

---

# West Bentleigh Cricket Club Annual Report 2025/2026 Season



---

## Executive Committee for 2025/2026

President	Jack Macleod
Vice President:	Matthew Healy
Secretary:	Patrick Donlen
Treasurer:	Darren Cramer
Junior Manager:	Arun Bala
Executive Members:	Daniel Gleghorn
	John Wilson
	Jayce Morgan

## Life Members

Alan Hendry	Alan Ward (dec)	Albie Sargent (dec)
Barry Pritchard (dec)	Daniel Gleghorn	Gary Clarke
Jeffrey Bell	John Wilson	Ken Manzie
Kevin Donald	Marc Reid	Robert Porter
Robert Wood	Ronald Need	Ronald Turner
Mrs M Massey (dec)	Mrs M Manzie	Michael Meeng
Mike Massey (dec)	David Morgan	Neil Hartlett
Paul Kacper	Ray Stonehouse	Robert Cole (dec)
Robert Massey	Robert Montgomery	Steve Aldred (dec)
Steven Lydster	Steven Worrell	Tony Jean
Jack Macleod	Matthew Healy	Noel Waight

---

## Season Achievements & Milestones

### Batting – Centuries

- Austin Heldt 110\* vs Washington Park
- Austin Heldt 105\* vs Brighton Union
- Austin Heldt 124\* vs East Sandy
- Jayce Morgan 122 vs East Sandy

### Bowling – 6+ Wickets - Nonen

### Milestones -

#### Award Winners

##### Club Champion

Barry Pritchard Memorial Trophy

Jayce Morgan

##### Best Clubman

Doug Quick Memorial Award

Afan Sheriff

##### Most Improved

Mike Massey Trophy

Riley Morgan

##### Best Little West Player

Bodie McGrath Memorial

Jack Greenfield

##### President's Award

Arun Bala

##### Coaches Award

Afan Sheriff

### 1 XI Awards

Batting

Austin Heldt – 495 @ 70.71

Bowling

Jayce Morgan – 25 @ 20.48

Fielding

Josh Shawel (22 Dismissals)

---

## **2<sup>nd</sup> XI Awards**

Batting	Marc Reid – 324 @ 36
Bowling	Sunny Chaudhari – 15 @ 22.7
Fielding	Riley Morgan

## **3<sup>rd</sup> XI Awards**

Batting	Neil Hartlett – 230 @ 19.1728
Bowling	Adithya Sentivel – 10 @ 22.7
Fielding	Sudhir Patel

---

## President's Report

Dear Members, Sponsors and Supporters.

After a standout season last year, the 1st XI set out with one clear goal, to go one better and bring home the Longmuir Shield premiership. The group dedicated themselves fully to the challenge and played some seriously good cricket throughout the season. Unfortunately, our campaign came to an end in heartbreaking fashion due to inclement weather, leaving many to wonder what could have been. Despite that disappointment, there were some incredible individual performances and plenty of moments that showcased the talent and spirit of the boys in blue.

Our 2nd and 3rd XI sides battled hard all year, and I would like to thank the captains and regular players who consistently gave their all for the club. It was fantastic to see some father-son combinations coming through the lower grades and a number of younger players gaining valuable experience in the 2nd XI environment. These are the moments that matter.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the growth of our junior program. Seeing 30+ Blasters at Victory Park most Friday nights was a huge success, and the atmosphere around the club was something special. Families filled the pavilion, kids enjoyed the drills, games and music, and Victory Park was buzzing with life each week. Our U12 and Two Rookies teams were also a major success, with the improvement of the kids across the season incredible to watch. A huge thank you to the senior players and coaches who gave up their Tuesday nights to help develop batting, bowling and fielding skills. The improvement in confidence, teamwork and running between the wickets was outstanding.

Off the field, we faced some challenges in maintaining consistency with social events and fundraising activities. With busy schedules, young families and members now living further away, getting the numbers required for these events became increasingly difficult. It highlighted the changing nature of community sport and the importance of continuing to adapt as a club.

