



WELCOME to the

44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Melbourne Softball Association Inc

FAWKNER PARK, SOUTH YARRA

31 May 2026

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

Melbourne Softball Association (MSA) acknowledges the Boonwurrung people of the Kulin Nations as the traditional owners of the land on which we are gathered. MSA respectfully recognises Elders both past and present.

MSA also acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from other Nations and pays our respect to their Elders past and present.

LIFE MEMBERS

1946	Jack OWENS (<i>deceased</i>)
1946	William NEWSOME (<i>deceased</i>)
1947	Irene BURROWS (<i>deceased</i>)
1948	Lorraine MICHAEL (<i>nee REID</i>)
1949	Jack FRANKLIN (<i>deceased</i>)
1950	William MUIR (<i>deceased</i>)
1951	Roy BARTLETT (<i>deceased</i>)
1952	Frances CRAIG (<i>deceased</i>)
1953	Dorothy LUMSDEN (<i>deceased 24 June 2011</i>)
1954	Judy THOMPSON (<i>deceased</i>)
1954	Gwen HOOPELL
1955	Thomas DOBSON (<i>deceased</i>)
1956	Esther DEASON MBE (<i>deceased 15 April 1995</i>)
1963	Glory BAIN (<i>deceased 30 August 2017</i>)
1964	Elizabeth DORNAN (<i>deceased 26 February 2006</i>)
1968	Myrtle EDWARDS (<i>deceased 30 August 2010</i>)
1971	Merle SHORT (<i>deceased 24 January 2008</i>)
1975	Marjorie DWYER (<i>deceased 2 May 1990</i>)
1977	Lorraine IRELAND (<i>nee CADMAN</i>) (<i>deceased 12 November 2020</i>)
1979	Pauline CAREW (<i>deceased 27 February 2002</i>)
1980	Marjorie (Midge) NELSON BEM
1986	Elaine DUYVESTYN OAM
1993	Bill MAPLEBACK (<i>deceased 2 June 2024</i>)
1999	Betty HOWSON (<i>deceased 3 July 2024</i>)
2002	Sue JAMES
2004	NoI DUYVESTYN
2006	Julie NEMETH (<i>deceased 19 April 2016</i>)
2007	Vi GRAY (<i>deceased 06 September 2025</i>)
2007	Bob GRAY (<i>deceased 16 November 2016</i>)
2008	Wayne DUYVESTYN
2011	Neil DUYVESTYN
2013	Trisha BENNETT (<i>nee IRELAND</i>)
2016	Poppy BOUHALIS
2017	Scott RUTHERFORD
2021	Rhonda ROWE
2022	Roy ARSCOTT
2024	Danielle SENYSCHYN
2025	Jell WOOLACOTT-RADFORD (<i>nee RADFORD</i>)

LORRAINE IRELAND AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Introduced in 2013, this is the highest form of recognition that is awarded, by MSA, to an individual whose distinguished service, ability, or vision has personally contributed to the advancement of our Association and contributed to Softball overall.

2013	Lorraine Ireland
2014	Elaine Duyvestyn
2022	Sue James

DUYVESTYN SERVICE AWARD

(Effective from 2013, 'Service Award' was renamed as the 'Duyvestyn Service Award')

