part of the on-ground Blast Activation. As part of the Cricket NSW Volunteer Rewards and Engagement Opportunities – over 25 local volunteers from Newcastle visited the SCG during the January Test, including: Rod Unsted, Glen Craik, Steven Cowen, Mark Hickey, Paul Hillier, Chris Lee, Michael Wilkinson, Mel Crimmins, Michael Mooney, Tina Pickering, Naomi Hatton. Engagement Opportunities included: Giant Flags on Day 1 Opening Ceremony & Volunteer Walk Day 4.

Cricket NSW Programs, Cricket Blast & Cricket Skills Clinics

With increased access to funding for programs across regional NSW, Cricket NSW have been able to offer players aged from 5 though to 14 access to either Cricket Blast programs delivered by our trained cricket blast coaches, or skill development session with our Cricket Skills Clinics delivered by accredited and academy coaching staff.

Spring 2023 School Holidays

- 152 players @ Spring 2023 School Holidays 1 day Cricket Blast Clinic at Wallsend Oval
- 11 players @ Term 4 - Daughters & Dads Charlestown South
- 7 players @ Term 1 – Daughters & Dads Newcastle (Lambton High School)

Summer 2023-24 School Holidays

Woolworths Cricket Blast & NSW Education Infrastructure Share Our Space (Free Programs)

- 25 players @ Cooranbong Public School (washed out)
- 83 players @ Lambton Public School
- 100 players @ New Lambton South Public School
- 15 players @ Windale Public School

Department of Regional NSW / Cricket NSW Regional Cricket Clinics (Fully funded)

- 57 players attended an All-Girls Cricket NSW Regional Cricket Coaching Clinic @ Pasterfield
- Targeted non-representative Stage 1 & Stage 2 girls & Cricket Blast
- Development of local female coaches – paid coaching / mentored by Representative Coach (Level 2) Brett Carlisle - Funded by Office of Sport – She Can Play Grant

Spring 2024 School Holidays

- 52 players attended Macquarie Sports / Cricket NSW Regional Cricket Clinic (Fully funded) @ Lambton High School
- 29 female players attended an All-Girls Regional Cricket Coaching Clinic Fully funded by Office of Sport – She Can Play @ Lambton High School

Woolworths Cricket Blast & NSW Education Infrastructure Share Our Space (Free Programs)

- 90 players @ Charlestown South Public School
- 90 players @ New Lambton South Public School
- 20 players @ Soldiers Point Public School
- 32 players @ Cooranbong Public School
- 31 players @ Toronto Public School

Lake Mac Women in Sport Festival



Celebrating and supporting the Lake Mac Women in Sports Festival from 2 – 10 March 2024, Cricket NSW participated in the Try A Sport Day – Saturday 2 March 2024 @ Speers Point Park, where we provided a series of fun cricket activities, highlighted by the popular ‘soft hands’ catching with water balloons. The following weekend we attended the Lake Mac Women in Sports Leadership Session – Saturday 9 March 2024 @ The Place, Charlestown where our own Australian Cricket legend, Belinda Clark & multi-sport talent, Chloe Dalton, shared their personal and professional stories, focusing on leadership.



Cricket NSW Community Cricket Updates

Completing Season 2023-2024, the Cricket NSW Community Cricket team has undergone a change of structure to align to the Cricket NSW Organisational Strategy. This has resulted in an alignment of staffing groups into teams focusing on Acquisition, Retention and Experience. Locally, this has resulted in a move for Neil McDonald into the Community Experience Team where he takes on the Coach & Umpire Experience Specialist role. The work of this team is essentially our ‘State Engine Room’, supporting staff across all of country and metro NSW. Neil has been a stalwart of the Newcastle cricket landscape for several years, and while he will remain working out of our Newcastle office, he will be working with his Cricket Australia counterparts and following his passion for providing quality community coach education across all of NSW. The Business Development Manager role held by

Frankie Walsh also sits within the ‘Experience’ space, where Frankie continues to lead the development of community cricket through data-led analysis and strategy.

In the Retention stream, our Clubs and Competitions Team will focus on the retention of existing players through supporting our associations and clubs is split across Clubs & Competitions Country – led by Daniel Solway, and our Clubs & Competitions Metro team led by Daniel Anderson.

Locally, our Clubs & Competitions Manager for the Newcastle, Hunter and Central Coast region is David Winiata, previously the Cricket Manager – Central Coast. Dave will head our local team of myself, and fellow Cricket Manager / Northern NSW Infrastructure Specialist, Gary Fisher, a new TBA Cricket Manager for Central Coast, and our Competition Coordinator for Newcastle / Hunter, Luke Mace.

The Acquisition space is represented in the Newcastle region by our Blast Specialists Tighan Tosen and Clare Thornley. Tighan manages the delivery of school and CNSW cricket blast programs across Newcastle, Port Stephens and the northern and eastern part of Lake Macquarie, and Clare manages the area on the western side of Lake Macquarie from Toronto down to Wyee. James Wootton has moved into the School Engagement Specialist role, working through a state focused lens to drive a long-term school strategy for all of Cricket NSW.

For the associations and clubs of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens, direct contacts for Cricket NSW are myself and David, and I look forward to introducing David to our Newcastle Cricket community over the coming weeks and months.

With our newly formed teams, and a successful 2023-2024 behind us, your local Cricket NSW team are committed to planning a bigger and better Season 2024-2025 for our valued volunteers, players, administrators and supporters.

CRICKET NSW - Community Cricket in Newcastle



CRICKET NSW Roles in green are Newcastle based staff



Leya Wilson, CNSW Cricket Manager – Newcastle

NJCA Girls Cricket Officer Report

Season 2023-2024 saw 230 girls taking to the field for Newcastle Junior Cricket Association competitions, 58 girls aged 5-10 years participating in club-based Cricket Blast programs, and 165 girls participating in Cricket NSW led funded cricket blast programs and skill development clinics. Overall, 380 individual girls have participated in a junior cricket competition, cricket blast program or cricket skills clinic in Season 2023-2024.

As female participation grows across the Newcastle region, Newcastle Junior Cricket Association is committed to ensuring our cricket offerings provide an environment that will promote female participation. We aim to foster the growth of female participation and provide our young female players with the opportunity to choose a cricket competition offering that best suits their age, level of experience and skill, and most importantly, is the level of competition that THEY chose.

Our Association has borrowed the UK NHS vision of 'No decision about me, without me' to direct decision making around the cricket offerings available for female players. This direction was launched in June 2023 with a Female Player Forum titled Empowerment through Engagement - providing our female players with the opportunity to inform the decisions around junior cricket formats available for girls. The most commonly shared piece of feedback received from the players addressed the all girls competitions, and was that players wanted to play in competitions where individuals were evenly matched in terms of age and skill level. This led to the introduction of two divisions being offered in the Stage 1 Girls and Stage 2 Girls competitions.



Female Player Forum

Girls Competitions

In conjunction with the player feedback, NJCA reviewed the age and experience level of all girls registered in the previous season, and created competitions based on this data, with Stage 1 Girls targeting U11 players and offering a Division 1 and 2, and Stage 2 initially being offered as U13 and U15. When registrations were received, further engagement with teams and coaches resulted in a two

division Stage 1 Girls Competition and one single Stage 2 Girls Competition to accommodate girls aged between 12 & 15 years of age.

Stage 1 Girls Division 1 - 6 teams

Stage 1 Girls Division 2 - 5 teams

Stage 2 Girls - 5 teams

165 Girls participated in the Girls Competitions in Season 2023-2024, representing 7 of our Junior affiliated clubs.

Stage 1 Girls Division 1 (U11)

Sabres Blue (Newcastle City & Eastern Districts)

Sabres Red (Newcastle City & Eastern Districts)

Charlestown Kookaburras (Charlestown Junior CC)

Charlestown Stars (Charlestown Junior CC)

MDJCC Gold (Merewether Junior District CC)

WSJCC Girls Stage 1 (Newcastle Western Suburbs Junior CC)

Stage 1 Girls Division 2 (U11)

MDJCC Blue (Merewether Junior District CC)

MDJCC White (Merewether Junior District CC)

Charlestown Raptors (Charlestown Junior CC)

Tahs Girls (Waratah-Mayfield Junior CC)

LMJCC Pickles (Lake Macquarie Junior CC)

Stage 2 Girls

Charlestown Chargers (Charlestown Junior CC)

MDJCC Gold (Merewether Junior District CC)

Toronto Kookaburras (Cricket Southern Lakes/Toronto CC)

Charlestown Renegades (Charlestown Junior CC)

MDJCC Blue (Merewether Junior District CC)

Junior Cricket - Mixed Format

65 junior female players participated in the mixed format junior cricket competitions, ranging from U10 through to the U15-U18 grades.

