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26

ANNUAL REPORT

2025/26

Newcastle City &
Eastern Districts Cricket Club



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.



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

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Sponsors

Newcastle City thanks the following partners for their support



Our Values



Growth

Constantly improving our coaching, teams, equipment, facilities, contribution to community and our brand.



Sportsmanship

A champion team, not a team of champions.



Encouragement

Encouraging everyone compete and to play cricket the right way, and in the spirit of cricket.



Sustainability

Building a sustainable program with solid foundations that will thrive for decades to come.



Commitment

Understanding that each person has a part to play in building the club, and giving 100% in our roles.



Loyalty

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

Russel Fowler – Inducted 2025

* Indicates Member is deceased

Indicates Life Member of foundation club “Newcastle Cricket Club”



LIFE MEMBERS: GREG HOOK, DAMIEN JONES, ADRIAN MANNEL, RUSSEL FOWLER, ROB WILKINSON, BRYCE GARRETT & BRADLEY O’DELL

Vale Matthew Leonard

VALE Matthew Leonard

We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Matthew Leonard.

Son of Life Member Ross Leonard, Matty was an Eastern Districts Junior. After progressing through the grades, Matty spent the best part of 10 years plying his trade in the top grade. When Matty hung up his boots from full-time grade cricket, his support for the club didn't stop there. He was an active "Old Boy", hanging around the grounds and supporting when he could. A few years back he dusted off the kit and played in our Masters side with a number of guys he had played countless games of grade with.

Matty is part of City folklore. The infamous story, which is told every time we play at Townson Oval, of his sensational diving catch on the boundary (back when the fence was the boundary) to beat Merewether in 1st Grade. Parts of the story change each time: was it two-handed, one-handed, did he pick the ball up late, or make up 20 metres capped off with an acrobatic dive. The one part that never changes is the finish. Everyone knows it's Matty that took that catch, and as a result had bark off from pillar to post.

Below is an excerpt from our 2004/04 Annual Report, recounting Matty's catch

1st Grade Captain's Report (Part 2)

Damien Jones:

Despite the lean season to date it was due to Troy's quirky early season philosophies that allowed me to slip into the captaincy of a side that still had the desire to play good, hard, fun cricket. That was never more evident than my first game as captain against Merewether. A match winning knock of 69 by Robbie V supported by a valuable 29 from Hodgo helped us along to reasonable total of 172. Merewether got off to a quick start before good spells of bowling got us back in the game. (Baldy a spell of 1-15 off 9, TA 2 wickets and Hodgo 2-15 off 14) It was a team fielding effort though which eventually won us the game with three run outs and good catches, none better than Matty's diving catch on the concrete bike track. The pressure from our boys was unbelievably intense and it was a great game to be a part of. Hodgo's dismissal of Whitey sparked some pretty good celebrations and celebrations are none better than at Merewether's expense.

Newcastle City & Eastern Districts Cricket Club extends our deepest condolences to the Leonard Family.

VALE Matthew Leonard



Vale
Matthew Leonard

1979 - 2026

New Life Member

Russel Fowler

A nomination was put forward to induct Russel Fowler to be a life member of Newcastle City & Eastern Districts Cricket Club by Greg Hook, a fellow life member.

Gregs nomination below;

"Over the past 20 years, Rusty has been a pillar of our club's success, generously dedicating his time and energy across a range of roles.

In 2006/07, Rus commenced his coaching and managerial roles within our junior club, helping guide and support our youngest cricketers, instilling teamwork and passion from the ground up.

From 2010 to 2016, he held the key Junior Vice President position and led initiatives that strengthened the club's junior development pathway into senior cricket, ensuring a strong future for our club.

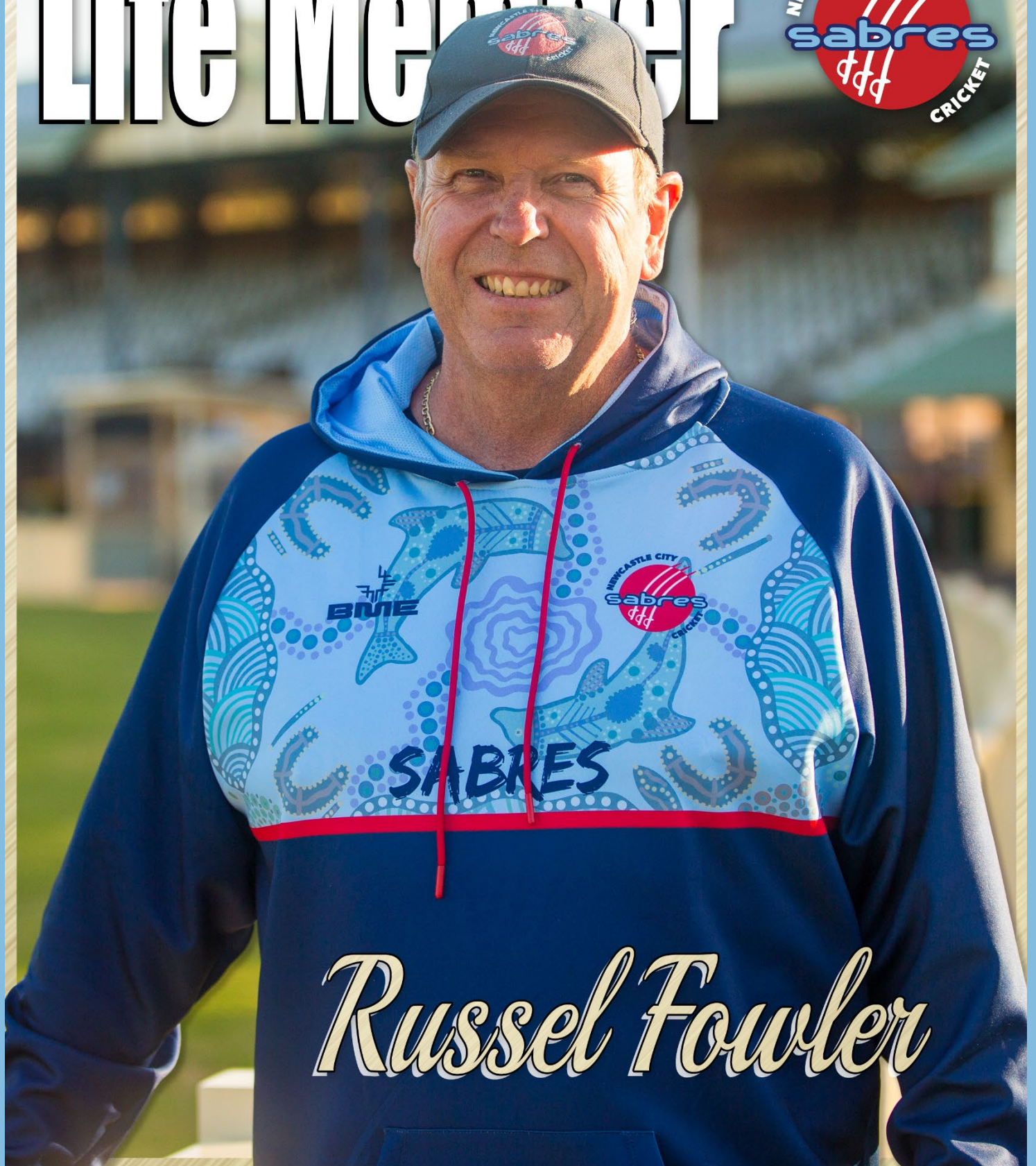
After relinquishing the Junior VP role, Rusty has since served as a General Counsel Committee Member, providing a steady hand in shaping the club's policies, priorities and culture.

In recent years, Russel has relished in the role of our Senior Club's Training Coordinator and 1st Grade Manager. His tireless devotion and commitment are recognised and greatly appreciated by both players and committee alike.

Rusty has not only contributed significantly to the success of our club, but has also strengthened the bonds of friendship, inclusiveness, and tradition that make City the great Club that it is."

Congratulations, Russel.

Life Member



Russel Fowler

Office Bearers 2025-26

President – Stephen Garrett

Senior Vice President – Bryce Garrett

Junior Vice President – Richard Wood

Secretary – Penny O'Shea

Treasurer – Adrian Mannel

Assistant Treasurer – Greg Hook

Women's Cricket Coordinator – Alyssa Wharton

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 – Ben Fitzgerald

Junior Committee Member – Jayne Fryer

Junior Committee Member – Kylie Gallagher

Junior Committee Member – Ainslie Fraser

Junior Committee Member – Dave Crossman

Junior Committee Member – John Porter

Junior Committee Member – Jen Sheehy

President's Report

Steve Garrett

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for Newcastle City and Eastern Districts Cricket Club for Season 2025-26.