Presented for service to softball at Fawkner Park

1997	LAYNE AMARU <i>Bears</i>	JUDY COSTELLOE <i>Dingley</i>	JACINTA POOLE <i>Monash University</i>	PIP GRAINGER <i>Panthers</i>	FLIP COLLINS <i>Wingers</i>
1998	KEN COSTELLOE <i>Dingley</i>	DIONI BUTT <i>Maccabi Bullets</i>	SUE JAMES <i>Panthers</i>		
1999	RON DUNN <i>Dingley</i>	SCOTT DENNIS <i>Monash University</i>	ANNE DI STEFANO <i>Wingers</i>		
2000	MICHELLE ABBOTT <i>Wingers</i>	GEORGE JAMES <i>Umpire</i>	WAYNE DUYVESTYN <i>MSA</i>		
2001	YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER <i>58 members recognised</i>				
2002	JENNY MACLEOD <i>Bears</i>	DAN MCCARTHY <i>RMIT</i>	BOB GRAY <i>Umpire</i>	VI GRAY <i>Umpire</i>	STAN TOLMIE <i>Umpire</i>
2003	POPPY BOUHALIS <i>Red Devils/RMIT</i>	DEBBIE COLLINS <i>Wingers</i>	JULIE NEMETH <i>Wingers</i>	NOL DUYVESTYN <i>MSA</i>	
2004	SANDRA POWE <i>Dingley</i>	VANESSA FLEMING- BAILLIE <i>Monash</i> <i>University</i>	ROSIE GRIMM <i>Wingers</i>	WENDA DONALDSON <i>Winger</i>	
2005	SUE DONALDSON <i>Wingers</i>	NEIL DUYVESTYN <i>Wingers</i>	ROSIE HAWKINS <i>Wingers</i>	TERRY TOWNSEND <i>MCC</i>	
2006	TRISHA BENNETT <i>Panthers</i>	JO WILSON (nee Lenahan nee Mitchell) <i>Panthers</i>		LINDA PACKHAM <i>Wingers</i>	
2007	JENNY BARRATT <i>Red Devils</i>	MICHELLE MAIL <i>MSA</i>	LISA SALERNO <i>MSA</i>	ALEX BROWN <i>MCC</i>	
2008	TRACY PATERSON <i>Dingley</i>	RHONDA ROWE <i>Umpire</i>			
2009	JEFF BARRATT <i>Red Devils</i>	BRONWYN NEVILLE (nee Cole) <i>Wingers</i>			
2010	LEE-ANNE CARTER <i>Red Devils</i>	MAREE HOLDEN <i>Wingers</i>	SCOTT RUTHERFORD <i>Umpire</i>		
2011	TINA LIN <i>Melbourne University</i>	JO DILLON <i>Panthers</i>			
2012	MICHELLE ZAMMIT <i>Red Devils</i>	ROY ARSCOTT <i>Scrumshis Slices</i>	KATJA EVERAERTS <i>Wingers</i>	CHRIS JOHNSON <i>Flaming Beacons</i>	
2013	LISA BARRATT <i>Red Devils</i>	KERRI-ANNE DUYVESTYN (nee McInnes) <i>Wingers</i>			
2014	KHAY FONG <i>Melbourne University</i>	ERIN LANE <i>Melbourne University</i>			

2015	DANIELLE SENYSCHYN <i>Melbourne University</i>	KATHY BEDWELL <i>Panthers</i>
2016	BELINDA RAE <i>Panthers</i>	DAMIAN McNAIR <i>Red Devils</i>
2017	MEAGHAN RAE <i>Panthers</i>	
2018	JELL RADFORD <i>Melbourne University</i>	TRISH RAE <i>Panthers</i>
2019	KERRY LAIRD <i>Monash</i>	PAULA LAUDANI <i>Monash</i>
2020/21	Not awarded during this period due to COVID-19	
2022	DANNIELLE RAMADAN <i>Panthers</i>	KATHERINE GOURLEY <i>Melbourne University</i>
2023	ALLAN LAIRD <i>Wingers</i>	
2024	KIMBERLEY BARRATT <i>Red Devils</i>	SHERIN BREED <i>Melbourne University</i>
2025	SIMON ROSS <i>Umpire</i>	PETER FORSYTH <i>Slowpitch Umpire</i>

PRESIDENTS, SECRETARIES and TREASURERS

(Since MSA formed on 16 September 1982)

PRESIDENTS

1982 – 2013	Lorraine Ireland	(Deceased 19 November 2019)
2014	vacant	
2015 – 2025	Jell Woolacott-Radford (<i>nee Radford</i>)	
2025 – current	Neil Duyvestyn	

SECRETARIES

1982 – 1984	Marilyn Bowers	(Resigned July 1984)
1984 – 1989	Elaine Duyvestyn	(Resigned August 1989)
1991 – 1992	Pip Grainger	(Deceased 22 March 2002)
1992 – 2001	Julie Nemeth	(Resigned March 2001 / Deceased 19 April 2016)
2001 – 2002	Tlotlo Mokgwesti	
2002 – 2003	vacant	
2003 – 2005	Julie Nemeth	(Deceased 19 April 2016)
2005 – 2007	Poppy Bouhalis	
2007 – 2008	vacant	
2008 – 2010	Julie Nemeth	(Resigned February 2010 / Deceased 19 April 2016)
2010	Rhonda Rowe	(Acting February – June 2010)
2011	Melissa Southern	(Resigned November 2011)
2011 – 2012	Rhonda Rowe	(Acting November 2011– May 2012)
2012	Poppy Bouhalis	
2013 – 2022	Danielle Senyschyn	(Resigned December 2022)
2023 – 2025	Vacant	
2025 – current	Elinor Jack	

