Beyond the Dugout

MWSA Monthly Newsletter

JULY 2025

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DOUG FREEMAN

I know we're in the middle of winter and softball may not be front of mind, but it won't be long before we're back on the diamonds. Registrations are now open and you'll find the registration links to each of our 5 clubs on page 4. Please encourage all of your friends and family to play softball this summer at MWSA too, we'd love to welcome them.

A huge congratulations to Lauren Rolfe and Jamie Lau, who played well over in Italy representing the Australian Under-15s. Congratulations are also in order for Jenna Trim, who was recently selected in the Australian Opens team heading to China for the World Games.

I'd also like to announce our newly elected Committee for the coming year: Janine Rolfe, Nikki Morley, Jess Morley, Sue Brandenburg, Alli Edgtton, Katie Collins, Doug Stracey, Kim Trim, and Zoe Mildwater. It's great to have Kim back, and a big welcome to Zoe, our newest member.

A huge thank you to Gai Cohen, Kat Baldwin, and Jen Sager, who retired from the Committee at the AGM – you will be missed. Gai, of course, has served on the Committee for a very long time and rightly received Life Membership a year ago.

NEXT: MWSA Committee Meeting

11th August 2025

More than a game

Manly Warringah Softball Association

2025 COME.AND.TRY.DAYS!

We'd love to see your family & friends play at MWSA this summer. Former players, school/uni friends, neighbours, winter sport teammates, work colleagues, cousins...

Free Come & Try for juniors (girls & boys aged 5-18) will be held on:

- Sunday 31 August (2-4pm)
- Friday 12 September (4.30-6pm).

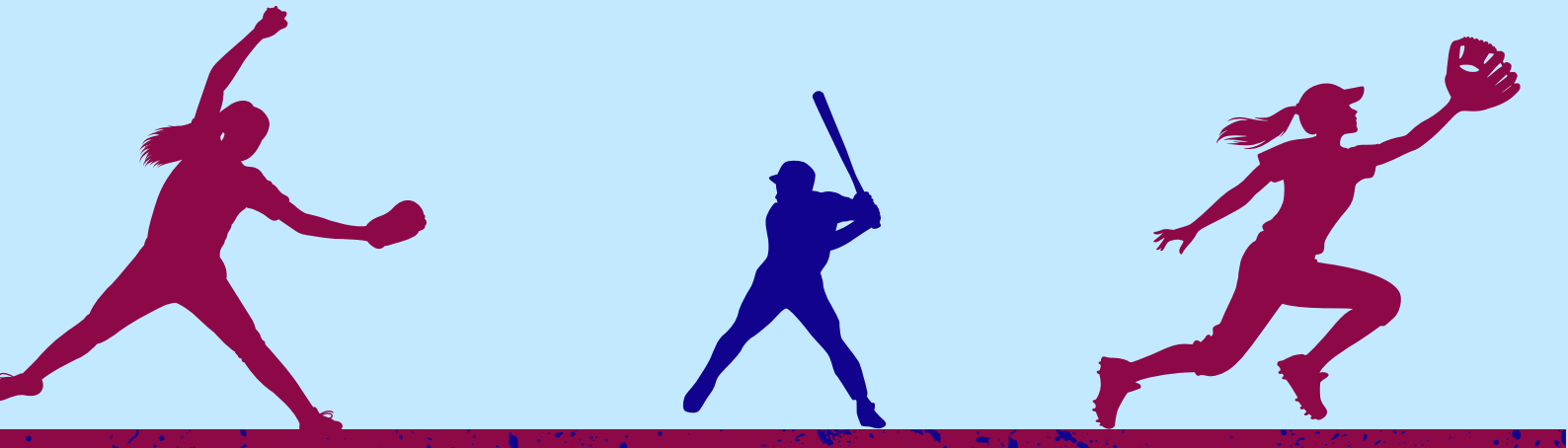
Please bring as many friends along as possible. And if you can't be there – let us know and we will make sure they are looked after!

Ask your friends to register now for planning purposes: Click & Register to Attend!

We can't wait to meet all the young superstars of tomorrow!

Are you able to help make Come & Try another successful event for MWSA? Every effort - no matter how small - means a lot for our grassroots community sporting association: Click to help!

Finally, for women new to softball or who haven't played in a while , we plan to hold a series of free skills sessions / introductory games followed by refreshments on a Monday evening in September – these have proved to be very popular over the last few years. Further details will be shared in next month's newsletter, but if you know anyone who may be interested, please encourage them to email us at MWSA@mwsa.com.au



SUMMER REGISTRATIONS

OPEN 2025

To play in the MWSA Summer season you need to register with a MWSA club. Please click on the club logos below to register with your club team!

OUR CLUBS

Peninsula Softball Club

Davo

Forest Allambie Softball

MORE INFORMATION

mwsa@mwsa.com.au

Manly Shine Bright at 23 & Under State Championships!

What a weekend for Manly Warringah Softball Association at the 2025 23 & Under NSW Softball State Championships in Blacktown. Our talented team took to the diamonds with grit, determination, and a whole lot of heart, making us incredibly proud.

