



## ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25

# Newcastle City & Eastern Districts Cricket Club





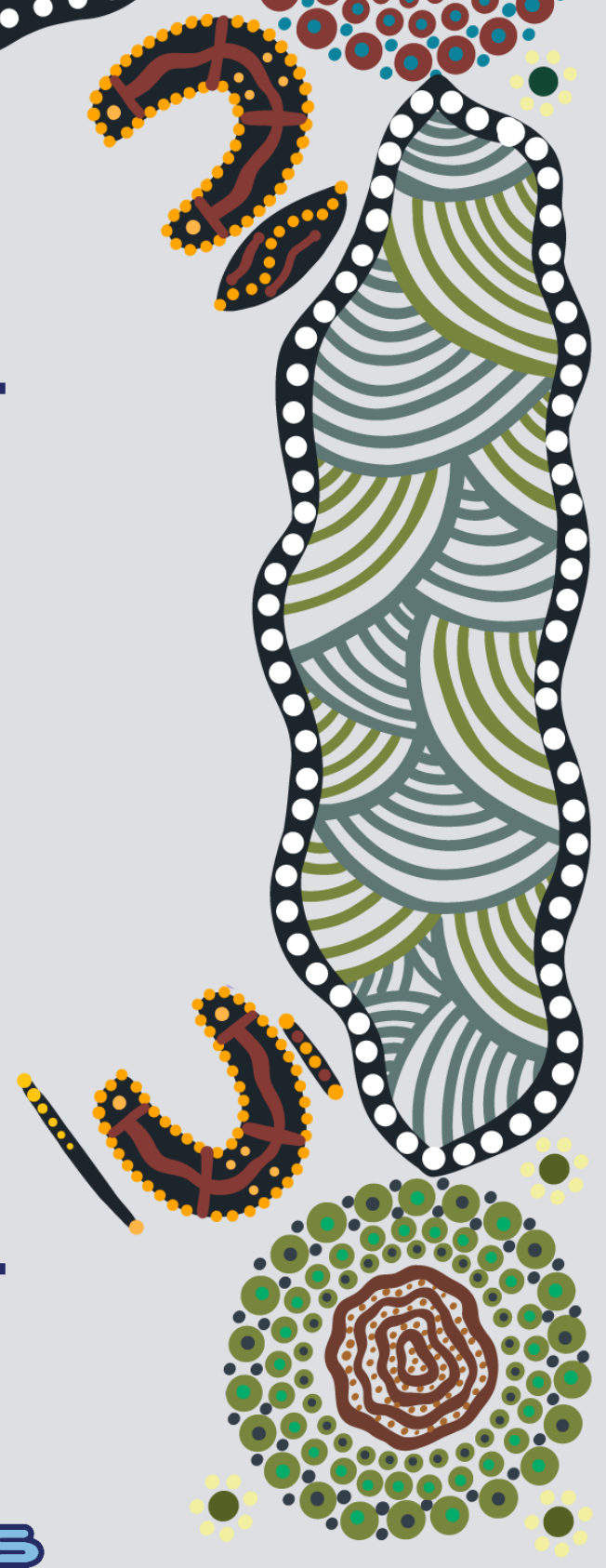
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In the spirit of reconciliation  
Newcastle City & Eastern Districts  
Cricket Club acknowledges the  
Awabakal people, Traditional  
Custodians of the land on which we  
train and play, and recognises the  
continuing connection to lands,  
waters and community.

We pay our respects to the Elders  
past and present and extend that  
respect to all Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islander peoples.

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

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## Sponsors

Newcastle City thanks the following partners for their support

# alloggio:



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Green Hills



**MG**  
MICHAEL  
GORTON  
IMAGES



# Our Values

 <b>Growth</b> Constantly improving our coaching, teams, equipment, facilities, contribution to community and our brand.	 <b>Sustainability</b> Building a sustainable program with solid foundations that will thrive for decades to come.
 <b>Sportsmanship</b> A champion team, not a team of champions.	 <b>Commitment</b> Understanding that each person has a part to play in building the club, and giving 100% in our roles.
 <b>Encouragement</b> Encouraging everyone compete and to play cricket the right way, and in the spirit of cricket.	 <b>Loyalty</b> Strong culture builds loyalty by giving people a place to belong, contribute and be the best version of themselves.

# Our Mission

Our mission is to support an inclusive, strong, loyal club culture that can stand the test of time, while we dare to be first and breaking boundaries in the grassroots cricketing landscape



## Club Overview

Newcastle City and Eastern Districts Cricket Club Inc. is an incorporated sports club. This club was formed in January 2001 following the amalgamation of Newcastle City District Cricket Club and the Eastern Districts Junior Cricket Association. Our teams play in the Newcastle District Cricket Association (NDCA) and the Newcastle Junior Cricket Association (NJCA) competitions.

## Life Members

Frank Goddard\*# – Inducted c. 1920

Greg Burrell\*# – Inducted c. 1920

Allan Bay\*# – Inducted c. 1920

Alison “Pop” Rogers\* – Inducted 1979

Dave Robinson\* – Inducted 1980

Bruce O’Sullivan\* – Inducted 1980

Colin Rogers\* – Inducted 1985

Robert Wilkinson – Inducted 1989

Kerry Ross – Inducted 1996

Colin Stone\* – Inducted 1996

Peter Chapman\* – Inducted 1998

Thomas Anderson Snr\* – Inducted 1998

Betty Anderson\* – Inducted 1998

Phil Horton – Inducted 2001

Thomas Anderson – Inducted 2001

Colin Tegg – Inducted 2005

Greg Hook – Inducted 2005

Marcel Too – Inducted 2010

Ross Leonard – Inducted 2010

Damien Jones – Inducted 2010

Adrian Mannel – Inducted 2019

Matthew Krevs\* – Inducted 2019

Yusuf Badat – Inducted 2019

Bradley O’Dell – Inducted 2021

Steve Garrett – Inducted 2024

Bryce Garrett – Inducted 2024

\* Indicates Member is deceased

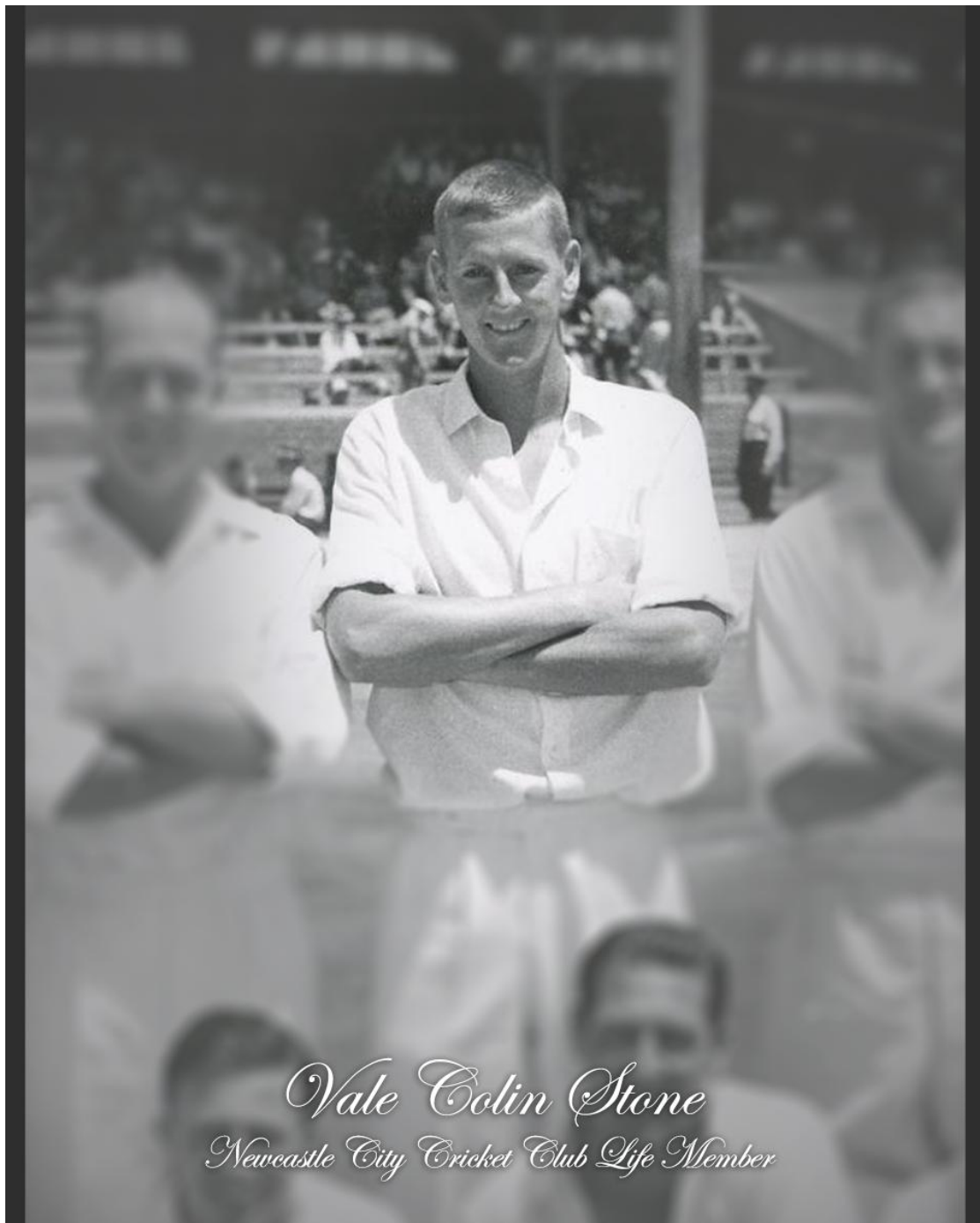
# Indicates Life Member of foundation club “Newcastle Cricket Club”

Life Members Greg Hook, Brad O’Dell, Tommy Anderson, Bryce Garrett, Steve Garrett, Adrian Mannel, Kerry Ross, Rob Wilkinson



## Vale Colin Stone

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Life Member Colin Stone, aged 83. Col was inducted as a Life Member in 1996 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the club. He captained our First Grade side from 1970 to 1974 and served as Club Treasurer between 1973 and 1976. A skilled medium pace bowler, Col was a prolific wicket-taker throughout his playing days and played a key role in our First Grade Premiership victories in 1964–65 and 1975–76. After his playing days, Col went on to become a highly respected umpire with the Newcastle District Cricket Umpires Association, standing in several Grade Finals.