TREASURERS

2013 – 2015	Julie Nemeth	
2016	Maddi Lam	
2017 – 2020	Alyssa Casten	(Resigned March 2020)
2020 – 2022	Poppy Bouhalis	(Resigned February 2022)
2022 - 2025	Neil Duyvestyn	
2025 – current	Poppy Bouhalis	

2025/2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OUTGOING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS*

President:	Neil Duyvestyn
Secretary:	Elinor Jack
Competitions Co-Ordinator:	Elaine Duyvestyn
Treasurer:	Poppy Bouhalis
General Committee Members:	Dee Duncan (Resigned March 2026)
	Jade Brown (Resigned March 2026)
	*Vacant

Effective from 2026, in line with the rules of the Association, the following positions are declared as outgoing:

- Competition Co-ordinator
- Treasurer
- General Committee Member x 2

The positions of President, Secretary, General Committee Member shall be called in 2027.

ANNUAL REPORT

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I am proud to present the 44th Annual Report of the Melbourne Softball Association (MSA) Incorporated. This report provides an overview of MSA's activities, achievements and ongoing contributions to softball during the period from April 2025 to March 2026.

2025 METRO LEAGUE

The 2025 Metro League season was conducted with 11 teams split over 3 divisions. Although there was movement of teams entering and departing from the competition, overall MSA was still able to retain the total number of teams comparable to the 2024 season.

A and A Reserve division played a combined round and then split into two separate divisions comprising four teams each. B Division played a four team competition with three teams plus an A or A Reserve team playing as a composite fourth team.

Our A division had strong teams that provided some terrific games of softball throughout the season. The 2025 Metro League Grand Final was between Wingers Red and Bruisers, with Wingers Red as the Grand Final victors. Most Valuable Player of the game went to Lillia Greene (Bruisers).

The A-Reserve had a good mix of teams who also played some magnificent games. The 2025 Metro League Grand Final was between Red Devils Fire and Wingers Blue, with Red Devils Fire, as the Grand Final victors. Most Valuable Player of the game went to Hannah Blackwell (Red Devils Fire).

Our B division once again provided a fantastic platform for new and developing teams to find their way in softball, with each team showing on any given day that they were capable of a win. Ultimately it was the Red Devils Heat defeating Melbourne Uni Rats. Most Valuable Player of the game went to Pia Nanut (Red Devils).

Throughout the season, MSA holds dedicated rounds to acknowledge and support our members and the wider community:

- May - Pink Sports Day in support of 'PLAY 4 BCNA' Breast Cancer where everyone is encouraged to wear something pink with all gold coins fundraised donated to Breast Cancer Network Australia
- May - Reconciliation Round – as part of National Reconciliation Week aimed to strengthen relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader community
- July – Indigenous Round as part of NAIDOC Week and AMARU Day (including Diamond Classic and Volunteer Round)
- August - PRIDE Round

RECOGNITION

MSA Life Member

At the 2025 annual general meeting Life Membership was awarded to Jell Woolacott-Radford. Jell's service to MSA was recognised and she was presented with her badge at the grand final day presentations. Her citation can be found on the MSA website.

Duyvestyn Service Award

During Grand Final Day presentations, we always acknowledge the considerable contribution of our club members and others to the success of MSA. Congratulations to Simon Ross (Umpire) and Peter Forsyth (Slowpitch Umpire) who were recognised for their service to softball at Fawkner Park.

Annually Clubs are invited to submit nominations to MSA for any of their members who have supported their club and softball to the equivalent of a minimum of 5 years of service. Detailed citation should accompany the nomination, which is due by the end of July.

Lorraine Ireland Award of Excellence

Introduced in 2013, this is the highest form of recognition that is awarded, by MSA, to an individual whose distinguished service, ability, or vision has personally contributed to the advancement of our Association and contributed to Softball overall. There was no nominated recipient in 2025.

