



ANNUAL REPORT

Annual General Meeting SUNDAY 24th MARCH 2024

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2023/24 Raiders Committee

Executive committee

President		Jackie Campbell
Secretary		Anna Chmiel
Treasurer		Rachel Lennox
Registrar		Kay Williams

General committee

	Anna Dreher
	Cindy Ritter
	Jacqui Parker
	Mary-Anne Tyler
	Joy Votersen

Life Members

1997	Bert Donaldson (dec.) Colin Thomas (dec.) Dot Taylor	2011	Claire Shelvey Mary-Anne Tyler
1998	Liz Baker (dec.) Marie Baker	2012	Sue Arnett
2001	Heather Raditsis Jacinta Poole John Hollingsworth Kathy Sharp Rosie Hawkins	2013	Anna Chmiel
2002	Allison Pendlebury Jenny Baker Kerry Trevethan	2015	Geraldine Grisold
2003	Rodger Trevethan Susie Heggie	2018	Loretta Stefanopoulos Rachel Lennox
2004	Freya Carlson Jennifer Guinane Marilyn Bouwmeester (Heggie) Sue Donaldson	2020	Mili Cohen Natasha Shelvey
2006	Judith Liddell	2023	Jackie Campbell Kay Williams
2009	Chris Trengrove Barb Trengrove		

President's Report

Well done to all of our Raiders players, officials and supporters for a hugely successful year on and off the diamond. We fielded 4 senior teams and 3 junior teams this summer season, 2 winter teams at Fawkner Park, a team in the Junior Softball Carnival, Waverley Winter competition and 2 teams each in the Victorian Masters and Northern Tasmanian Softball Masters. That's a lot of softball all year round and we thank all players and officials who made it possible.

At the completion of the summer round games, all of our junior teams, plus our Open 2 and both Open 4 teams are competing in finals, and it's been great to see the red and black throughout the park. We also fielded an Open 3 team for the first time in many years and they were competitive in their first year.

Our U18 Girls and U16 Boys were struggling for numbers at the start of the season; we thank Frankston and Dandenong associations for combining with us to field those teams. We also welcomed Glen Waverley players into our U13s team. Under 13s and Under 16 Boys have consistently trained on Thursday nights and their efforts have been rewarded with successful seasons, finishing 3rd and 2nd in their respective competitions. The 18s and 2s also stepped up their training efforts and their commitment was rewarded on the diamond with improvement and results, with special thanks to Cate, Jess, Sarah and Mili for their coaching efforts.

Our winter teams overcame the Melbourne weather in Fawkner Park and at Waverley and had fun seasons with Raiders Red winning the A Grade Grand Final in Fawkner Park. Thank you to team organisers Vicky, Stuart, Natasha, Doreen, Jess and Cate.

Raiders players continue to excel on the National Championships stage and this year it was both our youngest and our most experienced who made us proud. Congratulations to Mackenzie and Baden who represented Victoria at U14 National Championships and to Sarah Wickens and Jess Chomley who represented Victoria and Cindy Ritter and Vicky McKenzie representing South Australia in the Over 35s National Championships. Special Mention to Sarah for her MVP award and Jess for being named Best Team Player. We are lucky to have these excellent role models in our club and mentoring our junior players.

We also had a fantastic representation of players at State Championships where a full weekend of games gave our junior players an opportunity to learn and play with others from around the state. Well done to Mackenzie, Baden, Jason, George and Georgia for their state team selections and to Cindy and Mili for coaching selections, as well as permit players Teah, Sierra, Lucy, Jeremy and Daniel.

Raiders officials continue to be standouts as umpires and statisticians at various National Champs; Congratulations to Alli, Rosie, Chris, Stuart and Brett for their nationals' selections. It's fantastic to see our members progress through their levels with Lory Stefanopoulos achieving her Level 2 Scoring and Joy Votersen re-accrediting to Level 2. A reminder to all our members that we have a development fund to support accreditation costs.

I want to pay a special mention to our umpiring crew who have played an incredibly important role in the summer competition. While other clubs have struggled to fulfill their duties we have 6 dedicated umpires, including 4 juniors, who have often officiated 2 games each on a Saturday and shown

incredible confidence and dedication. It makes me incredibly proud when other clubs comment on what a great job our umpires are doing.

Our Masters teams continue to see success on the diamond and more importantly, fun off the diamond. The master's committee of Mary-Anne, Kay and Jacqui do an amazing job of co-ordinating tournaments. A huge thanks also to Caz Scholz for her efforts this year in running a wine fund-raiser to help cover costs, and to all those who purchased in support.

