

2024/25 Annual Report





Introduction

On behalf of the Executive Committee, we are proud to present the Montrose Cricket Club 2024/25 Annual Report. While every season has its own story, this year brought a few new challenges — but also some real wins that have strengthened our Club and positioned us well for the future. Once again, we were fortunate to see strong numbers right across both senior and junior levels, which speaks volumes about the health of our Club.

Junior Growth – A Real Highlight

One of the standout successes this season has been the incredible growth in our junior program. Our Woolworths Blast numbers jumped from 15 last season to 66 this year — a huge increase that reflects the fantastic work being done by our Junior Committee, senior players, and volunteers. The expansion of our school programs, along with building stronger ties with Montrose families and the local Auskick community, has created great momentum that will serve us well for years to come.

Investing in Our Facilities

We also took some important steps forward with our facilities this year. The purchase of the new BOLA Bowling Machine gives all members — juniors, seniors, men and women — access to quality training equipment that will help lift skill development across the board. In addition, we invested in our own line marking machine. While this required an upfront cost, we believe it's a smart long-term decision that will help contain some of our ground maintenance expenses. A big thank you to Matt Gardner for his excellent work managing our ground marking throughout the season.

Financial Snapshot

From a financial perspective, we recorded a small loss for the first time in nearly a decade. This wasn't unexpected, given the significant investments we made in infrastructure, the lack of senior finals appearances, and the absence of major fundraising events this season. Importantly though, we remained fully committed to investing in our junior and women's programs and continued running our winter academies. As always, we've worked hard to keep costs manageable for members, but it's clear that the ongoing cost of running the Club continues to rise and will require careful management moving forward.

The Heart of Our Club – Our People

Of course, none of what we do would be possible without the tireless efforts of our volunteers. From our Executive and General Committees, to team managers, coaches, captains, social coordinators, canteen and bar teams — and everyone else who gives up their time — your contribution is what makes this Club so special. Volunteering remains the lifeblood of Montrose Cricket Club and we thank each and every one of you for playing your part.



AGM 2023/24 Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 19th June 2024

Venue: Ken Dowling Pavilion, Montrose Recreation Reserve, Montrose.

Attendees: Damian Ford, Russell Dunning, Nick Vallence, Brad Felstead, Shane Rees, Oscar McCallum, Cam Storm, Chris Nyhuis, Tammy Pearce, Grace Pearce, Andrew Mirams, Scott O'Neil, Matt Gardner, Greg Gardam, Javier Mastornardi, Blake Podesta, Shane Findlay, Jacob Crowe, Liam Storm, Dallas Foster, David Yelland, Josh McCallum.

Apologies: David Beatty, Howard Bentley, Rachael Hinton, Michael Edwards, Connor Ratcliffe, Ben Clilverd, Peter Foster, Kevin Smith, Acacia Pearce.

Agenda 2023/2024

Adoption of 23/24 AGM Minutes	Proposed- Liam Storm 2 nd – Shane Findlay	
Annual Reports	President's Report Treasurer's Report Secretary's Report Junior Co-Ordinator's Report Coaches Report –	
Adoption of Reports	Proposed S.O'Neil 2 nd – D.Foster	
Election of Office Bearers	President Proposed -D.Ford– accepted m.Gardner 2 nd J.Mastronardi Secretary – Proposed R.Dunning Accepted Mirams 2 nd Gardam Treasurer – Proposed S.O'Neil accepted C.Nyhuis 2 nd D.Ford Junior Co-ordinator – Nick Vallence accepted O.McCallum 2 nd B.Podesta Vice president – Greg Gardam -accepted b.Felstead 2 nd S.Rees Vice president – Nick Vallence – accepted D.Ford 2 nd T.Pearce	
General Committee	Chris Nyhuis, Javier Mastronardi, Brad Felstead, Shane Rees, C. Ratcliffe, M.Gardner, O.McCallum, D,Foster, B.Clilverd M.Edwards all accepted	Nominated by J.McCallum 2 nd Grace Pearce



MONTROSE CRICKET CLUB

General Business	Tammy asked for new stumps in the training lanes either spring loaded or the foam style – we will do this and will need to be put away after training Shed move we are moving to the other green shed as foot- ball club has moved to a new shed and netball club is tak- ing over our original shed Pavilion received a grand to upgrade power all new LED lights new hot water systems and air conditioning and gen- erator hookup for a relief headquarters Michael Edwards nominated for life membership, this nomination come to the executive committee Anony- mously and seconded by executive committee and passed unanimously by members	Passed M.Gardner 2 nd A.Mirams
Meeting Close	At 7.43	



Executive Committee 2024/25

President	♦	Damian Ford
Vice President/s	♦	Greg Gardam & Nick Vallence
Secretary	♦	Russell Dunning
Treasurer	♦	Scott O'Neil
Assistant Treasurer	♦	Rachael Hinton
Junior Coordinator	♦	Nick Vallence

General Committee & Volunteers 2024/25

General Committee	♦	Ben Clilverd	♦	Javier Mastronardi
	♦	Brad Felstead	♦	Matt Gardner
	♦	Chris Nyhuis	♦	Michael Edwards
	♦	Connor Ratcliffe	♦	Oscar McCallum
	♦	Dallas Foster	♦	Shane Rees
	♦	Grace Pearce	♦	Tammy Pearce
Child Safety Officer	♦	Shane Rees		
Member Protection Officer	♦	Greg Gardam		
Social Functions	♦	Connor Ratcliffe, Brad Felstead, Nick & Anna Vallence		
Social Media	♦	Oscar McCallum & Damian Ford		
Stock Purchasing	♦	Scott O'Neil		
Club Statistician	♦	Russ Dunning		
Afternoon Tea Manager	♦	Dallas Foster		
Facilities Manager	♦	Chris Nyhuis		
Sponsorship Manager	♦	Damian Ford & Dallas Foster		
Frogbox Setup	♦	Ben Clilverd & Damian Ford		