Softball Australia/Victoria Awards

MSA congratulates all softball recipients for being recognised for their contribution to softball.

- **Softball Australia Service Award** - Jell Woolacott-Radford, Belinda Rae, Danielle Senyschyn, Poppy Bouhalis, Belinda Ainslie
- **Merle Short Service Award** – There were no awards presented in 2025 to any MSA member
- **John Larter Development Award** – Callie Hayward

STATE/NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

MSA extends its congratulations to all current and past members of our community (including players, umpires and officials) who did or were to have represented Victoria and Australia at various championships/ tournaments over the past 12 months.

Congratulations to the following members:

- Dannielle Ramadan (Fruity Tingles), who for the 3 year in a row has been selected as part of the Victorian team competing in the 2025 Open 35s National Championships

- Ainslie Harris (Assassins) representing Victoria in both School Sport Australia (U12s) and Softball Australia Championships (U14s); and
- Hayley Brown (Melbourne Uni Rats) representing Victoria in Softball Australia Championships (U14s).

RECREATIONAL SLOWPITCH COMPETITION

During the 2025/2026 summer season, MSA once again conducted a mid-week twilight mixed gender recreational Slowpitch Softball competition at Fawkner Park. This League revolves around teams from the corporate sector and social groups and is played in a relaxed and friendly environment.

MSA has been conducting the Slowpitch Competition since 1993. Normally the league is conducted over three nights weekly from November to March. This season saw the consolidation of teams into preferred Tuesday night.

MSA is appreciative of members of our softball community who gave their time to learn and implement the intricacies of umpiring Slowpitch softball. We recognise Poppy Bouhalis who managed the night leagues, and Elaine Duyvestyn, the League Coordinator, for their time and efforts. Appreciation is extended to Chris Johson for providing some umpiring mentoring during the commencement of the season.

We congratulate all 9 teams, three teams down in comparison to the 2024/2025 season, who competed in the league. The finals series, held on consecutive Tuesdays, comprised the top six teams competing in a play-off - The Eh! Team, Spaceballs, Sick Bunts, Ollie's Bandits, Base Invaders and Classic Hits. The Eh! Team was crowned the overall champion team of the 2025/2026 Slowpitch Softball League held on Tuesday 31 March 2026. Trophies were presented at the Grand Final BBQ on the night.

Peter Forsyth was presented with his MSA Duyvestyn Service Award on Grand Final night.

Prior to the season, a Slowpitch Softball working group was established to consider ways of improvement of the competition. This group worked throughout the season and introduced a number of changes to by-laws and equipment used.

To provide the working group with feedback, an end of season debrief will be held in June 2026. Invitation is extended to any interested individual who may wish to attend to discuss the past season and ideas to assist the growth of the competition as well as any potential changes that may need to be implemented for 2026/27 and beyond.

Come November 2026 we will be back on the diamonds for the 2026/2027 Slowpitch Softball season and as usual, MSA will be seeking volunteers to manage each of the night's leagues.

This is an opportunity for those interested in obtaining and/or improving a wide range of event management skills. Also, additional umpires will be required to cover more games as the competition grows and new teams will need the assistance of managers. We encourage interested persons, either to manage or umpire, to register their interest with our Competitions Coordinator. Administration and umpire personnel receive a remuneration for their time.

We also urge members to encourage their family and friends, be it at work or social, to consider getting a team together and participating in what is a great recreational version of our sport.

AMARU DAY

MSA celebrates Amaru Day on the last Sunday of July annually, a day set aside to remember and honour Layne Amaru, a past member of our association. The annual DIAMOND CLASSIC is played in an atmosphere that encompasses the comradeship of our great team sport and is enjoyed by all in attendance.

Players from all our Metro League clubs, played as All-Stars Red and All-Stars Blue, in an enthralling exhibition game. The game had coaches, scorers and umpires from the League involved in the game, and there was a good number of spectators to cheer on the competitors. MSA presented the Pip Grainger Award for Best Player in the game, who was Emma Yench (Red Devils).

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES

MSA, through its members and engagement in community activities, has a standing connection with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Flags are raised at Fawkner Park during the Metro League season, in recognition of key dates, such as National Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week, and NAIDOC, to pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as well as raise awareness to contribute towards closing the gap and reconciliation.