This is my 9th annual report as President. Each year our City annual report continues to highlight the dedication of our players, volunteers and supporting families as they seamlessly foster our core values of Growth, Encouragement, Commitment, Sportsmanship, Loyalty and Sustainability!



Oli Carter's move to South Australia this season led to a change of 1st grade captain. Pleasingly, home-grown City junior Cal Fowler earned the appointment. Cal brings all of City's core values to the role and I look forward to him growing into and owning the role for many seasons.

As usual, 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.

The arduous task of compiling the document has once again been championed by our hard-working club Secretary Penny O'Shea. Penny has been ably assisted by Senior Vice President Bryce Garrett in compiling the content and images of yet another piece of history for City.

Following a strong Committee lead drive, this season saw the largest Sponsor Partner support in the Club's history. Whilst many of our sponsors have ties to the Club, many of them don't, they do it out of community spirit. I'd like to thank all our long-term sponsors for their commitment to continued support and welcome those that are new to the City family.

Key to the success of any Club is camaraderie. Camaraderie, by definition, refers to a strong feeling of trust, friendliness and loyalty among people who spend a lot of time together. Our new social home at The Del has certainly allowed us to build on this core value. Post training dinners, game day drinks or simple social gatherings were well supported. As were the sports lunch with Mike Whitney and junior and senior presentation nights. Friday night raffles not only introduced the City name to the The Del locals, they bought players, teams and families together to enjoy an evening out whilst supporting City's fund-raising efforts.

Thanks to the efforts of the financial team, led by Treasurer Adrian Mannel, our club is in a sound financial position. But we cannot, and will not, rest on our laurels. As with everything in society, our costs rise day by day and we must continue to work to build a sound capital base, whilst keeping registration fees affordable, to ensure City's sustainability.

But we cannot ignore the needs of today. Under the guidance of committee member Frankie Walsh, we continue to identify grant opportunities for operational and capital projects. As we move towards next season, members will see significant investment in a number of projects, including a complete redevelopment of the Myambalah training nets and installation of a roller and associated curation equipment at No5. Other projects under consideration include refurbishment of both the Empire Park and No1 training nets.

Of course, none of this is possible without a strong and committed Committee. 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. Thank you all for your support, selfless commitment and unwavering loyalty.

Over the years we have benefited from a relatively stable Committee, particularly in the Executive roles. Whilst many envy this strength, change is also important. Following discussions with existing members and interested parties I anticipate several changes at our AGM. This is exciting and a very positive position for the Clubs future.

Sustainability is one of our core values and I would like to highlight a couple of examples of it in action across the Club;

- Committee member Russel Fowler oversees a dedicated Training Sub-Committee. A sometimes thankless task, this season saw record numbers at training. Although the "post-Christmas Blues" remains an unsolved mystery!
- Junior Vice President, Richard Wood, and the Junior Sub-committee oversee our critically important junior cricket program. Junior member registrations represent 65% of registered players.
- Paul King champions our Development League program, nurturing our youth on their path to grade cricket. This program doubled in size this season. In his report Paul proudly notes that every senior team this season featured a player who started their senior career in our Development League. Paul's team also managed to collect the silverware with a premiership win!
- Committee member and Women's cricket coordinator, Alyssa Wharton, continues to develop our successful women's program. Whilst female registrations now represent 20% of all member registrations, I can only see this number growing!

Finally, as I write this report, the Club, and our Old Boys, are mourning the loss of Matthew (Matty) Leonard. Son of Life Member Ross Leonard, Matty was an Eastern Districts junior who rose through the grades to become a talented and much-loved member of City 1st grade. On behalf of your “City Family” Ross, I extend our deepest condolences to you and the Leonard Family. RIP Matty.

#C4TK

Steve Garrett - President



Steve presenting Max Gallagher his Ross Leonard Award – Junior Club Volunteer of the Year at this year’s Junior Presentation Night

Treasurer's Report

Adrian Mannel

It was a positive year on the field for the club with some great performances and achievements. From a financial perspective the cost of cricket continues to increase but with continued budgeting and controls we keep these as low as we can manage.



Income for the year was up with increased sponsorship along with the luncheon and raffles being a major contributor to that improvement. The expenses also increased with the costs associated to the above fundraising and clothing refresh being a majority of that increase. Overall, the club made a decent profit for the year which is a great result after a few tougher seasons. The club is sitting in a good position with some major grant movement to be seen in the coming months.

The year saw the club hold a luncheon (after many years without one) which proved to be a fantastic day, and some really good funds were raised. The weekly meat raffle at The Del was also a great fundraiser for the club and a big thanks to Ollie & Libby for their efforts with that.

I would like to say a massive thanks to all the sponsors/partners who year after year ensure the club can continue to support our members. Without these the club certainly couldn't function anywhere near as well as it does, and we greatly appreciate the loyalty and support of every one of them. As with every year a special 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 important part of the club. It continues to be a great pleasure to be involved in the club committee and the work they do to ensure this club continues to operate well.

Hoping to see an even bigger and better year next season!!!

City for the Kitty!

Adrian Mannel - Treasurer

Balance Sheet

Newcastle City & Eastern Districts Cricket Club

As at 31 May 2026

	31 MAY 2026	31 MAY 2025
Assets		
Bank		
Juniors GBS	19,796	14,236
Seniors GBS	101,222	33,558
Term Deposit	22,000	22,000
Term Deposit 2	38,079	98,079
Total Bank	181,097	167,873
Current Assets		
Debtors	6,500	-
GST	767	1,378
Total Current Assets	7,267	1,378
Fixed Assets		
Plant & Equipment	29,513	22,786
Total Fixed Assets	29,513	22,786
Total Assets	217,877	192,037
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	1,704	-
Grant Money Held	125,079	125,079
Total Current Liabilities	126,783	125,079
Total Liabilities	126,783	125,079
Net Assets	91,094	66,958
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	24,136	(2,488)
Retained Earnings	66,958	69,446
Total Equity	91,094	66,958

Profit and Loss

Newcastle City & Eastern Districts Cricket Club For the year ended 31 May 2026

	2026	2025
Trading Income		
Clothing income	13,729	11,169
Curation income	400	236
Food & Drinks Sales	2,105	3,688
Grants	9,068	10,350
Ground Fees	-	91
Interest Income	4,706	3,882
Luncheon Income	23,810	-
Other Fundraising Income	-	1,194
Other Revenue	2,445	3,300
Presentation night income	3,455	2,195
Raffle income	15,741	1,359
Registration Fees	28,662	43,542
Sponsorship Income	58,082	28,160
Toyota raffle	707	1,131
Total Trading Income	162,908	110,298
Gross Profit	162,908	110,298
Operating Expenses		
Advertising	3,000	-
Bank Fees	-	117
Clothing Expense	26,017	19,483
Coaching	6,400	9,963
Council fees	10,001	10,622
Cricket Balls	13,798	10,862
Curating Expense	14,939	18,842
Equipment	7,110	5,751
Food & Drinks	1,192	1,389
General Expenses	3,625	3,262
Insurance	1,768	1,582
Licence Fees	179	342
Luncheon Expenses	16,523	-
Meat purchases	3,253	-
Ndca Expenses	2,523	2,523
Player Expenses	6,050	2,150
Presentation Night	4,738	2,966
Registration fees exp	-	100
Repairs and Maintenance	18	4,813
Trophies & awards	7,013	6,741
	2026	2025
Umpire fees	10,625	11,278
Total Operating Expenses	138,772	112,786
Net Profit	24,136	(2,488)

Senior Representative Honours

Women

- Kirsten Smith
- Kate McTaggart
- Felicity Wharton
- Alice Puxty
- Reagan Merrick
- Christine Fernance
- Bronte Morgan
- Lily Railz
- Anita Handono
- Chelsea Dowdell



Men

- Bradley O'Dell
- Callan Fowler
- Jonah Roser
- Kyle Faber
- Flynn Taylor
- Hayden Checker
- Harry Campbell
- Krishang Gulati
- Francis Walsh



Volunteer Honours

Alyssa Wharton – City of Newcastle Young Citizen of the Year

Yusuf Badat – NDCA Beyond Bank Volunteer of the Month



Special Mentions

Ollie Jarvis & Libby Tutin – Friday Raffles at the Del



Grant Power & Neil Motbey - Photography



Juniors' Report

The junior section of Newcastle City Cricket Club continued to perform well in 2025-26, with a strong group of juniors coming through. Numbers were slightly down on previous years, with the club suffering from a dearth of players in the Under 12 and Under 14 age groups. However, pleasingly we are well represented with strong teams across a broad range of abilities in the Under 13, Under 11 and Under 10s. There were some amazing performances both at team and personal level over the course of the year as described below. The success of our junior cricketers is a reflection of the ongoing contributions of players, families, coaches and volunteers, and we would like to thank everyone who contributed across the season.