Cricket Department (Senior & Junior)

Men's Coach	♦ Lincoln Grigg
Women's Coach	♦ Keltie Blake
Men's Assistant Coach	♦ Ben Clilverd & Daniel Ferguson
Junior Head Coach	♦ Ben Clilverd
Cricket Blast Coordinator	♦ Nathan Robbins
Cricket Blast Assistant/s	♦ Steele Gardam & Various
Under 16 Coaches	♦ Oscar McCallum & Mitchell O'Neil
Under 14 Coaches	♦ Leigh Marshall & Matt Black
Under 12/2 Coach	♦ Ben Hanley
Under 12/6 Coaches	♦ Ben Clilverd & Callum McLean
Under 10 Coaches	♦ Matt Clements & Paul O'Callaghan
First XI Captain	♦ Shane Findlay
Women's First XI Captain/s	♦ Tammy Pearce & Grace Pearce
Second XI Captain	♦ Nick Vallence
Women's Second XI Captain	♦ Sunday Logan
Third XI Captain	♦ Javier Mastronardi
Fourth XI Captain	♦ Brad Felstead
Fifth XI Captain	♦ Paul Muller
Sixth XI Captain	♦ Steve Kost
T20 Captain	♦ Ben Clilverd
First XI Scorer	♦ Russell Dunning
Second XI Scorer	♦ Harley Mastronardi



President's Report

As always, while the cricket season itself may end, the work behind the scenes never truly stops. Entering April, we found ourselves in a strong position, free of immediate pressures and able to focus on early planning for the season ahead. Key reappointments were secured early — Lincoln Grigg, Daniel Ferguson, Shane Findlay, and Keltie Blake — and we promptly confirmed the return of Ben Clilverd, our English import, as Assistant and Junior Coach. This early stability allowed us to swiftly progress with preparations for the 2024/25 season.

Coming off the back of the Club's first top-grade premiership in nearly 50 years, there was an eagerness to maintain momentum. However, much of our off-season focus shifted toward addressing the ongoing challenges within our junior program. Together with Nick Vallence, I engaged Cricket Victoria's Steven Box to analyze our junior participation data, which highlighted a steady decline since 2021. In response, we committed to strengthening our foundational programs, recognising that long-term senior success stems from robust junior development.

We deepened our ties with local schools — Montrose Primary and Birmingham Primary — running lunchtime sessions, and collaborated with Montrose Auskick to broaden community engagement. These efforts bore immediate fruit, growing our Cricket Blast program from 15 to 66 participants in just one season — an outstanding achievement that reflects the collective hard work of many, particularly Nathan Robbins, Steele Gardam, and the senior players who generously contributed their time.

The Women's Program, in its fourth full season under the leadership of Keltie Blake, continued to show positive signs. While early momentum saw us fielding two teams, unforeseen circumstances meant we returned to one team post-Christmas. The team narrowly missed finals, but the commitment and resilience of Keltie and her squad were unwavering. Keltie had indicated prior to the season that this would be her final year as Women's Coach. Her contribution in building and sustaining the program over four seasons has been extraordinary, and on behalf of the Club, I extend my sincere gratitude. We hope she remains a familiar face at Montrose as she focuses on her growing family.

Our senior men's program entered the season with high hopes, following dual premierships in First XI and Sixth XI. Although results did not mirror previous years — recording our first season in 11 years without a premiership — the dedication from players, coaches, and volunteers remained exemplary. Lincoln Grigg continued to lead an outstanding coaching panel, ably supported by Daniel Ferguson, Ben Clilverd, and Shane Findlay. The strong attendance and enthusiasm at training across both men's and women's squads is a testament to the culture we've built.

Junior development remained a priority throughout the season. A particular challenge was fielding an Under 16 side, having been unable to do so the previous year. Through collaborative discussions with Wandin Cricket Club, we successfully formed a joint team, ensuring opportunities for our emerging players to continue their development. Our Under 14s program also grew strongly, signaling encouraging signs as we aim to rebuild our junior ranks to pre-COVID levels. I sincerely thank Nick Vallence for his leadership and tireless efforts in this space.



The Committee once again worked cohesively and effectively, ensuring the positive culture that defines Montrose Cricket Club remained strong. Social events were well organised and well supported throughout the year, with highlights including the long-awaited return of our Ladies Day, thanks to Nick & Anna Vallence, and outstanding attendance at both the Season Launch and Presentation Night, each drawing over 125 attendees. A significant milestone this year was the completion of our 5-Year Strategic Plan, facilitated by Club Builder. The Committee has now transitioned into the implementation phase, guided by clear short-term priorities and long-term objectives. This framework will serve as a valuable roadmap for the Executive Committee as we progress, and I look forward to reviewing our progress with members at the conclusion of 2025.

Naturally, as time moves forward, changes occur within our leadership and coaching teams. I wish to acknowledge several departures from our cricket department:

Shane Findlay, Premiership Captain, who is stepping back for family reasons. Shane's leadership and on-field contributions have been invaluable.

