

COMMUNITY CRICKET YEARBOOK 2025



**INSPIRING EVERYONE TO
PLAY AND LOVE CRICKET**



CRICKET NSW

CRICKET NSW ACKNOWLEDGES THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE WORK AND PLAY. WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO ELDERS PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING.



IMAGINE THE FUN

Join Woolworths Cricket Blast
Designed for kids to learn skills, exercise, and make friends.



SIGN UP TODAY!

Q Play Cricket

**PROUDLY
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FOREWORD



With an 11% increase in 2023/24 season saw Cricket NSW continue to take big strides towards its Wildly Important Goal of 80,000 5–12-year-olds playing cricket by April 2026.

Woolworths Cricket Blast continues to lead the way with over 36,000 participants, with 12% growth achieved on the back of targeted programming, enhanced volunteer support, community partnerships and a Cricket365 philosophy.

Junior Cricket Stages 1 and 2 also grew 6%, boosted by the Open for Business campaign and early registration initiatives that helped clubs plan better, lighten the volunteer load, and attract new players. Female participation in the 5–12 age group rose 9%, with girls now making up 22% of this cohort. Senior cricket remained steady overall with shorter formats continuing to grow in popularity.

Our Competition Administration Support Program (CASP) again proved its value, supporting 44 community associations – half of all Junior Cricket Stage 1 and 2 teams – with improved administration, reduced volunteer hours and greater collaboration. CASP partners saw junior team numbers grow 5.3% overall compared to a small decline elsewhere.

Off the field, Cricket NSW launched the Volunteer Experience Action Plan and the Distinguished Community Service Award, recognising 43 volunteers with over 25 years of contribution to the game. The Metro Cricket Council was also formed, replacing the NSW Districts Cricket Association, to strengthen metropolitan governance and collaboration.

A major boost came through achieving funding through the Australian Government Play Your Way Grant program to improve access and inclusion for women and girls, supporting programs in Western Sydney, South West Sydney and Country NSW.

Other highlights included the Country Blitz school visits, a relaunched suite of holiday programs attracting 9,000 children, expanded coach and umpire education support, nine Country Roadshows, new flexible junior competitions, the first Metro Cricket Forum, South Asian community engagement initiatives and \$1.2 million in infrastructure grants supporting 67 projects worth nearly \$19 million.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of thousands of volunteers who make cricket thrive in NSW. Their passion and commitment remain the heartbeat of the game as we build towards an even bigger 2025/26 season – inspiring more people than ever to play and love cricket.

Martin Gleeson
Chief Community Cricket Officer
Cricket NSW

COMMUNITY CRICKET BY THE NUMBERS

61,631
5-12 year old cricketers



+11%
5-12 Year olds playing cricket



93,282
Community club cricketers (+2%)



+12%
Woolworths Cricket Blast



+9.5%
5-12 Year old girls playing cricket



226
Community Umpires trained (+16%)



+6%
Stage 1 & Stage 2 Junior Cricket



+6%
Organised School Competitions



41,804
matches played in the community (+2%)



+2.5%
Junior Club Cricket overall



5,305
Junior Cricket teams (+8%)



9,000
Holiday Program participants



169,926
total participants (+3%)



4,190
Senior Cricket teams (-1%)



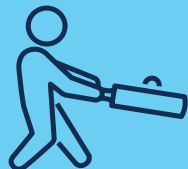
825
Community Coaches trained (+22%)



23,724
female cricketers (+2%)



30,000+
School Program Participants



26,103
matches e-scored



COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT PROGRAM (CASP)

78% Customer Satisfaction Score (CSAT)

123,000+ emails and 22,000 phone calls managed by competition staff, saving thousands of volunteer hours

50% of association volunteers reported a saving of up to 6 hours per week in volunteer time

A 20% reduction in meeting time for association volunteers

50% of matches E-Scored, saving nearly 3,000 hours of manual score entry

5.3% growth in Junior Cricket teams among CASP partners, compared to a 1.65% decline elsewhere

Over \$200,000 in additional value delivered through equipment, discounts, ticket offers, and other partnership benefits



Above - Australian Test captain Pat Cummins offers Cricket Blasters some memorable moments at the start of the 2024/25 season

WOOLWORTHS CRICKET BLAST

INNINGS WRAP

Woolworths Cricket Blast continued its strong growth across NSW, with 32,308 total registrations (+12%).

The season's success reflects the combined efforts of clubs, volunteers, schools, and partners in making cricket fun, inclusive, and accessible.

Female participation reached a new high with 10,152 girls signing up to play (↑ 7%).