Another major challenge throughout the year was the workload placed on volunteers. We all understand how busy work and life can be, and the commitment required to keep a club running is significant. Senior training on Tuesday and Thursday nights, games on Saturdays, combined with junior programs on Fridays and Sundays, is a massive ask of a small group of dedicated people. To those who continually rolled up their sleeves to help out, thank you. Your efforts are a true testament to the passion you have for community sport.

While we may not have secured the Longmuir premiership we all dreamed of, this season showed that success is measured in more than trophies alone. The growth in our junior program, the new families around the club and the strong community atmosphere created at Victory Park was incredible to see.

Go West,  
Jack Macleod, President.



---

## Secretary's Report

The 2025/26 season proved to be one of mixed fortunes for the West Bentleigh Cricket Club, highlighted by a strong finals campaign from our 1st XI, continued growth in our junior ranks, and ongoing challenges surrounding senior player numbers and on-field depth across the club.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all players, coaches, volunteers, sponsors, families and supporters who contributed throughout the season. Community sporting clubs continue to rely heavily on volunteer effort, and the commitment shown by so many people around the club remains the foundation of West Bentleigh Cricket Club.

### Senior Cricket

Our 1st XI enjoyed an excellent season and should be congratulated on reaching the finals series. The side played consistent cricket throughout the home-and-away season, with strong contributions from both experienced players and emerging younger members stepping into senior roles. While the ultimate premiership success eluded the team, their efforts ensured the club remained competitive at the top level and provided an important benchmark for the rest of the senior program.

The 2nd XI and 3rd XI endured more difficult campaigns. Both teams battled fluctuating availability, injuries and player shortages across the season, which impacted continuity and overall performance. While results did not fall our way regularly, there were still positive signs in the development of several younger players and the willingness of senior members to support multiple teams when required.

A significant challenge facing the club continues to be senior player retention and recruitment. Like many community sporting clubs, we are competing against changing work commitments, family responsibilities and broader participation trends. Ensuring we maintain three sustainable senior sides into the future will remain a key focus for the committee during the off-season and beyond.

### Junior Cricket

In contrast to our senior numbers, the junior program continues to thrive. The club fielded three junior teams this season, with participation numbers again increasing strongly. This growth is extremely encouraging and reflects the hard work undertaken by our junior coordinators, coaches and families to create a welcoming and enjoyable environment for young cricketers.

Importantly, the junior program is beginning to provide a clearer pathway into senior cricket, and it is vital that we continue nurturing these players so the long-term future of the club remains strong. The enthusiasm, sportsmanship and improvement shown across all junior teams was outstanding and gives the club genuine optimism moving forward.

---

### Club Facilities and Community

The club also benefited from continued support from our local community, sponsors and council partners throughout the season. Match-day assistance, canteen support, scoring, ground preparation and fundraising efforts all played an essential role in ensuring the club operated successfully each week.

Special thanks must go to the coaching staff, captains and committee members who dedicated countless hours behind the scenes. Community cricket simply cannot function without volunteers willing to contribute their time and energy.

### Looking Ahead

While the season presented some challenges, particularly within the senior ranks, the continued success and growth of the junior program provides strong confidence in the future direction of West Bentleigh Cricket Club. Building stronger pathways from juniors into senior cricket, improving player retention and maintaining a positive club culture will remain priorities heading into the 2026/27 season.

Congratulations once again to our 1st XI finalists, all award winners, and every player who represented the club this season. We look forward to building further momentum next year both on and off the field.

Sincerely

Matt Healy  
Secretary/Vice President  
West Bentleigh Cricket Club  
2025/26 Season

---

## Treasurer Report

2025/26 Season was going to be an interesting time for the club going from 4 sides to 3 sides which meant the revenue will drop from incoming funds. We started the year with a bank balance of \$12k and looking at previous history dating back about 3-4 yrs we managed to have a good bank balance, and full credit goes to Tania for those years. With the balance we had and looking at operation costs for 24/25 we needed to keep our costs down so we can get through the season and hopefully build again. A big decision was made to reduce subs from \$350 to \$150 hoping that this would give us a good top up before the Xmas break up, Unfortunately this did not happen and with a total 7 players only contributing towards Subs for the entire season we fell short about \$4500 averaging 30 players to pay. With 40+ players signed up we only banked \$1050. Canteen and bar unfortunately were not high as in previous years with not many around after games. We needed to find a revenue stream to cover everyday cost. The main revenue streams we have are functions, subs, sponsorship and canteen and bar sales.