Womin-Djerring (meaning 'Coming Together') Tournament

MSA continues to conduct activities as a means of growing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' participation in softball. One of its initiatives is to host a Slowpitch tournament with participation from community members and members of the Melbourne Softball Association. MSA is grateful to the traditional owners for bestowing our event with a name. MSA continues to work towards developing this tournament.

Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) NAIDOC Family Day Event

MSA proudly conducted the softball activities as part of Aboriginal Housing Victoria's Annual NAIDOC Family Event held on Thursday 10 July 2025. The event was held at the Aborigines Advancement League in Thornbury. Although footy, soccer and netball sport activities were held, softball attracted the most, with around 350 guests (250 kids / 100 adults) having a go. It was great to be able to see not only the enjoyment and accomplishment of everyone, but also the natural talent displayed by most of the kids, offering great hope for the future of softball. MSA is appreciative of its support crew, led by Poppy Bouhalis (Red Devils) and supported by Roy Ascott (MSA), Elizabeth Attard (MSA), Julie Williamson (Assassins), Raj Ariarajah (Red Devils), who worked tirelessly for the entire duration of the event. MSA continues to grow its engagement within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to promote softball within the community. A huge thank you is extended to Softball Australia for all the Softball Batter Up and Home Run Heroes promotional material it provided as part of this event. MSA has been invited to again conduct the softball activity at AHV's 2026 NAIDOC event being held on 08 July 2026. To achieve another successful presence, the intent is to run even bigger softball activities at this event. MSA will be seeking members from the softball community to be part of its support crew on the day.

ANNUAL REUNION

Since 2011, MSA has proudly hosted an annual luncheon for previous players, officials and volunteers who have had connections to softball at Fawkner Park. Each year, this group gathers to renew old friendships and reminisce about the great times shared in softball. We are fortunate that some generously donate numerous items of invaluable softball memorabilia to our treasured collection. The number of people attending varies year for year, but those who have attended are determined to rebuild attendance numbers. An open invitation is extended to anyone who has been involved, in any capacity, with our great sport at Fawkner Park. The next reunion is scheduled for the first Sunday in March 2027.

MSA MEMBERS COMPETING IN TOURNAMENTS

Victorian Championships

The 2025-2026 Open State Softball Championships were held over the weekend of 21-22 February 2026 in Albury-Wodonga.

With a chaotic start to our proceedings, we at different stages had either too many players, then not enough and in the end, through injury we were required to head to the draft to pick up a player from Sunshine (Amelia Bergman) who also plays for Melbourne University and we were able to get another Melbourne University youngster in Hayley Brown to join us for Day 2 of the tournament to round out our relatively small squad.

The tournament itself was a tale of two extremes. With 38 degree heat on day one and a bench of only two, it was hard going for the team. However, through absolutely incredible resilience, we finished the day with 3 from 3 wins. After some recuperation in the Murray River afterwards, we settled in for a quiet night in preparation for day 2. Up first was a hard come from behind win against Keilor Park, then a narrow 1 run defeat against GEMSA, our first loss of the tournament. By this stage, torrential rain was starting to set in, and with the results from other games coming in, we knew we needed a win against last year's winner Werribee to cement our spot on top of the ladder leading into the Grand Final. During the game against Werribee the rain began increasing and we knew we were at risk of a severe thunderstorm rolling through within the hour. Knowing there was a real chance for the game to be called off, it was imperative for the team to dig in and get ahead, which is precisely what we did, taking the lead just minutes before the game was called and the results stood firm, placing us on top of the ladder. From there the rain only got worse, with storms hitting the region hard and flash flooding taking out parts of Albury. As such the remainder of the tournament was cancelled, with Melbourne being named Division 2 Champions for the first time in nearly 25 years. Despite the sadness of not being able to play our final game, every time the team needed to rise, they did, whether it was in extreme heat or torrential rain. The tournament was not won in a single game, but in many moments throughout an impressive tournament. To play with the grit and resilience shown by our small but mighty playing group was something to behold. A real standout performance was that of pitcher Katie LeHoux, who pitched in all games except one. The coaching group could not be prouder of the incredible effort put in by all.

Every single player did something extraordinary on the diamond over the weekend and represented the MSA jersey with pride. Congratulations again to all who participated.

We extend our deepest thanks to our amazing officials who ensured we could compete the way we did this tournament.