Daughters & Dads Cricket

The Cricket Australia endorsed Daughters & Dads Cricket program has continued to support the growth of our junior female cricket participation with 18 girls participating in these programs over 2023-2024 in our area.

Our Association will continue to consult with our female players, parents and coaches, and support our clubs and community to continue to grow female participation in junior cricket across the Newcastle region.

Leya Wilson, NJCA Girls Cricket Officer

Newcastle Cricket Zone Junior Representative Cricket

The logo for 'alloggio:' is displayed in white and light blue text on a dark blue background with a rounded right edge.

U13s Girls NSW Youth Championship (Mollie Dive Shield)

Coach: John Fernance

Assistant Coach: Matt Lang

Squad: Christine Fernance (c), Jane Cruckshank (vc), Annabelle Grange, Mollie Lang, Sophie Pratt, Piper Dyett, Lily Railz, Charlotte Coombe, Madeline Coyte, Maddison Chicken, Jasmine Nolan, Betzi Burzacott.

Newcastle entered the Mollie Dive Shield in season 2023/24 with a relatively new and fresh look team with only four playing returning from the previous season and a lot of girls playing representative cricket for the first time. With a large number of girls trialing for the team it was great to see a continued growth and interest in Junior Female Representative Cricket.

The girls started the competition against the defending champions, North Shore Blue. This game saw a fairly heavy defeat, with the inexperience showing in some facets of our game. After this, the key things we wanted to focus on were to improve every game, play our cricket in the spirit of the game and to have fun. The remaining seven games saw the girls with 3 wins and 4 losses. This included a tight away loss to Manly-Warringah who at the time were top of the table and undefeated. This helped the girls gain some confidence and from there went on a 3 game winning streak to remain a chance of making the finals coming into last round. Unfortunately, we were to fall 8 runs short in the last game to finish the season 9th out of 14 teams.

The cricketing development of so many of the girls over the course of the season was clearly evident. The opportunity to play in such a competition, ranging from the quality of the opposition, to the way the games are officiated, right through the ownership the team had to take for its own on field decision making, is something that has accelerated not only the technical ability of each of the players but importantly their cricketing intellect.

Looking back, the three objectives that we set after the first game were certainly achieved. The girls improved every game, played their cricket in a manner they should be very proud of and from all accounts enjoyed themselves and had fun along the way.



U13 Mollie Dive Shield team

There were some notable achievements along the way for the Newcastle Girls. Piper Dyett was a standout with the bat finishing 12th overall in the batting for the competition with 161 runs at 26.83. This included Piper's highest score with 71no off 57 balls against Fairfield-Liverpool. Captain Christine Fernance, who finished 3rd overall in the bowling the previous season, went to the top of the standings in the regular season this time with 19 wickets at 6.32.

1	Newcastle 74 <i>Jane Cruckshank 12 (24)</i> <i>Annabelle Grange 12 (37)</i>	Def By	North Shore Blue 2/150 <i>Charlotte Coombe 1/12 (3)</i>
2	Newcastle 128 <i>Christine Fernance 39 (56)</i> <i>Piper Dyett 25 (32)</i>	Def by	Sutherland-St George 5/129 <i>Christine Fernance 2/15 (6)</i>
3	Camden 102 <i>Christine Fernance 3/10 (6)</i> <i>Jane Cruckshank 2/3 (2)</i> <i>Piper Dyett 2/21 (5.2)</i>	Def	Newcastle 68 <i>Lilly Beech 15 (26)</i> <i>Piper Dyett 12 (16)</i>
4	Manly 6/97 <i>Sophie Pratt 3/7 (4)</i>	Def	Newcastle 83 <i>Piper Dyett 24* (24)</i> <i>Jane Cruckshank 17 (42)</i>

5	Newcastle 9/125 <i>Madeline Coyte 23 (56)</i> <i>Mollie Lang 16 (31)</i>	Def	South Eastern 67 <i>Christine Fernance 4/8 (6)</i> <i>Lilly Railz 2/10 (5)</i>
6	Fairfield-Liverpool 8/126 <i>Christine Fernance 5/20 (6)</i>	Def by	Newcastle 6/139 <i>Piper Dyett 71* (57)</i> <i>Lily Railz 22 (41)</i>
7	Hornsby Ku-ring-gai & Hills 8/96 <i>Lily Railz 3/9 (6)</i>	Def by	Newcastle 8/112 <i>Annabelle Grange 38* (60)</i>
8	Newcastle 85 <i>Maddie Chicken 15 (19)</i>	Def by	Inner West-Canterbury West <i>Christine Fernance 4/15 (5.3)</i> <i>Mollie Lang 3/4 (3)</i>

U11 Ron Arendts Carnival

In addition to the NSW Youth Champs, the U13 girls representative team also participate in the U11 Ron Arendts memorial Shield, here in Newcastle in January.

A highlight of the carnival included Christine Fernance being the top wicket taker from the three participating Newcastle teams and Christine taking home the Jim Brennan Player of the Carnival award.



**Christine Fernance, Jim Brennan
Player of the Carnival. Pictured with
Linda Smith (Jim Brennan's daughter)**



**Ron Arendts U13 Newcastle Girls.
Photo courtesy of EMG Photography**

U15s Girls Country Youth Championships - Newcastle (Singleton)

Coach: Phil Morgan, Tommy Anderson

Squad: Emily Cameron, Penny Clarke, Christine Fernance, Evie Gaggin, Olivia Manning, Lucy McCoy, Emma McCrae, Bronte Morgan, Jasmine Nolan, Tilda Pola, Sophie Pratt, Matilda Warren.



Newcastle U15 Female Country Youth Champs

The Newcastle U15 girls side had a great tournament. The team consisted of a mix of experienced representative players and those participating in their first representative carnival. They all had an opportunity to bat and bowl and secured some hard-fought victories, finishing mid table. This result was even more impressive considering they played a number of games with only 10 players. Some notable achievements with the bat included Emma McCrae's 118 off 72 balls (including 22 boundaries) and Tilda Pola's 55 off 61 balls. Bronte Morgan (54.5) and Emma McCrae (61.33) averaged above 50 for the tournament. With the ball, Penny Clarke's 4 for 12 off 2 and Emily Cameron's 3 for 7 off 2 were highlights. It was a pleasure to coach this great group of girls and pleasing to see the growth in their confidence across the week.