Participation

- **Total players:** 141 registrations across 16 teams
- **Competitions:** Saturday junior cricket — 15 teams, from Summer Smash and Early Stage 1 through to Youth League
- Friday Night Premier League — 1 team

Female participation

- 18 girls registered across two dedicated girls' teams.
- Stage 1 Girls (U11) — 1 team
- Stage 2 Girls (U13) — 1 team



Developing the girls' pathway remains a priority for the club, and the continued strength of both dedicated teams — together with strong representative selections this season — is a pleasing sign of progress. We particularly thank Ben Fitzgerald as the Girl's Cricket Co-ordinator for his contribution to this area. Ben ran a great *Come and Try Day* with ex City players at the start of the year.

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 & entry-level cricket

Our entry-level program had another strong year, with three Summer Smash sides — Sabres Red, Blue and Yellow playing in the post-Christmas period. Summer Smash and Cricket Blast remain the key entry points into junior cricket at City, and the growth in numbers at this level is the foundation of the club's future. Thanks, in particular to Alyssa Wharton for her continued leadership in this area - both running the programs and fostering development.

Acknowledgements

The efforts of our team coaches and managers are the basis of the club's success. We are very grateful to everyone who gave their time this season.

Junior team coaches and managers — 2025–26

Team	Coach	Manager
Early Stage U9 Sabres	Ryan Christie-Johnston	Michael Potter
Sabres U10 Blue	David Crossman	Alan Ross
Sabres U10 Red	Bart Mackenzie	Thomas Crooks
Sabres U10 Yellow	Sam Cruikshank	Natalie Lawrence & Laura Ford

Team	Coach	Manager
Sabres U11 Div 2 Blue	Joel Sturgeon	Ebony Pertot
Sabres U11 Div 3 Yellow	James Pryde	Jodie Bruce
Stage 1 Girls U11	Stuart Harris	Kathryn Allen
Sabres Blue U13 Div 1	John Porter	Ainslie Fraser
Sabres Yellow U13 Div 2	Paul Gauci	Tobin Finnane
Sabres Red U13 Div 3	Stephen Allard	Jayne Fryer
Stage 2 Girls U13	Ben Fitzgerald	Stacey Noonan
Sabres Blue Saturday Youth League Div 4	Max Shirley & Tim Mouton	Emily Mouton
Sabres Red Friday Premier League Div 1	Paul Langworthy	—



The Junior Committee has again been central to all the organisation behind the scenes. We sincerely acknowledge the contributions of:

Yusuf Badat, Dave Crossman, Ben Fitzgerald, Ainslie Fraser, Jayne Fryer, Kylie Gallagher, John Porter, Andrew McTaggart, Penny O'Shea, Jen Sheehy and Richard Wood.

It does take a committee of people to get the kids on the field. We need a couple of new faces to join over the coming season, so if you have a child in the juniors and are reading this, please reach out!

Results

Team results

It was a successful season on the field, with strong finals campaigns across the age groups.

- **Sabres Blue U13 Div 1 — Minor & Major Premiers**
- **Sabres Red Friday Premier League Div 1 — Major Premiers**

Other finals results:

- **Sabres U10 Blue — Minor Premiers & Grand Finalists**
- **Sabres U10 Yellow — Grand Finalists**
- **Sabres U10 Red — Semi-finalists**
- **Sabres U11 Div 3 Yellow — Semi-finalists**

Season milestones

Several outstanding individual performances stood out, including two hat-tricks — to Jackson Mackenzie (U10 Red) and Alfie Pryde (U11 Div 3 Yellow) — and three scores of 75 or more: Max Drabble (156*, U13 Div 1), Isaac Moran (115, Friday Premier League Div 1) and Max Gallagher (90, Saturday Youth League Div 4).

Newcastle Junior Cricket Association awards were earned by Tobias Thornton (Batter, 360 runs) and Alexander Crossman (Bowler, 24 wickets; Fielder, 15 dismissals) of Sabres U10 Blue, and by Max Drabble (Batter, 551 runs) of Sabres Blue U13 Div 1.

Team awards

Each team recognised its leading batter and bowler, together with a Coach's Award for contribution and spirit.

Team	Batting	Bowling	Coach's Award
Early Stage U9 Sabres	Leo Christie-Johnston – 117 runs	James Potter – 14 wkts @ 5.1	Alexander Burnton-Thom
Sabres U10 Blue	Tobias Thornton – 360 runs	Alexander Crossman – 24 wkts @ 8.5	Edward Donnelly
Sabres U10 Red	Sonny Hamilton – 189 runs	Teddy Crooks – 19 wkts @ 9.8	Lachlan Ashworth
Sabres U10 Yellow	Toby Woods – 157 runs	Ethan Lawrence – 20 wkts @ 7.2	Oliver Thornton
Sabres U11 Div 2 Blue	Kingston Brown – 183 runs	Otto Sturgeon – 10 wkts @ 12.1	Marcus Russell
Sabres U11 Div 3 Yellow	Finnegan Phillips – 202 runs	James Frost – 12 wkts @ 10.8	Oscar Henry
Stage 1 Girls U11	Julie-Anne Bilminga – 112 runs	Beatrice Fitzgerald – 8 wkts @ 20.6	Olive Stafford
Sabres Blue U13 Div 1	Max Drabble – 551 runs @ 137.8	Dominic Wood – 13 wkts @ 7.2	Aiden Murri
Sabres Yellow U13 Div 2	Oliver Lawrence – 208 runs @ 17.3	Xavier Campey – 10 wkts @ 15.9	Thomas Boyle
Sabres Red U13 Div 3	Cameron Royal – 120 runs @ 12.0	Tobias Allard – 9 wkts @ 13.0	Thomas Adie
Stage 2 Girls U13	Stella Porter – 193 runs @ 38.6	Harriet Morton – 15 wkts @ 10.4	Camille Hertogs
Sabres Blue Sat Youth League Div 4	Max Gallagher – 386 runs @ 42.9	Max Gallagher – 9 wkts @ 14.8	Lucas Ponte

Team	Batting	Bowling	Coach's Award
Sabres Red Friday Prem League Div 1	Isaac Moran – 228 runs @ 76.0	Callum van Huisstede – 12 wkts @ 8.8	Caleb Humphrey



Representative Honours

Eleven Newcastle City juniors represented the club in higher honours during 2025–26, across the Newcastle, Polding, Greater Hunter and Country pathways.

Stage 2 Girls U13

- Harriet Morton — Newcastle U13 Dive Shield, Newcastle U13 Girls Greater Hunter Area, Newcastle U15 Country Girls
- Eva Crossman — Newcastle U13 Dive Shield, Newcastle U15 Country Girls

Sabres Blue U13 Div 1

- Tom Porter — Newcastle Blasters & Polding (PSSA)
- Hamish Mitchell — Newcastle Blasters & Polding (PSSA)
- Max Drabble — Lake Mac Attack & Polding (PSSA)
- Dominic Wood — Newcastle Blasters
- Elijah Hudson — Lake Mac Attack

Youth League

- Max Gallagher — Lake Mac Attack (Saturday Div 4)
- Harry Scott — Newcastle Blasters (Friday Div 1)
- Callum van Huisstede — Newcastle Blasters (Friday Div 1)
- Sulaiman Moin Muhammad — Newcastle Blasters (Friday Div 1)

Club Awards — Perpetual Awards

Our perpetual awards are the highest individual honours in junior cricket at the club. The Batting and Bowling awards are decided on season statistics, while the stage cricketer of the year awards is voted on by the committee, weighing contributions across batting, bowling and fielding, with a conscious effort to recognise excellence across the whole club.

Award	Recipient	Notes
Club Batting Award	Max Drabble (Sabres Blue U13 Div 1)	551 runs, ave 137.8, HS 156*
Club Bowling Award	Harriet Morton (Stage 2 Girls U13)	15 wkts, ave 10.4, BB 3/13
Club Wicketkeeper of the Year	Alexander Crossman	2 stumpings, 8 catches, 8 run-outs
Club Fielding Award	William Sidie	8 catches, 8 run-outs, 2 stumpings
Yusuf Badat Award – Stage 1 Junior Cricketer of the Year	William Sidie	319 runs, 17 wkts @ 8.1, 18 in the field
Tommy Anderson Award – Stage 2 Young Cricketer of the Year	Tom Porter (Sabres Blue U13 Div 1)	334 runs @ 41.8, 7 wkts @ 17.1, 8 in the field

Award	Recipient	Notes
Bruce O’Sullivan Award – Stage 3 Cricketer of the Year	Max Gallagher (Sat Youth League Div 4)	386 runs @ 42.9, 9 wkts @ 14.8, 10 in the field
City Sabres Spirit of Cricket Team Award	Sabres Blue U13 Div 1	—
Ross Leonard Award – Junior Club Volunteer of the Year	Max Gallagher	Donated by the family of Timothy Collins

Looking Ahead

The Myamblah nets will undergo the long-planned renovation into a new 3-net facility at the start of the 2026-7 season. Likewise, Empire Park nets are planned for a synthetic upgrade. Top level coaching remains a priority, and we will seek to include further external help for our coaches. We do encourage all interested parties to get involved in the club as that what makes it a healthy environment. A number of junior committee members will be moving on in the coming year, and we will require new contributors.

