

Buckley Park Cricket Club Junior Program Report Season 2024/25

What a remarkable year it's been for our junior cricket program. The 2024/25 season saw unprecedented growth, with success stories both on and off the field that have set a strong foundation for years to come.

Program Overview

This season, we ran a comprehensive junior program featuring our popular Blasters initiative and four competitive teams across Under 10's and Under 12's divisions. But perhaps our biggest win came through a new partnership with Doutta Stars CC, which proved transformative for both clubs.

Partnership Success

Our collaboration with Doutta Stars CC yielded two major successes. First, our joint Friday night canteen and bar operation became the most profitable evening of the week. The atmosphere was electric, thanks largely to our tireless volunteers - Ray and Denise Finn, Sarah Radford, and Paul McDonald - who turned these nights into can't-miss events for both clubs.

The joint Blasters program, co-run with Clint from Doutta Stars, delivered eight weeks of cricket fun that kept kids and parents coming back for more. We even introduced a four-week "bridge program" after Christmas to help young players transition into Under 10's cricket. A definite season highlight was watching our Blasters take to the MCG on Boxing Day - an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. Special thanks to Jason Illes for his outstanding support both on the field and behind the bar.

Team Achievements

Under 10's: A Growth Story

What started with just six registered players blossomed into a team of fifteen by season's end - a testament to the infectious enthusiasm of coach Jeremy Taylor and team manager Sarah Krambousanos. Special mention goes to young Ben Taylor, who proved to be our star recruiter! While early season victories were hard to come by, the team's persistence paid off with an impressive winning streak toward the end. Alfie Howard's positive attitude throughout the year earned him the well-deserved coaches award.

Under 12's: Three Teams, Three Stories

Our Under 12 division fielded three teams this year, including our first venture into Thursday night competition:

Thursday Night Team: Under Brendan Head's leadership, this team showed remarkable resilience in a highly competitive division. Jake Cacapardo dominated both batting and bowling, while Oliver Hayes's exceptional attitude earned him the coaches award.

Under 12 Blue: Coach Nathan Harris and Team Manager Christian Kelley guided their squad all the way to the grand final. Xavier Stout's remarkable double hat-trick highlighted a season of outstanding performances, while Ayaan Ahsan's consistency was recognized with the coaches award.

Under 12 Green: Another grand finalist, led by the passionate Clint Rea and supported by Team Manager Bronwyn Brown and assistant coach Dan Mociak. Rishaan Kumar's stellar season earned him the prestigious Paul Mills award for best under-21 player, while Cedar Rea's selection for the association girls under-12 rep team (which won their competition) marked another program highlight. James Mociak's strong performances throughout the year secured him the coaches award.

Looking Ahead

As we plan for next season, four key priorities will guide our development:

1. Maintain our current player and family engagement
2. Expand our program to include an additional Under 10 team, an Under 14 team, and explore establishing a girls team
3. Strengthen our productive relationship with Cricket Victoria
4. Build upon our successful partnership with Doutta Stars

None of this year's achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of President Mick Moloney and the General Committee. The families who've joined our cricket community have become integral to our club's success, and we look forward to many more seasons together.

Anthony Haseloff
Junior Coordinator