Daniel Ferguson, who leaves to pursue a Head Coach role at Healesville Cricket Club. Daniel's impact on our broader playing group has been outstanding.

Ben Clilverd, who, after contributing significantly to both senior and junior programs, will not be returning this season. Ben's professionalism and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

Looking ahead, Lincoln Grigg has been reappointed as Men's Head Coach, while Kaitlyn Kile has been appointed as our Women's Captain Coach for the next two seasons. Liam Storm has been appointed as 1st XI captain of this great club at 22 years old and we look forward to seeing the impact he can have on this group, and we will work to finalise the remaining coaching appointments over the coming months.

On a personal note, after eight seasons as President, the time has come for me to step aside. When I first joined the Committee 11 years ago, my initial role was simply to seek sponsorship opportunities. Three years later, I unexpectedly found myself stepping into the Presidency — a role I embraced wholeheartedly. I am incredibly proud of what we have collectively achieved during this time.

Highlights include:

- The construction of our outstanding cricket nets facility, delivered within 18 months.
- Significant junior program growth and structural improvements.
- A thriving commercial sponsorship program that has grown from 3 to over 30 sponsors, providing financial stability and enabling further club development.
- Numerous facility upgrades — new scoreboards, software, equipment, and furnishings — all while maintaining strong financial reserves.
- Sustained on-field success, capped by the long-awaited top-grade premiership, a goal shared by myself and Russ Dunning from the outset of our leadership.



I extend my deepest thanks to all captains, players, volunteers, sponsors, coaches, committee members, and supporters who have contributed during my tenure. In particular, I wish to acknowledge Russ Dunning and Scott O'Neil for their unwavering support, counsel, and friendship over the past eight years — your contributions have been instrumental.

Although stepping aside as President, I remain committed to the Club in a supporting capacity. I will continue to oversee sponsorships, contribute to Cricket Operations, and assist the new leadership team as needed. With my third child due imminently, I look forward to balancing ongoing involvement with precious time focused on family.

Thank you once again to everyone who has played a role in shaping Montrose Cricket Club into the vibrant, successful, and inclusive community it is today.

Damian Ford

President

Montrose Cricket Club



Financial Summary

Most lines on the Profit and Loss statement are broadly consistent with the previous season. It remains evident that when teams progress deep into March during finals, overall profits strengthen due to increased activity and engagement across the club.

The major capital expenditure this season related to equipment upgrades, including the purchase of a new Ball Machine at a cost of \$7,163 and a Line Marking Machine at \$1,635, resulting in a total capital investment of \$8,798 for the period. With no significant purchases or upgrades planned for the immediate future, the Committee will need to carefully assess the financial indicators outlined below and monitor all cost lines to ensure that the club continues to deliver value to members while maintaining financial stability.

Key Financial Movements:

- ◆ **Raffle Revenue:** Income from raffle activities decreased by \$5,970 due to the absence of a major raffle event this season. This highlights the positive impact such events have on overall revenue and provides an opportunity for future fundraising initiatives.
- ◆ **Sponsorship Income:** Sponsorship revenue declined by approximately \$7,000 following the early withdrawal of Hill & Ranges from their two-year sponsorship commitment, citing unforeseen circumstances.
- ◆ **Bar Profitability:** Bar profits were down by \$3,436 compared to the previous financial year. The gross profit margin declined to 54%, down from 61% and 65% in the two preceding seasons. This trend indicates an area requiring review of pricing, procurement, and operational efficiencies to restore historical profitability levels.
- ◆ **Line Marking Expenses:** While raw expenditure on line marking increased by \$1,284, the purchase of a new line marking machine has now been capitalised as an asset and is reflected on the balance sheet under Equipment. This represents a one-off capital expense rather than an ongoing operational loss.
- ◆ **Cleaning Costs:** Cleaning expenses increased by \$1,106.45 following the appointment of a new cleaner. This figure also includes additional costs associated with the council's increasingly stringent handover cleaning requirements. The improved cleaning standards have been well received and contribute to the professional presentation of our facilities.
- ◆ **Council Rates:** Council rate expenses were \$3,750 lower than last season, with only one annual payment processed during this reporting period.
- ◆ **Cricket Ball Expenses:** With increased participation and a higher volume of matches across all levels, expenditure on cricket balls rose by \$2,853.60. This is expected to remain an area of increasing expenditure as participation continues to grow.
- ◆ **Donations:** A \$600 donation was made to the performing band on Ladies Day, in lieu of a performance fee, as per the band's request to support their nominated charity.



- ◆ **Presentation Night Costs:** The Presentation Night continues to be a valued highlight of the club calendar, though costs have grown. The venue incurred a net loss of \$2,105, and when combined with the cost of senior trophies, the overall financial impact is significant. The committee may wish to explore more cost-effective options for future events while maintaining the high standards members have come to expect.
- ◆ **Utilities Savings:** A significant positive variance of \$8,584.91 was realised in utilities expenditure, driven by the council's installation of upgraded solar and battery systems at the Ken Dowling Pavilion. These improvements have delivered tangible operational savings.

Summary

While the club remains in a sound financial position, ongoing focus is required on both revenue generation and expense management. Key cost centres such as bar operations, event management, and participation-driven expenses (e.g. cricket balls) should be monitored closely. The investment in equipment this year strengthens the club's asset base without compromising our liquidity. The Committee will continue to review all areas to ensure long-term financial sustainability while providing value for all members.