On behalf of the Junior Committee, congratulations to every player on a terrific 2025–26 season. Thank you to our coaches, managers, scorers, committee, sponsors and families - and we look forward to seeing everyone back on the field next summer.

Richard Wood – Junior Vice President



First Grade

Callan Fowler

This season was poised to be an exciting one. We secured the signing of Kyle Faber from Waratah which proved to be massive for us on and off the field. Kyle gives us experience, leadership and is a top player. Archie Lenham also joined us as one of our overseas poms and proved to be quite handy taking out most awards at presentation night. It was also fantastic to welcome back our beloved Ollie Jarvis for his second stint.



Archie and I entered the fold in Rd 4 after our English seasons finished. I was immensely proud and grateful of the way the boys played the first 3 games. A massive thank you to club legend Mitch Nesbitt. Nesbitt captained the side to victory in 2 out of 3 games against some quality teams. We were unfortunate to have a washout in Rd 4 and won our final 50-over game against Cardiff Rd 5. We very narrowly missed playing the 1-day final but nevertheless had momentum.

Our 2-day campaign began with an imposing win over Hamwicks. Archie scored 58 and took 6 poles as we posted 244 and rolled the Pumas for 77. Next, we had a clinical win over University. This came via a successful run chase of 258 with Jay Garrett coming into the side and scoring a classy 55. Then was my favourite match of the season, last game before Christmas against Belmont. We batted for 84 overs and set a colossal 334 with runs stacked in the middle order. Our fielding effort the next week was immense. Belmont had County Batsman Fletcha Middleton lighting up No.1 eventually scoring 140. We toiled hard with the ball as Archie and I took 4 each and we eventually dismissed Belmont 13 runs short for 321.

We were sitting in 1st place at the Christmas break. It was pleasing to be in this position, but we knew we had a very tough run home. This side has struggled with 'post-Christmas blues' in the past and unfortunately it happened again. January started with a tight loss to reigning premiers Wallsend, followed by an outright loss to Merewether. We then fell agonisingly short of chasing 358 against Waratah. Kyle Faber scored a genuinely brilliant 128 in this match supported by Lenham and Nesbitt. We ultimately fell 14 runs short with 344, credit to debutant Rowan Evans and Jonah Rheinberger for a defiant last wicket effort which almost saw us home.

We capped off the season against Charlestown needing either a win and other results to go our way, or an outright victory to make Semi's. We delivered a strong first-innings performance scoring 238 and reducing the Magpies to 160. Luke Muddle took an

outstanding 5/37 off 24. Securing an outright was always going to be difficult but we had to try. It didn't quite work out in the end as we narrowly missed the Top 4.

Overall, it was a disappointing second half of the season and one that escaped our grasp. There is nobody else to blame but ourselves. We know where we need to improve and we will do so. Our sights are firmly set on winning this First Grade competition.

We are extremely lucky to be supported by some seriously incredible volunteers. Massive thanks to Andy Cahill who scores for us week in, week out and we just love having him around. Also, Jenni Whitehead who coordinates our afternoon tea and canteen, cheers Jen. We are often lucky to have Mitch King with us on game day helping with warmups and wherever he can at training, thanks Kingy. Lastly, our Head Coach for the past 5+ years and newly appointed life-member Rusty Fowler. Nobody has put in more time for this club during this period. He is a pillar of our club's success and a great mate to everyone at Newcastle City.

I can't wait for next season and big things are coming.

Cal Fowler - Captain





Second Grade

Bryce Garrett

Another season in the record books. I will start by saying its been a pleasure to lead the 2s around again. Quick thanks to Moons who stepped in as captain when I wasn't available. Now, onto the season just gone. In what seems to be a reoccurring theme, it was year of new and old faces. 25 players took the field for 2s this year. We welcomed several new players to the club and to our squad, Kirsh & Gav Gulati, Zac Moran, Suli Muhammad, Aman Arya & Waheed Iqbal. We had Mason and Maxy come up from 3s to play the majority of the season, and of course, there were the stalwarts.



Despite the squad changes, our team was still well balanced, and going into the start of the season, ambitions were high.

It was a year of plenty of highs, and some pretty average lows. But that's cricket isn't it. We played some seriously unreal cricket, knocking over some of the competition heavy hitters, but a few lapses ultimately cost us finals cricket.

Thanks again to all players listed below;

Aman Arya – Aman joined us this season, and was an instant fan favorite. While he only got the 1 game in 2s this season, he went on to take out the bowling award for both 3s and the club overall. Safe to say Aman will be making plenty of impact up the grades next season.

Anthonie Clement – Ant had a bit of a disjointed year with other commitments outside of cricket. However, when he was on the park, he still chipped in as he does with runs and wickets.

Izaak Coyle – Coyley in his second year with us had a great season. He made his 1s debut, and in the last few rounds of the season was unplayable. His control with the ball in the back half of the year saw him finish the season with an economy of 2.8. Along with this, he also took out the 2s bowling award on average. He may never play again though and he broke the skip's finger in the 2nd last over of the season. Yet to be determined.

Rowan Evans – Fresh off a winter in the UK, Row returned to us with a point to prove. Along with Cooley, Rowan was also rewarded with his First Grade Baggy. Row had another impressive year on the park. Taking plenty of wickets, however it was Batting that proved to be the most improved. He scored plenty of important runs, and a spot higher up the order is certainly on the horizon. Rowan was named the Captain's Player of the Year. Perhaps a year of baseball this year might help with his throwing accuracy 😊

Harrison Fleming – Flem got a taste of 2s this year, and showed he was more than up to the task. Haz will have plenty of 2s games under his belt in the coming years.

Archer Freeman – Another one who got a small taste of 2s this season, Archer didn't shy away from the task. Unfortunately, illness cut his debut short, but he was one of our better bowlers in his 2nd game. After back to back strong seasons in 3s, Archer is putting up numbers that will force his way into the 2s bowling line up.

Jay Garrett – Another top shelf season for the little brother. A clear winner for our batting award, Jay also was able to perform in 1s when required. A more controlled approach to his batting this season saw him reap plenty of rewards, including a fine Century that nearly got us home in a mammoth chase against inner city rivals Merewether. A little older and little wiser next season, and I am sure Jay will extend his position as one of the premier batters in the 2nd grade comp, if not higher.

Garvish Gulati – We had the pleasure of Gav and his brother Krish (he is up next) join us this season. Unfortunately for Gav, his season was interrupted by injury, just after he had put his best performance on the park. Raw pace and plenty of skills, I fear I won't get to have Gav in my team for much longer. But there is always a silver lining, his on field and group chat talk is horrendous (😅).

Krishang Gulati – Joining with his Brother this season, Krish was one of the first names on the team sheet from the set off (because it meant I didn't have to keep). When I asked Kirsh where he wanted to bat this season, he instantly said up the top. So we threw him straight into the deep end and he opened the season with a 140 run partnership with Jay. Krish was rewarded with a 1st grade cap, on the back of his consistency in games and at training. Like his brother, full of talent and unlikely to spend much more time in 2s.

Waheed Iqbal – Waheed joined us a few games. New to the club this year, Waheed was great to have around the club, playing multiple grades. Looking forward to another year of Wahz

Mason Knodler – After some hard work over the off-season, Mase cemented his spot in 2s after making a sprinkling of appearances last season. Owning his spot in the middle order this season, Mason showed moments of grit and determination. Expecting big things from Mase next season.

Max Langworthy – Much like Mase, Max played the majority of this season in 2s after getting a taste last season. Jumping around the order a bit, Max was reliable wherever he was asked to contribute. Electric in the field, handy with bat and ball, Maxy will have plenty to offer next season.

Adrian Mannel – We managed to steal Manuel for 1 game, where he carried his form from 3s providing a handy 42 runs.

Wilson McTaggart – The world traveler. Wilso managed to squeeze in 3 games before his travels (and troublesome shoulders) called him away. Always a pleasure to share the field with Wils.

Michael Mooney – Big Daddy Spin. Moons was again an asset. Another older head in the team, his work with the youngens is unmatched. If he can stop chopping on or ramping it to short 3rd, Moondog will score heaps next season. Big love to big daddy.

Zac Moran - The Cowabunga Kid, HOW GOOD! Zacco joined us this season after several years away from cricket. Zac immediately became everyone's favourite, not just in 2s but around the club. On the field, Zacco contributes in all 3 facets of the game. With a full year under his belt, next season shapes up to be a big one.