Our sincere thanks goes to the officials and players who made our participation in this tournament possible.

The 2026 team comprised of:

Amelia Bergman (*Melbourne Uni*)
Audrey Major (*Fruity Tingles*)
Belinda Ainslie (*Bruisers*)
Dannielle Ramadan (*Fruity Tingles*) (*Captain*)
Eleanor Dowd (*Wingers*)
Hayley Brown (*Melbourne University*)
Jell Woolacott-Radford (*Melbourne University*)
Kate Griffiths (*Melbourne University*)
Katie Lehoux (*Wingers*)
Katelyn Woodyatt (*Melbourne Uni*)
Matilda Dowd (*Wingers*) (*Vice Captain*)
Maddy Foster (*Melbourne University*)
Serena Kawamura (*Melbourne University*)

Head Coach: Jell Woolacott-Radford, *Assistant Coaches:* Grant Hobday and Belinda Ainslie, *Statistician:* Tegan Haering, *Assistant Statistician:* Mary Bergman, *Manager:* Michael Ramadan, *Umpire:* Elinor Jack and *Bat Boys:* Thomas and Henry Ramadan.

Thank you to our team Captain Dannielle Ramadan and Vice-Captain Matilda Dowd for leading the team not only over the weekend but in the lead up to the tournament.

We look forward to continuing to grow at the next State Championships in 2027. We encourage more of our Melbourne players to nominate for the 2027 Melbourne Open Representative team.

We also congratulate MSA members, Spondon Mukherjee and Kim Sanders, who were picked as part of Softball Victoria's draft and competed in the Victorian Championship as team members for Casey and GEMSA associations respectively.

Masters Softball

Members of MSA were again involved in Masters Competitions. Our Association is proud to support its clubs who competed in the following Master tournaments during 2025/2026:

- Vicsens - Seniors and Juniors - Victorian Masters Championship, Shepparton
- Vicsens - Seniors - Northern Tasmanian Masters Tournament, Launceston
- Bruisers - Victorian Masters Championship, Shepparton and Northern Tasmanian Masters Tournament, Launceston
- Red Devils - Northern Tasmanian Masters Tournament, Launceston

We congratulate all teams, for their endeavours both on and off the softball diamond.

We also acknowledge our own members as well as other members of our Fawkner Park community, linked with Masters teams as well as our umpires who officiate at Victorian and interstate Masters tournaments.

Werribee Memorial Shield

Held annually in September at Werribee Softball Association. A team of MSA members were formed and competed in the tournament under the auspice of Melbourne. Also, Red Devils entered a team as well as many MSA players and officials participated with various teams in the tournament. MSA continues to support and promote this incredible event.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Technical Areas

MSA continues to provide Umpires, Coaches, Scorers and players with every opportunity to achieve their desired goals within the technical areas of softball.

In 2019, MSA launched its inaugural Novice 'Green Shirt' Umpire program. The program's focus is on providing support and guidance to those umpires wishing to develop their skills in umpiring softball games. In the 2025 Metro League season, we saw the umpire program grow with additional members - Elizabeth Attard, Raj Ariarajah, Spondon Mukherjee, Alex Charlton and Emilia Fraser.

At the 2026 Victorian State Championships held in Albury-Wodonga, 21-22 February 2026, Chen Xi and Callie Hayward achieved their level 2 umpiring accreditation, whilst Ashley Shield achieved his level 4 umpiring accreditation.

At Launceston Masters 06-09 March 2026 Spondon Mukherjee achieved his level 1 umpiring accreditation.

Belinda Ainslie (Bruisers) achieved her Level 2 (Upgrading) scorers accreditation. Tegan Haering achieved her Level 2 (Re-accrediting) scorers accreditation.

Elinor Jack (Wingers) achieved her Level 1 (Reaccrediting) scorers accreditation.

MSA also extends its congratulations to any other members who have sought and attained levels or higher levels of accreditation in coaching, scoring, and umpiring over the past twelve months.

Junior Development Programs – Minor League and Fawkner Park Titans

The Executive Committee continues to review pathways and options to give young girls (and boys if there is interest) the opportunity to experience our great sport at Fawkner Park and beyond.

Minor League

The Minor League program had previously been implemented to progress the growth in participation of junior softball players, whilst developing the individuals' life and softball knowledge and skills. Unfortunately in 2025, limited recruitment of juniors prevented MSA from being able to offer them a sustainable and enjoyable experience at Fawkner Park.

