



Research Lower Plenty Baseball Club 2017 Junior Co-ordinator Report

Winter season 2017 Research Lower Plenty Baseball Club had four combined sides - U11's, U13's, U15's and U17's.

We welcomed many new families to the club, and the large bulk of the U11's transitioned from the Tball Smash Program run in the summer. So a big shout out to the Co-ordinator Adrian Baillargeon and his team of helpers. There were also a number of junior and senior parents who volunteered a few hours of their time in March to attend the Banyule Council Arty Farty Festival. I applied and was successful with a MWBL Junior Grant, to hire a dunking machine for the day and undertake a recruitment drive. It was a fun and interactive day and helped get the branding out into the public domain that we are a great junior baseball club and reinforced our position with the Banyule Council that we are a very progressive & pro-active club.

Thank you to Phil Weingott for helping to settle the U11's into a routine at the Greensborough Baseball Club. The children enjoyed playing on a weekly basis and parents were actively involved in coaching throughout the game. We look forward to many of our youngest roadrunners moving through our junior ranks in years to come.

The U13's welcomed first year coach Paul Sertis. Paul had a difficult task ahead of him with many of the children playing their first season of U13 baseball and found the step up a challenge. However, as a lot of this team was made up of kids still eligible for U11 they will have a number of years together before reaching top age in this age group. The team combined with Valley Redbacks and later in the season some players from Doncaster. Thank you to Paul Sertis for coaching, and Janet Poynter and Martin Butler for sharing the scoring.

The U15's were coached by first year coach Glenn Brookes. After many years of playing senior baseball Glenn stepped up and he did a great job in developing their skills and ensuring the games were played in the right spirit. Combining with Greensborough, our numbers were a little light at the beginning of the season but we added another 4 kids as the season progressed and finished the season very strongly. Thank you to Jon Martin, a new family to the club, who scored most weeks.

Trophy winners – Most Valuable Player – Noah Willis, **Batting** - Baye Agostino .593, **Coaches Award** – Mark Laurie

U17's combined with Greenhills Montmorency. Arch rivals in the senior competition, the boys blended well and were solid all season. After six games in the competition, the league split the Ringwood and Diamond Valley Leagues into combined leagues and introduced Division 1 and Division 2. Our combined team qualified for Division 1 and were top of the ladder most of the season, and made it into the Grand Final. On the big day we jumped out to a 4 run lead but were headed late, and could not make up the deficit as time ran out. Congratulations to Knox Baseball Club on the victory.

The team was coached by Paul Crundwell and a special thank you to Michelle de Haan for scoring every week.

Trophy winners - Batting Award - Spencer Veal .556, **Coaches Award** - Ben Crundwell, **Most Valuable Player** was awarded to Mitch Ramsay (Greenhills Montmorency)

This year's **Ian Humes Award** was presented to Noah Willis. A new player to our club, Noah demonstrated real team commitment and pitched in whenever required. Regularly Noah attended two training sessions per week and stepped up to play in the Senior A4 Development Squad and sometimes the A3 team as required.



Special thanks to Paul Crundwell for his support all season and accompanying me to the monthly Junior League meetings. Paul was also successful in securing a grant for junior playing equipment of \$3,000 which was spent on playing equipment for our junior sides.

A junior program does not run without support from senior players, junior parents and of course the children. Thank you to David Slape for ensuring our juniors had an umpire each week and thank you to the players who umpired.

Any parent who coaches gets a kick out of watching their kids play so to Phil Weingott, Paul Sertis & Paul Crundwell, thank you again. To Glenn, who did not have a child playing and having to travel so far each week, a special thank you. All these guys know the game and have been instrumental in the development of all of our juniors, I hope to see all of you back next year to continue the great work to date.

Heidi Crundwell