Sydney Metro remained a powerhouse with 23,049 registrations, including 6,935 girls.

Country NSW registrations rose slightly from 8,569 to 8,591, reflecting consistent engagement across regions.

Sydney's West saw standout growth, jumping 25.5% to 15,732 registrations, driven by strong engagement with South Asian communities.



The Beach Blast concept returned, blending cricket with coastal fun and drawing strong media and community interest.

Thanks to support from Woolworths, CommBank, the NSW Office of Sport, and the CNSW Foundation, thousands of children accessed funding support for programs across the state.



Children at the Kiama Cavaliers CC Cricket Blast program.

IN FOCUS – KIAMA CAVALIERS CC

Every Friday afternoon, the Kiama Cavaliers' local cricket field transforms into a vibrant hub of laughter, teamwork, and community spirit. At the centre is Shane Wilson, whose leadership of the Woolworths Cricket Blast program has driven remarkable growth—from just 7 participants to 42.

Shane's approach reflects Cricket NSW's commitment to inclusivity, fun, and connection. By introducing themed weeks like Silly Socks, Fluro Fun, and Free Pizza, he creates an environment where children of all backgrounds feel welcome and excited to play. These sessions go beyond cricket—they build friendships, boost confidence, and celebrate diversity.

Parents are more than spectators—they're active participants. Whether helping with drills or joining group activities, families bond through shared experiences, reinforcing the club's role as a community cornerstone.

Shane's ability to foster trust and create a safe, welcoming space has deepened the connection between the Cavaliers and the broader community. His work exemplifies how grassroots leadership can grow a club, energise a program, and unite people through sport.

By making cricket fun and family-focused, Shane is not only developing young players—he's nurturing a culture that reflects the very heart of Cricket NSW's values.



Shane Wilson (right) being awarded the national and state Blast Coordinator of the Year awards.

IN FOCUS – MANLY CRICKET ACADEMY INDOOR CENTRE

CNSW ran a Cricket Blast program in Term 3 at the brand new Manly Cricket Academy Indoor Centre which immediately maxed out on participants for the first session - leading Cricket NSW to offer a second program. This program had 35 participants and will run again in 2025/26.

This program was one of the first to take place in the new indoor cricket centre on the Northern Beaches, the first of its kind, and the participants thrived on the opportunity to be the first to try it out.



A Cricket Blast program at the new Manly Cricket Academy Indoor Centre

COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

The CNSW Competition Administration Support Program (CASP) provides end-to-end administrative support for cricket competitions across Metro and Country NSW. The goal of CASP is to reduce the workload on local volunteers, ensure consistency in competition delivery, and lift the standard of administration across the board.

Launched in 2017/18 with just four community associations, CASP is a partnership initiative designed to support cricket volunteers with professional competition administration assistance.

Cricket NSW supports CASP by providing staffing, training, and systems support to deliver efficient cricket competitions. We ensure competitions are PlayHQ-compliant, match rules are implemented fairly, and that clubs are equipped to focus on participation and player experience, not paperwork.

Since its inception, the program has expanded significantly, now overseeing competitions with a dedicated team of local staff across New South Wales—from Byron to Eden and Dubbo to Sydney.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

- Reduced administrative workload for local volunteers through centralised support
- Improved accuracy in scoring, results entry, and finals eligibility
- Standardised governance and compliance reporting
- Better player and parent experience through timely, well-run competitions
- Creation of sustainable competition structures that can adapt and grow

In 2024/25, CASP has shifted from being a support model to a core part of how cricket is delivered across NSW.



A junior team in Western Sydney that plays for the Thunder Cricket League.



CASP partner Wollongong DCC were crowned back-to-back champions at the Community Cricket Cup in early 2025.

8 partner associations in Metro NSW and 38 partner associations across Country NSW

Administered over 900 teams covering over 10,000 players across Sydney, and another 16,500 registered players in Country NSW participating in CASP-supported competitions

Metro competitions ran over 100 grades

Over 50% of Country NSW matches featuring CASP partners were e-scored saving 3,000 hours of volunteer time

20% less time in meetings reported by CASP association volunteers



A Sydney Coastal Cricket Club team from the U9 competition of the Sixers Cricket League. The SCL introduced U9s into their offerings as a link between Cricket Blast and Junior Cricket. The success of this program showcased the interest in Junior Cricket in a younger age group.

IN FOCUS - SCL SOUTH EAST SYDNEY

This season, the Sixers Cricket League – South East Sydney (SCL) proudly hosted a full U17 Turf competition with 10 teams this season — an exciting milestone after being unable to get the competition off the ground in 2023/24.