Running a club of over 70 members as part of a large association is a massive team effort and I offer sincere thanks to all those who have volunteered their time as committee members, coaches, scorers, canteen helpers, grounds people and line markers among other tasks. Special thanks to Mary-Anne and Claire who also helped out at U16 Nationals.

Thank you once again to the hard-working committee members who keep the club running all year round by donating their time and energy. And a special thank you to Anna Chmiel and Anna Dreher who are stepping down this season after several years of service to the club.

One of the most pleasing sites at any Raiders game is seeing the number of family and friends who come out to support and cheer on our teams. It really does feel like a family atmosphere when there are several generations at games, or our junior parents are socialising on the hill while they spectate. Thank you to everyone who helps make our club inclusive and welcoming.

Moving into winter there is plenty more softball to play and I encourage both senior and junior players and parents to keep an eye on our socials and newsletters for opportunities. Softball Victoria are running a 2-day holiday program at Knox in April, Waverley are planning a Junior Development program and Senior Competition on Tuesday/Wednesday nights and Melbourne Softball Association's Winter Comp starts in May, plus there will be more Masters tournaments throughout the year.

Our club is healthy and continues to grow but we have more work to do to strengthen our junior teams in all age groups and re-build our Open 1 team. We need to work hard to provide training and competition all year round for players who want it and collaborate with other clubs and our association to recruit players and keep softball strong for many years. I encourage anyone with time or ideas to put their hand up to help us grow and spread the word about what a fun game we play.

Jackie Campbell
President

Treasurer's Report

I now present the financial report of the Eastern Raiders Softball Club for the financial year ending 29 February 2024.

The Club's closing cashbook balance as at 29 February was \$14,272.85 of which was \$5,069.94 relates to the funds we hold on behalf of players for payment of Masters tournament expenses. Therefore, the net cash balance for the Club is \$9,202.91.

Club Fees (including uniform purchases) for this financial year amounted to \$7,666.90. The ERSC Fees on the Statement of Receipts and Payments reflects the net amount received by the Club, and subsequently there were no significant outgoings for WSA & SV Fees aside from the Wednesday Night Competition Fee.

The Eastern Raiders Softball Club started the year with \$11,997.55 in the bank and therefore there was a surplus of cash for the year of \$2,275.30 (excluding the Masters reimbursement account). Given the change to Revolutionise Sport, the most substantial outgoings are the fees payable to Melbourne Softball Association and uniform purchases. We also have around \$2,845 worth of uniform stock on hand at the end of the financial year.

We received a fundraising payment for \$405 from Audacious Monk Cellars. We are extremely grateful to Caz Scholtz for her continued support.

If any club members would be interested in obtaining their accreditations or have any ideas for any other development opportunities, the Club has funds available in the development fund and would love to continue to support and assist Club members with their accreditations.

I would like to thank the committee for their ongoing support during the year. I hope everyone had a fantastic season and I look forward to contributing to the Club again in 2024/25 in what could possibly be my last year as treasurer (at least for a little while).

Rachel Lennox

Treasurer

Financial Statements

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Period Ended 29 February 2024		
	2024 \$	2023 \$
Opening Cash Book Balance at 1 March	11,997.55	9,721.93
<u>Receipts</u>		
ERSC Fees	5,573.10	4,395.85
Uniform Sales	2,093.80	1,740.80
Fundraising	405.00	0.00
Net Funds Held (Masters)	3,592.19	1,053.71
Grants	0.00	566.60
Competition Prizes	300.00	300.00
Sundry Receipts	52.27	3.77
Total Receipts	12,016.36	8,060.73
<u>Payments</u>		
WSA & SV Fees	900.00	-
Other Associations	3,000.00	1,300.00
AGM Expenses	405.68	656.85
Uniform Purchases	2,776.95	2,653.00
Equipment Purchases	1,727.03	62.40
Trophies (previous season)	532.40	415.80
Development Fund expenses	217.00	231.06
Sundry Payments	182.00	466.00
Total Payments	9,741.06	5,785.11
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,275.30	2,275.62
Closing Cash Book Balance at the end of February	14,272.85	11,997.55
Bank Account Reconciliation		
Balance as per Bank Statement dated 29 February 2024		14,272.85
Less: Unpresented Cheques		0.00
Plus: Receipts not yet credited to Account		0.00
Balance as per ERSC Cash Book at 29 February 2024		14,272.85

Additional Information

Balance as per ERSC Cash Book at 29 February 2024	14,272.85
Plus: Anticipated Receipts relating to the 2023-24 Season	
Outstanding Fees/Uniform	0.00
Less: Anticipated Payments relating to the 2023-24 Season	
Trophies	700.00
Consumer Affairs (annual statement fee)	55.00
AGM & Presentations	500.00
Net Funds Held (Masters)	<u>5,069.94</u>
Operating Funds	<u>7,947.91</u>

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Committee of Management: Eastern Raiders Softball Club Inc.