We had worked with Softball Victoria to conduct two 'Home Run Heroes' programs but unfortunately each were cancelled due to the lack of registered participants.

Subsequently MSA decided to defer offering the Home Run Hero program in 2025. However, it is committed to undertake a key strategic focus in recruitment of juniors during the 2025/2026 season in preparation for the 2026 season.

PROMOTION OF SOFTBALL

MSA continues to develop and implement its marketing strategy, allocating substantial funds, to engage our local community and we continue in our endeavours to develop awareness of our sport amongst educational institutions as well as the corporate sector.

Our promotional strategy is all-encompassing by spreading the word "softball for everyone" and encouraging all to "join in" as best suits them and experience the sport we all love.

The Executive Committee continued to use our branding on numerous social media campaigns to promote the programs we conduct at MSA. Campaigns relating to our Metro League and Slowpitch competitions saw new players introduced to established teams bolstering their numbers and/or establishing new teams.

Website/Social Media

MSA continues to maintain our website as a key communication tool for our members with news and calendar items added frequently to promote current events and activities and the draws/results section reflecting competition status.

The website has had a focus on not only providing information for our current members but also as a marketing tool used to entice additional members into the park, and to softball, be they new or returning after a break.

Clubs are encouraged to develop and use the space allocated to them on the MSA website not only to benefit their club and its members but also as a promotional tool for softball at Fawkner Park and the wider community. Statistics show many visits to pages on our website.

We maintain an app that allows our members ready access to up to date information about the MSA and its competitions, as well as an active Facebook profile that celebrates not only our own but achievements from the wider softball community. We also have thriving social groups, Fastpitch and Slowpitch, on Facebook where our members are encouraged to engage with each other and enjoy the social aspects that softball can bring.

MSA's website, Facebook pages and Instagram feed contain lots of photographs depicting our softball activities. As well as being of interest to our members and others, it is a great promotional tool.

Thanks are extended to our retired Executive member, Danielle Senyschyn who continues to maintain our presence via the internet until we can find a keen replacement webmaster. Similarly Executive members, Elinor Jack and Neil Duyvestyn, maintain our social media focus. MSA is seeking a member who would be willing to fulfil the role as Communications Officer and assist in the promotion of MSA on various digital platforms.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Come 'n' Try

We have found Come 'n' Try Days very successful as a tool to entice potential players to have a go, before joining a team.

In 2025 we again hosted these two one day events preceding both our Summer Slowpitch and Winter Metro League seasons, which brought a substantial number of new players into the park and into various teams.

Pink Sports Day

Hosting a Pink Sports Day, on Mother's Day, has become a tradition when the softball community at Fawkner Park takes to the diamonds to PLAY4BCNA – Breast Cancer Network Australia.

Thanks to the clubs and members who embrace the occasion, 'pink up' for the day and to contribute funds to the cause.

UnLtd's Big Clash

UnLtd's 10th annual Big Clash cricket tournament was held in Melbourne on 12 February 2026. The organisation raises funds to help at-risk children. The annual marketing industry event pits technical vendors, media agencies and media owners against each other in a round-robin of T20 matches.

MSA once again provided the gourmet catering and bar service for approximately 120 people. Not only a fundraiser, but a great opportunity to highlight MSA and softball. Thank you to Nol Duyvestyn, Elaine Duyvestyn and Neil Duyvestyn for the pre-event preparations and Poppy Bouhalis (Red Devils), Leon Stuart (Slowpitch Umpire) and Dale Fraser (volunteer via summer softball network) who undertook the catering duties on the day.

Pride March

MSA supports its members to participate in the Pride March held annually in February. This was an initiative commenced in 2024 from within our Slowpitch softball community. In 2025, despite the efforts to arrange a MSA delegation, unfortunately this did not eventuate. Thank you to Chris Johnson (past Slowpitch player/Administrator) for coordinating this activity for MSA. Plans to have a presence at the 2027 PRIDE March are underway.