## New Life Members

### ***Stephen Garrett***

At this year's AGM, it was put forward by our Secretary, Penny O'Shea, that our long-serving president, Steve Garrett be awarded Life Membership. We are pleased to say that this motion was unanimously passed. In Penny's nomination, she quoted Steve's "unwavering commitment and vision" as key factors in our successes since taking on the presidency in 2017.

Under Steve's leadership, we have seen remarkable growth and positive changes. His strategic planning, inclusive approach, and ability to inspire others have been instrumental in our successes. This includes the continued development of our Women's program and the 'One Club' policy that has seen us work closely with our Juniors. Steve's dedication goes beyond mere duty; he has embodied the spirit and values of our club, always putting our mission and members first. In addition to that, his work obtaining and maintaining sponsorship for the club and connections to the community have been outstanding.

### ***Bryce Garrett***

Along with Steve's nomination, it was put forward by our Treasurer, Adrian Mannel, that our Senior Vice President Bryce Garrett also be awarded a Life Membership. This motion was also passed unanimously. Adrian noted the time he picked Bryce up from a Juniors' game at Myambalah Crescent to take him to his first Seniors game over 15 years ago.

Bryce has been part of the City club for well over 20 years now and has played all the way through the junior and senior ranks. He has done it all with the bat, ball and in the field and is an integral part of the club both on the field and off the field. He has been involved in the committee side of the club for over 10 years now and has been in the role of the Senior Vice President since 2018. He is always looking at ways to improve the experience of the club members and is a big reason for the great club culture City has.

The work Bryce has done in the digital, social media and organising space has been immense. Whether it be taking photos at games, sorting social media posts to promote the club in various ways or ensuring the presentation nights run smoothly he has been a great asset for City. There's plenty more too of course but he will put his hand up to help when required and puts in countless hours which has been key in the club's success and growth in recent years.

# STEVE

# GARRETT



# LIFE MEMBER

# CONGRATULATIONS STEVE

#C4TK



**BRYCE**

**GARRETT**

**LIFE MEMBER**

**CONGRATULATIONS BRYCE**

#C4TK



## Office Bearers 2024-25

**President** – Stephen Garrett

**Snr Vice President** – Bryce Garrett

**Jnr Vice President** – Richard Wood

**Secretary** – Penny O’Shea

**Treasurer** – Adrian Mannel

**Assistant Treasurer** – Greg Hook

**Committee Member** – Russel Fowler

**Committee Member** – Yusuf Badat

**Committee Member** – Callan Fowler

**Committee Member** – Francis Walsh

**Committee Member** – Rob Parkinson

**Junior President** – Richard Wood

**Junior Treasurer** – Andrew McTaggart

**Junior Secretary** – Penny O’Shea

**Junior Registrations** – Yusuf Badat

**Girls’ Development Officer** – Jen Sheehy

**Junior Committee Member** – Tommy Anderson

**Junior Committee Member** – Ainslie Frazer

**Junior Committee Member** – Jayne Fryer

**Junior Committee Member** – Carolyn Nolan

# President's Report

Steve Garrett



I am pleased to present the Annual Report for Newcastle City and Eastern Districts Cricket Club for Season 2024-25.

Whilst we came off the highs of last year, arguably “our best season for over a decade”, this report serves as a testament to the remarkable achievements, unwavering support, and collective dedication that has once again shaped our club over the past year.

As with all City annual reports over the decades, this report is littered with tales of outstanding performance from individuals and teams alike and I encourage all members to take the time to read through the report. On behalf of every City member, I extend our thanks to all contributors and in particular club Secretary Penny O’Shea, and Senior Vice President Bryce Garrett for compiling yet another piece of history for City. The quality of the content and images has set a very high standard for years to come.

Our website today has annual reports going back to season 1963-64 and no matter what your age, it’s well worth the look down memory lane. Recently, I found this gem in the 1963-64 report from Acting Secretary Col Rogers entitled “What is Cricket” - # Sorry – remember it was 1964;

***You have two sides, one out on the field, the other in!***

***The men<sup>#</sup> who are in go out, and when they’re out they come in and the next man<sup>#</sup> who’s in goes out.***

***When the side that’s in are all out, the side that’s been out comes in, and the side that’s been in goes out and tries to get out those who are in.***

***Each time there is one man<sup>#</sup> who is in and not out when his side is out. When both sides have been in and out twice, including those not out, that’s the end of the game!***

In the NDCA competitions we were challenged by the draw, player availability, selection dilemmas and weather but this is nothing out of the ordinary! We trained hard and played hard and were there or thereabouts across all grades for most of the season. A special mention must go to our Women’s T20 Cup team whose championship aspirations were ripped away from them in bizarre circumstances. On the positive side a win in the CoN Summer Bash, 2nd in the NDCA Club Championship and inaugural winners of the Chappy Cup were highlights as was a consecutive “Spirit of Cricket” award from the Umpires which is a testament to the way in which we play the game!

Under the guidance of our Junior Sub-committee, our juniors continue to thrive in the NJCA competition with 185 plus players across 13 teams. A solid year with 9 teams reaching the semifinals, 4 making grand finals and 3 winning premierships.

To all annual award winners; be proud, be humble, and above all remain committed to your City teammates.

This report also documents the many outstanding achievements of City players who represented our club at many levels, including Newcastle, NSW and Australia.

Under the watchful eye of Treasurer Adrian Mannel, and his offsidiers Andrew McTagget and Greg Hook, the club is in a sound financial position, but we cannot take our eye off this ball! A significant portion of our cash reserves, in the main funded by grants, is earmarked for the redevelopment of the Myamblah training nets. Further, grassroots sport is not immune to the cost increases we all face on a day to day basis. Your Committee is cognisant of these pressures and in Season 2025-26 will take initiatives to ensure cricketers of all levels: young, not-so-young, male and female, have the opportunity to enjoy a game of cricket with their mates at City. These initiatives will include;

- Reduced junior registration fees by an average of 20%,
- Maintaining senior registration fees at last year's rate, and
- Committing to increased support of our highly successful women's program.

The two most significant forms of revenue for a grassroots cricket club are registration fees and sponsorship. Clearly' our initiatives will place pressure on financial resources.

City has enjoyed a strong relationship with a group of dedicated sponsors for many years. Many of them don't have family members playing for the club, they do it out of community spirit. You would have seen their logos across the club apparel. Our sponsors contribute in a significant way to City's commitment to nurturing our broad generations of cricketers and fostering lifelong skills such as teamwork, confidence, and healthy living. As well as allowing us to utilise and improve the facilities made available to us through City of Newcastle. To all our Sponsors, your belief in our club's vision and your commitment to investing in our future is greatly appreciated as it plays a vital role in the sustainability and growth of City. To all our Members, your commitment to not only supporting our existing sponsors, but encouraging those within your personal circle to consider joining this wonderful group, also plays a vital role in the sustainability and growth of City.

A highlight of 2024-25 was how strong we are off the field, by which I mean our Volunteers! Be it a coach, manager, captain, scorer, training coordinator, selector, "keeper of the covers", canteen or afternoon tea specialist, association representative,

committee or sub-committee member or a parent supporting your City team – you are all valued members of the City community. Pleasingly this year four of our volunteers received local, state or Australian (or all three) recognition for their efforts – well done Alyssa, Ross, Adrian and Greg!

Finally, as always, I extend my sincere appreciation to the collective members of the Management Committee and various Sub-committees whose tireless efforts behind the scenes have been instrumental in the smooth functioning of our club – like a duck on a pond! The countless hours dedicated to organising events, managing finances and nurturing a supportive environment have shaped our club's success. Thank you all for your support, selfless service and unwavering dedication.

## #C4TK

*Steve Garrett - President*

*If you are interested in becoming a Partner/Sponsor, please check our Partners Brochure at the link below.*

[Newcastle City Cricket Club Partners Brochure](#)



NCCA Spirit of Cricket Award – Joint Winners

# Treasurer's Report

Adrian Mannel



It was another successful year on the field for the club and well done to all players involved. From a financial perspective the cost of cricket continues to increase generally like most things, but we made sure spending this year was more disciplined given that. The income for the year was fairly similar to the prior years while expenses reduced mainly due to less stock required on the clothing and equipment front. The club is sitting in a reasonable position and there are some grants still being worked through to improve facilities. Work continues as we are already planning for next season.

The year saw the club continue to use the liquor licence for No.1 and run some great canteens on the big days (thanks Hooky, Jenni and Karen plus the other helpers who assisted with that).

I would like to say a big thanks to all the sponsors who continue to ensure the club can continue to support the members. Without the sponsors the club certainly couldn't operate anywhere near as well as it does, and we greatly appreciate the loyalty and support of all of you.

As with every year a huge thanks to Hooky who does so much work off the field and supports me with his efforts in the assistant treasurer role (and as selector in assisting my captaining of thirds). Thanks to Andrew McTaggart as the Junior Treasurer for his ongoing work for that part of the club.

It's a great pleasure to be involved in the club committee with all the people in it and the work they do to ensure this club continues to operate well is outstanding.

I look forward to next season and hopefully the club can have another big year!!!

City for the Kitty!

*Adrian Mannel - Treasurer*

# Balance Sheet

## Newcastle City & Eastern Districts Cricket Club As at 31 May 2025

	31 MAY 2025	31 MAY 2024
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
Juniors GBS	14,236	14,662
Seniors GBS	33,558	33,753
Term Deposit	22,000	22,585
Term Deposit 2	98,079	-
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>167,873</b>	<b>71,000</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	-	5,800
GST	1,378	354
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>6,153</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Plant & Equipment	22,786	22,786
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>22,786</b>	<b>22,786</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>192,037</b>	<b>99,939</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	-	3,494
Grant Money Held	125,079	27,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>125,079</b>	<b>30,494</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>125,079</b>	<b>30,494</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>66,958</b>	<b>69,446</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	(2,488)	(29,549)
Retained Earnings	69,446	98,995
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>66,958</b>	<b>69,446</b>

# Profit and Loss

## Newcastle City & Eastern Districts Cricket Club For the year ended 31 May 2025

	2025	2024
<b>Trading Income</b>		
Clothing income	11,169	7,739
Curation income	236	200
Food & Drinks Sales	3,688	5,109
Grants	10,350	5,800
Ground Fees	91	400
Interest Income	3,882	585
Other Fundraising Income	1,194	-
Other Revenue	3,300	1,206
Presentation night income	2,195	3,100
Raffle income	1,359	1,304
Registration Fees	43,542	50,171
Sponsorship Income	28,160	32,825
Toyota raffle	1,131	4,299
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>110,298</b>	<b>112,737</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>110,298</b>	<b>112,737</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Bank Fees	117	-
Clothing Expense	19,483	30,700
Coaching	9,963	9,865
Council fees	10,622	12,197
Cricket Balls	10,862	8,512
Curating Expense	18,842	23,017
Equipment	5,751	12,117
Food & Drinks	1,389	2,496
General Expenses	3,262	3,402
Insurance	1,582	1,603
Licence Fees	342	606
Ndca Expenses	2,523	2,775
Player Expenses	2,150	6,320
Presentation Night	2,966	3,007
Registration fees exp	100	1,259
Repairs and Maintenance	4,813	5,963
Trophies & awards	6,741	6,315
Umpire fees	11,278	12,131
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>112,786</b>	<b>142,286</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(2,488)</b>	<b>(29,549)</b>

## Club Records

Club records are meant to be broken. However, having not one but two record breakers in the same season and from the same grade was truly remarkable.