Scope

I have audited the accompanying financial report, comprising of a Statement of Receipts and Payments, for the year ended 29 February 2024.

The committee of Management of Eastern Raiders Softball Club Inc. are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error.

Auditor's responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error.

In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

The financial report was prepared for the benefit of the committee and its members and the purpose identified above. I do not accept responsibility or use to any other person for the content of the financial report.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the Eastern Raiders Softball Club Inc. presents fairly in accordance with Accounting standards for the financial year ended 29th February 2024.



Tim Stillwell CA

Date: 18 March 2024

Representative players and officials

National Championships

U14 Girls	Mackenzie Ritter, Lucy Nurney (Frankston Raiders)
U14 Boys	Baden Vandenberg, Stuart Tyler (Umpire), Brett Tyler (Umpire)
U16 Boys & Girls	Allison Pendlebury, Rosie Hawkins, Jackie Campbell, Chris Trengove (Official Statisticians)
U18 Girls	Sierra Klugston (Frankston Raiders), Rosie Hawkins (Victorian Team Statistician)
U23 Men	Rosie Hawkins, Jackie Campbell (Official Statisticians), Allison Pendlebury (Victorian Team Statistician), Stuart Tyler (Umpire)
U23 Women	Stuart Tyler (Umpire), Brett Tyler (Umpire)
Open Men	Stuart Tyler (Umpire), Brett Tyler (Umpire)
Open Women	Stuart Tyler (Umpire), Brett Tyler (Umpire)
Over 35 Women	Sarah Wickens (MVP), Jess Chomley (Best Team Player), Cindy Ritter (South Australia), Vicky McKenzie (South Australia)

Victorian State Championships

U12 Girls School Sports Victoria	Mackenzie Ritter, Cindy Ritter (Battery Coach, Scorer)
U14 Boys Regionals	Baden Vandenberg
U14 Girls	Mackenzie Ritter, Teah Brennan, Cindy Ritter (Coach)
U14 Boys	Baden Vandenberg
U16 Girls	Mackenzie Ritter, Georgia McGregor, Mili Cohen (Coach)
U16 Boys	Baden Vandenberg, Jason Papadopoulos
U18 Girls	Georgia McGregor, Sierra Klugston (Frankston Raiders), Lucy Nurney (Frankston Raiders)
U18 Boys	Baden Vandenberg, Jason Papadopoulos, George Papadopoulos, Daniel Driver (Knights Raiders), Jeremy Driver (Knights Raiders)

Team Reports

Under 13



During this season, we welcomed five new additions to our team: Daniel, Teah, Mikayla, Emmett, and Lizzy. Our time on the softball field was filled with enjoyment as we honed our skills and witnessed significant growth, particularly in our batting proficiency. Every team member consistently demonstrated powerful hits, achieving personal excellence while embracing the learning process. Our fielding skills were a cornerstone of our success this season, from adeptly executing plays to making crucial outs. The team showcased a high level of capability on the field.

Reaching the finals at the season's conclusion brought immense satisfaction. The team's collective commitment was evident as players attentively absorbed coaching strategies, executed plays with precision, and seized opportunities to steal bases. Each player fearlessly experimented with various field positions, expanding both their individual abilities and their understanding of effective teamwork.

The unwavering support among team members was noticeable as they consistently backed each other up and actively sought outs. The enthusiastic cheers from the benches served as a driving force, maintaining high spirits throughout every game. The overall encouragement created a positive and uplifting atmosphere, contributing to the team's success and growth.

Oscar our consistent catcher consistently put in hard work, delivering impressive hits that contributed significantly to our run tally.

Lucas infused the team with his high energy, maintained a sharp focus on plays, aggressively went after the ball, and displayed a willingness to explore new positions especially catcher.

Emmett stationed at first or second base, consistently sought the ball and concluded the season with some amazing batting.

Sammy exhibited solid pitching throughout the season, showcased strong batting skills, and demonstrated swift baserunning.

Lizzy proved to be a remarkably steady batter, showcasing versatility by playing various positions and exhibiting determined baserunning while attentively following the coaching guidance and had great team spirit.

Olivia began the season slow as she was still recovering from surgery due to injury but come back to be strong and better. Her batting and fielding have improved, and her team spirit is encouraging.