**Club Financials Provided to Club Members
at the Annual General Meeting.**



Secretary's Report

As we conclude the 2024/25 season, it is noteworthy that for the first time in over a decade, the club has not added a premiership to the honour board. While this may stand out as a statistical anomaly, it should not overshadow the many accomplishments and positive developments achieved throughout the year.

Multiple teams progressed to finals, with two advancing to grand final appearances. Strong individual performances were evident across all grades, demonstrating the depth of talent within the playing group. A particular highlight of the season was the conferring of Life Membership upon Michael Edwards, in recognition of his long-standing excellence and invaluable service to the First XI and the broader club community.

In what proved to be a challenging season for our top four senior grades, Lincoln demonstrated outstanding leadership and resilience. Concurrently, our 5th and 6th XI sides performed strongly to secure finals berths, while the continued development of the Women's XI reflects steady growth and improving cohesion within that program.

The club's junior program remains in excellent hands under the leadership of Nick Vallence. His commitment has ensured that our junior pathway remains robust and well-structured. Similarly, Keltie's dedication to the women's program has laid strong foundations for long-term success in this important area of the club's future.

I wish to formally acknowledge the tireless efforts of all committee members, team managers, and scorers for their significant contributions throughout the season. Your collective commitment has been instrumental in ensuring the effective and smooth operation of the club. Special mention must be made of Scotty, whose outstanding service—particularly in managing bar operations—has been invaluable. We trust he will enjoy a well-deserved break with reduced responsibilities in the season ahead.

With Damian stepping down as President to devote more time to his growing family, we congratulate him on his personal milestone and sincerely thank him for his leadership and service. We are fortunate to welcome a highly respected club stalwart into the role, ensuring a smooth transition and continued stability as we move forward.

Montrose Cricket Club remains in a position of great strength both on and off the field. I look forward to continuing in my role as Secretary as we strive to further strengthen our standing as one of the premier clubs within the RDCA.

Russ Dunning
Secretary



Men's Coach Report

The task of replicating the success of the previous year was unsuccessful. I believe everyone was trying hard across the entire club, but it is a lesson we need to reset and try to win those small 'moments' or 'periods' in games across all teams and build enough of them to get the W's. Winning can become a habit but it can quickly turn. I am hoping the 'sting' of watching others play finals can provide motivation and a determined mindset to return to March action.

Once again I felt honored to be offered the Senior Coach's position and whilst 'on field' it was a much tougher year it is a role I really do enjoy. To be surrounded by the people who make up this club is a pleasure. With 6 senior men's teams, combined with the ladies program, the club is thriving with participation. Numbers at training all through pre season and throughout the year were great. The club should always be proud of this situation. The observation that Nick Vallence has rapidly increased numbers from 'Blasters' and up, means the club should be able to look forward to continued growth, and thus success. This work by Nick deserves congratulations along with those assisting in this area. Daniel Ferguson has done an amazing job servicing the needs of the 3s to 6s at training and I would like to formally thank him very much. I am aware the Club view his role as extremely important.

I would also like to thank Ben Clilverd for returning back from England for a second year. It is a huge commitment from Ben and his whole of club involvement is noticed and appreciated. Whilst we didn't get the fairytale ending results wise, Ben will always be welcome back and 'loved' for what he has achieved at Montrose. I wish him all the best, wherever he happens to be in the world. At this time it would be remiss of me not to mention Callum Mclean. Cal is a 'ripping fella' and it was a pleasure having him over. Cal fitted in really well and is also welcome back at anytime.

On the topic of results. The 1s tried hard and had wins early but fell well short of our expectations. Whilst I recognize we cannot win it every year, I hope there is renewed motivation to experience those joys of winning. The 2s battled hard and unfortunately fell just short against most of the top sides which proved costly. However they did beat Mt Evelyn 1s who won 'Newey' which is where our bar should be set. The 3's just missed out on finals too, with availabilities at times, proving constant change a difficult brief for them. The 4's also felt the availability curse and really struggled to get good results. The 5s and 6s were both consistent and performing well for the most part. They should both be congratulated for making finals. Commiserations to Steve Kost and the 6's who just fell short on Grand Final day.



Shane Findlay has advised he is taking a year off and is expecting another brother for 'Ollie'. Congrats Finners, and we hope to see you around. Your efforts as captain of the 1's are much appreciated and the Trollope Flag last year a just reward for your career mate. Hopefully you are back at some point. This year I believe the Coach's award is deservedly going to Will Henderson and Ben 'Pottsy' Foster. Ben's determination to improve and commitment to attend all training sessions and push himself into higher grade nets is admired.

Ben was able to make 178 runs for the year at 22.25 and make himself a permanent 4s player. With his continued commitment to improve I'm sure as he gains experience he will move up the grades at Montrose. He is a very popular member of our 'community' and I'm sure this will be well received. Will started the season in the 4's and had a desire to improve. Ferg was really impressed with his attending early to do 'extras' with throw downs. His drive to improve saw him finish the season in the 3's. As a current junior who is already mixing it at senior level his future at Montrose is bright. Last but not least, I would like to thank Paula and the family. It is great to see Mum and Dad come every week and that Ella and Millie love the club and being around.

I'm looking forward to returning next year and hungry to achieve success.

Go Wolves.

Lincoln Grigg (Linc)



Women's Coach Report

Firstly, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Montrose Cricket Club for the past few seasons — not just for the opportunity to coach and play, but for the support you've shown me and my children along the way.