I was fortunate to witness the first record—the Club’s highest individual grade score. Andrew Freeman's 240 runs against Charlestown in 4th grade at No. 5 Sports Ground exceeded the previous record set by Alexei Kervezee, who scored 221 runs during the 2012/2013 season. This was Andrew's second stint at City, and it would have given him great pride to have his two sons, Archer and Quinn, witness the batting masterclass. His 206-run partnership with Zac Moffat was a joy to watch, although it did keep Quinn busy—both as scorer and as the retriever of the 6s hit into the adjoining No. 2 Sports Ground! Andrew’s innings included 35 fours and 9 sixes and was scored off 184 balls.



Unfortunately, I just missed seeing the second record live, but I did receive this account from someone called Chad(t) Gpt.

Cricket, with its rich traditions and tapestry of memorable moments, occasionally gifts us a performance so dominant it demands a place in club folklore. This is the story of one such spell — a once-in-a-generation bowling masterclass that etched a local hero’s name into the club's record books.

It was Round 15, and the setting was Learmonth Park—the “home of cricket.” Wallsend had been sent in to bat and had gotten off to a solid start, reaching 38 without loss, with no hint of the “storm” that was about to hit them.

Enter Bradley “Skipper” O’Dell — the 65-year-old evergreen right-armer with a reputation for hostility and heart. From the very first ball, it was clear he meant business. With surgical accuracy and relentless aggression, Brad tore through the top-order batting lineup, finishing off the tail with a memorable three balls, the seventh hat-trick of his career, and recording the astonishing:

**10 wickets for 20 runs in 13.4 overs—the best figures in the club’s history.**

As one spectator was heard to comment, "It was domination, destruction, and artistry rolled into one spell."

Congratulations to Andrew and Brad for their record-breaking performances. They were both presented with a framed photo and score sheet of their achievements at the club's annual presentation night.

*Greg Hook & Chat GPT*



Rob Wilkinson, Andrew Freeman, Kerry Ross, Bradley O’Dell

# Senior Representative Honours

## Women

**Caioimhe Bray** – Sydney Sixers (WBBL & T20 Spring Challenge), NSW Breakers (WNCL), Australia U19 Team (U19 T20 World Cup & U19 Tr-Series), U19 Country NSW (CA U19 Nationals), Newcastle Open Women's Team (Plan B Regional Bash); NSW CCC (NSW All Schools -opens); NSW All Schools (NSW v Queensland Opens cricket exchange)

**Kirsten Smith** - Bush Breakers (NSW Country / Australian Country Cricket Championships), Newcastle Open Women's Team (Plan B Regional Bash)

**Kate McTaggart** – Governor General's XI, U/19 NSW Country (National Champs), Newcastle Blasters, U/19's Newcastle (NSW Country Champs)

**Tara French** - NSW Second XI (Women's Second XI comp), Newcastle Open Women's Team (Plan B Regional Bash), U19 Country NSW (CA U19 Nationals)

**Clare Webber** – Newcastle Open Women's Team (Plan B Regional Bash)

**Lily Railz** - Country NSW (U15 State Challenge), Newcastle U16s (U16 Country Champs), Newcastle U15s (U15 Country Youth Champs)

**Chrissy Fernance** - Country NSW (U15 State Challenge), Newcastle U16s (U16 Country Champs), Newcastle U15s (U15 Country Youth Champs), CHS U15 Girls (NSW All Schools 15&U), Hunter CHS Open Girls (CHS State Champs)

**Felicity Wharton** - U16 Country NSW (CA U16 Nationals), NSW All Schools (15&U Australian All Schools Championships), Newcastle Open Women's Team (Plan B Regional Bash), NewCoasters (U19 Country Champs), Newcastle U16s (U16 Country Champs), Hunter CHS Open Girls (NSW CHS State Champs)

**Bronte Morgan** - Country NSW (U15 State Challenge), Newcastle U16s (U16 Country Champs), Newcastle U15s (U15 Country Youth Champs), NSW CIS U15 Girls (NSW All Schools 15&U)

**Eden James** - Newcastle Open Women's Team (Plan B Regional Bash)

**Chelsea Dowdell** - Newcastle U15s (U15 Country Youth Champs)

**Anita Handono** - North Coast Open Women's Team (Plan B Regional Bash)

## Men

**Dylan Hunter** – NSW Country (Merit Team), Newcastle Opens (Men's Rep POTY, Newcastle Regional Bash)

**Callan Fowler** – Newcastle Rep Squad

**Nick Walker** – Newcastle Rep Squad

**Harry Scowen** – U/19 NSW Country (National Champs, State Challenge), Central Northern Colts

**Flynn Taylor** – Western (Country Champs, Regional Bash)

**Harry Campbell** - Newcastle Colts (Country Colts)

**Jonah Roser** - Newcastle Colts (Country Colts)

## **Congratulations Caoimhe Bray**

Caoimhe Bray had a landmark season beyond her dreams, which included the following achievements:

- Contributed to the Newcastle Blasters Plan B Regional Bash win against North Coast Chargers in round 1 (October 2024), which the Newcastle team went on to win the championship at the SCG for the second year in a row with Tommy Anderson as coach.
- Selected to play in the Australian Under 19's T20 Tri Series held in Brisbane in September 2024 at the age of 14 against Sri Lanka and New Zealand. Caoimhe debuted against New Zealand one day after her 15th birthday. Her best results were 4/20 (8 overs) and 84 runs off 76 balls including (5 x 4's and 5 x 6's) against New Zealand.
- Named a Tier 1 female cricketer inducted into the Basel Sellers Emerging Player Program for the 2024/25 season. This program provides the state's best emerging cricketers with skills and opportunities to effectively transition to NSW contracted playing opportunities. Through this programme Caoimhe had the fantastic opportunity to train one on one with NSW Breaker's bowling coach, Grant Lambert. This was paramount to Caoimhe's success in the 2024/25 season.
- Selected to play for the Sydney Sixers in the inaugural T20 Spring Challenge where she played all four round games and claimed 5 wickets in the tournament with her best bowling 2/19 (3) against Sydney Thunder. The highlight was the wicket of Laura Harris in the first over of the game against Brisbane Heat for 4 runs - Harris in the previous game had scored 102 not out from 46 balls.
- Made history on the 27th of October 2024 when at the age of 15 years she became the youngest player to play in the WBBL. Caoimhe debuted at Adelaide Oval against Melbourne Renegades and claimed her first wicket, Deandra Dottin and hit the winning runs. It was a dream come true and a game that she will never forget.
- Selected to represent the NSW Country at the CA U19 National Championships in Perth in December 2024 alongside fellow Newcastle City players Tara French and Kate McTaggart. NSW Country placed 3rd in the Championships with a convincing win against South Australia with Caoimhe opening the bowling with French and claimed 2 for 10 off 5 overs.
- Also debuted for the NSW Breakers in the Women's National Premier League in round 3 on the 14th of December 2024 against the Tasmanian Tigers at Ninja Stadium (Hobart). She was privileged to open the bowling with Sammy- Jo Johnson in that game NSW went on to win both games with Caoimhe contributing with the ball in the second game on Monday the 16th of December 2024 once again opening with Johnson she claimed 3 wickets for 7 runs off 3 overs (Villani 9, Lee 2 and Graham 0)
- A massive moment in Caoimhe's career was the selection in the Australian U19 Women's team to play at the ICC Women's U19-T20 World Cup in January 2025 in Malaysia.
- In the opening match against Scotland claimed 3/1 off 3.1 overs and was awarded player of the match. She was also awarded player of the match against Nepal - 45 (34) and 0/8 (3). The Australian girls were knocked out in the semi against South Africa. Caoimhe was the only Australian to be named in the Team of the Tournament.

Caoimhe is hoping to have another outstanding season in the WBBL with the Sydney Sixers and she has also signed the first rookie contract for NSW Breakers which will allow her to still attend school and train two days a week with the NSW Breakers.

Caoimhe would like to express her gratitude to the opportunities that Newcastle City have given her over previous seasons and would like to thank in particular Julie Wharton, Chris Wharton and her mentor Tommy Anderson.



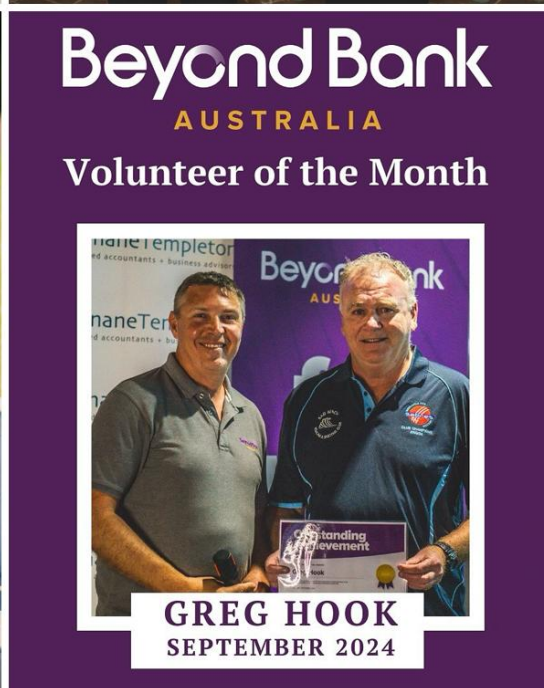
## Volunteer Honours

**Alyssa Wharton** (Top Left) - NDCA Beyond Bank Volunteer of the Month, Winner - Cricket NSW Young Leader of the Year, Highly Commended - Cricket Australia Young Leader of the Year, Finalist - Sport NSW Young Coach of the Year

**Ross Leonard** (Top Right) - Newcastle Volunteer Service Award 2024

**Adrian Mannel** (Bottom Left) - Cricket NSW Community Distinguished Service Award 2025

**Greg Hook** (Bottom Right) – NDCA Beyond Bank Volunteer of the Month



# Juniors' Report

The Junior section of Newcastle City Cricket Club continues to thrive with a strong junior program and a shared commitment to developing players on and off the field. The success of our junior cricketers is a reflection of the ongoing contributions from players, families, coaches, and volunteers. We'd like to thank everyone who has contributed this year.