Victorian Teachers' Games (VTG)

Hosted by School Sport Victoria, the Victorian Teachers' Games (VTG) is an annual event that brings together teachers and education staff from across Victoria to participate in a range of competitive sports, social activities and fun events. MSA hosted at Fawkner Park the one day slowpitch softball round robin competition was held on Tuesday 23 September 2025. A total of 6 teams comprised 5 VTG teams and a composite team made up of MSA/SV members. Thank you to Elaine Duyvestyn (Co-ordinator), umpires: Elizabeth Attard and Chen Xi and support crew: Neil Duyvestyn and Poppy Bouhalis. MSA will again be hosting this event in 2026.

City of Melbourne - multi-sport women and girls come-and-try event

On Saturday 15 November 2025, City of Melbourne conducted a women and girls come n try of the various sports that are played at Fawkner Park. MSA participating running a softball come n try session and then a mini-game. Thank you to the support crew consisting of Elaine Duyvestyn, Nol Duyvestyn, Ethan Duyvestyn and Poppy Bouhalis.

GENERAL

Over the course of each season, this Annual Report provides an opportunity to reflect on the achievements, challenges, and continued growth of Melbourne Softball Association. It also allows us to recognise the dedication and commitment of the Executive Committee members, who continually volunteer countless hours to ensure the successful operation of our Association. Once again, the effort and passion shown throughout the past 12 months has been outstanding, and I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone involved.

Softball across Australia continues to face significant challenges, particularly with declining participation numbers and the increasing difficulty in attracting volunteers. Despite this, Melbourne Softball Association continues to demonstrate resilience and stability. The strong level of returning members, ongoing participation, and commitment from our community is something we should all be proud of. It gives me confidence that MSA can continue to play an important role in strengthening and growing the sport into the future.

During 2025 Metro League, we once again successfully operated three separate divisions throughout the latter half of the season, ensuring players of all skill levels had the opportunity to compete, improve, and enjoy the game in an environment suited to their development. From junior players taking the field for the first time through to long-standing veterans of the sport, Melbourne continues to provide a welcoming place for everyone at Fawkner Park. This sense of inclusiveness and community remains one of our greatest strengths, and I look forward to seeing it continue for many years ahead.

On a personal note, this season marks my first full year serving as President of the Melbourne Softball Association, and it has already been an incredible privilege to represent our members and our community. Having been part of Melbourne for nearly all of my life, and spending time at the park ever since birth, this Association has shaped so many of my experiences and friendships over the years. Melbourne Softball is, and always will be, my home. I look forward to working alongside the existing and incoming Executive Committee as we continue to build on the proud heritage and traditions of MSA for future generations.

*Neil Duyvestyn, President
on behalf of the Executive Committee Melbourne Softball Association Inc*

2025 METRO LEAGUE TEAMS – total 11 teams

Assassins	Bruisers	Fruity Tingles
Melbourne University Rats	Melbourne University Sharks	Melbourne University Wolves
Melbourne University Wombats	Red Devils Fire	Red Devils Heat
Wingers Blue	Wingers Red	

Umpires: Stan Tolmie (MSA Umpire Co-ordinator), Roy Arcscott, ~~Jenny Gifford~~, Callie Hayward, Elinor Jack (Umpire Administrator), Lucy James, Richard Nash, Simon Ross, Ashley Shield, Chen Xi.
 Green Shirts/Novices: Raj Ariarajah, Alex Charlton, Elizabeth Attard, Spondon Mukherjee, Emilia Fraser.

2025/2026 SLOWPITCH TEAMS – total 9 teams

<i>Teams</i>
Base Invaders
Classic Hits
Melbourne Demons
Ollie's Bandits
One Hit Wonders
Pirates
Sick Bunts
Spaceballs
The Eh! Team

Umpires: Peter Forsyth and three new umpires – Felix Le, Andrew Stein and Leon Stuart.
 Thank you also to Lisa Barratt, Raj Ariarajah, Neil Duyvestyn who stepped in to cover some games during the season.

Competition Administrators

Competition Co-ordinator: Elaine Duyvestyn
 League Manager: Poppy Bouhalis

OUR CLUBS



Bruisers Softball Club



Fawkner Park Pandas



Fawkner Park Titans



Fruity Tingles



Melbourne University Softball Club



Monash University Softball Club



Panthers Softball Club



Red Devils Softball Club



Vicsens Softball Club



Wingers Softball Club

2025/2026 PHOTO GALLERY

Metro League



AMARU Day



Slowpitch



Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) NAIDOC Family Day Event