Jayla remained unwavering in her favoured role at third base, delivering exceptional outs while consistently making valuable contributions as both a great batter and a swift, efficient baserunner.

Daniel a regular and reliable catcher, exhibited versatility by playing multiple field positions always willing to learn with a positive attitude. He delivered some fantastic hits that brought in runs.

Mikayla, who enjoys playing in the outfield, made a significant impact on the team despite being the youngest player. Her batting and fielding skills showed noticeable improvement over the course of the season, and she delivered some remarkable throws.

Teah holds a regular position as one of our pitchers, and in a recent development, she has expanded her skills to include catching. She showcases excellence as a versatile fielder and batter, making substantial contributions to every aspect of the game.

Mackenzie served as our dependable lead-off pitcher and formidable batter, possessing an in-depth understanding of the game, while also motivating the team to enhance their performance.

Helen and Mon

Under 16 Boys



Well done to the Under 16s Boys team. We merged with Southern Knights to have a starting squad of 13. A few hiccups meant that we ended the season with 10 amazing players. **Alex Venus** is our powerhouse hitter and had a go at pitching this season. **Baden Vandenberg** is our emerging pitcher and team talker. Baden's batting was also consistent. **Finton McIntyre** is growing into his power as a big hitter and solid infielder taking great catches. **George Papadopolous** is our senior player and catcher who has doubled up into the men's competition. **Jason Papadopolous** was our consistent pitcher and leadoff batter. **Jeremy Driver** is the cheekiest base runner I've ever seen, but also a great batter. Also playing men's with Southern Knights, Jeremy meant business every plate appearance with the goal that even a bunt can be a home run. **Jo Guimmarra** is our quiet big batter who surprises our opposition with what he can do. **Louis Driver** is our leftie 3rd baser who played through the season with a fractured finger. Louis also plays men's and keeps all the boys on their toes with his warmup batting game. **Quinn Driver** started the season with a broken arm but continued to put in 100% as first base. Quinn is a great team player and proven batter. **Will** from Falcons was poached into the team while still playing U13s and has developed his confidence as a terrific short stop and batter.

What a great development season we have had. With only 3 teams in the competition SEMR moved to double headers. We worked hard to develop as a team, and I am really proud of the positive attitude that kept them going when games were hard or injuries slowed us down.

Thank you to Tammy for being an awesome assistant coach, taking on a lot of the physical training and making sure the boys kept it positive.

Thank you to Courtney's for the sideline wisdom and advice as we melded this team into its awesome season ending.

Thank you to Benita and Zoe for organising the scoring so that I can review the game each week.

We aced our preliminary final, showing that when we come together as a team, wanting the ball, the hit, the win, these boys are a great bunch of softballers.

Coach Judi

Under 18 Girls



Our U/18s were back this year with some new friends in tow! The 'Fraiders' team consisted of returning Raiders players and some wonderful Frankston juniors who joined to help us form a team.

The competition was tough again this year, with a wide range of ages and skill levels across the four teams. We had some weeks where we struggled to find our footing, but it all started to come together in the last few weeks of the season with our best game - a hard-fought, single run win over 2nd placed Casey - coming in the last round.

With some training, we started being able to implement some set plays and work on our game awareness. Our backing up, movement and chat in the field, our contact hitting, and our general game awareness improved out of sight. We had several players step up to lead – particularly **Storm** in the outfield and **Charlotte** in the infield. **Charlotte** and **Georgia** also made their debut as base coaches. As a battery, **Sierra** and **Lucy** were phenomenal in the back half of the season – their commitment to training and improving their game was outstanding.

Keeley was an absolute stand-out at rightfield all season, saving countless runs with her grit and determination to back-up every ball. **Maggie**, although her season was cut short with illness, proved invaluable in leftfield and as a true team player. **Maddie**, **Ella** and **Tamsyn** were happy to do whatever was needed for the team – between these three utilities we had every position covered. **Gemma** turned wild throws into outs at first, and **Georgia** was eager to learn every game, doing anything asked of her. **Sienna** returned in the second half of the season to make 3rd base her own.

We also had some notable rep achievements from our players - **Sierra** represented Victoria at the U/18s National Championships in Perth, and **Lucy** at U/14s Regionals in Canberra. **Sierra** and **Lucy** played at U/18s State Championships, and **Georgia** at both U/18s and U/16s.

An enormous thanks also goes out to every single person who helped us out this season. it was definitely a team effort! Joy – thank you so much for scoring week in and week out. Chom and Lory – thank you for stepping up as Assistant Coaches. Rachel and Sarah – thank you for coaching when we were unavailable. Rosie, Jackie, Alli and Robyn – thank you for covering the base coaching, scoring and providing general encouragement whenever it was needed.