This championship almost didn't happen! After being rained out previously, we were all thrilled to finally get on the diamond. The conditions were certainly a challenge – it was absolutely freezing, with frost visible on the dugouts, scorer's tables, and even out in the outfield during the early morning games! Our players had to brave the elements to bring their best to the diamond.

As always, it's a great atmosphere at Blacktown International Sports park, and our MWSA squad rose to the occasion, showcasing some fantastic softball.

College Stars Return to the Diamond!

It was fantastic to see a number of our talented college players back on home soil and proudly representing Manly Warringah at this year's State Championships! Having these athletes, who have been honing their skills and competing at a high level overseas, rejoin our squad significantly strengthened the team. Their experience, leadership, and incredible skill sets brought an undeniable boost to our performance and provided invaluable mentorship to our younger players. It's always a highlight when our players can come home and share their expertise, and we were thrilled to have them back in a Manly uniform this weekend.

Manly Warringah Results Snapshot:

Our team had a strong showing against tough competition. MWSA showed their offensive power with a resounding 18-0 victory over Southern Districts, secured a solid 6-1 win against North Shore. The team fought hard in close contests, including a tough 2-5 loss to Hornsby and a nail-biting 1-2 defeat against Cumberland Nepean. We closed out the preliminary rounds with a fantastic 16-1 win against Newcastle and a well-deserved 7-0 victory over Sutherland.

While the ultimate championship title wasn't ours this time, our Manly Warringah team still shone brightly, securing an impressive third-place finish overall. We witnessed immense skill and teamwork, from brilliant defensive plays and clutch hits under pressure to outstanding sportsmanship. Every player gave their all, battling hard in every inning.

End of an Era: Mel & Izzy Morris

This year's 23 & Under State Championships marked a significant moment as we bid farewell to two incredible athletes, Mel and Izzy Morris, as they graduate from the 23 & Under age group. These two have been so much fun, and have been part of the Manly Warringah Representative program since they were just little tackers in primary school. It's hard to imagine our 23's team without these familiar faces on the diamond. From their early days learning the ropes to becoming seasoned players and leaders, Mel and Izzy have poured their passion, dedication, and talent into MWSA. Their journey through the age groups has been truly remarkable to witness, and their contributions, both on and off the field, have been invaluable. They've been fantastic teammates, role models, and mentors, embodying the spirit of Manly Warringah.

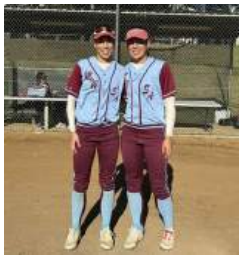
While they may be finishing their time in the 23 & Under age group, Mel and Izzy have already been vital parts of our Opens program for several years. After a little break this year we hope they'll continue to wear the Manly uniform and be key members of our Opens teams for many years to come!

Sisters on Opposite Sides: Shonny and Mel

This weekend's championships also brought a fantastic display of family rivalry and sportsmanship, as sisters Shonny and Mel found themselves on opposing teams! While Shonny proudly represented Manly Warringah, Mel was picked up by the Sutherland Softball Association to help bolster their squad. It was a clear and friendly rivalry played out on the diamond, adding an extra layer of excitement to the tournament. Despite the on-field competition, it was heartwarming to see the sisters all smiles and sharing laughs after their games. This kind of opportunity, where players can be picked up by other associations to ensure more teams can participate, truly embodies the spirit of softball and helps foster a stronger, more inclusive tournament environment. It was great to see these talented sisters contributing to the success of the championships and promoting participation in our sport.

Head Coach Jess Morley shared her pride in the team's performance and spirit:

"I absolutely love working with this group of girls. They are not only incredibly talented softballers but also a lot of fun, both on and off the diamond. Watching them compete with determination, especially given the challenging conditions after the previous rainout, the cold snap at Blacktown, a tricky draw and tough competition was inspiring. The entire coaching team and I are exceptionally proud of how these girls show up every single game, support each other, and work together. Their teamwork and resilience shone through this weekend, and it's a privilege to be a part of their journey."



MWSA OPEN WOMEN'S STATE CHAMP RECAP

The Open Women's State Championships were an incredible showcase of talent, teamwork, and resilience for our MWSA squad, who proudly finished 3rd overall in a highly competitive championship.

Our campaign kicked off with dominant wins — a 15-0 victory over Penrith, followed by an 13-0 triumph against Newcastle. On Day 2, the team continued their momentum, defeating Wagga 12-7, before facing a strong Macarthur side in a tough 11-3 loss that unfortunately saw us just miss out on a Grand Final spot.

This year's team brought together a great mix of players: first-time Open's representatives, seasoned Opens players, and returning competitive softballers, all of whom contributed to the success of the weekend. Weekly Monday and Wednesday training sessions paid off as players gelled on and off the diamond, showing true MWSA spirit.

Despite lengthy delays and a late 8:40 PM start to our games on day one, the team maintained their focus and fought hard to the final out. The dedication, energy, and sportsmanship shown were second to none.