Round			
1	Newcastle 2/142 <i>Tilda Pola 55* (61)</i> <i>Bronte Morgan 39* (47)</i>	Def	Central Coast 126 <i>Penny Clarke 4/12 (2)</i>
2	Northern Inland 3/36 <i>Tilda Pola 2/2 (2)</i>	Def	Newcastle 34 <i>Matilda Warren 8</i> <i>Christine Fernance 8</i>

3	Newcastle 7/62 <i>Tilda Pola 14</i>	Def by	Western 1/63 <i>Bronte Morgan 1/6 (3)</i>
4	Newcastle 4/126 <i>Emma McRae 39 (50)</i> <i>Bronte Morgan 28 (20)</i>	Def	North Coast 5/87 <i>Emily Cameron 2/18 (3)</i>
5	Greater Illawarra 2/107 <i>Bronte Morgan 1/19 (3)</i>	Def	Newcastle 4/71 <i>Emma McRae 12* (12)</i> <i>Penny Clarke 12 (20)</i>
6	Newcastle 1/188 <i>Emma McRae 118* (72)</i> <i>Bronte Morgan 34* (44)</i>	Def	Hunter Valley 5/119 <i>Emily Cameron 3/7 (2)</i> <i>Tilda Pola 2/6 (2)</i>
7	Riverina 2/103 <i>Tilda Pola 1/12 (2)</i> <i>Evie Gaggin 1/18 (2)</i>	Def	Newcastle 8/90 <i>Christine Fernance 35(48)</i>

U15s Girls Country Youth Championships – Lake Macquarie (Singleton)

Coach: *Clare Webber*

Squad: *Isabella Bliss, Maddison Chicken, Jane Cruckshank, Charlotte Kelly, Tayah McVittie, Chloe Nguyen, Keighley O’Grady Pont, Jasmine Old, Mishka Sharma, Laura Smith, Cosette Thomas, Evie West (c).*

With this year’s U15 girls Country Youth Championships moved forward to October, the carnival was the first hit-out of the season for most of the girls. Once again, Singleton provided excellent facilities for the competition, as well as some testing weather conditions, with the girls negotiating everything from scorching summer-like heat to play-delaying wet, windy wintry weather.

The competition provided great opportunity and exposure to representative level cricket, which many of the girls were experiencing for the first time. Facing some stronger and more experienced teams, the girls were able to come away from the competition with wins against North Coast and Northern Inland.

The on-field highlight was the win against Northern Inland. After losing 4 early wickets, Tayah and Mishka, with lots of team support from the boundary, completed an exciting run-chase with 1 ball to spare!

The off-field highlight was seeing a group of girls from a wide variety of clubs start the week mostly as strangers and finish as friends.

Congratulations to the team’s leading run-scorer Evie West with 63 runs an at average of 15.75. Chloe Nguyen was the leading wicket taker with 8 wickets at an average of 5.63 (finishing 7th on the competition’s overall bowling honours list out of more than 120 girls). Jasmine Old led the way in the field with 4 catches and having a hand in 3 run outs (finishing 2nd in the overall fielding honours).

A special thanks to coach Clare Webber who was a wonderful mentor to all the girls and an excellent source of advice, knowledge and support for them over the 4 days.



Lake Mac U15 Female Country Youth Champs

Round			
1	Lake Macquarie 6/82 <i>Maddie Chicken* 17 (32)</i> <i>Evie West 16 (13)</i>	Def by	Greater Illawarra 2/86 <i>Evie West 0/5 (2)</i>
2	Lake Macquarie 64 <i>Jane Cruckshank 17* (31)</i>	Def by	Central Coast 127 <i>Cosette Thomas 3/3 (2)</i> <i>Chloe Nguyen 2/7 (2)</i> <i>Laura Smith 2/8 (2)</i>
3	Lake Macquarie 4/74 <i>Tayah McVittie 33* (62)</i> <i>Mishka Sharma 14* (21)</i>	Def	Northern Inland Bolters 6/73 <i>Laura Smith 2/8 (3)</i> <i>Chloe Nguyen 2/8 (2)</i> <i>Tayah McVittie 2/9 (2)</i>
4	Lake Macquarie 5/91 <i>Chloe Nguyen 14 (23)</i> <i>Tayah McVittie 12* (10)</i>	Def by	Western 6/93 <i>Chloe Nguyen 2/8 (2)</i>
5	Mid North Coast 3/65 <i>Chloe Nugyen 1/9 (2)</i>	Def	Lake Macquarie 2/64 <i>Jasmine Old 32* (44)</i>

6	North Coast 4/71 Charlotte Kelly 1/5 (2) Isabella Bliss 1/6 (2) Mishka Sharma 1/8 (2)	Def by	Lake Macquarie 5/103 Evie West 29* (35) Isabella Bliss 13 (22)
7	Hunter Valley 4/54 Charlotte Kelly 1/6 (2) Cosette Thomas 1/8 (2)	Def	Lake Macquarie 53 Jasmine Old 11

U11 Boys Ron Arendts Carnival - Newcastle

Coach: Andrew Freeman

Assistant Coach: Martin Krause

Squad: John Devine, Quinn Freeman, Christopher Gardiner, Samuel Garland, Conor Hazell, Elijah Hudson, Nate Krause, Hamish Mitchell, Blake Moller, Thomas Porter, Sam Potter, Toby Potter.



Newcastle U11 Male Ron Arendts Memorial Shield team

The excitement amongst the squad was evident at the start of their first training session as the boys took the next step on their journey to play for Australia.

A few memorable moments during the season included:

"Hasn't taken his training shirt off."

"Slept in his rep gear."

On field macarena's

An umpire singing "fire up Newy" with the team.

And most of all, the boys had an absolute blast hanging out together playing a game they are passionate about

Another notable moment was the huge effort by Martin Krause right on the cusp of Christmas shut down, as he secured one of a kind Newcastle Blasters caps that the boys will have as a memento for as long as it takes them to lose the cap! Look out for them around town.

Our focal points were having fun, everyone receiving equal opportunity and not putting pressure on the players to perform. The outcome was that every boy across the week performed admirably, had multiple moments of brilliance, and had a great experience. The parents were proud and happy, and a great group to share the first rep season with.

From 5 games, we had wins over Parramatta, Hawkesbury, Coalfields and Maitland. The carnival was a fantastic success, run professionally and a credit to the NJCA staff who were adaptable and responsive. All 3 Newcastle teams had great success - congratulations to Lake Mac Attack on finishing runner up and the Under 13 Girls for having the top run scorer and player of the carnival among many highlights.



All of the squad members can take away the knowledge that they are good enough to contribute significantly at this level. I am certain they will bond further as a team next season and their self-confidence and belief will continue to prosper through their cricket experiences.

It's a privilege to be around the kids for their two favourite events of the week - training and playing cricket. Their energy, passion and excitement is joyful to be around. We are thankful for the opportunity to have guided the squad through a brief and rewarding adventure.

U11 Boys Ron Arendts Carnival – Lake Macquarie

Coach: *Tim Stevenson*

Assistant Coach: *Jarryd Logan*

Squad: *Jett Adlington, Hamish Austin, Edward Belfield, Lachlan Bulloch, Max Drabble, Saxon Logan, Matthew Marsh, Edison Spencer, Rocky Stevenson, Lachlan Taylor, Albert West, Blake Wildermuth (C), Maverick Young.*

Tim and I had the privilege of coaching these boys for the 2024 Ron Arendts Carnival. We played three trial games before the carnival to get the boys ready for the long days ahead. We knew from the start among our squad of 13 we had some talent.

We got three wins in our pool games, an absolute thriller in the last game against NWS Hurricanes (4 run win) to get into the semifinal. In the semi we came up against a quality cricket side from

Parramatta. The result didn't go our way at the time, but a violation of the Playing Conditions saw the result overturned and Lake Mac progress to the final.

In the final we came up against a very slick Manly side. We scrapped together 86 but were always up against it, they passed our score inside 20 Overs. Ted Belfield showed some great patience with 23 in the final.

Some notable stats from our campaign: Ted scored 93 runs, Albie took 8 wickets, and Jett got the fliker of the tournament with 9 catches and couple of run outs.

We loved coaching the boys and hope they are all keen to come back next season.



Lake Mac U11 Male Ron Arendts Memorial Shield team

Photo courtesy of EMG Photography

U12 IDCA Div 2 Foster Shield – Newcastle Blasters

Coach: Alex Gallagher

Manager: Nathan Wicks

Squad: Nicholas Broughton, Xavier Catterson, Lucas Chaff, William Couch, Nate Dixon, Tyson Green, Lucas Hood, Amos Hunt, Austin McManus, Aryan Mehta, Rory Najor, Nideesh Phad, Koby Walton, Charlie Wicks.

The 2023/24 season was a big step forward for the U12's with their first taste of Sydney cricket. While the early Sunday morning drives to Sydney settled the nerves, playing well-drilled Sydney sides was a tough challenge. Our first game against North Shore saw the boys fight our way back into the break chasing 200, a tough chase but a great eye-opener for the boys.