I am so very proud of how much the team has improved over the course of the season and I am excited for everyone to return next season.

Cate

Open 4 Red



Players: Sam Potter, Nicola Swart , Judi Liddell, Emily Hilliard, Teresa Hanna, Megan Green, Mia Torquato, Caz Scholtz, Natasha Shelvey, Anna Dreher

Coaches: Anna Dreher, Caz Scholtz

Scorer: Kay Williams

Fun was the theme for our team this season and we had it in spades along with a successful season finishing top of the ladder.

We had many challenges throughout the year as well mainly being able to get a team onto the field each week but we survived and thrived with what we had on any given day.

We had a great mix of new and old Raiders come together each week to have fun and play the best softball we can. Everyone had a great season!

Thanks to our scorer Kay and first aid assistant Kate. We wouldn't have been able to get through the season without you both.

Open 4 Black



Players: Anna Chmiel, Annette (Chucky) Phillips, Clair Shelvey, Georgia McGregor, Jackie Campbell, Jacqui Parker, Joy Votersen, Mary-Anne Tyler, Michelle Lukaczynski, Rachel Lennox, Sheryl Ecker, Veronica Odeke

Coaches: Jackie Campbell, Anna Chmiel, Rachel Lennox

Scorers: Joy Votersen, Sarah Brown

Our Black team was a combination of youth and experience this year, who came together to win 10 out of 18 games and finish 2nd on the ladder. Several games came down to the wire and we showed our determination and resilience by achieving some close wins.

The strong battery of Anna and Chucky helped shut down our opposition, with Jacqui taking the mound on a couple of occasions and Mrs E (Sheryl) also notching up a win as pitcher. Mary-Anne was also reliable behind the plate and Georgie showed her versatility by putting on the catching gear as well as roaming the outfield and taking fantastic catches at 2nd base.

Our outfield was safe as houses with plenty of catches and solid relays from Sheryl, Michelle and Veronica saving runs. The infield experience of Claire, Rachel and Jackie was ever reliable in taking catches and getting outs at first.

G, V and Mrs E ran the bases at speed. We batted strongly throughout the season with all players recording excellent batting averages and making good use of the 2 new Ghosts thanks to Chucky and Sheryl.

Joy started the season as our scorer but ended up taking the diamond for 6 games and proving she is equally adept at playing and scoring. Thanks to Sarah for picking up the pens and learning to score when Joy was otherwise occupied.

Thanks also to the many players who filled in for us throughout the season – Stacey, Jill, Lou, Sarah, T, Caz, Tash and Chris.

We head into finals facing our Red teammates and holding the second chance for a shot at the Gold.

Open 3



Players: Anna Chmiel, Charlotte Delos, Anna Dreher, Sarah Kroenert, Rachel Lennox, Vicky McKenzie, Christine Medley, Winnie Mok, Veronica Odeke, Annette Phillips, Cindy Ritter, Claire Shelvey, Loretta Stefanopoulos, Mia Torquato

Coaches: Rachel Lennox & Vicky McKenzie

This was the first time in a few years that we have fielded an Open 3 Eastern Raiders team, and we started the season with a full list of players keen to play some good and competitive softball together. It was an interesting season, where we lost a few players to injury and therefore we didn't have the same 9 playing week in week out. This made it difficult to have consistency across the season but every one that played, gave it their all.

Cindy and Char excelled with their pitching and were also fantastic with the bat. Chucky was impressive behind the plate and batted so consistently for the team. Claire was a fantastic team player who played every game and in every position except pitcher/catcher (maybe next year).

Sarah starred with the bat and had so many double & triple hits, one was with loaded bases which helped us to win that game. Anna C & Vicky were important in the field and both stepped on to the plate several times when required.

Anna D was extremely reliable and had a lot of different teammates in the outfield with her during the season. Mok showed discipline in the batting box and ended the season with 9 base on balls. V's speed and enthusiasm was impressive throughout the season.

We welcomed Mia to the club this season and she was an important inclusion to the team given her attitude and her ability to improve game after game. We lost Christine and Lory for the 2nd half of the season and they were greatly missed.

Thanks to Kay for scoring and thanks to all the other ERSC players who filled in, Maddie, Sheryl, Caz, Jackie, Emily, Judi, Michelle & Megan. It was greatly appreciated that you stepped up when needed. Hopefully we will do it all again next season.