The 2024–2025 season has been one of growth, fresh faces, and strength, alongside a few challenges that came our way with unforeseen circumstances. Through it all, the spirit of the team and the club remained strong.

We've seen some truly outstanding performances both on and off the field. One of the highlights has been the development of our junior players, who've taken great strides in their learning, confidence, and game skills. It's been rewarding to watch them thrive — and the future of women's cricket at Montrose is certainly in great hands.

With that in mind, I'd like to share that I'll be stepping down from my coaching role. It's the right time for me — I want to walk away while I still deeply love the game and the environment we've built together. I'm proud to announce that Kaitlyn Kyle will be stepping into the role for the upcoming season, and I know she'll bring incredible energy and leadership to the team.

Women's cricket continues to grow at Montrose, whether through our juniors, Saturday competition, or Sunday games. It's an exciting time to be involved in the sport and in this community.

Thank you all for the memories, support, and the passion you bring to every match. It's been an honour to be part of it.

Keltie Blake

Women's Coach



First XI Captain Report

Backing up after a premiership can always be difficult and season 2024/2025 was certainly that... We hit the ground running, a great preseason, two very good practice games gave us the perfect lead in to the season.

Round one after some early trouble got ourselves in a great position before the rain hit. We won round 2 and 3 comfortably and had North Ringwood on toast in round 4 before losing 6/34 and falling 10 runs short.

Though we bounced back in round 5 against Ainslie we lost the first two day game against Croydon Ranges after again getting ourselves in a winning position, even after being 3/22 we lost 4/28 not long after tea and fell 40 runs short. An area that made us so strong the season before, our middle batting order bringing us home just wasn't clicking.

Round 7 we never really got going with the bat against Lilydale but round 8 we bounced back in a good run chase against Kilsyth. Good example of how inconsistent we were all year with the bat but also after 8 rounds we had only bowled a side out once which showed we were struggling to take wickets, another issue that plagued us all year.

We couldn't chase down South Croydon's 210 in round 9 and the Christmas break came at a good time. Though if you were to compare this season to last, we were in a much better position, a big second half and we could get ourselves in a position to do something special like we did the season before.

Round 10 we chased down Kilsyth's 179 in a difficult rain effect match but that's about the only highlight for the rest of the season.

We would go on to loose rounds 11,12,13 but somehow going into round 14 a win with a result or two going our way would see us playing finals.

Unfortunately things didn't go to plan, losing round 14 and with it our hope of playing finals and somehow narrowly avoid relegation...

One area I can't fault is the dedication and effort from the players, sometimes it's just not your year no matter how much you try. I think there were a lot of learnings from this season that can be taken into the next. Cricket can be a tough sport at times, you learn from the hard times and enjoy the good. The club has incredible depth, great talent, we keep working hard and this group will see success again soon!



Junior Coordinator Report

The goal to this season was to really continue the momentum built from last year and that was achieved in so many more ways than one. Player retention was strong which reflected the previous year's work from everyone involved. Pre-season saw some more new faces and word began to spread throughout the community that cricket was back.

The Junior Committee made it a priority to get an u/16s team going once again so the club invested in a Development Squad style setup prior to pre-season which was run once a week at Topline over 5 evening sessions. It did see some new faces but none of them eventuated into players. BUT the sessions were very beneficial to our already existing players. Through some strong networking we saw the return of Under 16s to Montrose CC through some teamwork with Wandin CC. The package we were able to present as a club to the Wandin parents and committee made their decision to join Montrose CC a no brainer.

Due to his outstanding work with the junior program the previous season, Ben Clilverd was appointed Head Junior Coach for this season. Ben was all class in this roll, barely missing a session and always having fresh drills and coaching processes to convey a both fun and educational coaching style. Players, parents and coaches were full of praise all season for Ben and the work he did.

Damian Ford and I sat down with Stephen Box from Cricket Victoria during the off-season to mainly discuss our Blasters program but also get some fresh feedback from another level about how our club can operate within the community and benefit from the use of it. We made a strong push to local Primary schools to get in and run some clinics during lunch time which worked out really well judging by the influx of new registrations.

Junior Committee

Similar team again this season. Our parent group is sensational and if there is anything that needs doing or helping out there are so many people keen to jump in and do what is needed. Again, it was so pleasing and encouraging to see the amount of time, effort and level of priority the executive committee regard having a strong junior system.

Damian Ford – Club President

Russ Dunning – Club Secretary

Nick Vallence – Junior Co-ordinator

I think with a fair few parents becoming comfortable within the club environment over continuous seasons there will be some growth in the junior committee numbers which will bring some fresh ideas and enthusiasm.



Junior Blasters

We were confident to build on our lean numbers from the previous year and confident we could do that with some different initiatives but we could not believe the final result. By the time of the first session we had 66 kids registered!

Nathan Robbins continued in the roll of running this group and once again did a sensational job. Nathan continually setup fresh and successful drills week to week. By setting up 3 or 4 stations the kids can break off into groups and rotate through the stations accordingly with a combination of skills and games. Steele Gardam was once again there to assist Nathan every week. With so many numbers we also had a heavy contribution by our senior players which was pleasing.



Under 10s

We had 2 groups of u/10 mini bash teams this season which was divided into 2 groups. Mini Bash BLUE which consisted of the more experienced or older kids in the group. Mini Bash GOLD was made up of our previous years Blasters kids and new players.