Newcastle U12 Foster Shield team

Round two enveloped the Blasters spirit with a great run chase against Manly Warringah, Nideesh 86 not out. The season continued with notable mentions to Rory, scoring 50 vs Bankstown in a run chase that just fell short. Results wise the Foster Shield ended 2 wins and 5 losses, however, as a unit our development was notable striving to be the best fielding team in the competition, taking a total of 13 catches across our season of 13 games, which includes the Lismore carnival. Undoubtedly, one of the most memorable cricketing moments of their young careers saw the team travel to Lismore to play cricket for 4 days! The noticeable development of the boys saw us strive to create memories on and off the field, growing their love for the game. Our season was one of many tight losses, learning new things, and creating lifelong friends. The development of this talented group of kids is one to watch, exciting things to come.



Round 1	North Shore 7/212 <i>Charlie Wicks 2/18 (6)</i>	Def	Newcastle 97 <i>Nideesh Phad 23</i> <i>Koby Walton 19</i>
Round 2	Manly 145 <i>Koby Walton 3/9 (5)</i> <i>Tyson Green 3/20 (8)</i>	Def by	Newcastle 4/148 <i>Nideesh Phad 86*</i> <i>Koby walton 26</i>
Round 3	Newcastle 93 <i>Lucas Chaff 21 (27)</i>	Def by	Parramatta 103 <i>Lucas Hood 3/15 (4)</i>
Round 4	Bankstown 206 <i>Aryan Mehta 2/3 (4)</i> <i>Rory Najor 2/21 (4)</i>	Def	Newcastle 9/196 <i>Rory Najor 50 (52)</i> <i>Amos Hunt 38 (58)</i>
Round 5	Abandoned		
Round 6	Newcastle 5/136 <i>Nideesh Phad 43 (52)</i>	Def	Inner West Harbour 8/134 <i>Lucas Hood 3/25 (6)</i>
Round 7	Newcastle 9/115 <i>Nideesh Phad 44 (80)</i>	Def by	Blacktown 8/168 <i>Nideesh Phad 1/16 (7)</i> <i>Xavier Catterson 1/17 (3)</i>

U12 IDCA Div 2 Foster Shield – Lake Macquarie Attack

Coaches: *Charlie Walker and Oscar Walker*

Manager: *Ross Jones*

Squad: *Frederick Hare, Kian du Ploy, Thomas Crane, Ollie Watson, Jacob McGrath, Billy Moule, Angus Quinnell, Axl Williams, Jimmy Steadman, Will Blandford, Riley Cross, Viktor Johansson.*

The 2023/2024 Lake Macquarie Attack boys team finished the Foster Shield season with some amazing performances, and with enthusiasm and a fun spirit on show at each and every game.

Reaching the first round of finals and losing in a hard-fought match against Illawarra was a credit to the work put in throughout the season. The focus on fun and developing a well-rounded team that supported each other was a credit to the coaching of Charlie and Oscar. The improvement in just the first couple of weeks as they developed as a team was impressive.

An early highlight included the run chase against South Eastern JCA that saw Jasper Grainger score a 132* off 78 balls in partnership with Axl Williams 48* off 44 to get the win. Other notable batting performances included Will Blandford (66* v Central Coast, and 62* v North Shore), Frederick Hare (43 v St George and 45 v North Shore) and Jasper Grainger (54 v Illawarra). The bowlers were consistently impressive with some economical bowling performances from Thomas Crane 2-2 and 3-2, Viktor Johansson 2-3, Ollie Watson 2-4 and Jasper Grainger 3-0. Catches win matches and there were a number of great catches throughout the competition.

A huge thank you to the coaches Oscar and Charlie and manager Ross Jones, as well as the parents for supporting the team, scoring, and putting on some delicious lunches for all the players and supporters.



Lake Mac U12 Foster Shield team

Round 1	Lake Macquarie 5/152 <i>Will Blandford 66* (93)</i> <i>Jasper Grainger 37 (65)</i>	Def by	Central Coast 3/191
Round 2	Lake Macquarie 3/232 <i>Jasper Grainger 132* (78)</i> <i>Axl Williams 48* (44)</i>	Def	SEJCA 8/230 <i>Frederick Hare 3/31 (7)</i>
Round 3	St George 10/20 <i>Jasper Grainger 3/0 (4)</i> <i>Thomas Crane 2/2 (4)</i> <i>Viktor Johansson 2/3 (4)</i>	Def by	Lake Macquarie 9/202 <i>Frederick Hare 43</i> <i>Jasper Grainger 37</i>
Round 4	Lake Macquarie 4/79 <i>Will Blandford 36* (50)</i> <i>Ollie Watson 21* (25)</i>	Def	Sutherland 10/76 <i>Jasper Grainger 2/3 (4)</i> <i>Ollie Watson 2/4 (2.3)</i>
Round 5	Inner West Harbour	Washout	Lake Macquarie
Round 6	Blacktown 9/111 <i>Axl Williams 3/13 (6)</i>	Def	Lake Macquarie 10/109 <i>Riley Cross 18 (40)</i>
Round 7	North Shore 10/157 <i>Thomas Crane 3/2 (4.1)</i>	Def by	Lake Macquarie 3/158 <i>Will Blandford 62* (76)</i> <i>Frederick Hare 45 (86)</i>

Finals round 1	Illawarra 6/130 <i>Ollie Watson 2/19 (8)</i>	Def	Lake Macquarie 10/103 <i>Will Blandford 18 (32)</i> <i>Jasper Grainger 54 (95)</i>
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U13 NSW Country Youth Champs – Newcastle Blasters

Coaches: *Tim O’Neill & Rob Berry*

Manager: *Trenton Moller*

Squad: *Louis Berry, Elliott Bullen, Isaac Dean, Nebin Liby, Evan Moller, Hayden Moller, Sulaiman Moin Muhammad, Damon Oneill, Matthew Priestley, Benji Ruse, Harry Scott, Callum van Huisstede*

The Under 13 Newcastle Blasters Team had a successful season, showcasing exceptional talent and resilience on the field. Despite facing various challenges, including adverse weather conditions and tough opponents, the team displayed their individual skills well and there was clear evidence of friendships and camaraderie.

The team only suffered two losses throughout the season, demonstrating their consistent form and determination. Unfortunately, the Armidale carnival was cut short due to rain.

We extend our thanks to the players for their dedication, hard work, and commitment throughout the season. Your perseverance and passion for the game has been outstanding.

We also express our gratitude to the parents for their unwavering support, encouragement, and sacrifices. Your commitment to accompanying the team to two carnivals away from Newcastle has been invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Tim, Rob and Trenton



Newcastle U13 Male Country Youth Champs team

Round 1	Newcastle 8/127 <i>Sulaiman Muhammad 55*</i>	Def	Lake Mac 10/126 <i>Louis Berry 2/8</i>
Round 2	Newcastle 10/78 <i>Callum van Huisstede 14*</i>	Def by	Hunter 4/80 <i>Louis Berry 2/14</i>
Round 3	Newcastle 7/124 <i>Sulaiman Muhammad 23</i>	Def	Central Coast 10/123 <i>Callum van Huisstede 4/13</i>
Round 4	Newcastle 7/106 <i>Louis Berry 50</i>	Def	Far North Coast 9/88 <i>Nebin Liby 3/16</i>
Round 5	Newcastle 4/139 <i>Isaac Dean 34</i> <i>Sulaiman Muhammad 34</i>	Def	Mid North Coast 9/102 <i>Louis Berry 3/9</i>
Round 6 & 7	Carnival abandoned due to rain		

U13 NSW Country Youth Champs – Lake Macquarie Attack

Coach: Scott McIlveen

Manager: Alex Dare

Squad: Liam Belfield, Jack Cameron, James Dare, Connor Fitzsimons, Max Gallagher, Lucas Holt, Ethan Hunt, Charlie Ingold, Billy Mcilveen, Oscar McNamara, Ray Nowlan Goodsir, Rocco Roseworne, Nathan Wilcher.