Open 2



Players: Cate Caldwell, Jess Chomley, Mili Cohen, Elise Cramer, Charlotte Delos, Sue Donaldson, Tamsyn Fairweather, Madie Grbac, Courtney Maihi, Vicky McKenzie, Cindy Ritter, Storm Searle, Loretta Stefanopoulos, Ella Tucker, Sarah Wickens

Coaches: Mili Cohen, Cate Caldwell, Sarah Wickens, Jess Chomley

Season 23-24 started off a little slowly but didn't take the team long to get into the swing of things. A mainly unchanged line up from our previous season, plus welcoming Sue Donaldson back into the Raiders fold - someone who has been associated with our club for over 25 years.

Great to see our younger generation taking the diamond, improving with each game and using the skills being developed and honed at training sessions, predominately run by Cate Cadwell for the 18s group - big thanks to Cate for taking the time to teach and mentor our junior players.

Lots of good things to celebrate this season. We finished the home and away season 2nd on the ladder, which is a 2-place improvement on last season. We narrowly missed out on the minor premiership by 2 points, but coming away from the season with 12 wins, 2 losses and a draw is a great result.

We are now in Grand Final week and if memory serves me correctly, this year will be the first year in about 12-13 years ERSC Open 2 has taken the field to play for the premiership. Couldn't be prouder and happier and here's hoping we come away with the silverware and the opportunity to call ourselves premiers yet again for the year.

Not so good.... a couple of significant injuries to players this year. Loretta Cardamone (formerly Stefanopoulos) not only tied the knot in Oct-23, but also sustained a serious broken leg in the 2nd half of the season. We've missed her at 8 and hope to see her back on the diamond through next season should recovery permit. Always a place on the team and in our hearts for Lory and we wish her a successful recovery. Cate Caldwell sustained some broken bones in her hand, also in the second part of the season. Cate has strapped up and put the glove back on and will also hopefully fully heal in time.

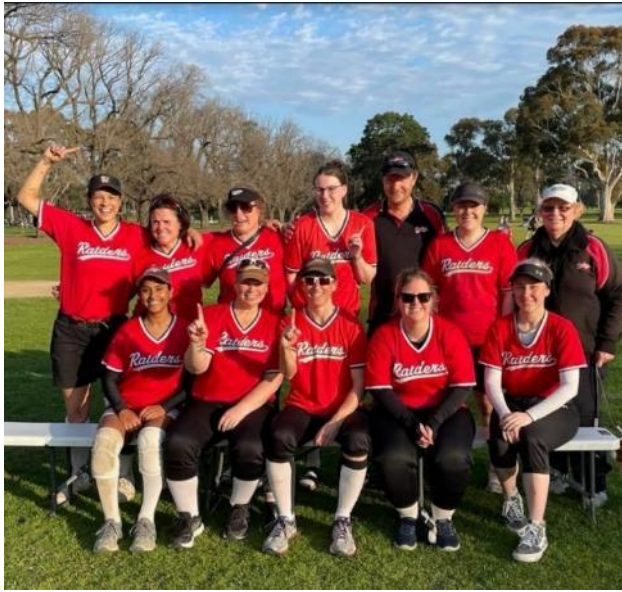
Big thanks to the support crew - Allison, Rosie and Joy and anybody else who stepped in to score for us this season. I cannot count the seasons Alli has had the scorebook during my time with Raiders, and always grateful to have such a highly qualified statistician with the team.

Congratulations to all those players who made representative teams pre or throughout the season, I won't name them as I will not do it justice. Great to see players taking their next step and representing Raiders, the association, and the state in a positive way.

Here's to the potential of a premiership this year, and if not then we'll toast what was a successful 23-24 season. Time for me to hand the coaching baton to another, so next season should see a refreshed coaching approach that will continue to take the team forward.

Mili

Winter Competition



Raiders Red Players: Cate Caldwell, Jess Chomley, Louise Bonner, Therese Bonner, Steph Marsh, Elise Cramer, Vicky Mckenzie, Amber Hallam, Tara Kugler, Miki Harris, Dana Katz

Scorer: Terri McKay

Raiders Black Players: Doreen Hart, Natasha Shelvey, Chucky Phillips, Claire Shelvey, Jenny Scholtz, Katherine Lomas, Lena Zahn, Megan Rogers, Shauna Sherker, Winnie Mok Veronika Odeke

Scorer: Kay Williams

Two Raiders teams played on Sunday afternoons in at Fawkner Park and kept up their softball skills in the traditional off-season.

Raiders Red:

The 2023 winter Melbourne Softball Association Competition at Fawkner Park saw the Raiders Red team go one better and take out the A-Grade final vs Bruisers. The team once again was a combination of players from several other clubs who came together for the winter competition. The season was a huge team effort with people away travelling, injuries as well as participating in other softball competitions.