Neil Motbey – A few games in 2s this season for Mots but as he does wherever he plays, he contributed. Rumour has it though he only got picked in 2s so the skip could get a lift to the games to over indulge in the post game refreshments.

Sulaiman Muhammad – A season hampered by injury for Suli. After getting a taste in 2s, he looked right at home. A fully fit Suli should see plenty of gametime next season.

Noah Parkinson – Just a couple of games for Nos this year. One stand out though, compiling a massive 10th wicket partnership, where he scored 44. Robbed of a half century by getting caught 1m short of the rope at No. 1

Rohan Power – Unfortunately due to Uni, we only had Roh for a handful of games this season. When he did play, he was Mr. Reliable as usual. Some important stoic performances with the bat and tidy overs with the ball. Rohs study will likely see him not play with us next season after a move to Sydney, but we hope to see him around the club when possible.

Lachlan Rail – Fortunate to get Railzy for a few games after injury recovery. As usual, Lach provided with the bat when playing with us.

Alistair Smith – Al snuck in his customary 2s game for the year. Always a pleasure to share the field with Top Gun

Kirsten Smith – Kirbo answered a call to play as she has more than willingly done in the past. Bringing energy on the field as always, Kirbs is always a pleasure to play with.

Jake White – Jakey got a call up to 2s this year and showed he is capable. A tidy performance with the gloves, I won't be long before Jakey is knocking on the 2s door for a permanent position.

Special Mentions –

To **Dave Smith**, from all of the 2s squad. Your time at our games does not go unrecognised. Scoring and offering help and support when you could during the season. It was great to have you back around YOUR team.

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, Mitch King, Rob Parkinson** and **Dave** again. Training runs on your backs, we all appreciate the time and effort that goes into organising this circus each week.

Our 2s squad, as it has done in the past always has a mix of old and new blood. I hope we continue to act as a great developer and feeder for our first grade.

Bryce Garrett

Second Grade Captain





Third Grade

Adrian Mannel

It was certainly a fantastic season for the Thirds side who were able to make finals for the first time in ten years although a slightly disappointing end with a close loss to Uni in the Grand Final.

The side was a great mix of youth and experience with all players contributing throughout the campaign. The young brigade of Jake, Archer, Harrison, Noah and Archer did superbly and look destined to make their mark in the higher grades soon.



We finished the regular season in third spot hot on the heels of the top two. The season started with a pair of wins, losses and washouts in the first six rounds before the side ramped things up with five wins on the trot, including an outright. A tight loss to Waratah was followed by two important wins to secure our finals spot.

The semi-final saw us roll Merewether for 99 on day one mainly thanks to Aman's 7 wickets before a mid-order collapse saw us at 8/43 then 9/58. A superb last wicket partnership between Archer and Noah got us home in what was a remarkable end to the game.

The grand final saw us pick up a few wickets early before Uni had a few lengthy partnerships but we held them to 166 with no bowler going for more than 3 an over. Despite plenty of starts by our batters every time we looked like we may be getting on top we lost a wicket and ended up 16 runs short.

A few of the main highlights of the season for me were:

- Aman's 12 wickets in our outright win against Belmont
- chasing down 250 in 48 overs against Stockton
- The semi-final last wicket partnership by Archer and Noah
- Kingy's 6 wickets and Rail's 88 against Uni
- Wardy's 'patient' half century against Wests
- Isaac's spell with 3 wickets against Waratah that nearly saw us grab the win
- Aman picking up the overall bowling award for Third Grade in the final round

A big thanks to all those players who dropped down from 2's and came up from 4's to help the team during the year as well as all those who helped with covers. The help from senior players such as Freemo, Kingy, Al and Wardy in running the team when I wasn't there at times was greatly appreciated.

Rob Parkinson in particular was huge for the side this year with setting up the warmups, hitting balls, scoring, tactics/chats and assisting where he was needed - couldn't have done what we did during the year without you!!!

Looking forward to trying to go even better next season.

Adrian Mannel - Captain

City for the Kitty!!!





Fourth Grade

Bradley O'Dell & Troy Arnold

Brad:

To summarise the season, I would have to call it inconsistent but with great promise. At the halfway mark (Christmas), we were sitting fourth on the ladder, I think all grades were in the Top 4.

Before Christmas we had four wins and three losses and then after Christmas we had two wins and four losses. We normally played with over half a team of very good young players who will have benefited from their time in Fourth Grade and undoubtedly will come back bigger, better and hungrier next season. City is a great club for nurturing young players.



If you look at who played in Fourth Grade this season, we had 14 players under 20 years of age take to the field at different times. Congratulation to Richard Wood (semis) and Paul King (final winners) for the great work they are doing in Development League and the quality of players coming through which will see City go from strength to strength. Our lower grades are young and developing. I think Fourth Grade (and Third Grade) will look a little different next season and this is exciting. We have great things to look forward to. Thanks to everyone that played in Fourth Grade this year. I loved every minute of it.

Thanks to Troy Arnold who probably captained half the games we played and will tell you that he had a better win/loss ration than me! Thanks to Greg Hook and the selectors for the wonderful work you do.

Thanks to Rusty, Kingy, Parko and Dave for your excellent training efforts. Thanks to our committee for all the great work you do.

See you all next season.

Brad O'Dell

Troy:

While it is a statistical fact that, as Captain, I did win more games than Brad, there are many things that make up a successful team. This year we had a nice blend of experience and youth. I agree with Brad that the young players we had in the team regularly and those who visiting from the juggernaut that is development League look like they know what they are doing and can make that happen. Next year should be super exciting.



Thanks to all the City committee, parents and friends who came to the games to support and help. The younger teammates were not only clever on the field this year but were always pitching in with some of the responsibilities bestowed on us because we play cricket.

Hope to see many of them back, albeit briefly I expect. The past season was a tricky one and there are always excuses but the draw, washouts and wickets at times didn't help. I'm sure we are destined for great things this year and semifinal and GF bound, (hopefully against dirty Waratah). Congrats to Brad with representing his country in old farts cricket.

Troy Arnold





Development League (Sky)

Richard Wood

A week before the competition was due to start, the club committee looked at

numbers across Fourth Grade and Development League and it became clear that we'd

either have one very full development league squad, or the possibility to form two

development league teams for the first time in the club. Thanks to Greg Hook and

the NDCA for some last-minute re-organisation, and Dev League Sky was quickly formed, registered and took the field for its first game out at Wallsend. Featuring three Whartons, two Woods and two O'Dells for the first game, the team came away with its first win with a dominant batting and bowling display by young and old alike. For the core of the season, we had a solid playing group of reliable players: Luca Alderson, Stephen Dowdell, Chelsea Dowdell, Hamish O'Dell, Callum Sheehy, Chris Wharton, Anton Wood, Richard Wood as well as Rocco Roseworne and Harry Boswell for the first half of the season, and Quinn and Andrew Freeman for the second half. Eli Hudson, Dominic Wood made regular appearances, and Ayden Tracey, Felicity Wharton, Tom Porter, James O'Shea also filled in for at least a couple of games.

It was a season of introduction to senior cricket for most of the players, and I believe a great time was had. With about 9 right arm fast/medium pacers in our team, what we lacked with variety we made up for with consistency, and it was this part of our game which was our strength. Our batting, well, we might need to work a bit more on - there were a range of (a bit too) isolated performances by a lot of players over the year – so it does show what we all can do!

The results were a bit of a roller coaster. We had some hard-fought wins and losses,



including a narrow last over loss to the other City Dev League team (eventual premiers) in the rounds. We were outside chances at making the semis, and after a loss to one of the weaker teams, we came back with a tie in our second last game, and victory in our last game against fifth placed Wests to secure us a spot in the semi-final. Unfortunately, this meant we had to play the other City Dev League team in the semi, and we graciously ensured that we didn't tire them out too much for the grand final.... Hoping we get all the players back for next year, and see lots more positive cricket and development!

Richard Wood – Captain



Development League (Navy)

Paul King

In season 2025-26 we finally broke a run of near misses to win a premiership for our great club.

Newcastle City has successfully fielded at least one team in the Development League competition since its inception five years ago. We have been semi-finalists four times, minor premiers three times and narrowly lost one grand final. It was time to win the last game of the season.



Last season we didn't make the final four, but we built a team with the most all-round potential and upside fielded by the club in this grade. We laid a solid foundation for future success by giving opportunities and experience to an emerging group of talented players. This work has been rewarded with a minor and major premiership and, more importantly, the development of players with the potential to bring even more success to the club in the seasons ahead.

Our Development League team sets itself three goals every season. They are:

- Be competitive enough to make the top four.
- Play attractive cricket that does justice to the club; and
- Develop cricketers that will be assets to the club in future seasons.

In season 2025-26 we achieved all three goals and delivered a much-awaited premiership trophy.

City's support and nurturing of the Development League team is already paying off. This season, every grade included a player who started in our Development League team.