Bunnings BBQ generated a total net return of approximately \$1,600 after costs.

The 2K Draw provided a strong financial boost for the Club, generating approximately \$4,299 after event expenses.

Player payments exceeded initial expectations during the season, including performance-based incentives and additional operational support required throughout the year. This resulted in the Club contributing additional funding beyond the original arrangements supported through the Infastech Sponsorship Program.

Given the commercially sensitive nature of sponsor-supported player arrangements, detailed breakdowns have not been included within the public annual report. Members seeking further financial clarification are welcome to contact the Treasurer directly at:

[westbentleigh.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:westbentleigh.treasurer@gmail.com)

We also had Juniors and rookies that the club took on all costs through a newly formed Junior Scholarship program. This helped increase participation and ensured families that were struggling financially were given the opportunity to play cricket. This covered day/training merchandise and equipment provided complimentary.

Given we only had \$12k from the start of the season, we received sponsorship from The Bentleigh RSL, Hunt Plumbing, Danny Frew, Local MP and The Bendigo Bank. Given these top ups we still struggled with building as game day cost and everyday Invoices/maintenance needed to be covered.

Without being any more negative we managed to cover all club operation costs for the season from using the little funds we had from Bar&Canteen sales, Funders Revenue and sponsorship money used.

Below is a breakdown for all costs invoiced out from the club.

It was truly a challenging and at times mentally draining process to make sure we had everything the club needed for a fantastic season.

Category	Amount / Details
Bar & Canteen Costs	\$19,800
Canteen Wages	\$2,640
Cleaning Wages	\$3,750
Maintenance (line marking, trophies, licences, grants, internet, bookkeeping etc.)	\$4,560
Funters	\$14,200
Club Share Received (Funters)	\$9,490
Weekly Average (Funters)	\$340
Merchandise Costs	\$2,881
Merchandise Credit Received	\$1,392
Merchandise Loss (junior gear)	\$1,489
Balls	\$4,485
Afternoon Tea	\$1,248
Umpire Payments (all teams)	\$4,785
Rent	\$3,000
<b>Total Spend 2025/26</b>	<b>\$61,349</b>



Our bank balance is currently at \$3400.00

Revenue Item	Income / Profit Details	Amount
Bar & Canteen	Total taken after invoicing	\$23,702
Bar & Canteen Profit	Profit after costs	\$3,902
Funters Club Share	Club share received	\$9,490
Bunnings BBQ	Total made after costs	\$2,100
Bunnings BBQ Banked Amount	Amount banked	\$1,600
2K Draw	Profit after costs	\$4,299

## Senior Season Report

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI Season Report – Longmuir Shield

#	TEAM	P	PTS	O	W	L	TIE	N/R	BYE
1	Bentleigh Uniting 1	12	<b>51.000</b>	1.493	8	3	0	1	0
2	Le Page Park 1	12	<b>48.000</b>	1.416	8	4	0	0	0
3	East Sandringham 1	12	<b>45.000</b>	1.190	7	4	0	1	0
4	West Bentleigh 1	12	<b>39.000</b>	1.020	6	5	0	1	0
5	Bentleigh ANA 1	12	<b>36.000</b>	1.013	5	5	0	2	0
6	Washington Park 1	12	<b>36.000</b>	0.920	5	5	0	2	0
7	Brighton Union 1	12	<b>24.000</b>	0.812	3	7	0	2	0
8	Kingston Heath 1	12	<b>9.000</b>	0.481	1	10	0	1	0

The 2025/26 season was ultimately one defined by resilience, growth and missed opportunities. After an outstanding start that saw us sit 4-1 through the opening rounds, the group showed it could compete with anyone in the competition. The emergence of Austin Heldt at the top of the order, the continued consistency of Cathcart and Morgan, and the all-round impact of players like Sheriff and Patel gave the side genuine balance across both batting and bowling.