## Participation

- **Total players:** 185 across 13 teams
- **Competitions:**
  - Saturday Morning Cricket – 11 teams
  - Friday Night Cricket – 1 team
  - Midweek T20 Cricket – 1 team

## Female Participation

- 19 girls registered across the teams
- Stage 1 Girls (U11) – 1 team
- Stage 2 Girls – 1 team
- Additional players participated in Stage 3 with both City and combined teams with Merewether



**Blasters**



**Summer Smash**

## Cricket Blast

Our Cricket Blast program at Empire Park in Term 4 was again a standout success, thanks to coordination by **Alyssa Wharton**. Participation numbers remained high, with girls making up over 20% of participants. Cricket Blast continues to be a key entry point for junior cricket at City. Alyssa's contribution across many areas of the club was recognised with her being named **Cricket NSW Young Leader of the Year** at age 21.

## Summer Smash

Term 1's Summer Smash saw strong participation from both boys and girls, with 7 players involved from our club.

## Acknowledgements

Firstly, the efforts of the team coaches and managers are the main foundation for success of the club. We are very grateful for the contributions of all those who helped, in particular:

### Junior Team Coaches and Managers – 2024–25 Season

- **Early Stage U9**  
Coach: Bart Mackenzie  
Manager: Tom Crooks
- **U10 Clarke**  
Coach: David Crossman  
Manager: Alan Ross
- **U11 Red (Division 2)**  
Coach: Craig Smailes  
Manager: Leasa Beasley
- **U11 Blue (Division 1)**  
Coach: Stephen Allard  
Manager: Kristy Hatherly
- **U12 Blue (Division 1)**  
Coach: John Porter  
Manager: Ainslie Fraser
- **U12 Red (Division 1)**  
Coach: Frank Murri  
Manager: Jayne Fryer
- **U12 Yellow (Division 3)**  
Coach: Paul Gauci  
Manager: Tobin Finnane
- **U14 Blue (Division 1)**  
Coach: Glen Scott  
Manager: Jen Sheehy
- **U14 City Tigers (Division 2)**  
Coach: Tim Mouton  
Manager: Jayne Fryer
- **U15–U18 Friday Premier League (Division 1)**  
Coach: Paul Langworthy
- **Girls Stage 1 U11 (Division 1)**  
Coach: Ben Fitzgerald  
Manager:
- **Girls Stage 2 U13**  
Coach: Rob Berry  
Manager:
- **U14 T20 Bash**  
Coach: Richard Wood  
Manager: Jen Sheehy



Secondly the efforts of the Junior Committee have been central to all the behind-the-scenes organisation. We sincerely acknowledge the contributions of:

**Ross Leonard, Yusuf Badat, Andrew McTaggart, Carolyn Nolan, Jayne Fryer, Ainslie Frazer, John Porter, Nealy Davy, Jen Sheehy, Penny O’Shea, Richard Wood, and new members Ben Fitzgerald and Kylie Gallagher.**

A special thank you goes to **Ross Leonard**, our outgoing Junior President and club Life Member. Ross has provided years of selfless dedication to Newcastle City Cricket Club. His influence on players, coaches, parents, and managers has helped shape our positive club culture. We are deeply grateful for his outstanding service.

## Results

### Team Results

Out of 12 eligible teams:

- 9 teams reached semi-finals
- 4 teams made grand finals
- 3 teams won premierships

### Premierships:

- Under 10
- Stage 1 Girls
- Monday T20



**Under 10**



**Stage 1 Girls**



**U14 Monday T20**

### **Other Finals Results:**

- U12 Div 1 – Runner-up
- U12 Div 2 – Semi-finalist
- U12 Div 3 – Semi-finalist
- Stage 2 Girls – Semi-finalist
- U14 Div 1 – Semi-finalist
- U15–18 – Semi-finalist

These achievements reflect the dedication of our coaches, managers, and families.

## **Junior Representative Honours**

### **Stage 1 Girls – PSSA State Championships**

- Adelaide Fitzgerald (Polding)
- Harriet Morton (Polding)
- Stella Porter (Polding)
- Eva Crossman (Hunter)

### **Stage 2**

- Lucinda McNicol – Ron Arendts U11 (Newcastle Girls), Lake Mac U13 (Greater Hunter Area)
- Josie Davy – Ron Arendts U11 (Newcastle Girls), Newcastle U13 Girls (Greater Hunter Area)

### **U12 Division 1 Blue**

- Thomas Porter – U12 Newcastle Blasters, Forster Shield, Lismore Carnival, Polding
- Hamish Mitchell – U12 Newcastle Blasters, Forster Shield, Lismore Carnival, Polding
- Max Drabble – Lake Mac Attack, Forster Shield, Lismore Carnival, Polding
- Elijah Hudson – Lake Mac Attack, Forster Shield, Lismore Carnival
- Angus Britton – Newcastle U12 Rep

### **U14 City Tigers**

- Chelsea Dowdell – U15 Girls Country Youth Championships (Singleton), U15 Girls Western NSW Carnival (Orange)

### **Newcastle Blasters U14**

- Harry Scott – Country Youth Championships (first round only due to injury)

### **Country Youth Championships & Graeme Malcolm Shield:**

- Sulaiman Moin Muhammad
- Max Gallagher
- Callum van Huisstede

## Junior Club Awards

### Perpetual Awards

#### Stage 1 Cricketer of the Year

*Harriet Morton* – 638 points, 127 runs, 28 wickets (avg 3.4), 9 fielding dismissals

#### Hunter Taverners Award

*Harriet Morton* – 638 points, 127 runs, 28 wickets (avg 3.4), 9 fielding dismissals

#### Tommy Anderson Award (Young Cricketer of the Year – Stage 2)

*Max Drabble* – 487 points, 272 runs (avg 54.4), 10 wickets (avg 9.6), 9 fielding dismissals

#### Bruce O’Sullivan Award (Cricketer of the Year – Stage 3)

*Sulaiman Moin Muhammad* – 647 points, 490 runs (avg 163.3), 6 wickets (avg 27.0), 5 fielding dismissals



#### Club Fielding Award

*Griffen Beck*

#### Club Wicketkeeper of the Year

*Zoe Thomas*

#### Club Bowling Award

*Noah Kemppainen*– 16 wickets (avg 7.3), best bowling 4/10

#### Club Batting Award

*Sulaiman Moin Muhammad* – 490 runs (avg 163.3), high score 90

#### Representative Rising Star

*Callum van Huisstede*

#### Ross Leonard Award – Junior Club Volunteer

*Alyssa Wharton*

## Looking ahead

- The club has achieved significant grant funding to replace the ageing nets at Myambalah, the proposal is to complete the project in the next year.
- Find solutions to reduce conflict between cricket and early season soccer.
- Strengthen and further develop the girls pathway.
- Focus on a strong positive club culture across all participants.
- Find ways to reduce registration cost.



*Richard Wood – Junior Vice President*

## First Grade

Callan Fowler (for Oli Carter)



The Sabres set out to follow up a successful 23/24 campaign. This season we were again boosted by the return of Oli Carter as captain. Dylan Hunter also came home which was massive news around the club. So was the signing of Luke Muddle from Belmont. We had our sights on Luke for a few years, so it was excellent to have him in the team. Greg West was another massive inclusion after having a few years away from the game. Things were looking really positive, then we got pumped in our first round against Hamwicks...

However, from there we went on a 5-game winning streak including massive scalps of premiers Charlestown and the grand finalists to be, Merewether and Wallsend. A loss to Waratah took us into the Christmas break sitting 4<sup>th</sup>, decently positioned to make finals. We started the new year with a sense of hope blasting Wests out of the park with an outright win and a huge 10 points. This in addition to a dominant win away at Cardiff plus the inclusion of Sussex's Harrison Ward had us in prime position to get a ticket to the finals.

The equation was simple, win just 1 of our 3 remaining fixtures against Stockton, Hamwicks and Wallsend. To our incredible disappointment we lost all of these games with nobody to blame except ourselves. We can take positives from the season such as helping the club secure second in the Club Championship tally and of course our T20 success. Our 1<sup>st</sup> grade side ultimately finished tied fifth on 54 points. As much as it hurt, we still thoroughly enjoyed our time throughout the season on and off the field. We will learn from the experiences and our mistakes as we look forward to a promising 2025/26 campaign.

I'd like to pay a special mention to Nick Walker who has spent the past couple seasons at the club. With a young family, we really appreciate what he has brought to this team and love having Nick around. The same goes for Oli Carter, ever since joining the club Oli has bred success and his time at City will still continue to benefit the club in the coming years. I'd also love to pass a massive thanks on to Jenni and Karen who have been our canteen/tea/moral support maestro's the past few seasons, you are awesome. Mitch King has had an amazing impact on this squad and club, his unwavering support and care has played a huge role in our successes, love you Kingy. Andy Cahill has been our scorer for a number of years now even with Aidan not playing for us. We can't thank him enough and absolutely love seeing him every Saturday. We are so lucky to have an incredible crew of volunteers and at the heart of that is Russel Fowler. Nobody puts in more hours for this club. Week in, week out for years this man has been the heart and soul of our team and our club. None of this success happens without Rusty, a legendary coach and mate to all.