It is worth noting that this season's success came despite not having a home ground for the regular season. Our home ground, Number 5 Sportsground, was unavailable after round one, and we were forced into being nomads each week. Establishing a decent quality turf wicket for our home games should be an important priority for next season.

On the field, our batting was led by a combination of experienced veterans and exciting young guns.

Of the young brigade, Harry Scott, led the batting aggregate with 300 runs at 37.5. After missing much of last season with injury, Harry was determined to capitalise on every

opportunity. He put his hand up to bat anywhere in the order and frequently opened – including in the pressure of finals. He broke through with his first half-century (66) and was consistent all season. His bowling and fielding were also handy with 11 wickets at 10.18 including a match winning spell in the grand final. His brilliant fielding was demonstrated by a memorable catch in the semifinal.

Mr Consistency, Bevan Flemming had his most important season with the team. While his numbers (145 runs at 36.25) were on par with his previous seasons, his impact on the team was immense. Bevan was a wonderful leader, often taking ownership of the field settings, bowling changes, batting orders, and key tactical decisions. Throughout the season, Bevan played many important innings when a steady hand was needed – including a grand final innings that ensured we set a defendable total. At first slip, Bevan's catching made the difficult catch look easy and turned half-chances into wickets.

Ben Mulley found a home at the top of the order and never looked back. Aggressive and brutal on every bowler he faced, his positive approach eased the pressure off the other batsmen – frequently taking the game away from the opposition before they knew it. Ben also found a home behind the stumps and his wicketkeeping was crucial to our success. He took great catches, run outs and provided insights and input at key moments of the game. Ben's competitive drive and spirit lifted everyone and made as much a contribution as his runs and wickets.

Mitch King only played four games at the start of the season but made a lasting impact on the team. He brought a maturity and competitive intensity to the team at the start of the campaign that the younger players responded to. In his four innings, Mitch scored 212 runs including an innings of 128. It was an impressive cameo performance that set the tone for the season.

Max Drabble joined us mid-season and despite his youth, looked immediately at home in senior cricket. He scored 111 runs in only five innings, but it was how they were scored that impressed. No bowler seemed to trouble him, and his array of shots made containment impossible. Max's temperament under pressure was a marvel for someone new to senior cricket and his fielding (including the catch to win the grand final) first rate.

Dan Henry returned to win a premiership that was richly deserved for such a club stalwart. Every season he flirts with retirement but returns better than ever. Like our other senior players, Dan's contribution went beyond statistics. Of course, his batting was explosive. Ten overs of Dan's batting and the game was ours to win but his contribution went beyond runs and catches. Dan is a leader, a mentor respected by the younger players and provided essential input into every big call we had to make.

It is hard to believe that this was only Callum van Huisstede's second grade season. Cal followed his outstanding debut season with an even better second. 120 runs and 18 wickets is a great season by any measure – and excellent for a player in only his second senior year. Batting the majority the season at first drop as development for future seasons, Cal's statistics were impressive, but it was his composure and assurance that stood out. His love and cricket intelligence suggests we have found a future leader.

We were blessed with a wonderful bowling attack that was the envy of every other club.

Ollie Burns's 12 wickets at 13.67 was a reward for consistency, speed and continually attacking the stumps. He was a handful for every batsman. While his bowling was top notch, Ollie's batting blossomed with 187 runs at 20.78 including a top score of 82 that showed his potential to become a genuine all-rounder. Ollie scored his runs quickly at a strike rate of 89 – often as an opening batsman. His enthusiasm and approach to the game are infectious and he lifts everyone around him.

Our other opening bowler, Hugh Mulley, was genuinely quick and at times unplayable. Hugh beat the bat every other ball. He didn't take more wickets because batsmen were generally not good enough to get bat on ball. More wickets will come against better batsmen. While he didn't take a large number of wickets this season, Hugh's economy rate of 3.06 was exceptional for a fast bowler with the new ball and shows how difficult it was for batsmen to get him away. His fielding is athletic and his batting improving. Hugh is another to watch as he ascends the grades.

Joining our fast-bowling ranks to play seven games was Tom Porter. Tom was a revelation. He is fast, accurate and a wicket taker. Only young, Tom will grow into a genuine threat with the ball. In his first season he took nine wickets at only 14.89. Tom's strike rate of a wicket every 18 balls was the best among our bowlers. Tom had limited opportunities with the bat given our strong batting line up but his short cameo under pressure in the grand final changed the game. Tom brought enthusiasm and energy to the team and will be a key player in the seasons ahead.

Ollie, Hugh and Tom have tremendous upside as fast bowlers and will be key players in the seasons ahead.

Joining the team this season was Ollie Hatherly. As an off spinner, Ollie had the misfortune to play under a captain who bowled too many overs himself. He has a lovely high action, wonderful flight and with 10 wickets at 19.6 in his debut season, Ollie has the makings of a seriously good bowler. As we have seen with our players, it often takes a season in Development to find your feet in senior cricket and Ollie has a set a great foundation for his second year. Spin bowlers can take longer to develop but his opportunities will come.

We managed to secure the services of Nick Wills this season as his work commitments made two-day cricket difficult. A former Development League product himself, Nick returned to take nine wickets at 20.89. He took important wickets, and his fielding was always brilliant whether in the slips or outfield. Key catches in the finals changed the games. Nick has worked hard on his batting, and it is starting to pay dividends so we can expect some more runs when he returns. Most importantly, his attitude and presence were an important part of the team dynamic. Nick is likely to play higher grades again if work and study commitments allow but he is always welcome with the Development squad.

Injury wrecked the season of Nathan Mulley, one of our veterans who took three wickets in his five matches. Hopefully, the off-season will heal the shoulder and allow him to return as he is a great team member and key part of the team when fit.

Although he played two games this season for a variety of reasons (or excuses) Owen Burns contributed beyond runs and wickets. He often substituted as a fieldsman and assisted with umpiring, encouragement, advice, or general banter. Hopefully, we see more of Owen on the field next season as he is a valuable player and a positive influence on the younger players.

Special mention must be made of Steve George. Steve loves cricket but had never had the opportunity to play until this season. What a debut season it was. He is an excellent athlete and competitor and having in the team was a delight. Steve developed into an outstanding fieldsman – taking four catches in one match including an absolute screamer. Opportunities with the bat and ball were limited given the strength of our squad but Steve often saved 20-30 runs in the field. One of Steve's season goals was to make just one run with the bat. In the last game of the regular season, batting with Nick Wills they pinched the tightest of singles off the last ball of the innings to ensure Steve's goal was achieved. The team celebrated as if we had won a grand final and formed a guard of honour for Steve showing how highly he was regarded. It was a season highlight. Hopefully, Steve will return to score more runs and take more catches next season.

Across the season we also had some useful contributions from Harry Boswell, Rocco Roseworne, James O'Shea, Max Gallagher, Cal Sheehy and Mason van Huisstede. It would have been impossible to function as a team without their support. In Mason's case he was snapped up by fourth grade after two games never to be seen again. We were grateful for their contributions.

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 Garret, and the entire committee for their tireless work and commitment. We also acknowledge the

outstanding efforts of our coaching team, Russel Fowler, Mitch King and Rob Parkinson. They ran well organised and purposeful training sessions, and they were always available to offer individual coaching. A credit to the club's coaches was our outstanding fielding. Another captain commented that when they batted against us, they never knew where their next run would come from - such was the standard of our fielding and the pressure it placed on batsmen. It was this ability to squeeze the batsmen and apply constant pressure that won us the grand final despite only defending a modest score.

Thank you should also go to the parents, wives, partners and family members who came along and supported us.

Finally, we thank the other grade captains, particularly Brad O'Dell and Richard Wood, for strengthening the connection between teams.

Brad ensured that every player stepping up to fourth grade was supported and integrated thoughtfully. Richard captained our other Development League team outstandingly. We missed Richard this season, but he showed everyone what a classy cricketer and leader he is by lifting his team to the semi-finals. That we had both teams in the finals was a testimony to the depth of talent we have in the club.

We can be proud of with the achievement of our Development League cricketers. They played consistently high-quality cricket, performed under pressure and when it mattered. This is certainly due in part to ability and talent, but most comes from a formidable team culture forged over the past five seasons. The team is full of positive energy and plays as a collective rather than as individuals - players taking equal satisfaction from the performance of their teammates as their own. We played fierce, competitive cricket in the proper spirit of the game.

Success in sport does not always come to those who deserve but it is good to know that sometimes it does.

The future of Newcastle City looks bright.

Paul King – Captain







NCC T20 Summer Bash

Callan Fowler

T20 cricket is always something that excites us Sabres. We usually manage to field high quality outfits. This season was no different with the return of Dylan Hunter and Oli Carter. Winning this competition made us hungry to go back-to-back.