While the season featured some dominant victories and impressive team performances, inconsistency through the middle part of the year proved costly. Batting collapses in key matches and an inability to capitalise in important moments saw momentum slip at times, turning what looked like a top-two campaign into a fight just to secure a finals position. Despite that, the group never stopped competing and found a way to grind out the results needed late in the season to qualify for finals cricket. The elimination final perfectly summed up the character of this side. After being heavily on the back foot conceding 387 on Day 1, the response with the bat was courageous and fearless. The partnership between Heldt and Morgan was one of the highlights of the entire season and nearly produced one of the great finals comebacks before weather and time denied the result the game deserved.

Although the season ended in disappointing circumstances, there is plenty for the playing group to be proud of.

---

## **2nd XI Season Report – F Grade**

The 2nd XI faced a challenging season, however the group remained competitive throughout the year and were involved in a number of close contests where results could have easily gone the other way.

James Zarris led the side strongly all season and was a major reason the team remained united and competitive week in, week out. His leadership, along with the efforts of the wider playing group, played an important role in holding the side together through a difficult year.

To James and the entire 2nd XI group, we thank you for your commitment and effort throughout the season.

Importantly, the stability and availability within the 2nd XI allowed the 1st XI to remain largely unchanged for most of the season, which played a significant role in the success achieved at senior level. It was a great example of the selfless attitude and character shown by the group across the year.

## **3rd XI Season Report – K Grade**

The 3rd XI provided a fantastic environment throughout the season, bringing together a great mix of experienced players, new faces and emerging juniors entering senior cricket for the first time.

While the side unfortunately fell short of finals, the season was still a strong success in many ways. The team embraced what community cricket is all about, with father-son combinations, opportunities for younger players to transition into senior cricket, and a genuine commitment to ensuring everyone had the chance to contribute and enjoy their cricket.

The lower grades continue to play a vital role within the Club as an important feeder pathway into higher level senior cricket, and this season was another strong example of that.

A special thank you must go to our experienced veterans, whose support, encouragement and willingness to guide younger and newer players was tremendous throughout the year. Their contribution to the culture and spirit of the side cannot be understated and truly reflects the best parts of local cricket.

---

## Junior Season Report

### Junior Report – Season 2025/2026

The junior program was undoubtedly the highlight of the season and something the club should be incredibly proud of. Following a major recruitment push at the beginning of the year, we were able to introduce more families to the club than ever before and continue building a strong future for the Bulldogs.

Working closely with council to secure access to the top oval on Friday nights laid the foundation for what became one of the strongest Blasters programs in the area. Each week, the coaching team created what we called a “Cricket Playground”, combining physical literacy activities for younger primary school children with Cricket Australia coaching app games and skill-based drills that progressed throughout the session. The result was an environment that was active, engaging and most importantly, fun for the kids.

What stood out most was the atmosphere around the club each Friday night. Families and friends regularly filled Victory Park, creating a fantastic community feel around the sessions. The pavilion was busy, the music was playing and there was genuine excitement around junior cricket at the club again.

Our two Rookies teams also showed terrific growth throughout the season. It was extremely pleasing to see the players continue to improve and, just as importantly, to see more parents stepping forward to help as the season progressed. The Tuesday night training sessions became a major strength of the program, with the structured skills work helping build confidence across batting, bowling and fielding.

A huge thank you must go to our Head Coach, Danny Frew, whose leadership and commitment to junior development was outstanding throughout the season. Alongside our senior players, Danny created a fantastic learning environment that greatly benefited the kids and helped strengthen the connection between the senior and junior programs.

Our U12B team also continued to improve as the season went on and really began to gel together as a group. We are particularly excited about the future of this side, with the majority of players remaining in the U12 age group next season. As they move into a more competitive phase of junior sport, we look forward to continuing to develop their cricket knowledge, game awareness and technical skills.

---

Finally, we would like to sincerely thank all of our junior parents for the enormous commitment they make each week. Giving up Sundays for junior sport, supporting training nights and helping around the club does not go unnoticed. We would also like to thank all coaches, volunteers and senior players who contributed their time across the season, as well as the committee for continuing to invest heavily into the junior program. It truly is the foundation of the club's long-term future.

Bring on next season.

Go Pups!

**Arun Bala – Junior Manager**





**End of Report**