BLUE team was coached by returning parent Matt Clements and Team Managed by Bree Kuffer. This team largely consisted of returning players to the club which was very pleasing.

GOLD team was coached by parent Paul O'Callaghan who also was Team Manager. Paul did some strong recruiting in the off season and bought a bunch of new kids to the team who all had a great year. Majority of this team will do another year of u/10s next season due to their young age or lack of experience

It works really well for these teams to mix together and train as one whole group in the nets. The coaches can work together with some strong assistance from parents and the kids make new friends across the two teams.



Under 12s

We had 2 teams this season largely made up of current players but also welcomed some new kids which is always great to see

12-6s

This group was basically our u/10s team from last season. Ben Clilverd and Callum McLean coached the side and Taryn Matthews was Team Manager. The potential in this group was always going to shine through eventually with some hard work and development. Halfway through the season they were out of the finals race but after Christmas the boys charged into the finals. Their semi-final win was a true highlight and just put on display the amount of development kids can do within a season. They eventually lost to a strong South Croydon side.

12-2s

A solid year by this group coached by returning Ben Hanley and Team Managed by Nicole Nash and Katrina Francis. A bit of a mixed group with abilities and experience but they were well coached as always and once again made finals which would have been considered a great achievement at the seasons outset.

Under 14s

14-3s

Largely made up of last season's 12-3s side, this was always going to be a challenging season for this group. We wanted to keep them in the higher grading bracket to expose them to 2-day cricket which will hold them in good stead. Team was coached by Matt Black and Leigh Marshall and Team Managed by Nick Vallence. Finals were always going to be a challenge for this group given their inexperience and youth.

Under 16s

16-2s

Was a great achievement to once again enter a side into this age group. The team was very much setup similar to the previous year's u/14s side coached by Oscar McCallum and Mitch O'Neill and Team Managed by Paul Muller. We welcomed 5 players from Wandin CC to make up the team who from all reports thoroughly enjoyed their time with Montrose and the boys who still qualify for the 16s age group in season 25/26 have given indication that they would like to return. The team fought well all season and were really unlucky with the final game being cancelled to not have a chance to win and play finals.

Senior Cricket

We had a large amount of our u/16s and even a few u/14s play senior cricket this season. They were definitely not just making up the numbers, they were contributing strongly to their respective teams and even taking out numerous senior awards.



Team	Coaches	Team Managers
Under 10 Blue	Matt Clements	Bree Kuffer
Under 10 Gold	Paul O'Callaghan	Paul O'Callaghan
Under 12/2	Ben Hanley	Nicole Nash & Katrina Francis
Under 12/6	Ben Clilverd & Callum McLean	Taryn Matthews
Under 14/2	Leigh Marshall & Matt Black	Nick Vallence
Under 16/2	Oscar McCallum & Mitch O'Neil	Paul Muller

Representative Cricket

Will Henderson – VMCU Carnival u/16s
Lachie Morrow – VMCU Carnival u/14s
Sunday Logan – VMCU Carnival u/14s
Lincoln Walker – Craig Shield CROYDON
Chris Muller – Craig Shield DONVALE
Oscar McCallum – VMCU u/16s WINNING COACH

Junior Presentation Night

Given the large amount of numbers and new families in the Blasters we decided to separate our Presentation Events into 2 separate events. We hired the Melbourne Stars Cricket Inflatables once again for the 2 younger age groups which eventuated into a brilliant night of fun for the kids and a great display for parents to experience and get a vibe of what Montrose CC are all about. The remaining age groups had a more traditional presentation night setup at the conclusion of their season.

In conclusion this season really had a feeling of positive growth. No more looking back at previous years, it is all about the future and moving forward. The work being put in is paying off, the processes are working, the kids are loving their cricket and are loving playing at Montrose CC. We knew that there would be a rise in numbers at some stage given the suburb demographic and recognized the importance to have a setup in place to capitalize from this. We cannot sit still though, we need to keep building and innovating and continue to get better and provide the best environment possible for the kids.



Notes for season 2025/26

- Sustainable ways to link the juniors to the seniors
- How can we get Junior Parents more involved in the social functions.
- Explore the possibility of a dedicated social media volunteer

Thank You to everyone who has contributed to the program this season. All our coaches, team managers, scorers, umpires, bbq cooks etc etc etc...

I'll say it again... Russ Dunning's work behind the scenes keeps the whole thing ticking. Match balls, Team boxes, last minute Friday night registrations, data entries, trophy preparation, the list goes on. President Damian Ford once again showed his ongoing dedication to the Junior Program and this club as a whole. Even more this season the club just feels like one big machine working together as one and Damian is paramount to that.

BRING ON SEASON 2025/26

GO WOLVES!