The Lake Macquarie U13 Boys Rep Cricket team had a challenging but rewarding season at the Country Championships in Armidale and The Ballina Carnival in January. While the team may not have secured as many wins as we all had hoped for, they consistently put up a good fight and competed strongly in every game.

One of the highlights of the season was the quick integration of five new players into the squad from last year's Foster Shield team. Despite the number of newcomers, the team quickly gelled and showed great team spirit and camaraderie and a commitment to working together towards a common goal. Throughout the season, there were some outstanding individual performances that stood out, but the best thing as a coach is watching how those performances were celebrated and supported by the whole group.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the parent group and siblings for their unwavering support throughout the season. Your encouragement and dedication to the team was fantastic.

I am proud of the progress and growth that each player has shown. We look forward to building on this foundation in the future and continuing to strive for success.

Thanks again to everyone involved with the Lake Macquarie U13 Boys Rep Cricket team. Here's to many more seasons of hard work, determination, and success ahead.

Go team! "Get Amongst it".



Lake Mac U13 Male Country Youth Champs team

Round 1	Newcastle 8/127 <i>Ray Nowlan Goodsir 28*</i> <i>James Dare 27</i>	Def	Lake Mac 10/126 <i>James Dare 2/24 (5.3)</i>
Round 2	Central Coast 9/117 <i>James Dare 3/16 (7)</i> <i>Ethan Hunt 2/13 (2)</i>	Def	Lake Macquarie 9/105 <i>Billy McIlveen 25</i>
Round 3	Lake Macquarie 80 <i>Rocco Roseworne 12</i>	Def by	Hunter Thoroughbreds 2/81 <i>Ray Nowlan Goodsir 1/10</i> <i>Billy McIlveen 1/11</i>
Round 4	Lake Macquarie 3/50 <i>Ethan Hunt 17*</i>	Def	Northern Inland Bolters 47 <i>Ethan Hunt 2/4 (2)</i> <i>Connor Fitzsimons 2/5 (2)</i> <i>James Dare 2/6 (2)</i>
Round 5	North Coast 5/139 <i>Ethan Hunt 3/27 (4)</i>	Def	Lake Macquarie 8/119 <i>Jack Cameron 51</i>
Round 6 Round 7	Carnival abandoned due to rain		

U14 NSW Country Youth Champs – Newcastle Blasters

Coach: Rob Thornton

Manager: Dan Hunt

Squad: Corban Byrne, Isaac Catterson, Archer Freeman, Samuel Gallagher, Samuel Hunt, Izaan Mohammed, Isaac Moran, Oliver Nelson, Thisas Ratnayake, Leo Thornton, Mason van Huisstede, Joseph Vandenberg, Ben Wiehahn.

The Blasters had a long and ultimately successful season, where we won the Northern NSW Youth Championship and made the final of the Graeme Malcolm Shield, which was punctuated by,

- A fantastic team culture, demonstrated through a lot of laughter and camaraderie off the field and outstanding team bowling and fielding performances,
- One of the finest individual seasons you will see from a batter, with supporting roles from others when it mattered, and
- Constant disruption from rain and injuries.

We started pre-season with a team building morning at Nobbys Beach and break wall where players competed in teams completing tasks and learning about the history of the area. This was great fun, and hard work, particularly when the torrential rain hit!



Newcastle U14 Male Country Youth Champs team

Our season started with local games against Lake Mac Attack and Hunter Thoroughbreds. After a stunning 138 not out from Izaan, mainly in partnership with Sam H, who made 66 and some late hitting by Joe, our imposing total of 7-287 was looking even better against Lake Mac after two early wickets

before the thunder and lightning appeared. After an hour of heavy rain, the umpires determined the square was unplayable and the game was abandoned.

In the second game we bowled first and restricted Hunter to 123, thanks to tight spells from Isaac M, Leo and Mason and dominant spells from Joe 2-18 off 7 and Archer 3-7 off 8. The run chase was a bit shaky to begin with but Izaan again showed his class and got us home with 75 not out, with brilliant support from Sam G, Isaac C and Corban.

On to the carnival at Raymond Terrace which we knew would need us to hit the ground running with games against the stronger teams from last year Central Coast and Far North Coast. Batting first against Central Coast, again it was Izaan with 66 and Sam H 33 that built on Sam G and Ben's early patience and got us to a competitive 179. This turned out to be more than enough as again Joe, 3-11 off 8.1 and key wickets from Isaac M, Mason and Sam G and a great team fielding effort made it a comfortable win.

The T20 against Far North Coast was less comfortable, we bowled well with 3 wickets each to spinners Isaac M and Leo and were happy to chase 108, however apart from Leo, 30 and Ben 14, non of our batters got going and we were bowled out for 94.

The rest of the carnival was seriously rain affected. In the second T20 after bowling out Mid North Coast for 99, mainly thanks to Thisas 4-19, we were 0-8 off the first over when the lightning came, followed by more torrential rain that led to the next day and a half being cancelled and our final game against Northern Inland being moved to a synthetic wicket. Results from other games meant we knew we would be champions with a strong performance and again Izaan mastered the conditions with 87 along with Ben, 45 and Isaac M's 23. We were then able to secure the win by taking regular wickets, led by 2 each from Mason and Archer and the usual strong fielding display.



Izaan

Our rewards for our success were Izaan being awarded player of the tournament (a very easy decision), the selection of 5 players for the next level State Challenge, Izaan, Isaac M, Sam H, Leo and Joe and the opportunity to play in the State Championships Finals in Campbelltown in mid April, where we played the Southern Champions Albury Wodonga. This became quite challenging as ultimately, we had six players unavailable due to injuries and other commitments, thank you very much to the under 13s who stepped up. The toss was pivotal, and we were sent in on an under prepared wicket with a lot of moisture around, a number of key wickets off unplayable balls made it virtually impossible to set a winning total. We fought hard but came up short. Sam G and replacement player Zameer getting into double figures, which on another day would have been much better scores and some quality bowling from Thisas, Zameer and Leo as the wicket flattened out showed what we are capable of.

A successful season like this, despite all the challenges with weather, injuries and unavailability, only comes about through the hard work of parents. It's a massive thank you from me to our two managers

across the season, Andrew Freeman, who also coached the team at Graeme Malcolm, and Dan Hunt (although everyone knows it was really Megan doing all the work), the mums who always ensure the players are ready, fed and respectful, our scorers Dan and Justin Moran and our legendary assistant coaches Quinn, Xavier and Amos, who are the best in the business.

Round 1	Newcastle (abandoned) <i>Izaan Mohammed 138 (131)</i> <i>Sam Hunt 66 (77)</i>	V	Lake Mac (abandoned)
Round 2	Newcastle 5/127 <i>Izaan Mohammed 75* (124)</i>	Def	Hunter Thoroughbreds 123 <i>Archer Freeman 3/7 (8)</i>
Round 3	Central Coast 134 <i>Joseph Vandenberg 3/11 (8.1)</i>	Def by	Newcastle 179 <i>Izaan Mohammed 66 (119)</i> <i>Sam Hunt 33 (45)</i>
Round 4	Far North Coast 8/108 <i>Isaac Moran 3/20 (4)</i> <i>Leo Thornton 3/30 (4)</i>	Def	Newcastle 94 <i>Leo Thornton 29 (37)</i>
Round 5	Abandoned		
Round 6	Abandoned		
Round 7	Newcastle 209 <i>Izaan Mohammed 87 (130)</i> <i>Ben Wiehahn 45 (51)</i>	Def	Northern Inland Bolters 106 <i>Archer Freeman 2/7 (5)</i> <i>Mason Van Huisstede 2/11 (5)</i>
State Final	Albury Wodonga 3/50 <i>Leo Thornton 1/10 (4)</i>	Def	Newcastle 47 <i>Zameer Mosoom Khil 15 (42)</i>

U14 NSW Country Youth Champs – Lake Macquarie Attack

Coach: Troy Goodwin

Manager: Clint Daniels

Squad: Max Badior, Oliver Burns, Logan Cashmore, Sam Cross, Ollie Daniels, Jackson Gaggin, Krishang Gulati, Preston Jolliffe, Liam Lundy, Ben McLachlan, Drew Saxby, Michael Thomas, Artie Zukowski.