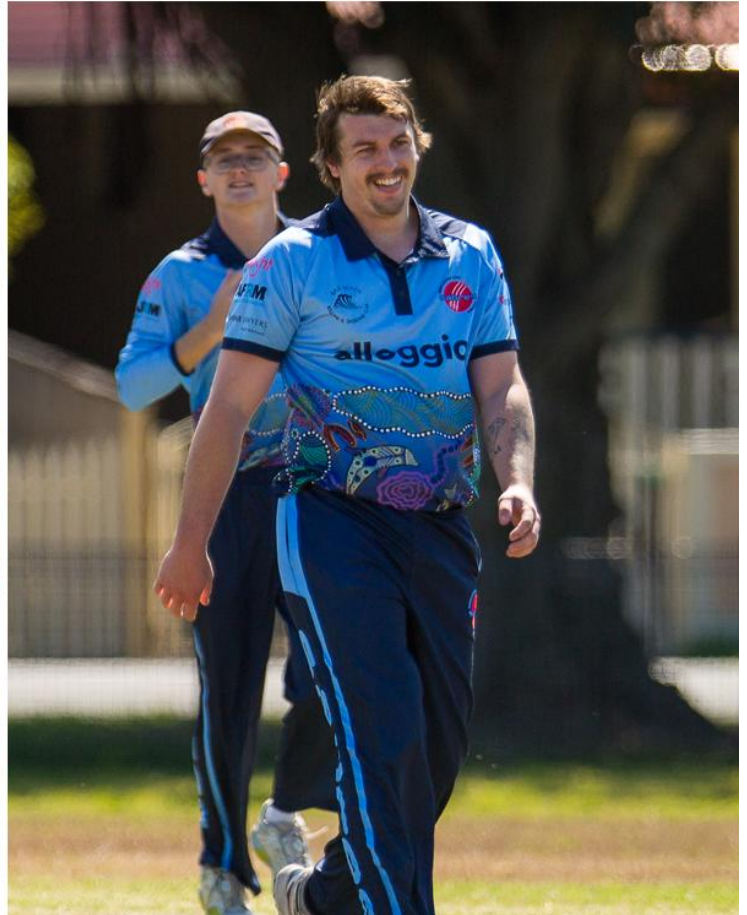
*Cal Fowler (for Oli Carter - Captain)*



### Inaugural Chappy Cup

Daniel Arms (Charlestown), Sarah Chapman, Josh Chapman, Gabriella Chapman, Oli Carter





## Second Grade

Bryce Garrett



At the start of pre- season, I sat down with Kingy and started putting a squad together for the year ahead. It didn't take long for us both to realise we had no idea how this 2<sup>nd</sup> grade squad was going to shape up. We were humbled in the Grand Final the year before, then had more than half the team move on. Having made it all the way to the big dance, the players that were still around were hungry to go all the way this season.

We entered the first round with a plethora of unknowns. Some new faces who had put in the hard yards in pre-season. Some guys who had been around the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade setup trying to push their way into 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and some from the lower grades making the move up to 2nds.

We started the year well, picking up 4 wins out of 5 in the 1-day rounds, narrowly missing out on a spot in the RMC Final for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year running. We then carried our winning mentality into the 2-day rounds. Securing two important wins against last year's rivals in Charlestown and Waratah.

Wests then hit us with a reality check, taking maximum points off us. Showing why they were the benchmark early on in the comp. This then led into a gritty game with Cardiff which we also came out second best on, despite being in a strong position.

The Cardiff loss meant we had slipped outside the top 4 and needed strong performances in the last three rounds. We started that run off well, with a ground out victory against Stockton, who we had struggled to take points off in recent seasons. Perked up on this victory, we rolled into Hamwicks with the potential of maximum points on offer if we could put a perfect game together. We did the job in the first innings, knocking them over cheaply, then passing the total on day 1 with a small lead. We then kept the roll on day 2, leaving us with a small chase of 94 for victory. In a game that could have easily seen a few people noted down in the umpires book, it went down the wire, with us passing the score 8 down. Ultimately keeping our season alive.

Our last round game loomed, we needed to win, but weather was looking to play its part. For a result to most likely happen, we decided to bowl first, and in No 1 Style, it was FLAT! Wallsend posted a decent total, but more importantly for the game, they batted out their allotted overs. We entered day 2 with weather in play. Despite multiple stoppages, we kept chipping away at the total, eventually passing it late in the day, to secure a spot in the semifinals.

Unfortunately, we played our best cricket leading up to the semi's and were schooled in finals cricket by eventual winners Stockton.

I am extremely proud of this squad's efforts this year. As I mentioned at the start, we had a bunch of new faces, and everyone gelled really well, making it a fun group of people to be around on a Saturday afternoon. Thanks again to all players listed below.

**Tim Burton** – Burton joined us this year from Maitland, despite being hampered by injuries throughout the year, he still was one of our top performers, taking out the team Bowling Award, and the Captain's Player of the Year.

**Hayden Checker** – Checks took the gloves and the opening spot in his first year in 2s and looked right at home. So much so, that he earned a call up to 1s for his batting. He had a fantastic year, with good consistency with both bat and ball, I am certain we will see even better results from him next year.

**Anthonie Clement** – Ant joined us this year having recently moved to Newcastle. A burly all-rounder who hits a hard ball chipped in with important wickets and crucial runs at several different times in the year. He has been a great addition to our club.

**Izaak Coyle** – Coyley, along with Burton joined us from the Maitland comp this year. He was the only player to play every game for us this season. A regular at training, and a solid performer on the field (and off).

**Rowan Evans** – Row had another solid year. He took a new approach to his batting, chipping in with important runs throughout the year. His bowling again improved, with greater control and a better understanding of figuring out his oppositions. Keen to see how Rowan grows with a winter in the UK continuing to play and develop his skills.

**Freddie Freeman** – We had the pleasure of Fred for a few games this season. Whenever he was in the team, he performed in one way or another. With bat, ball or in the field.

**Toby Fynn** – Likewise with Fred, Toby only played a handful of games. But was valuable when there for his experience.

**Jay Garrett** – Jay had a great year this year, earning himself our team Batting Award. Taking responsibility up the top of the order, he would often have us in a strong position at the end of the first session. He was one of only two centurions in 2s this year. He also took some valuable catches in the slips and would be dissatisfied with the skip's lack of faith in him with the ball in hand. Maybe next year... 😊

**Oscar Hills** – Hillsy's efforts across training and game day are unmatched. He gives it his all every time. Unfortunate due to game situations not to get extended bowling spells, but when called upon he did his job. Unfortunate run with illness around the midway of the season hindered his gametime.

**Yasas Kaluperuma** – We only had Yas for a few games but he was instantly welcomed into the club and team. Full of energy, and eager to play, his work made it difficult, plus a horrid run with hamstrings left his gametime in 2s at a minimum.

**Mitch King** – Out of retirement more times than John Farnham, The King again showed up when the call was put out. He brought his experience and knowledge of the game to our squad and contributed where needed. Always a pleasure to share the field with the great man, no doubt it will happen again next season.

**Mason Knodler** – Mase joined us for a few games this year, which I think will prove to be valuable in his development as a young cricketer. Another who makes the trip from the Hunter each week, his commitment to training and learning have been impressive to see.

**Michael Mooney** – MOONDOG, DADSPIN, BIG DADDY. Moons was a critical member of this squad this season. He was asked to captain in my absence, saved us on numerous times with some clutch death batting, effectively keeping our season alive against Hamwicks and Wallsend, and continued to be a valuable contributor with the ball. He was also a great sounding board for me throughout the year for player development and plan discussions. Invaluable to this squad and proving to be a key reason behind our ongoing development and success.

**Digby Nuthall** – Unfortunately, a move to Scone in the offseason meant Digs availability was greatly hindered. Always a pleasure to have him on the park and is welcome any time.

**Will Parkinson** – Will got a taste for 2s again this season. Limited opportunity presented itself, though I don't think it will be long before we see Will as a more frequent name on the 2s team sheet.

**Rohan Power** – RohPow was another to join us from Maitland way, having been at Toronto the previous few seasons, he joined us looking to better his cricket experience. A great competitor with plenty to offer across all aspects of the game. Standout game was against Stockton in the round game; picked up crucial wickets and survived to get us over the line.

**Lachlan Rail** - We had the pleasure of Railzy towards the backend of the season, after his recovery from a dislocated shoulder. Though we didn't get to see his rocket arm or intimidating bowling, his batting was solid and was just starting to find his straps again as the season came to an end.

**Jonah Rheinberger** – Bergs had a bit of a rollercoaster year. Brilliant at times and found wanting more from himself at others. In what I hope was a year of mental growth for Bergs, his ability has and will always be there, once he gets control of his head, the sky's the limit.

**Jonah Roser** – Jonah had a couple of games with us towards the backend of the year and bought into the team immediately. He could have easily been disgruntled by being given a spell in 2s but instead showed his class and ability in both games.

**Alex Sylow** – The same as Jonah Roser, we only had Al for a few games, and again, he was committed to the team, helping where he could. Being unlucky in both games arguably.

### **Special Mentions –**

To **Chris Rheinberger**, thank you for your help throughout the season. Scoring, helping with covers, helping at training, helping to set up/take down the ground, and talking tactics throughout the week. Your efforts have been greatly appreciated by all members of this squad.

To **Grant Power**, thank you for your time behind the lens, both at games and at training. Also, for your offers to help on game days as well.

To **Greg Hook**, for ensuring we had a team each week, and your general efforts around the club

To **Russ Fowler, Cal Fowler, Oli Carter, Mitch King, Rob Parkinson** and **Chris** again, thank you for your efforts at training. It's not an easy task to organise 50+ people twice a week in such a short amount of time.

I am hoping we continue to develop this 2s squad, seeing more of its members break into 1s, and by doing so, continue to be strong and push for that elusive 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Title.

*Bryce Garrett – Captain*





## Third Grade

Adrian Mannel



The season certainly started with a bang grabbing wins in all the one dayers we played in the first month or so. Chasing seemed to suit the team and that became a theme for the whole season really (only batting first once I believe). The middle part of the season proved to be both wet and tough going as a few losses on either side of the holidays saw us come back into the pack. The back end of the season we found our form again and made a late surge which ended up falling just short of a finals berth.

Picking up wins against all the top 4 sides except Waratah showed we could match it with the top teams, and it was plenty of fun and positivity that the team brought each week. Thanks to all players who backed up in the field, chatted lots in the field and enjoyed their cricket which were the main aims I wanted each week.

A few memorable moments were Arif hitting the winning runs against Wests with just a couple of balls left in the innings, Wardy pumping the ball to all parts with his Baz Ball style play (while perhaps winning the contest for who could get dropped the most), Flynn taking lots of late season poles while being bowled a few too many overs by the skipper probably, Noah picking up a wicket or two in the opening spell nearly every game and seeing the youngsters such as Max, Jake, Noah, Will, Mason do well.

Congrats to Wardy (batting), Noah (bowling) and Jake (captains award) on winning the trophies for the season in Thirds.

I would like to say a big thanks to Rob Parkinson for helping setup, scoring, doing the team sheets, offering advice which helped make my job much easier. Thanks to Al and Neil for stepping in as skipper when I wasn't there. Appreciate the efforts of all the second graders when they dropped down and also the fourths crew who came up and helped out when needed.

Hopefully see you all back next season.

*Adrian Mannel - Captain*

City for the Kitty!!!



## Fourth Grade

Bradley O'Dell



I've always thought that if a team can make the semi-finals it has been a successful season. It means you have finished at the top end of the ladder. Semi-finals are fun to participate in and they are only one game away from the big dance. Finals should always be one of our main goals, another goal is to have players achieve individual success and another important goal is to have fun along the way.

During the season we had numerous milestone achievements for many players. I'm not going to mention names, or I will end up naming everyone! From grade debuts to half centuries or your first wicket in grade - these are all achievements to be proud of.