MONTROSE CRICKET CLUB

Seniors Awards & Averages

Batting Averages

First XI - Neil Rickards Memorial Trophy	◆ Michael Edwards 483 Runs. Ave. 40.25
Women's First XI	◆ Belinda Harding 328 Runs. Ave. 65.60
Second XI - Len Gibbs Memorial Trophy	◆ Nil Qualified
Third XI	◆ Tyler Sonsini 287 Runs. Ave. 35.88
Fourth XI	◆ Cameron Day 391 Runs. Ave. 32.58
Fifth XI	◆ Andrew Gibson 294 Runs. Ave. 58.80
Sixth XI	◆ Kane Rattray-Robert 428 Runs. Ave. 85.60

Bowling Averages

First XI - Chad Rogers Trophy	◆ Jacob Crowe 19 Wickets. Ave. 21.05
Women's First XI	◆ Grace Pearce 14 Wickets. Ave. 10.14
Second XI - Jim Murray Memorial Trophy	◆ Callum McLean 16 Wickets. Ave. 20.81
Third XI	◆ Javier Mastronardi 17 Wickets. Ave. 21.29
Fourth XI	◆ Zane Smart 15 Wickets. Ave. 16.93
Fifth XI	◆ Jason Crisp 16 Wickets. Ave. 15.88
Sixth XI	◆ Darcy Whitehead 9 Wickets. Ave. 20.00

Grade Champions

First XI - George Grant Memorial Shield	◆ Jacob Crowe 553 Points
Women's First XI	◆ Charlotte Stevens 447 Points
Second XI - Alan Cassidy Memorial Shield	◆ Callum McLean 445 Points
Third XI - H Jones Memorial Trophy	◆ Javier Mastronardi 431 Points
Fourth XI - Steven Bell Shield	◆ Cameron Day 466 Points
Fifth XI	◆ Nathan Veith 470 Points
Sixth XI	◆ Kane Rattray-Robert 513 Points



Seniors Awards

Individual Awards

Women's Most Consistent	♦ Kaitlyn Kile
Women's Most Determined	♦ Zara Close
Women's Most Improved	♦ Charlotte Naughtin
Women's Coaches Award	♦ Sunday Logan
Women's Most Wickets	♦ Grace Pearce (14)
Women's Most Runs	♦ Charlotte Stevens (342)
T20 MVP	♦ Cooper Grigg
Beatty/Storm Trophy <i>Most Runs in Men's Senior Grades</i>	♦ Kane Rattray-Robert - 564 Runs
Laurie Bentley Memorial Trophy <i>Most Wickets in Men's Senior Grades</i>	♦ Michael Bleeze 22 Wickets
Frank Emary Memorial Trophy <i>Best Finals Player in Men's Grades</i>	♦ Garry Mangnall
Frank Bentley Memorial Trophy <i>Best Performed Under 16 playing juniors at Montrose</i>	♦ Zane Smart
Coaches Awards	♦ Ben Foster & Will Henderson
Anthony Podesta Trophy <i>Best Club Person</i>	♦ Oscar McCallum
Presidents Award	♦ Chris Nyhuis
Junior Volunteer of the Year Award	♦ Paul O'Callaghan
RDCA All Star Team Representative	♦ Michael Edwards



Players Player Vote Count

First XI

1st	Michael Edwards	32 Votes
2nd	Jacob Crowe	29 Votes
3rd	Shane Findlay	25 Votes

Second XI

1st	Callum McLean	26 Votes
2nd	Bailey O'Neil	21 Votes
3rd	Josh McCallum	19 Votes

Third XI

1st	Tyler Sonsini	22 Votes
2nd	Will Newey	18 Votes
3rd	Daniel Ferguson	18 Votes

Fourth XI

1st	Leigh Marshall	26 Votes
2nd	Cameron Day	19 Votes
3rd	Ben Foster	16 Votes

Fifth XI

1st	Nathan Veith	31 Votes
2nd	Andrew Gibson	25 Votes
3rd	Leigh Marshall	21 Votes

Sixth XI

1st	Kane Rattray Robert	30 Votes
2nd	Steve Kost	23 Votes
3rd	Garry Mangnall	22 Votes

W - First XI

1st	Charlotte Stevens	31 Votes
2nd	Kaitlyn Kile	28 Votes
3rd	Belinda Harding	24 Votes

W - Second XI

1st	Sunday Logan	17 Votes
2nd	Zara Close	15 Votes
3rd	Rebecca Court	11 Votes

Barry Wellington Memorial Medal

1st	Leigh Marshall	47 Votes
2nd	Kane Rattray-Robert	43 Votes
3rd	Andrew Gibson	33 Votes
4th	Michael Edwards	32 Votes
5th	Nathan Veith	31 Votes

6th	Darcy Whiteheaf	31 Votes
7th	Jacob Crowe	30 Votes
8th	Callum McLean	26 Votes
9th	Miichael Bleeze	26 Votes
10th	Nick Day	24 Votes



Senior Team of the Year

1. Cameron Day
2. Nathan Veith
3. Shane Findlay (wk) (c)
4. Michael Edwards (vc)
5. Nicholas Day
6. Andrew Gibson
7. Jacob Crowe
8. Callum McLean
9. Leigh Marshall
10. Zane Smart
11. Michael Bleeze
12. Charlotte Stevens





Junior Awards & Averages

Under 16s

Batting Average	♦	Lincoln Walker 326 Runs Ave. 65.20
Bowling Average	♦	Darcey Whitehead 8 Wickets. Ave. 14.63
Andrew Mirams Trophy - Grade Champion	♦	Lincoln Walker 426 Points
E&D Williams Trophy - Runner Up Grade Champion	♦	Jack Dowthwaite 256 Points
Coaches Award	♦	Jai Montell

Under 14s

Batting Average	♦	
Bowling Average	♦	
Greg Painter Trophy - Grade Champion	♦	Lachlan Morrow 256 Points
Alan Reidy Memorial Trophy - Runner Up Grade Champion	♦	Heath Marshall 289 Points
Coaches Award	♦	

Under 12/2

Batting Award	♦	Luke Hanley
Bowling Award	♦	Alex Bourke
Ray Ebbage Memorial Trophy - Grade Champion	♦	Luke Hanley 381 Points
Wally Dixon Memorial Shield Runner Up Grade Champion	♦	Daniel Bower 243 Points
Coaches Award	♦	Daniel Bower

Under 12/6

Batting Award	♦	Blake Jackson
Bowling Award	♦	Maverick Gardam
Grade Champion	♦	Max Hart 324 Points
Runner Up Grade Champion	♦	Blake Jackson 314 Points
Coaches Award	♦	Max Hart



Michael Edwards - 46th Life Member

The Montrose Cricket Club is pleased to formally acknowledge the awarding of Life Membership to Michael 'Barney' Edwards in the 2024/25 season.