Extremely frustrating season for the Lake Mac U14 boys team, with every match of our NSW Youth Championship impacted by wet weather. The end results show 2 wins, 1 loss and 4 washed out draws, however even the completed matches were impacted by weather.

Standout performers were Preston Jolliffe, who continued to develop his strong leadership skills, Drew Saxby was the leading run scorer (163 runs) and big improvements from Max Badior (143 runs) including a break-out innings of 81 v Hunter Thoroughbreds. Drew was also the leading wicket taker with 7 wickets. Drew, Preston and Max were all rewarded with selection in the State Challenge team.

Overall, the highlight for the coaches was again being able to maintain the bulk of our playing squad from previous years, and watching the boys continue to develop as a team. They don't rely on a standout performer and are able to adapt well to differing situations and some tough conditions that were thrown their way.



Lake Mac U14 Male Country Youth Champs team
Photo courtesy of EMG Photography

Round 1	Newcastle (abandoned)	V	Lake Mac (abandoned)
Round 2	Central Coast 3/129 <i>Liam Lundy 1/11 (5)</i> <i>Oliver Burns 1/16 (7)</i>	Def	Lake Macquarie 9/128 <i>Drew Saxby 63 (71)</i>
Round 3	Lake Macquarie 8/167 <i>Max Badior 81 (90)</i>	Def	Hunter Thoroughbreds 146 <i>Drew Saxby 3/28 (10)</i> <i>Artie Zukowski 2/17 (6)</i>
Round 4	Northern Inland Bolters 6/93 <i>Ollie Daniels 2/11 (4)</i>	Def by	Lake Macquarie 3/96 <i>Preston Joliffe 31* (34)</i> <i>Drew Saxby 28* (28)</i>
Round 5	Abandoned		
Round 6	Abandoned		
Round 7	Lake Macquarie (Abandoned) <i>Drew Saxby 48* (60)</i>	Def	Far North Coast (Abandoned)

U15 NSW Country Youth Champs – Newcastle Blasters

Coaches: Steve Pratt & Rob Parkinson

Manager: Nathan Wicks

Squad: Lachlan Cornwell, Fraser Pratt (c), Jack Hughes, Will Parkinson (c), Koby Blight, Archie Wicks, Hayden Checker, Harrison Najor, Riley Sharples, Xavier Dean, Jacob Chaff, Alby Grange, Jack Mewett.



Newcastle U15 Male Country Youth Champs team

Pratty and I have had the privilege of coaching this team for the past 4 Rep seasons. Each season we set a goal for the boys to continue to grow as cricketers, improve on the field and do better than the previous season but most of all, be better humans. Yet again, they all impressed and smashed these goals. A credit to themselves and their families.

We welcomed 2 new players into the initial squad this season, Alby Grange and Jack Mewett. Jacob Chaff came into the squad later for the Tamworth Carnival due to a last-minute injury to Riley Sharples who unfortunately broke his finger in a school game. All 3 boys slotted into the team seamlessly and contributed very well. Fortunately for the team, we got back Riley for the Orange Carnival and Jacob gladly travelled away with us also.

CNSW Youth Champs (Northern)

We finish 3rd on the table, with 3 wins, 1 loss and 1 draw from our 5 games that were played. Unfortunately, 2 games at the Tamworth Carnival were washed out.

Round 1 v Lake Mac – The arch rivalry was strong and present. A solid start to the campaign, batting first we put on a respectable total of 8/171 (50), Hayden 55 and Archie 49no with some awesome power hitting. With the ball we got off to a great start and had Lake Mac in trouble at 2/8 in the 7th over. Lightning and heavy rain put paid to any chance of victory – **match abandoned**.

Round 2 v Hunter Valley – at home at Townson Oval batting first we put on a batting clinic 7/261 (50), the boys batted in partnerships, Will 66, Lachlan 64, Haydo 48. In the field, another fine display rolling HV for 87 in the 18th over. Our chief destroyers, Jack H 4/16, Riley 2/13, Koby 2/14 and Alby 2/34. **Win**

Round 3 v Central Coast – off to Tamworth for the 4-day carnival with high expectations. We've had a healthy rivalry with the Coastys over the years as many of the boys have played with each other in higher honours. We were keen to turn around our previous year's defeats. Batting 1st again, we were in trouble at 3/14 on a bowler friendly deck. Lachy 11 (56) and Will 22 (45) nudged the ball around to 5/52 (26), before Koby 25 (63), Archie 16 (23) and Jacob 32 (42) help to set a defendable total of 134 we hoped. Our bowlers got consistent wickets to keep us in the game longer than we should have, CC passing the total in the 46th over. The boys learned a lot from that game. **Loss**

Round 4 v Far North Coast (T20) – playing at Tamworth's No.1 cricket ground the boys were up, batting 1st again we put on 9-114 (20) with Lachy 28 (29) and Jacob 19 (17). A tight game in the end with FNC getting 7/109 (20), at one stage cruising at 4/100 with 4 overs to go. Stand up Xavier and Archie who picked up 4/24 and 2/14 respectively. **Win**

Round 5 v Mid North Coast (T20) – Finally fielding 1st we started well with early wickets MNC at 5/31 at the half way mark, we let things slip somewhat with MNC making 6/88 (20). Batting we got to the task from ball 1 Archie 16 (18), Lachy 22no (28) and Harrison 25 (34), cruising to victory in the 15th over. **Win**

Round 6 v North Coast & Round 7 v Northern Inland – both matches abandoned due to rain.

Historically, our bowling has been the strength of the team over past few seasons however this season saw our batters step up in a shortened campaign. Notable batting from:

Lachlan Cornwell 130 @ 32.5 (HS 64 & 28)

Hayden Checker 127 @25.4 ((HS 56 & 48)

Will Parkinson 101 @ 25.25 (HS 66 & 22)

Lachlan Cornwell was the deserved winner of our batting award for season 2023/24.

Notable bowling performances:

Xavier Dean 6 wkts @ 6.33

Jack Hughes 6 wkts @ 9.00

Koby Blight 4 wkts @ 11.25

Our frontline bowlers had limited opportunities in the campaign, Rounds 1, 6 & 7 wash outs, day 2 of the carnival T20's we rested our first-string bowlers due to bowling load rules.

Xavier Dean just nudged out Jack Hughes and was the awarded the bowling award.

Our Coaches' award went to Hayden Checker, opened the batting on most occasions and did a great job in many of the games and got us off to solid starts, kept wicket in all matches and was solid. Never once shirked his responsibilities.

Western NSW Carnival – Orange

Our 3-day carnival in Orange. 4 games, 3 wins and 1 loss. We finished equal 2nd on the table after the prelim rounds however pushed to 3rd on the table due to quotient. The team missed the Grand Final re-match v eventual winners Penrith on Orange's premier ground at Wade Park. Game 1 we beat the much-fancied Blacktown rolling them for 84, Riley 3/12, Frase 2/11 & Jack M 2/12. We chased down the total 4/88 in the 33rd over Haydo 26 (49), Archie 21* (41) and Will 14* (71). Game 2 v Canberra Rhinos (T20), bowling 1st we rolled them out for 65, Harrison 3/8 & Jack M 1/11, we chased down the score 2/66 Haydo 27* (29) in the 9th over. Game 3 v Penrith (T20) top of the table clash, a win would see us into the final. Batting 1st we put on respectable 5/108 with Haydo a solid 42 (41) against a quality bowling attack. We got an early wicket however Penrith too good and chased down in the 16th over 3/110. We played our final v Hawksbury the following day, high expectations to finished the carnival with a win and knock over another Sydney team. Some fantastic bowling by our boys and rolled the Hawks for 116 on a good deck. After a great start 1/60 losing Haydo 39 (56) in the 20th over shortly after Frase 21 (67) we were still ok at 2/68. However, a major collapse losing 6/10 over the next 6 overs 8/78, Pratty and I were beside ourselves!! Step up Jacob Chaff, a masterful innings 28 (32). We lost another wicket at 99 so we still needed 17 to win for the last wicket. Overs weren't an issue still 18 runs. Alby came to the crease, didn't really have to do much, only faced 4 balls as Jacob took charge and took apart the Hawks bowlers in style. One of the best match finishes we have ever seen. UP THE MIGHTY BLASTERS!!