A huge thank you to all who stepped in to rally the players, coaches and scoring across the season.

Raiders Black:

The Raiders Black team entered into the A-Reserve competition at Melbourne Softball Association Fast Pitch competition at Fawkner Park. The team braved the rain and mud to play our favourite game. Thanks to everyone who played in A-Reserve and made the colder months great fun with some big hits (and some big slips in the mud)!

Women's Night Competition



Team: Cate Caldwell, Jess Chomley, Hayley D'Argent, Anna Dreher, Stacey Eason, Doreen Hart, Emily Hilliard, Vicky McKenzie, Winnie Mok, Veronica Odeke, Annette Phillips, Cindy Ritter, Sharon Scallion, Lory Stefanopoulos (Fill-ins Jackie Campbell, Steph Marsh and Miki Harris)

We were confident going into the competition this year as we had clinched victory the year before, however, this time around things got interesting. The competition grew tougher with more teams entering the competition and an increase in the level of competitiveness. We didn't get a lot of wins on the board, but we had a lot of fun with a great bunch of players at varying levels of experience and skill.

A big thank you for the occasional assistance of Jamie & Mary-Anne and to Ali and Joy for scoring on those cold nights.

Stuart & Vicky McKenzie

Tournaments

Home Run Heroes Softball Carnival

Melbourne Softball Association, Fawkner Park

Sunday 3rd December 2023



Most of our under 13s team, plus a couple of new friends from Syndal Softball Club headed into Fawkner Park early on a sunny Sunday morning last December. The idea of the carnival was to encourage participation and skills development for players, coaches, umpires and scorers. All of our kids tried new positions and we uncovered some new pitchers and catchers, while the parents were all involved in some way, whether coaching, scoring, providing much needed snacks or hauling equipment around the park. 5 games in a day was a lot but we couldn't keep our players off the diamond, even during the breaks they organised their own impromptu game and umpired themselves. Well done to coaches Helen, Mon, Jen, Kim and Jackie and scorers Michelle, Michelle and Louise. Thanks to our umpire Finton who also had a long day and some mentoring from international umpires, and to all the parents who worked tirelessly to make a fun day.

Masters



The masters cohort of Eastern Raiders Softball Club continue to be a well-travelled and successful group of softballers (35+ years).

Raiders entered two teams at the 2023 Victorian Masters in Shepparton which is an annual tournament held over the June long weekend. It's a good chance for our girls to join together and organise a fun road-trip. Our players were able to wear their new Raiders winter jackets to keep warm on the 5-degree mornings. Our E-Grade team won a gold medal whilst our B-Grade team just missed out on a bronze medal.

Some of our players joined other teams and participated at the bi-annual Australian Masters Games in Adelaide in October 2023. Congratulations and welcome aboard to Emily Hilliard who is now an official masters player.

More recently, during the March 2024 long weekend, two teams attended the Launceston Masters tournament hosted by the Northern Tasmanian Softball Association. This annual event is an absolute favourite with our playing group. We always have great weather and we are welcomed as an interstate club with open arms.

After 7 games Raiders Black played off for and won a bronze medal in Division 3. The team was a great bunch of players, who played flexible positions on the diamond and were full of encouragement for their teammates. The Raiders Red team also played 7 intense games and finished 4th in Division 1. These players showed their skills with lots of amazing plays, catches and batting.

This year we have welcomed new players from Queensland, ACT and Tasmania with new friendships formed and existing friendships consolidated. There is always plenty of infectious laughter, stories and shared meals that strengthen our softball sisterhood.

The masters committee appreciates and thanks all of our players, coaches, scorers, umpires and supporters. These upcoming tournaments may tempt our players to plan and come join in the fun.

- Victorian Masters, Shepparton, June 8th – 10th 2024
- Pan Pacific Masters Games, Gold Coast, November 1st – 10th 2024
- ACT Masters, Canberra, Feb 2025
- NTSA Masters, Launceston, March 2025
- Great Barrier Reef Games, Cairns, May 29th – June 1st 2025
- Victorian Masters, venue TBA, June 2025
- Australian Masters Games, Canberra, October 2025

Masters Committee: Mary-Anne Tyler, Kay Williams and Jacqui Parker

Umpires



We started our summer season with only 2 umpires (Stuart and Finton), which is well short of where we needed to be for our 7 teams. Thanks to the players who took on umpiring duties in the early weeks which helped us out immensely. As the weeks progressed, we had family members and junior players put their hands up to learn how to umpire and before we knew it we had a full crew of green shirts in Oscar, Jason, Lucas and Josh. Collectively our Raiders umpiring crew and player volunteers umpired 87 games across the season and did a fantastic job of managing games. We thank Stuart and the Waverley umpires for their mentoring of our green shirts.