We were met with a first round reality check losing to Toronto who posted 195 including a ridiculous knock of 138*. We fell 13 short. From then we went on to win our 2 remaining group games including a clinical and entertaining result against Waratah under the lights at No.1. Dyl and Oli hit brutal half-centuries as we posted 183. The Waratahs replied with 105.

Our Quarter- Final match up with Wallsend proved a disappointing one. The Tigers set 145 from their 20 overs at Toronto which was below par, credit to our bowlers. We stumbled



agonisingly short by 3 runs. We didn't turn up with the bat and paid the ultimate price for it.

We are a chance of winning the summer-bash every season we play. We have a high bar, and it is frustrating to fall short. I'm sure we'll be a genuine contender again next time around.

Cal Fowler





Denis Broad Cup

Bryce Garrett

This comp continues to allude us. However, each year I feel we aren't far from lifing the cup again.

Again, this year we had a strong enough side. We played some fantastic cricket during the group stages, however, simply didn't turn up for the finals.

We continuously have different faces around, and rarely do they not perform when called on. That's the one thing that I am truly proud of each year with DB's.

Hopefully this season, we can knock this one off, so I can stop playing cricket on a Sunday.



Bryce Garrett – Captain





Under 21's

Greg Hook (for Flynn Taylor)

The Under 21 competition was played in an abbreviated format with three completed 20/20 games in the preliminary rounds, a semi-final and final. City, led by Flynn Taylor, unfortunately failed to make the semi-finals (based on quotients) having won two of our three games.

Below are some of the highlights from the games played:

Round 1 – City 8-180 defeated Wallsend 98 – Powerful innings from Hayden Checker 50 & skipper Flynn 46 ensure City posted an imposing 180 runs; some tight bowling and great fielding saw City home easily with Rowan Power, Jonah Rheinberger and Gav Gulati each collecting 2 wickets.

Round 2- City 104 lost to Wests 4/106. A middle order collapse meant that a score of 104 was never going to be enough. Hayden Checker again top scored with 27 and Lachlan Rail chipped in with 23.

Round 3 - City 7/105 defeated Cardiff 103. In an exciting game Cardiff batting first and were restricted to 103 with Max Langworthy the star taking 3/3 but was ably supported by Rowan Power 3/16 and Jonah Rheinberger 3/25. City began the chase slowly with

Flynn 22 & Jonah Rheinberger 18 setting the foundation however a middle order collapse saw us 7/85 with 3 overs remaining – enter Max Langworthy 15* (8 balls) & Rowan Evans 10* (4 balls) – City home in a thriller in the 19th over.

The Club appreciated the effort put in by all players with special mention to Flynn Taylor who was an inspirational leader and Rob Parkinson as manager. C4TK

Greg Hook

City for the Kitty,

Greg Hook (for Flynn Taylor – Captain)





Under 16's – S.G. Moore Cup

Andrew Freeman (Coach)

The Under 16 SG Moore Cup campaign brought together an exceptional group of young cricketers for a short burst of T20 action. The team was blessed with 9 top age players, bolstered by a strong group of 5 Under 15 rep players, allowing the opportunity for 14 cricketers to represent the club.

The highlights for me were the energy and enthusiasm brought to training and games, camaraderie on and off field, their willingness to adapt, adoption of different tactics, the positive approach and the confidence on display.

Our first game against Toronto was looking dire, requiring the batting innings to be salvaged by Sulaiman (46) with Max G (14) and Krish (17) contributing. The score of 104 was below par even at Harker. With the ball, we took the wickets needed to

control the game and Rami slayed 5 Kooka's in 3 overs (5 for 7!) to conjure up a flogging. The rest of the wickets were shared, Maxy Melvin picking up 2.

The next game against Wests was tough, as no batter settled into a rhythm, ending our innings with a paltry 65 which was chased down in short order.

That run rate disaster left us with an important game against Charlestown in Week 2 to obtain a decent rank in the quarters. A sunny, windy Lynn Oval hosted a quality City innings as we posted 124, led by a composed 50 from Krish, with 20* from Maxy helping us finish strong. Key top order wickets from import Max Melvin (3/18) allowed us to strangle the Magpies and they swooped harmlessly to a close of 78. The baby maggies lower down the order were cleaned up via a couple of poles each to Isaac and Cal.

A quarter against Hamwicks at Townson provided us with the opportunity to employ a tactical approach. The bowlers took advantage of the breeze and lopsided ground to perfection, with only 3 boundaries posted in the opposition total of 86 as wickets fell constantly. Archer led with 3/20, with Maxy and Issac grabbing a couple each. Our batters continually took advantage of the short boundary, turning the chase into a cruisy 7 wicket win. Krish set us up with 25, then Mason (22) and Ben (25*) brought us home in 12 overs.

On to the semi at No 1 against Wests. We knew the opposition had half a team of excellent dangerous T20 players. Archer knocked over their openers, and a run out left us one wicket away from breaking into their weaker batters when the rain arrived. With 12 overs bowled we were in a great position with 3 Rosellas gone for 64. After time lost, the umpires notified us of the change of innings. This soon morphed into us having to bowl 1 additional over which proved disruptive and costly. Wests score of 76 made our DLS target 86 off 13 overs. We started well with Krish (28) and Ben (18), and stayed close to the required rate the entire innings without ever taking control of the game. We fell 8 runs short and rued what might have been in a clash that the weather disrupted at a key juncture.

Squad: Archer Freeman (c), Ben Wiehahn, Callum van Huisstede, Darcy Brownlie (import), Isaac Moran, Krishang Gulati, Mason van Huisstede, Max Melvin (import), Oliver Burns, Ramithu Withanage, Sulaiman Moin Muhammad, Max Gallagher, Hugh Mulley, Harry Scott.

Andrew Freeman - Coach



Women's Cricket

Neil Motbey – Coach & Div 2 Manager

The women's program continued to develop throughout the season, with regular training sessions providing players from both sides with opportunities to improve their skills and understanding of the game.

Training attendance was generally lower than hoped, with most attendees coming from the Plate side and limited representation from the Cup side. However, the players who attended regularly showed clear improvement across the season. Their commitment to training was reflected in increased confidence, better game awareness and continued development of their individual skills.

The Women's T20 Plate side had a positive and encouraging season, with several players who were new to cricket taking the field and continuing to develop each week. While results did not always go our way, the team showed great commitment, enthusiasm and a strong willingness to learn throughout the season.

The two wins were a great reward for the effort put in by the group, especially with several players still gaining experience. One of the standout performances came against Charlestown White, where the team pushed the eventual premiers to the final ball of the match. That performance reflected the improvement, fight and potential within the group.

Across the season, players grew in confidence, developed their skills and gained a stronger understanding of the game. The progress shown by the team was a credit to their attitude and the way they supported each other. There is plenty to build on moving forward, and the season provides a solid foundation for continued improvement next year.





Women's T20 Cup

Kirsten Smith

The Newcastle City Women's T20 Cup side had another great season. The team built a strong foundation in the 2024/25 season, and it was fantastic to see so many returning players and Plate players given the opportunity to move up. After a few washouts, the team finished the regular fixture with 6 wins (1 by forfeit) & 4 losses.



This meant Wallsend hosted the semi-final at George Farley Oval, and we knew it wouldn't be an easy game. The team scored a convincing 3/158 which put us in a very strong position, and our bowling attack restricted Wallsend to 7/107. Felicity Wharton (65) and Kirsten Smith (44) had a 100-run partnership, and Chelsea Dowdell took 3/15 off 4 overs. After a great team performance, the team were in good spirits heading into the grand final!

We faced Waratah in the grand final - which is always a competitive game. After being sent into bat, we scored 5/108 and knew this would be a hard total to defend, but we were up for the challenge! Chelsea Dowdell bowled a fantastic spell (2/10 off 4 overs) but unfortunately Waratah chased the runs down with 7 balls to spare.

It was a fantastic season, and it is always a pleasure to captain this team. We had so many junior players selected for representative honours throughout the season, which highlights the strength in the club!

Thank you to Newcastle City for your continued support.

Kirsten Smith – Captain

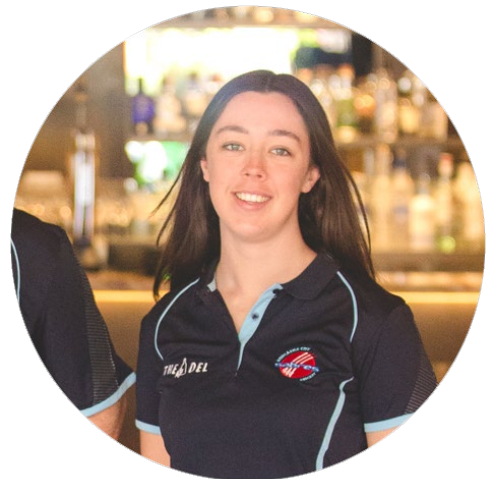




Women's T20 Plate

Alyssa Wharton

Newcastle City Women's Plate team continued to provide an important pathway for both new and developing players, with the squad once again made up of experienced players and newcomers to cricket. While results were challenging at times, the team remained focused on enjoyment, development and improvement throughout the season.