"As a coach, this was one of my proudest moments with the team. Watching our senior players lead from the front and seeing our culture shine through was truly remarkable" reflected, Open's Head Coach, Nikki Morley.

🌟 Special Shoutout: A standout performer in the batter's box was Jenna Trim, who launched two home runs over the fence, setting the tone for our offense and lifting team morale. An exceptional display of power hitting!

A huge thank you to our incredible support staff — Jess, Shaun, Steve, Jess, and Amanda. Your commitment behind the scenes allowed our players to take the field with confidence and pride. Without our officials, none of this would be possible.
Congratulations to all the players and staff for a brilliant championship effort. MWSA continues to build a strong legacy in Opens softball — and this year's campaign is one to remember.

SEASIDE

Moneyball Tournament

CALLING FOR OVER 35'S TEAMS!

O35's Division A – Competitive (Moneyball Rules):

This division is for players and teams looking for a competitive edge, playing under Moneyball Rules with prize money up for grabs. Ideal for those teams who enjoy competing to WIN!

O35's Division B – Social (Masters Rules):

Tailored for ladies grade teams or individuals wanting to stay involved in a more social, relaxed setting. Games will follow Masters Rules, with NO prize money, focusing on fitness, fun, and connection.

4, 5 & 6 OCTOBER | MWSA

Manly Warringah Softball Association

Contact Us! mwsa@mwsa.com.au

SPONSORSHIP Benefits

About us

Established in 1971, Manly Warringah Softball Association (MWSA) is based on Sydney's Northern Beaches and is the largest Women's fastpicth association in New South Wales, with over 700 participants. In 2023, MWSA expanded its representative teams and selected the first U10's Boys team to play at the NSW State Championships. Since, then both the Boys and Girls competition have continued to grow.

Sponsorship Benefits

- Logo on team uniform e.g helmets
- Signage on diamonds, canteens and draw fixtures.
- Social Media and Website promotions, including monthly newsletter.
- Custom your own package!

Why Partner with MWSA?

- **Community Engagement**

Connect your brand with local players, families, and supporters through meaningful community involvement.

- **Brand Exposure**

Gain visibility through uniform branding, field signage, social media promotion, and community events.

- **Support Grassroots Sport**

Help fund junior/senior development programs and provide essential resources to local softball teams, contributing to the growth of the sport.

- **Local Visibility**

Increase your presence across Sydney's Northern Beaches, reaching a loyal and engaged local audience.

BECOME A SPONSOR

Your support makes a difference!

To learn more, contact Doug Freeman

mwsa@mwsa.com.au

Manly Warringah Softball Association

SPONSORSHIP Packages

Platinum Sponsor - $5000 + GST

Exclusive naming rights and maximum visibility

- Naming rights for the season on our Canteen & BBQ Signage
- Logo sticker on Rep team helmets (Senior age groups) & Coaches Shirts
- Medium banner signage at fields - Diamond One (at your cost)
- Logo on all association email/newsletter communications
- Featured sponsor on the website homepage with a clickable link
- Monthly shoutouts on social media
- Sponsor booth at major events (e.g., First round, finals day, Moneyball & U12s Tournaments)
- Thank you certificate/photo with Junior & Senior Representative Teams

Gold Sponsor - $2500 + GST

- Logo sticker on Rep team helmets (ALL junior age group boys & girls)
- Flag Banner signage at canteen on game day (at your cost)
- Logo featured on website sponsorship page and monthly newsletter
- 10 shoutouts on social media, & Monthly Newsletter
- Option to include branded promotion items for social events & tournaments.
- Thank you certificate and photo with one Representative Team

Silver Sponsor - $1000 + GST

- Flag Banner Signage at canteen on game day (at your cost)
- 5 Shoutout on social media & Monthly Newsletter
- Option to include branded promo items for social events & tournaments.
- Thank you certificate and photo with our Open's Team

Bronze Sponsor - $500 + GST

- Logo on club website
- 5 Shoutout on social media posts & Monthly Newsletter
- Option to include branded promo items during club season & tournaments

ALL SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES ARE PER ANNUM

Contact us to discuss a personalised sponsorship package to suit your business!

mwsa@mwsa.com.au **OR** **0417 049 749**

SAVE THE DATE!

MWSA to Host U10 Girls & Boys State Championships 1 & 2 November 2025

MWSA will proudly host the Under 10 Girls and Boys State Championships over the weekend of 1–2 November 2025. This will be a fantastic opportunity to witness some of the best young talent in the state compete for the title.

Please note that club competition games will not be played that weekend, as our focus will be on delivering a memorable championship event.
To help showcase what great hosts MWSA can be, we'll need plenty of volunteers – so keep an eye out for how you can get involved!

Upcoming Events

U16s Girls State Championship
2nd & 3rd August 2025
Camden NSW

U14's River Rat Tournament
31st August 2025
Georges River SA

THANK YOU TO OUR MAIN

SPONSOR

BROOKVALE HOTEL

Your Local Pub

A big **THANK YOU** to our amazing sponsors - Your support keeps us swinging!

Want to get involved for next season? we're on the lookout for more sponsorships BIG or SMALL!

Email Doug_F@mwsa.com.au