Michael's contribution to the Montrose Cricket Club over a sustained period of 24 years has been exemplary. He has represented the Club in 287 First XI matches, accumulating an outstanding 9,052 runs and claiming 264 wickets, making him the most prolific performer in the Club's history at the First XI level.

In addition to his playing record, Michael was inducted as an inaugural member of the Montrose Cricket Club Hall of Fame in 2018, further recognising his longstanding contribution and impact. His leadership has seen him serve as Captain-Coach and Captain across multiple terms, guiding the First XI to two premierships victories. Individually, he has secured 13 First XI batting averages, 12 Club Champion awards, and numerous other honors reflective of his sustained excellence.

Beyond his on-field achievements, Michael has also served as a valued member of the Club's Committee for the past four seasons, contributing to the Club's administration, governance, and ongoing development.

Michael's service to Montrose Cricket Club, both on and off the field, has been significant and enduring. The awarding of Life Membership represents fitting and formal recognition of his outstanding commitment, leadership, and contribution to the Club's ongoing success.





Life Members

Frank Emary (Dec'd)	Frank Bentley (Dec'd)	Greg Frazer	Terry Fisher
Roy Langley (Dec'd)	Niel Rickards (Dec'd)	Gary Rickard	Stephen Puckering
Ray Milne (Dec'd)	David Williams	Peter Foster	Libby Bromiley
Len Gibbs (Dec'd)	Edward Adams	Howard Bentley	Ashley Storm
Alan Reidy (Dec'd)	Geoff McBride	Greg Painter	Greg Gardam
Jack Balconbe snr	David Beatty	Robert Dean	Scott O'Neil
Maurice Williams (Dec'd)	Fred Gibson	Robert *Noddy* Ireland	Russell Dunning
Wally Dixon (Dec'd)	Laurence Wallis	Peter Bromiley	Mark Hayhurst
Bill Barkway (Dec'd)	Barry Wellington (Dec'd)	Anthony Podesta	Matthew Gardner
Ken Fraser (Dec'd)	Robert Hawkins (Dec'd)	Kevin Smith	Michael Edwards
Les Bentley (Dec'd)	Lee Tatnell	Andrew Mirams	
Laurie Bentley (Dec'd)	Ben Stevens (Dec'd)	Paul Burley	

Hall of Fame Members

◆ Laurie Bentley	◆ Frank Bentley
◆ Neil Rickards	◆ Ashley Storm
◆ Chad Rogers	◆ Anthony Podesta
◆ Michael Edwards	◆ Wally Dixon
◆ Len Gibbs	◆ Jim Murray
◆ Greg Painter	◆ Andrew Mirams



Vale Frank Bentley

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Montrose Cricket Club Life Member, Hall of Fame inductee, and First XI Player #222, Frank Bentley.

Frank first donned the Montrose colours on the 3rd of October 1959, joining the club alongside his brothers. Together, Frank with brother Laurie became Montrose's renowned "spin kings," capturing hundreds of wickets and leaving a lasting legacy on the field. In recent conversations with our President, Damian Ford, Frank fondly reflected that some of his most cherished memories were the many seasons spent playing and bowling alongside his brother.

The Bentley name is deeply woven into the fabric of Montrose Cricket Club, proudly displayed across our honour boards and record books. Over five decades, Frank's contributions extended far beyond his playing career. His dedication to coaching and nurturing junior cricketers throughout the 1980s and 1990s profoundly shaped the lives of many young players, leaving an impact that will be felt for generations.

In recognition of his extraordinary service and achievements, Frank was inducted as an inaugural member of the Montrose Cricket Club Hall of Fame in 2018 and elevated to Life Member in the 1970's, alongside his brothers Laurie and Les.

Today, Frank's legacy continues through the Frank Bentley Memorial Trophy, awarded each season to the best Under 16 player competing in the senior ranks — a fitting tribute to his lifelong passion for supporting and developing young cricketers. Frank took great pride in this award, which so perfectly reflects his love for the game and his enduring commitment to the youth of our club.

Vale Frank Bentley — a true Montrose legend, a cherished mentor, and a much-loved member of our club family. He will be missed but never forgotten.





Sponsors

On behalf of the Montrose Cricket Club, we extend our sincere gratitude to our valued sponsors. Your unwavering support and commitment are fundamental to the ongoing operation, development, and long-term sustainability of our club. Your generous contributions enable us to provide quality facilities, foster player development, and maintain an inclusive and accessible environment for all members to participate and enjoy the game of cricket.

We greatly appreciate your continued partnership and the important role you play in the success of the Montrose Cricket Club. We look forward to building on these strong foundations and continuing our collaboration throughout the 2025/26 season and beyond.

As always, "Support Those Who Support Us."

Our Valued Sponsors

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