Last but not least thanks to Frase and Will for their leadership on the field, fantastic job leading the boys.



U15 NSW Country Youth Champs – Lake Macquarie Attack

Coaches: Thomas Croft & Simon Moore

Manager: Jen White



Squad: Elvis Blyth, Hunter Chappell, Hunter Croft, Tasman Davidson, Isaac Flanagan, Garvish Gulati, Max Langworthy, Clancy Moore, Tremayne Small, Max Surjan, Kye Velich, Thomas White.

v Newcastle (50 overs)

Lake Macquarie started the competition against its archrivals Newcastle at Learmonth Oval. We bowled first on a tricky deck and to the credit of the Newcastle batters they put together a credible total of 171 runs. Lake Macquarie started very nervously losing two quick wickets (2-8) before rain fell and the game was abandoned due to bad weather. Match drawn.

Our spinners bowled extremely well with Elvis Blyth (3-42) off 9 overs & Max Langworthy (4-19) off 10 overs the pick of the bowlers.

v Central Coast (50 Overs)

We headed down the coastline to play Central Coast, the boys had a tough day out and we met a very well drilled outfit. The game was moved to a synthetic pitch. With Central Coast winning the toss and batting first they compiled a very competitive total of 196. Our bowlers were finding it hard on the synthetic pitch and couldn't get themselves in the game early. Garvish Gulati was the pick of the bowlers with 3-37 of 9 overs.

We struggled to put any partnerships together with Central Coast bowling tight and fielding very well throughout our batting innings. Unfortunately, we fell well short of the total and it was back to the drawing board for us.

v Hunter Thoroughbreds (50 overs)

Heading up to Tamworth for our final 5 games of the championships we would face the Hunter Thoroughbreds, after losing the toss we were asked to bowl first on what looked like a very flat pitch. The bowlers were up for the challenge as we bowled our opponents out for 66 runs. Credit to all as we bowled and fielded very well throughout the first innings. The pick of the bowlers was Thomas White with 4-19 off 5 overs and the rest of the wickets were shared around. Clancy Moore opened the batting and finished 31 not out to help steer Lake Mac home for our first win of the tournament.



v Northern Inland (T20)

The game that got away. Our first T20 game where we were on top for 90% of the game but lack of game awareness would come back and haunt us as we went down in a close one. Credit to Northern Inland for staying in the fight and getting over the line.

We started the game with a bang and had Northern Inland reeling at 6-72 due to our spinners again doing the damage with Max Langworthy 3-21 and Elvis Blyth 2-11. Our standout batter on the day was Tremayne Small scoring an impressive 41 runs off 26 balls, Unfortunately we couldn't put on a partnership and fell an agonising 10 runs short.

v North Coast (T20)

Our second T20 game saw us come up against North Coast and this was a great game with the team coming away with another win for the tournament. This game went down to the wire and both teams were in for the fight. We bowled first and held them to 5-122 with Max Langworthy again pick of the bowlers with 2-27 and Kye Velich 1-23.

We lost an early wicket, and credit to Max Langworthy (22) and Tremayne Small (36) for steadying the ship and putting on a great partnership. We lost another couple of wickets, but Hunter Croft (25no) and Hunter Chappell (17no) put on a final partnership to win the game.

The final 2 games of the tournament were washed out.

Thank you to Simon Moore (Co-Coach) and Jen White (Manager) for all your help. Also, a big shoutout to all parents and players for all your help and support throughout training and the championship.

Thomas Croft (Coach)

Season 2023/2024 Awards

NJCA Competition Awards 2023/2024

Major and Minor Premiers

Grade	Minor Premiers	Major Premiers
U10 Clarke	MDJCC Blue	MDJCC Blue
U10 Holland	Tahs Navy	WSJCC Red
U10 Poulton	MFCC	MFCC
U10 Walters	CJCC Magpies	Stockton U10
U11 Girls – Division 1	Sabres Blue	Sabres Blue
U11 Girls – Division 2	CJCC Raptors	MDJCC White
U11 Division 1	Sabes Blue	Sabres Blue
U11 Division 2	LMJCC Legends	Sabres Red
U11 Division 3	LMJCC 6ers	WSJCC Yellow
Stage 2 Girls	CJCC Renegades	CJCC Renegades
U12 Division 1	CJCC Magpies	WSJCC Red
U12 Division 2	VECC Vortex	VECC Vortex
U12 Division 3	LMJCC Heat	LMJCC Heat
U13 Division 1	LMJCC 6ers	LMJCC 6ers
U13 Division 2	VECC Voltage	VECC Voltage
U13 Division 3	Stockton Gold	Stockton Gold
U14 Division 1	MDJCC Green	Sabes Blue
U14 Division 2	Stockton U14	LMJCC Thunder
U15	MDJCC Gold	MDJCC Gold
U15-U18 Friday Premier League - Division 1	MDJCC Gold	Joint Premiers – MDJCC Gold & Stockton
U15-U18 Friday Premier League - Division 2	LMJCC 6ers	LMJCC 6ers
U15-U18 Division 3	WSJCC White	CJCC Thunder
U15 Monday Social T20 Bash	Sabres T20	WSJCC T20 Red

Major Award Recipients

AWARD	NAME	CLUB
Female Player of the Year	Betzi Burzacott	Cricket Southern Lakes
Male Player of the Year	Damon O'Neill	Merewether JCC
Fielder of the Year	Joseph Pearce	Newcastle City JCC

Individual Award Recipients – Champion Player

Grade	Name	Club
Stage 2 Girls	Betzi Burzacott	Cricket Southern Lakes
U12 Division 1	Conor Hazell	Charlestown JCC
U12 Division 2	Jock Mackay	Merewether DJCC
U12 Division 3	Vincent Gaffney	Western Suburbs JCC
U13 Division 1	Damon O'Neill	Merewether JCC
U13 Division 2	Frederick Hare	Waratah Mayfield JCC
U13 Division 3	Tyson Green	Stockton JCC
U14 Division 1	Thisas Ratnayake	Western Suburbs JCC
U14 Division 2	Ethan Hayter	Stockton JCC
U15	Charlie Drew	Merewether JCC
U15-U18 Div 1 Premier League	Brendan Lee	Charlestown JCC
U15-U18 Div 2	Rohan Power	Cricket Southern Lakes
U15-U18 Div 3	Jake Bassos	Western Suburbs JCC
U15 Monday T20 Bash	Sulaiman Moin Muhammad	Newcastle City CC

Individual Award Recipients – Batting

Grade	Name	Runs @ average	Club
U10 Clarke	Makario Bale	183	Merewether DJCC
U10 Holland	Maseer Masoom khil	267	Western Suburbs JCC
U10 Poulton	Roman Campise	153	Charlestown JCC
U10 Walters	Bon Hammerton	196	Stockton JCC
U11 Division 1	Max Drabble	293	Newcastle City CC
U11 Division 2	Xavier Sharma	229	Valentine Eleebana CC
U11 Division 3	Banjo Foley	227	Hamilton Wickham JCC
U11 Girls – Division 1	Libby Griffiths	293	Newcastle City CC
U11 Girls – Division 2	Sierra Mcllvenie	93	Lake Macquarie JCC
Stage 2 Girls	Betzi Burzacott	175 @ 58.33	Cricket Southern Lakes
U12 Division 1	Blake Wildermuth	297 @ 49.5	Merewether DJCC
U12 Division 2	Cohan Penman	224 @ 37.33	Valentine Eleebana CC
U12 Division 3	Vincent Gaffney	193 @ 38.6	Western Suburbs JCC
U13 Division 1	Damon O'Neill	369 @ 73.8	Merewether DJCC
U13 Division 2	Frederick Hare	373 @ 62.17	Waratah Mayfield JCC
U13 Division 3	Kaydn Macauley	251 @ 62.75	Stockton JCC
U14 Division 1	Ben Wiehahn	240 @ 80	Newcastle City CC
U14 Division 2	Ethan Hayter	343 @ 49	Stockton JCC
U15	Charlie Drew	292 @ 73	Merewether DJCC
U15-U18 Div 1 Premier League	Brendan Lee	282 @ 40.29	Charlestown JCC
U15-U18 Div 2 Premier League	Rohan Power	296 @ 98.67	Cricket Southern Lakes
U15-U18 Div 3	Jake Bassos	340 @ 30.91	Western Suburbs JCC
U15 Monday T20 Bash	Elliot Standing	241 @ 60.25	Western Suburbs JCC