A standout performance came in Round 7, with a dominant 69 run victory over Wests. The team posted an impressive 5/155 from our 20 overs, highlighted by an outstanding maiden half-century (67no) from Chelsea Dowdell, before we restricted Wests to 6/86 through some disciplined bowling and strong fielding efforts.

The side also secured a thrilling victory over Merewether in Round 10, successfully chasing down 66 runs on the second last ball of the match. The win was built on

excellent all-round bowling from the team and a career-high score from Liyana Black, one of the team's emerging young guns.

Kristie McDowell took out the team batting award for her consistent performances throughout the season, while Chelsea Dowdell claimed the team bowling award after quickly establishing herself as a key contributor with the ball and earning a well deserved promotion to the Cup side for the semi-final and grand final. The Captain's Award went to Jodie Gower in recognition of her impressive fielding efforts throughout the season, as well as her continuous team spirit and positive energy both on and off the field.

Overall, the season was a valuable step in the continued development of the Women's Plate program, with players gaining valuable experience and growing in confidence throughout the year.

Alyssa Wharton – Captain







Masters

Mitch King

Another season of Masters done and dusted, my last.

Extremely proud to have captained the side for the last few years. While a final has eluded me, I'm extremely happy with how the side has transitioned under me, from a bunch of genuine old boys to a mix of fathers who have kids playing, fathers who play with us, and some grey cricketers like myself haha.

Would like to thank Hooky for all his help with helping me get a side on the park every week, it's been increasingly harder every year, and I sincerely thank him for his efforts.

Another mid table finish probably didn't reflect on some of the really good cricket we played. I believe the comp if it remains in its 17-team state, needs to be 2 tiers, those



who want to win it, and those who use it for the social aspect. Too much last year of 1-sided games, which ultimately just leads to an unfair competition.

I've absolutely loved every second of being a City master, and I wish the next captain all the best, they'll have a lot of fun.

Mitch King – Captain



Season Awards

Batting

Women's T20 Plate

Kristie McDowell – 112 Runs @12.44

Highest Score of 38

Women's T20 Cup

Kirsten Smith - 327 Runs @ 46.71

Highest Score of 70*

Development League Sky

Richard Wood – 343 Runs @ 57.17

Highest Score of 128*

Development League Navy

Harrison Scott – 260 Runs @ 37.14

Highest Score of 61

4th GRADE

Anik Arya - 205 Runs @ 29.29

Highest Score of 28

3rd GRADE

Adrian Mannel - 307 Runs @ 51.17

Highest Score of 85

2nd GRADE

Jay Garrett - 383 Runs @ 42.56

Highest Score of 117

1st GRADE

Archie Lenham – 461 Runs @ 46.10

Highest Score of 88

Bowling

Women's T20 Plate

Chelsea Dowdell - 10 Wickets @ 10.40

Best Bowling of 3/13

Women's T20 Cup

Jordann Johnson - 9 Wickets @ 19.449

Best Bowling of 2/13

Development League Sky

Anton Wood - 13 Wickets @ 20.15

Best Bowling of 4/18

Development League Navy

Paul King - 21 Wickets @ 9.86

Best Bowling of 5/33

4th GRADE

Ramithu Withanage - 28 Wkts @ 14.68

Best Bowling of 5/27

3rd GRADE

Aman Arya – 33 Wickets @ 9.70

Best Bowling of 7/39

2nd GRADE

Izaac Coyle – 21 Wickets @ 18.86

Best Bowling of 5/25

1st GRADE

Archie Lenham – 28 Wickets @ 21.89

Best Bowling of 6/27

Centuries

Mitch King	V	Charlestown (Dev League)	126*
Jay Garrett	V	Merewether (2 nd Grade)	117
Richard Wood	V	Newcastle City (Dev League)	128*
Kyle Faber	V	Waratah Mayfield (1 st Grade)	128



5 Wicket Hauls

Paul King	V	Kotata (Dev League)	5/33
Archie Lenham	V	Hamilton-Wickham (1 st Grade)	6/27
Izaac Coyle	V	Hamilton-Wickham (2 nd Grade)	5/25
Zac Moran	V	University (2 nd Grade)	6/44
Mitch King	V	University (3 rd Grade)	6/39
Luke Muddle	V	Charlestown (1 st Grade)	5/24
Izaac Coyle	V	Waratah Mayfield (2 nd Grade)	5/37
Isaac Moran	V	Toronto (4 th Grade)	5/17
Ollie Burns	V	Wallsend (4 th Grade)	5/7
Ramithu Withanage	V	Toronto (S.G Moore Cup)	5/7
Aman Arya	V	Merewether (3rd Grade SF)	7/32
Callum van Huisstede	V	Hamilton-Wickham (Dev League)	6/25



10 Wicket Matches

Ramithu Withanage	V	Hamilton-Wickham (4 th Grade)	5/27 & 5/48
Aman Arya	V	Belmont (3 rd Grade)	7/39 & 5/8



Most Ducks

3 Ducks –

Harry Boswell

Ramithu Withanage

Tejkirat Singh Sukhija

Callan Fowler



CALLAN FOWLER, TEJKIRAT SINGH SUKHIIJA, RAMITHU WITHANAGE

Captain's Player of the Year

Women's T20 Plate

Jodie Gower

Women's T20 Cup

Alice Puxty

Development League (Sky)

Hamish O'Dell

Development League (Navy)

Ollie Burns

Harrison Scott

4th GRADE

Ramithu Withanage

3rd GRADE

Aman Arya

2nd GRADE

Rowan Evans

1st GRADE

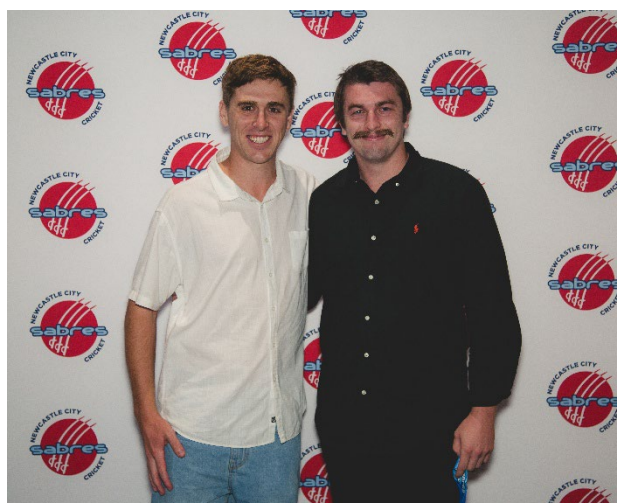
Luke Muddle



ALYSSA WHARTON & JODIE GOWER



BRYCE GARRETT & ROWAN EVANS



CALLAN FOWLER & LUKE MUDDLE



KRISTIE MCDOWELL, JODIE GOWER & ALYSSA WHARTON (TOP LEFT), JORDY ANDERSON & NEIL MOTBEY (TOP RIGHT), LIFE MEMBERS GREG HOOK & ROBERT WILKINSON (BOTTOM LEFT), LIFE MEMBERS DAMIEN JONES & ADRIAN MANNEL (BOTTOM RIGHT)

Perpetual Awards

Most Runs in Grade – Pop Rodgers Trophy

Archie Lenham – 461 Runs – 46.10

Most Wickets in Grade – Bruce O’Sullivan Trophy

Aman Arya – 44 Wickets @ 10.55

Junior Player of the Year – Fordham Trophy

Rowan Evans

Most Improved Player of the Year

Chelsea Dowdell

Peter “Chappie” Chapman Wicketkeeper of the Year

Hayden Checker – 24 Catches, 5 Stumpings, 2 Run-Outs

One Day Limited Overs Cricketer of the Year

Adrian Mannel

All Rounder of the Year – Robert Wilkinson Trophy

Archie Lenham

Julie Vitnell 1st Grade Players’ Player Medal

Archie Lenham

Matt Krevs Award

Harrison Scott

Male Player of the Year

Archie Lenham

Women's Player of the Year

Kirsten Smith

Tom Anderson Medal

Neil Motbey

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

Greg Hook



ROB & NOAH PARKINSON



FRANCIS WALSH, STEVE WARD & AMAN ARYA



HAYDEN CHECKER & LIFE MEMBER BRYCE GARRETT (TOP LEFT), LIFE MEMBER GREG HOOK & HARRISON SCOTT (TOP RIGHT), LIFE MEMBER BRADLEY O'DELL & AMAN ARYA (BOTTOM LEFT), MITCH KING (BOTTOM RIGHT)