Congratulations to our senior umpires Stuart and Brett Tyler on their stellar achievements in the umpiring fraternity; Brett achieved his Level 6 Accreditation last year and both Tylers participated in National and International Championships as umpires and mentors.

Congratulations to Josh O'Day on achieving his Level 1 accreditation in February and to Finton, Jason and Oscar who plated their first senior games this season. Special mention to Lucas who started his umpiring journey at 9 years of age. Finton also took on extra duties at U14 State Champs and the Junior Softball Carnival. All of our umpires officiated in the finals at Waverley which is a credit to their development and dedication. We look forward to seeing you back on the diamond next year.

Umpire Co-ordinators: Jackie Campbell & Mary-Anne Tyler

2022/2023 AGM Minutes & Attendance

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 1st April 2023

Minutes

Meeting started 12:24

Chair: Jackie Campbell

1. Attendance and Apologies

- Attendance noted in attached attendance log
- Apologies received from

Claire Shelvey, Judi Liddell, Jacqui Parker, Rachel Lennox, Jess Jenson, Leigh, Kate and Megan Green

2. Previous AGM Minutes

- Passed, no issues arising; Moved by Anna Dreher seconded by Justine Giorgio

3. President's Report

- Presented at AGM

4. Treasurer's Report

- Presented at AGM
- No Questions arising

Moved by Sue Balfour, Seconded by Anna Dreher

5. Service Awards

- Trevethan Junior Service Award presented by Kerry Trevethan to George Papadopolous
- On Diamond Award presented by Loretta Stefanopolous to Cate Caldwell
- Club Service Award presented by Mok to Kay Williams

6. LIFE Membership awarded to:

- Jackie Campbell
- Kay Williams

7. Election of Office Bearers

All positions declared vacant

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

- President – Jackie Campbell, nominated by Anna Chmiel, Seconded by Anna Dreher. **Elected**
- Vice President – No nominations received. **Vacant**
- Treasurer – Rachel Lennox, nominated by Anna Chmiel, seconded by Anna Dreher, **Elected**
- Secretary – Anna Chmiel, nominated by Mary-Anne Tyler, Seconded by Anna Dreher. **Elected**
- Registrar – Kay Williams, nominated by Anna Chmiel, Seconded by Anna Dreher. **Elected**
- General Committee –
 - Sue Balfour – Nominated by Mok, Seconded by Anna Chmiel. Elected.

- Mary-Anne Tyler – Nominated by Anna Chmiel, Seconded by Joy Votersen. Elected.
- Cindy Ritter – Nominated by Jackie Campbell, Seconded by Anna Dreher. Elected.
- Anna Dreher – Nominated by Anna Chmiel. Seconded by Jackie Campbell. Elected.
- Winnie Mok – Nominated by Anna Chmiel, Seconded by Jackie Campbell. Elected.
- Jacqui Parker- Nominated by Anna Chmiel, Seconded by Jackie Campbell. Elected.
- Joy Votersen – Nominated by Anna Chmiel, Seconded by Anna Dreher. Elected

8. Any Other Business

- Nil

Meeting Closed 12:57 pm

Attendance List

Joy Votersen	Loretta Stefanopoulos	Annette Philips
Anna Chmiel	Doreen Nong	Chris Delos
Camille Chmiel	Winnie Mok	Ruby Delos
Anna Dreher	Sue Balfour	Melissa Delos
Kay Williams	Rosie Hawkins	Sienna Nicholls
Jackie Campbell	Jess Chomley	Maddie Grbac
Mary-Anne Tyler	Jimmy Papadopolous	Denis Grbac
Winnie Mok	Melita Giummarra	Baden Vandenberg
Stuart Tyler	Joe Giummarra	Tony Vandenberg
Cindy Ritter	Darshi Govender	Gianluigi Rotundo
Mackenzie Ritter	Ronella Govender	Ryan Fox
Amber Hallam	Helen Chung	Louise Walton
Kerry Trevethan	Jayla Chung	Michelle Laycock
Natasha Shelvey	Olivia Chung	Sammy Laycock
Sarah Kroenert	Tamsyn Fairweather	Vicky McKenzie
Anna Dreher	Ella Tucker	Stuart McKenzie
Michelle Luka	Elise Cramer	Hazel McKenzie
Charlotte Laycock	Jason Papadopoulos	Zoe Angeli
Storm Searle	George Papadopoulos	Melanie Fox
Russell Fox		