The Dev League (thanks Paul) continues to provide 4th Grade with a stream of excellent young players with serious skills. We played with one of the youngest average age teams in the competition, with a couple of old blokes raising the average age by a year or two. Our young guns continue to improve, and the future of this club is in great hands. A number of team members will be going up into third grade next season and I look forward to watching their progression as they continue their improvement and transition to even higher grades.

Next season may well be my last in grade. I look forward once again to the pleasure of being part of a team with a great attitude and being proudly involved in more achievements and success.

*Brad O'Dell - Captain*





## Development League

Paul King



For the first time since the inception of the Development League, Newcastle City missed out on a semi-final berth. While that result was disappointing, the season laid a strong foundation for future success as we gave opportunities and experience to a talented and promising group of junior players. This year's Development team may well have been the most naturally gifted and well-rounded group of young cricketers to have played in our Development League squad.

The team were competitive in every match, with most losses coming down to fine margins—a dropped catch, a mistimed shot, or the luck of the toss. In a season shaped by wet weather and tight contests, those small moments made all the difference. Ultimately, the team lacked the experience to make its own luck, and that inexperience showed in a few key moments.

Overall, this squad is an excellent group of young players that will provide a pipeline of talent for the club.

Our goals for the Development team have remained consistent. Namely:

- Make the semi-finals.
- Play attractive cricket.
- Provide a pathway for our junior players to senior cricket.
- Develop cricketers that can fill important roles in higher grades.

Our success in three of these goals more than compensated for not finishing in the top four.

City's investment and nurturing of the Development League team for the past five seasons will continue to have payoff in future years. This season, in most rounds a player that had who started in our Development League team participated in every grade and this will likely continue in the future.

This season our batting was led by two veterans and some exciting young guns. Richard Wood led the batting with 189 runs at 23.63. Once again, Richard was an outstanding contributor – willing to bat anywhere in the order and continually looking to be positive. Richard was also a member of the leadership group that did so much to ensure our culture and team spirit.

Bevan Flemming had one of his better seasons with 153 runs at 25.5 but, like Richard, the numbers don't tell the full story. Bevan played several important innings to either lift us out of trouble or ensure get us across the line in tight games. Bevan was an excellent role model and mentor to our young cricketers.

Owen Burns made a comeback to cricket to show his son and others of that generation that the old guard still had something to give. Owen regularly opened the batting with an aggressive mind set and positive approach. His fielding was excellent, and he was a strong influence on the team and younger players. Hopefully we see him back next season.

Another senior player, Dan Henry, again played several memorable innings. Dan's batting was always aggressive. Over 70 % of his runs came in boundaries. Dan played fewer matches, so his overall numbers were down compared to past seasons but when he was at the crease it was impossible to look away.

Zac Hook joined us midway through the season after his return to Newcastle and despite having had a lengthy absence from the game he slotted straight into the team. While he only managed a few matches, Zac showed with his batting and fielding that he will be an asset for us next season. Zac's top score of 42 was made under pressure as wickets fell around him and his innings allowed us to set a winning score. A second season, now that he has blown off the cobwebs, promises much.

Among the young guns, Max Gallagher played several brilliant innings including a memorable 75 against the eventual minor premiers. This was Max's first full season of grade cricket, and his development promises much for next season. When set, Max was almost impossible to bowl to with shots all around the ground.



It is hard to believe that this was Mason and Callum van Huisstede's first season in grade cricket. Mason is an outstanding wicket-keeper batsmen and Cal a talented all-rounder. The brothers were outstanding every week. Mason played 11 matches and batted, often as an opener, with maturity and skill. His batting to defeat Wests as we chased down a tough target was cool and unflustered. Mason's wicketkeeping was neat, skilful and consistent. He will be another of the young guard to watch in season 25-26.

Callum had an outstanding debut season. While his aggregate runs were impressive for a young player in their first season, it was the way they were accumulated that caught the eye. Cal looked composed and assured at the crease and played eye-catching shots. With the ball he took nine wickets at 13.56 and an economy rate less than four

per over. He was exceptional in the field and thinks deeply about the game. Both Mason and Callum are ones to watch and nurture over coming seasons at City.

One of the most exciting developments this season was the emergence of two genuine opening bowlers who consistently took top-order wickets.

Ollie Burns was a standout, taking nine wickets at an average of 15 and a strike rate of 2.76. He bowled with pace, accuracy, and movement, and showed the stamina to return for second and third spells—an important trait as he progresses through the grades.

Hugh Mulley, though he played fewer matches, also impressed. He has an ability to bowl unplayable deliveries and regularly struck early with the new ball. Both Ollie and Hugh have tremendous upside and will be key players in the seasons ahead.

Before injury wrecked his season, Harry Scott looked set to have a wonderful debut season. Unfortunately, he was unable to generate much momentum before he was ruled out for most of the season. When he did play, Harry showed enough to suggest that he will be an exciting prospect with both bat and ball in coming seasons.

Anton Wood, who played alongside his father this season, grew in confidence as the year progressed. His bowling was accurate and economical—conceding just 3.37 runs per over—and he consistently asked questions of the batsmen. Anton gave everything for the team and will only improve with experience.



Chelsea Dowdell stepped up to grade cricket midway through the season and played six matches. Her bowling was tidy and economical, and she quickly became a valued team member. Chelsea's commitment in the field and willingness to learn were commendable, and she will no doubt benefit from this experience. She also adds depth to the club's women's program and will be a key figure in its continued success.

We were fortunate to have Nick Wills available for seven matches. A former Development League product himself, Nick returned to take seven wickets at 18.57. His fielding and team-first attitude were exemplary, and his presence lifted the group.

Across the season we also had some useful contributions from Cal Sheehy, Rocco Roseworne, Grant Power, Penny O’Shea, Arsh Kangotra, Alyssa Wharton, Isaac Moran, Hamish O’Dell, Felix Vella. It would have been impossible to function as a team without their support. These players often filled in when we were short, and we were grateful for their contributions. Certainly, the older players in this group bought into the spirit and approach we have fostered within the Development League squad.

The Development League squad remains deeply grateful for the support of the Newcastle City club. Special thanks go to Greg Hook, Penny O’Shea, Bryce Garrett, and the entire committee for their tireless work and commitment. We also acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our coaching team—Russel Fowler, Mitch King, Chris Rheinberger, and Rob Parkinson—who ran well-organised and purposeful training sessions and were always available to offer individual guidance.

Finally, we thank the other grade captains, particularly Brad O’Dell, for strengthening the connection between teams. Brad ensured that every player stepping up to fourth grade was supported and integrated thoughtfully.

There is much to be proud of from the 2024–25 season—and even more to look forward to in 2025–26. With a strong core of emerging talent, experienced mentors, and a clear development pathway, the future of Newcastle City looks bright.

*Paul King – Captain*







## NCC T20 Summer Bash

Callan Fowler (for Oli Carter)

The T20 Summer Bash is a competition that the Sabres love playing. We have always been able to put strong teams on the park resulting in a mix of successful and underwhelming finishes. However, this year felt like we had only one option, which was to win it all. We welcomed a few new players into the squad this season including Mo Irfan Jr from Western Suburbs in Sydney and Archie Lenham from Sussex. We were also boosted by the inclusion of Harrison Ward for second half of the season.

We had a reasonably strong campaign in the rounds. We overcame a first-round loss to Wallsend with a dominant win over Toronto. The highlight of this game being a sublime Oli Carter 100 which was supported by a Harrison Allomes 50 and Toby Fynn 4fa. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> round match against the Rebels was abandoned due to rain leaving us a must-win clash against Charlestown. In a rain-affected 12 over game, we produced a strong performance including a jaw-dropping 5fa from young Harry Campbell who spun a web leaving Charlestown all out for 91. Dylan Hunter smashed an unbeaten 51 to secure entry into the Quarter-finals.

The draw placed us 4<sup>th</sup> and we were to vs 5<sup>th</sup> place Hamilton-Wickham. A clinical bowling performance featuring a Jonah Roser 4fa restricted the Pumas to 101 from their 20. 40s to Dyl and Oli wrapped up the win in the 17<sup>th</sup> over. Finals day at No.1 sparked

excitement for the club and a chance to take home some silverware. After being sent in to bat by Stockton in the Semi-final we made a modest total of 144 thanks to Dyl and Walks who scored 61 and 45 respectively. Our bowlers gave the Seagulls no room for error locking them down to 8/109 with a 4fa to Archie.

The Grand-final stage was set under the lights against our oldest rivals Merewether. Winning the toss, we decided to bat first and posted an un-chaseable 210 from our 20. Dylan Hunter continued his incredible form producing a classy MOTM worthy 82\* (50). This in combination with Wardy's 68 and Nick's 43 left a huge ask for the Lions. We bowled smart and sealed the win leaving Merewether all out for 150. 3fa's went to Archie and Cal, and 2fa to Luke Muddle. This was an amazing day for the club and our second Summer Bash win in 5 years. A huge thank you to Andy and Chris for scoring these games. Also, to Jenni and Karen for running the best canteen operation in town. Plus, Rusty and Kingy for being incredible coaches and keeping us on our toes.

*Cal Fowler (for Oli Carter)*



# Denis Broad Cup

Bryce Garrett

Another DB Cup campaign, another disappointment.

This year we went close, making it all the way to the final, only to be defeated by old 2nds/DBs foes Waratah.

Our squad, much like 2s, was rather different from last year's. However, we managed to keep a few core players around to keep the depth there.

Blessed with special guest appearances by DBs Legend and international superstar, Frankie Walsh, the wandering Wilson McTaggart and the retiree Mitch King.

Our rounds went well, only losing one to Merewether. There were some close games, and some games we dominated. Ultimately booking our spot in the final. It was always going to be tough, with Waratah having effectively 2 second grade sides entered in the comp, they had to play each other in the Semis. Unfortunately, despite giving our best, we fell short in the final.

Special mentions to Moons, who was unreal up front with the ball, taking 1 wicket minimum in every spell. He also had some good contributions with the bat. Max Langworthy and Zac Moffat who were asked to play last minute on multiple occasions. Adrian Mannel who snuck a couple of games in despite the pending birth of his first child.

We have a good foundation squad for this competition now, and I don't think we are far from winning it again.

*Bryce Garrett – Captain*



## Under 21's

Greg Hook (for Alex Sylow)

The Under 21 competition was played in an abbreviated format with four completed 20/20 games in the preliminary rounds, a semi-final and final. City, led by Alex Sylow, unfortunately got knocked out in the semis by Wests after being undefeated in the preliminary rounds.