Individual Award Recipients – Bowling

Grade	Name	Wickets @ average	Club
U10 Clarke	Elliot Courtney	18 @ 14.22	Merewether DJCC
U10 Holland	Maseer Jamshid	25 @ 7.02	Western Suburbs JCC
U10 Poulton	Dhruuv Pandit	19 @ 5.26	Merewether DJCC
U10 Walters	Brendan Parmeter	16 @ 15.18	Charlestown JCC
U11 Division 1	Aidan Sparkes	21 @ 6.38	Valentine Eleebana CC
U11 Division 2	Tobias Burtenshaw	21 @ 9.05	Valentine Eleebana CC
U11 Division 3	Cooper Gauci	17 @ 11	Newcastle City CC
U11 Girls – Division 1	Hannah Vandenberg	12 @ 5.67	Western Suburbs JCC
U11 Girls – Division 2	Grace Butler	10 @ 10.4	Merewether DJCC
Stage 2 Girls	Betzi Burzacott	13 @ 8.46	Cricket Southern Lakes
U12 Division 1	Oscar Maddison	18 @ 6.56	Merewether DJCC
U12 Division 2	Jock Mackay	17 @ 5.53	Merewether DJCC
U12 Division 3	Noah Kilkeary	13 @ 7.15	Western Suburbs JCC
U13 Division 1	Anton Wood	14 @ 8.64	Newcastle City CC
U13 Division 2	Lucas Hood	19 @ 5.95	Charlestown JCC
U13 Division 3	Liam Brien	12 @ 22.16	Western Suburbs JCC
U14 Division 1	Thisas Ratnayake	21 @ 7.48	Western Suburbs JCC
U14 Division 2	Hugh Pearson	16 @ 5.06	Lake Macquarie JCC
U15-U18 Premier League - Division 1	Zayan Mohammed	14 @ 17.5	Newcastle City CC
U15-U18 Premier League - Division 2	Jack Mewett	7 @ 13.43	Lake Macquarie JCC
U15-U18 Division 3	Will Bailey	29 @ 5.79	Western Suburbs JCC
U15 Monday T20 Bash	Cooper Davies	10 @ 5.9	Western Suburbs JCC

Newcastle Cricket Zone Junior Representative Player Award Recipients 2023/24

Team Awards

	Batting Award	Bowling Award	Coaches Award	Champion Player
U12 Male Foster Shield - Newcastle	Nideesh Phad 215 runs @ 43	Lucas Hood 9 wickets @ 10.11	Rory Najor	Jasper Grainger 294 runs 8 wickets 2 catches
U12 Male Foster Shield - Lake Macquarie	Jasper Grainger 294 runs @ 58.8	Thomas Crane 8 wickets @ 10.63	Will Blandford	
U13 Female Youth Champs – Mollie Dive Shield	Piper Dyett 161 runs @ 26.83	Christine Fernance 19 wickets @ 6.32	Jane Cruckshank	Christine Fernance 66 runs 19 wickets 7 catches
U13 Male Country Youth Champs – Newcastle	Sulaiman Moin Muhammad 154 runs @ 51.33	Nebin Liby 8 wickets @ 7.63	Nebin Liby	Sulaiman Moin Muhammad 154 runs 3 wickets 4 catches 1 run out
U13 Male Country Youth Champs – Lake Macquarie	Jack Cameron 82 runs @ 20.5	Ethan Hunt 8 wickets @ 9.38	Max Gallagher	
U14 Male Country Youth Champs – Newcastle	Izaan Mohammed 372 runs @ 93	Isaac Moran 8 wickets @ 14.25	Archer Freeman	Izaan Mohammed 372 runs 1 catch
U14 Male Country Youth Champs – Lake Macquarie	Drew Saxby 165 runs @ 41.25	Drew Saxby 7 wickets @ 18	Max Badior	
U15 Female Country Youth Champs – Newcastle	Emma McRae 184 runs @ 61.33	Tilda Pola 5 wickets @ 10.6	Tilda Pola	Emma McRae 184 runs 1 wicket 3 catches 3 run outs
U15 Female Country Youth Champs – Lake Macquarie	Evie West 63 runs @ 15.75	Chloe Nguyen 8 wickets @ 5.63	Jane Cruckshank	
U15 Male Country Youth Champs – Newcastle	Lachlan Cornwell 130 runs @ 32.5	Xavier Dean 6 wickets @ 6.33	Hayden Checker	Max Langworthy 31 runs 12 wickets 2 catches 3 run outs
U15 Male Country Youth Champs – Lake Macquarie	Tremayne Small 77 runs @ 25.67	Max Langworthy 12 wickets @ 9.75	Garvish Gulati	

	Batting Award	Bowling Award	Coaches Award	Champion Player
U16 Female Country Championships	Madison Kedwell 54 runs @ 27	Cosette Thomas 4 wickets @ 6.75	Isabella Bliss	Cosette Thomas 32 runs 4 wickets
U16 Bradman Cup	Lucas Vincent 327 runs @ 46.71	Tyler McInnes 10 wickets @ 13	Austin Berry	Lucas Vincent 327 runs 5 wickets 1 catch 2 run outs

Major Awards

Female Player of the Year	Christine Fernance
Male Player of the Year	Jasper Grainger
Fielder of the Year	Clancy Moore
Best in Ron Arendts (Patrick Sharpe memorial medal)	Christine Fernance

Other Awards

U13 Female YC - Mollie Dive	5 for	Christine Fernance	5 / 20 from 6 overs
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Female Player of the Year – Christine Fernance
Presented by Sharon Dare



Male Player of the Year – Jasper Grainger
Presented by Tommy Anderson



Fielder of the Year – Clancy Moore
Presented by Mark Cameron



Best in Ron Arendts - Patrick Sharpe Memorial Award
Christine Fernance
Presented by Jack & Anna Sharpe

NJCA Inc Financial Report

Profit and Loss, year ended 31 May 2024

Carnival		
Income	44,773	
Expenses	(25,638)	19,134
Competition		
Rego income	52,427	
Training levy	11,539	
Competition expenses	(51,560)	
Marketing	(5,525)	
Blasters 500	(5,232)	
Summer Smash	(2,895)	
Coach development	(6,196)	(7,442)
Administrator		
Levy	62,118	
Expenses	(54,620)	7,498
Representative		
Income	9,391	
Expenses	(3,337)	6,054
Other		
Interest Income	1,963	
Jim Brennan nets	4,858	
Storage costs	(2,873)	
Other overheads	(6,372)	(2,423)
		22,822

Financial Position, at 31 May 2024

Assets		
Cash		197,099
Trade Debtors		14,830
Jim Brennan nets infrastructure		54,213
Other Equipment		3,054
GST Receivable		4,233
		273,429
Liabilities		
Wages tax payable		2,486
Superannuation payable		830
<u>Infrastructure Contributions not spent</u>		
- Contributions received	65,423	
- Less payments to projects	(54,740)	10,682
<u>Grants received not spent</u>		
- Adamstown Nets	17,909	
- Heaton Park	3,636	21,545
		35,543
Net assets		237,885

Thank you

Thank you to all our supporters and sponsors including Alloggio, City of Newcastle, Kingsgrove Sport, Kookaburra, Newcastle Cricket Academy, Lings Trophies and EMG Photography. We appreciate your ongoing support and assistance and look forward to working with you during the next season.