Below are some of the highlights from the games played:

Round 1 – City 8-105 defeated Stockton 7-100 – A crucial 36 run partnership between the two Jonah's (Rheinberger & Roser) ensured that City posted a modest but competitive score. Some tight bowling and great fielding saw City home. Jonah Roser was the pick of the bowlers with 2/17 off 4 overs.

Round 2- Bye

Round 3 –Toronto 6/102 def by City 2/103 – Our two “homegrown City ” Sydney based imports Harry Scowen 53\* and Harrison Allomes 28 made light work of the run chase which had been earlier set up by Harry Campbell's exceptional spell of 3/14 off 4 overs.

Round 4 - Merewether 7-152 def by City 2-153 – In probably our best performance of the competition Merewether posted a very imposing score of 152. After a solid start in our chase the game was blown apart by a rapid fire 66\* off 30 balls by Freddie Freeman and a supporting role of 42\* by Lachlan Rail. Their 100-run partnership ensured victory over our inner-city rivals and a place in the finals.

Round 5 – Forfeit win V Uni

Semi Final - Wests 5-142 def City 9-125 - played at the “home of cricket”, City won the toss and sent Wests into bat. Wests compiled a very competitive score of 142. The pick of the bowlers were “new gun” Flynn Taylor 2-18 and the ever-reliable Harry Campbell 2-22. After getting off to a reasonable start the wickets fell as regular intervals – Freddie Freeman 41 and Harrison Allomes 18 were the standouts but unfortunately, we fell 17 runs short.

The Club appreciated the effort put in by all players with special mention to Alex Sylow who was an inspirational leader in an ever-changing side. Thanks also to Cal Fowler (Manager) and Chris Rheinberger (Scorer).

City for the Kitty,

*Greg Hook (for Alex Sylow – Captain)*

## Under 16's – S.G. Moore Cup

Robert Parkinson



**Back: Rob Parkinson (coach), Max Langworthy, Felix Vella, Ben Wiehahn, Archer Freeman, Hayden Checker (c), Will Parkinson (c)**

**Front: Max Gallagher, Isaac Moran, Callum van Huisstede, Harry Scott, Mason van Huisstede, Anton Wood**

The City S G Moore Cup team kicked off the season of cricket for the club in mid-October. Only 3 players eligible to play from the previous seasons after a loss in the 2023/24 Grand Final v Merewether. Despite many younger City juniors coming into the team, we had high expectations to compete well and go deep in the competition. We recruited well and had the services of quality imports George Verth (Central Coast) and Sairam Patil (Central Coast) to strengthen the squad. Joint Captains were announced, Will Parkinson and Hayden Checker, both did a great job leading the boys around the park.

Rounds 1 & 2 were played at Kahibah Oval v Charlestown and Hamwicks, we were without the services of our imports (Bradman Cup Trials) and resulted in 2 disappointing losses, not the start we were looking for at all. The following Sunday we were back home at Learmonth Oval for games v Belmont and Cardiff looking for wins to stay in the competition and qualify for the quarter finals the following week. Belmont batted first in a match reduced to 15 overs and they put on a solid display of batting with a total of 0/115. In reply, Haydo and George opened the batting and were in command and playing their strokes, run rate was good despite Haydo out for 7 (9) in the 4<sup>th</sup> over 1/29.

Felix came into bat at 3 and the pair put on a solid partnership of 56 to see us at 85 (10), still needing 31 to chase in 5 overs. Three (3) quick wickets saw us slump to 4/92 (11) including George 31 (27). Sairam with some amazing hitting and batting temperament, saw us home on the final ball with a 6 straight down the ground to win us the game. Wow!! What a win. Our second game of the day we were up against a very young Cardiff team. We restricted Cardiff to 6/95 (20) and in reply some brilliant batting again from Felix Vella 61\* (52) saw us pass Cardiff 2/96 in the 15<sup>th</sup> over. Another win to see us progress to the Quarter Finals.

Quarter Final the following week we were up against 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Hamwicks who had previously defeated us in Round 2. Bowling first we restricted Hamwicks to 7/92 (20) with good bowling from all the boys, we chased down their total in the 10<sup>th</sup> over with a great display of power hitting by our openers Haydo 21\* (25) and George 66\* (33).

Finals day was at Harker Oval, Semi Final v Wests who ended up equal 1<sup>st</sup>. Batting first, Wests put on a commanding total of 6/130 in their 20 overs. We were confident chasing down the total if we started well and took on the young Wests bowlers. Haydo and George opened the batting and got us off to a great start, we lost George 40 (30) in the 10<sup>th</sup> over 1/68, a great position with 9 wickets in hand. Unfortunately, not long after we lost Will and Felix in 2 consecutive balls, 3/79 in the 12<sup>th</sup> over. Haydo continued to play his shots however was out in the 16<sup>th</sup> over 49 (50), we were 4/100 with 4.5 overs remaining to get 31 runs, still achievable. Things didn't go to plan in the remaining overs all out for 110 in the 20<sup>th</sup> over.

Despite the loss, we had a fantastic competition and were very proud of all the boy's efforts. There will be 9/10 boys from this squad backing up next year and these boys will only be better for the experience of this season. The future is bright for City, excited to see Archer, Isaac, Callum, Mason, Harry, Max and Oliver progress through the City grades over the next few years.

Congratulations to both Hayden and Will who were picked in the Newcastle Bradman Cup team and travelled to Port Macquarie and later to Albury for the carnival.

### **Batting - Highlights**

George Verth	142 runs @ 47.33
Felix Vella	122 runs @ 30.5
Hayden Checker	118 runs @ 29.5

## **Bowling - Highlights**

Isaac Moran                    5 wkts @14.22

Callum van Huisstede        5 wkts @ 15.0

Sairam Patil                    4 wkts @ 20.0

Will Parkinson                4 wkts @ 23.25

### **Game 1 v Charlestown (T20) – Loss**

Charlestown 9/87 (Archer Feeman 3/22 Will Parkinson 2/14)

City 10/84 Felix Vella 21 (20) Archer Freeman 13 (11)

### **Game 2 v Hamwicks (T20) – Loss**

City 7/96 (Will Parkinson 32 Hayden Checker 26)

Charlestown 3/97 (Isaac Moran 1/15 Callum van Huisstede 1/16)

### **Game 3 v Belmont (T20) – Win**

Belmont 0/115

City 5/115 (George Verth 31 Felix Vella 33 Sairam Patil 18\*)

### **Game 4 v Cardiff (T20) – Win**

Cardiff 6/95 (Isaac Moran 2/6 Sairam Patil 2/17)

City 2/96 (Felix Vella 61\* Hayden Checker 14\*)

### **Quarter Final v Hamwicks (T20) – Win**

Hamwicks 7/92 (Callum van Huisstede 2/9 George Verth 2/16)

City 0/95 (George Verth 66\* Hayden Checker 21\*)

### **Semi Final v Wests (T20) – Loss**

Wests 6/130 (Sairam Patil 2/20 Callum van Huisstede 1/14)

City 10/110 (Hayden Checker 49 George Verth 40)

*Coach – Rob Parkinson*

*#C4TK*





## Women's T20 Cup

Kirsten Smith

The City Women's T20 cup side were looking for another strong season after winning the 2023/24 premiership. We have strong up and coming junior players who made a significant impact on our team this season!

Our campaign started against Wallsend at Wallsend. With the 5pm start, we were short on troops at the start time, and we asked Wallsend captain if we could bat first. We knew we had a target on our backs this season when the captain responded with 'We'll toss thanks'. After losing the toss and being sent out to field, we restricted Wallsend to a respectable 4/89 off 20 overs thanks to Charlotte Kelly (1/9 off 4), Jordan Anderson (1/15 off 3) and Lily Railz 1/15 off 3. In the reply, Kirsten Smith held the bat with 43\* and finished off with a nice partnership with Lily Railz 11\* to chase down the total in 16.3 overs.

Round 2 was washed out against Wests, which meant our rival game against Waratah was next. The team Waratah fielded did not reflect their squad, with availability & injuries. We won the toss first and batted. Kirsten Smith scored 64 coming in at 3 and the next highest score was Kate McTaggart opening up with 20 off 12 balls, helping our total reach 149 after 20 overs. With fantastic bowling from Charlotte Kelly (4/12 off 4)

and all other bowlers taking one wicket each, we bowled out Waratah for 55 in the 17th over.

We faced Belmont at home and sent Belmont into bat. Great bowling from Eden James (2/9 off 4) and Jordan Anderson (2/8 off 3) resulted in Belmont being restricted to 8/91 after their 20 overs. In reply, Madeline Case (27\*) and Kate McTaggart (25) contributed to a comfortable win, chasing the total 1 down in the 11th over.

Our young guns really dominated with the ball in Round 5 against Stockton. Chrissy Fernance, Charlotte Kelly and Ruby Morrison all took 2 wickets and contributed to bowling out Stockton for 23 off 11.3 overs. Newcastle City chased the runs 1 down in 2.4 overs with Kirsten Smith (12\*) and Clare Coelho (5\*).

It was time to face Wallsend again before the Christmas break. Wallsend batted first and were bowled out for 64 with Felicity Wharton (3/12 off 3.4), Eden James (2/9 off 3) and Lily Railz (2/9 off 2) bowling fantastically. We chased the runs 3 wickets down thanks to Madeline Case (21), Felicity Wharton (19) and Claire Coelho (15\*).

After Christmas break, we had another washout against Wests which meant we never got to face them this season. We played Waratah at their home ground this round and it was a thrilling game! We batted first posting 2/168 off 20 overs with Kate McTaggart scoring a fast 91\* and Kirsten Smith supporting on 37. We thought it should have been a comfortable total, but Waratah certainly put up a fight. After a couple of wickets, one of their players scored 62 off 28 which really put the game into the balance. Claire Coelho took a great catch on the boundary off Charlotte Kelly's bowling (1/12 off 4) which turned out to be a pivotal moment in the game leaving Waratah on 7/144 after their 20 overs.

We faced Belmont again with another similar result. Belmont made 2/68 off their 20 overs and we replied with 2/69 after 8.2 overs thanks to Kirsten Smith (33) and Clare Webber (18).

Our last final round game was against Stockton at Lynn Oval, and it was a beautiful batting deck! We won the toss and decided to bat. Claire Coelho scored an incredible 126\* off 73 deliveries and Kirsten Smith accompanied the other end with 52\* off 47, setting the team total to 185. In reply, Stockton made 1/96 off their 20 overs with the only wicket taken by Jordann Johnson (1/17 off 4).

The wet weather seemed to hit after these round games. We had a washout for the semifinals, which carried us straight through to the grand final. Another wet and miserable day, the grand final was played after the T20 Plate match. Waratah batted first and made 7/82 after 18 overs. A great bowling performance from Felicity Wharton again on the big stage (3/8 off 4) and Bronte Morgan taking 2 wickets. After covers off and on again, the game resumed with City still having 18 overs to bat. Clare Webber and Kirsten

Smith had an opening partnership of 21, and Lily Railz had a strong knock at the end with 14\*, but unfortunately the team fell short by 10 runs.

We had an incredible season, and it was fantastic to see the depth we have in our side and will continue to have with a strong junior base coming through. Thank you to Newcastle City for your support throughout this season.

*Kirsten Smith – Captain*



# Women's T20 Plate

Alyssa Wharton



The Newcastle City Women's Plate side returned for its second season, building on the foundations of the previous year with continued growth and development.

The team welcomed a mix of returning players, first-time cricketers, and those returning to the game after many years. Several players delivered standout performances and were promoted to the Cup side during the season, including Bronte Morgan, Lily Railz, Reagan Merrick, and Ruby Morrison.

The competition was closely contested, with only a few points separating the top five teams. Of the eight games played (two rounds were washed out), we won four and lost four. Heading into the final round, we were tied for 4th place with our opponent, making it a must-win match. In a thrilling contest, despite limited player numbers, we held on the majority of the game but narrowly lost on the second-last ball, finishing the season in 5th place.

Despite the result, the season was filled with highlights and personal milestones:

Game 1: Sarah Winn took an impressive 5/14 in her first-ever game of turf cricket, while Bronte Morgan smashed 42\* off just 20 balls to secure victory in only six overs.

Game 3: Sarah Gardiner, new to hard-ball cricket this season, and Hannah Dewar both bowled exceptionally economical spells in a difficult game.

Game 4: Jody Cooper made a strong return to cricket with 40\*, and Harriet Davies claimed a hat-trick in her first-ever bowling spell. Olivia Mulvany also celebrated her first wickets since joining the competition.

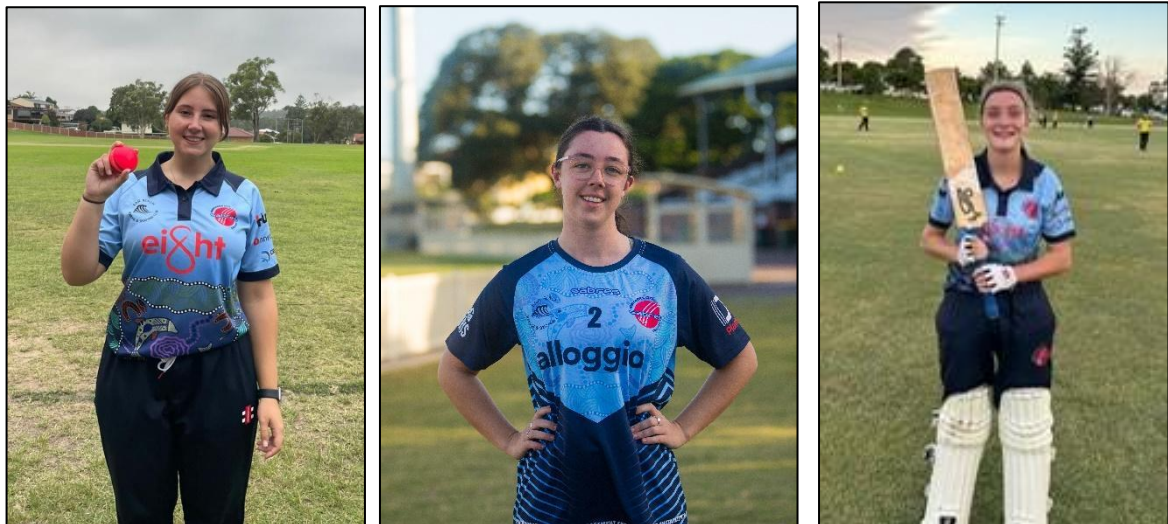
Round 5: Lily Railz scored a superb 68\*, with Asha Krevs making a valuable contribution to the partnership.

Round 6: Penny O’Shea returned to cricket this season and made a key contribution with the bat.

Round 8: A round full of milestones. Lily Railz produced an incredible 94\*, falling just short of a century after running out of overs. Reagan Merrick followed with her first-ever five-wicket haul, finishing with figures of 5/9. Kate Johnson also took her first two wickets since starting hard-ball cricket this season.

Round 9: Ruby Morrison delivered a much-needed 60 runs in a crucial game.

Round 10: Lily Railz wrapped up her standout season with another half-century, scoring 51 runs.



Special mentions go to Chelsea Dowdell for her hard work, consistency and valuable contributions all season across batting, bowling, and fielding, and to Jody Cooper, who not only handled most of the wicketkeeping duties but also topped the fielding stats across the entire competition.

Overall, it was a season that showcased both team evolution and personal achievements. There was great spirit and improvement week to week, laying a strong foundation for future success. I am incredibly proud of all the players and look forward to building on this momentum next season.

*Alyssa Wharton – Captain*

# Masters

Mitch King

Again, it was a pleasure to skipper Masters last season.

Although the results didn't quite match the effort, a few games we lost by less than 6 runs, and the same old story of a different team every week. There were some good performances throughout the season.

Paul Langworthy batted really well at the top, Mr Life Member as always with the ball, just can't keep him down. John Sinclair did really well for us in the few games he played, ended up playing 4s after Xmas for us as well.

*Mitch King – Captain*



## Season Awards

### Batting

#### Women's T20 Plate

Lily Railz - 214 Runs @ 71.3

Highest Score of 94

#### Women's T20 Cup

Kirsten Smith - 252 Runs @ 63

Highest Score of 64

#### Development League

Max Gallagher - 185 Runs @ 26.43

Highest Score of 75

#### 4th GRADE

Andrew Freeman - 408 Runs @ 58.29

Highest Score of 240

#### 3rd GRADE

Steven Ward - 263 Runs @ 29.22

Highest Score of 76

#### 2nd GRADE

Jay Garrett - 410 Runs @ 31.54

Highest Score of 101

#### 1st GRADE

Oli Carter - 520 Runs @ 43.33

Highest Score of 95

### Bowling

#### Women's T20 Plate

Sarah Winn - 12 Wickets @ 3.83

Best Bowling of 5/14

#### Women's T20 Cup

Felicity Wharton - 10 Wickets @ 8.9

Best Bowling of 3/8

#### Development League

Paul King - 13 Wickets @ 11

Best Bowling of 4/3

#### 4th GRADE

Bradley O'Dell - 32 Wickets @ 5.75

Best Bowling of 10/21

#### 3rd GRADE

Noah Parkinson - 18 Wickets @ 20.17

Best Bowling of 3/15

#### 2nd GRADE

Timothy Burton - 23 Wickets @ 15.65

Best Bowling of 6/52

#### 1st GRADE

Toby Fynn - 20 Wickets @ 16.6

Best Bowling of 5/43

## Centuries

Andrew Freeman	V	Charlestown (4th Grade)	240
Nick Walker	V	Merewether (1st Grade)	118
Mitch King	V	Redhead (Masters)	101*
Oli Carter	V	Toronto (Summer Bash)	107
Jay Garrett	V	Cardiff-Boolaroo (2nd Grade)	101
Claire Coelho	V	Stockton (WT20 Cup)	126*
Bryce Garrett	V	Wallsend (2nd Grade)	110*



## 6 Wicket Hauls

Luke Muddle	V	University (1st Grade)	6/50
Isaac Moran	V	Charlestown (4th Grade)	6/56
Flynn Taylor	V	Hamilton-Wickham (3rd Grade)	6/41
Timothy Burton	V	Hamilton-Wickham (2nd Grade)	6/52



## 10 Wicket Hauls!

Bradley O'Dell	V	Wallsend (4th Grade)	10/20
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## Hat Tricks

Arif Usman	V	Wallsend (4 <sup>th</sup> Grade)
Harriet Davies	V	Waratah Mayfield (WT20 Plate)
Bradley O'Dell	V	Wallsend (4 <sup>th</sup> Grade)

## Most Ducks

Jonah Rheinberger - 5 Ducks

## Captain's Player of the Year

### Women's T20 Plate

Ruby Morrison

### Women's T20 Cup

Charlotte Kelly

### Development League

Callum Van Huisstede

### 4th GRADE

Harrison Fleming

### 3rd GRADE

Jake White

### 2nd GRADE

Timothy Burton

### 1st GRADE

Callan Fowler



CHARLOTTE KELLY & KIRSTEN SMITH



JAKE WHITE & ADRIAN MANNEL



**HARRISON FLEMING & LIFE MEMBER ROBERT WILKINSON (TOP LEFT), LIFE MEMBER/PRESIDENT STEVE GARRETT & KIRSTEN SMITH (TOP RIGHT), CALLAN FOWLER & LIFE MEMBER BRADLEY O'DELL (BOTTOM LEFT), HAYDEN CHECKER & PAUL OLSEN (NDCAU) (BOTTOM RIGHT)**

## Perpetual Awards

### **Most Runs in Grade – Pop Rodgers Trophy**

Oli Carter– 520 Runs @ 43.33

### **Most Wickets in Grade – Bruce O’Sullivan Trophy**

Bradley O'Dell – 33 Wickets @ 5.91

### **Junior Player of the Year – Fordham Trophy**

Hayden Checker

### **Most Improved Player of the Year**

Harrison Fleming

### **Peter “Chappie” Chapman Wicketkeeper of the Year**

Oli Carter - 20 Catches, 15 Stumpings

### **One Day Limited Overs Cricketer of the Year**

Dylan Hunter

### **All Rounder of the Year – Robert Wilkinson Trophy**

Harrison Fleming

### **Julie Vitnell 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Players’ Player Medal**

Callan Fowler

### **Matt Krevs Award**

Neil Motbey

### **Male Player of the Year**

Oli Carter

### **Women's Player of the Year**

Kirsten Smith

### **Tom Anderson Medal**

Alyssa Wharton

### **Club Person of the Year – Richard “Dicky” Wilkinson Plate**

Penny O'Shea



ANDERSON MEDAL WINNER ALYSSA WHARTON WITH LIFE MEMBER TOMMY ANDERSON



MATT KREVS AWARD WINNER NEIL MOTBEY WITH LIFE MEMBER BRADLEY O'DELL



**KAREN FRYER & JENNI WHITEHEAD WITH CALLAN FOWLER (TOP LEFT), JONAH RHEINBERGER & LIFE MEMBER BRYCE GARRETT (TOP RIGHT), TOBY FYNN & CALLAN FOWLER (BOTTOM LEFT), LIFE MEMBER ROBERT WILKINSON & PENNY O'SHEA (BOTTOM RIGHT)**