Thanks to strong engagement from neighbouring associations, some of which brought their own turf facilities, a complete and competitive season of turf cricket was delivered. Matches were played on premier local grounds like Petersham Oval and Kensington Oval, offering players a memorable and professional experience. The feedback from clubs was overwhelmingly positive.



Nepean District Cricket Association Winter Smash Series Champions - Kingswood Risers. NDCA introduced social and winter cricket into their offerings which were facilitated by CASP. This led to highly successful competitions during a historically dormant period of the year for cricket.



The Sydney Sixers mascot Syd at the launch of the Sixers Cricket League in Coffs Harbour.

IN FOCUS - SCL COFFS HARBOUR

The Coffs Harbour cricket community took a significant leap forward with the adoption of a partnership with the Sydney Sixers and the rebranding of its junior and senior competitions under the Sixers Cricket League – Coffs Harbour banner.

This strategic move has professionalised local cricket operations, delivering collaborative governance, centralised support, and streamlined administration. The result is a more consistent and efficient competition structure, allowing local volunteers to focus on what matters most — growing the game.

The Sixers branding has also brought a fresh energy to the region. By aligning with the Sydney Sixers, the competition now benefits from greater visibility, promotional opportunities, and direct connections to Sixers staff and events.

Key outcomes from the transition include stronger administrative consistency, enhanced support for clubs and volunteers, and increased community engagement. Clubs have reported a noticeable lift in competition recognition and a surge in enthusiasm from junior players.

The annual BBL match in Coffs Harbour has further reinforced the Sixers connection, inspiring players and families and highlighting the region's place within the national cricket landscape.

With the Sixers partnership growing, Coffs Harbour is setting a benchmark for regional cricket development in New South Wales.



INNINGS WRAP

Total club cricket participation up 2% on 2023/24 with almost 95,000 participants across formal junior and senior cricket competitions

Overall junior cricket teams up 8% and senior cricket teams down 1%

6% growth in junior club cricket for 5-12 year olds

- 2.5% overall growth in all junior club cricket participation
- Country cricket flat
 - 4.1% growth in metro

2.8% overall decline in senior club cricket

- 10% overall growth in female senior club cricket
- 30% growth in country
 - 19% decline in metro

- 10% overall growth in female junior club cricket
- 9% growth in country
 - 11% growth in metro

The reported experience from participants is very high with almost ¾ of junior club cricketers from season 2023/24 returning to play in 2024/25

- Net Promoter Scores for club cricket are very high
- Junior cricket +54
 - Senior cricket +51

HIGHLANDS CRICKET

Over the last two seasons, Highlands Cricket have run a “bridging program”, designed to transition young players of the region from Cricket Blast into junior cricket, with great success.

Over 40 participants have shown up every week for the program, run at Tudor House sports fields on a Tuesday afternoon and planned with a vision to link the local club-based Cricket Blast program with the successful U10s competition in the area.

The friendly Competition is designed to introduce participants, parents and volunteers to junior cricket via small-sided cricket games, batting in pairs and with all players participating in all facets of the game, and, at the same time, allowing parents to gain an understanding of junior cricket via umpiring/coaching.



Highlands Cricket’s bridging program helps Cricket Blasters transition into junior cricketers

NEXT GEN AT PORT MACQUARIE

The CNSW U19 Next Gen – Port Macquarie competition was introduced this season and was a big success to:

- Bridge the gap between junior and senior clubs to provide long term benefits to the quality of cricket in the region
- Establish a new high-level competition on the Mid North Coast to support representative cricket opportunities with more match play and statistical information for selections
- Provide upskill opportunities for coaches, scorers and umpires

NEW TERM 1 CRICKET COMPETITIONS

Prompted by the amazing cricket Australia experienced during the season, especially the Australian Men’s Team winning the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy decisively against India and the Australian women retaining the Ashes against England, a number of Term 1 competitions were launched across the State to engage junior players aged 8–12 inspired by the exciting summer of cricket.

In what may have traditionally been mid-season, especially at junior levels a number of flexible, short-format competitions were established in

- Camden District Cricket Association U9s with seven-a-side teams in 14-over games played in 90 minutes on weeknights
- Blacktown U9s mixed and Parramatta Stage 1 competition, also played during the week
- Central Coast Stage 1 competition which started in December and ran for eight weeks
- Sixers Cricket League – Coffs Harbour U8s competition played on Thursday nights
- A new Stage 1 competition in Port Macquarie with games played on Friday evening at Oxley Oval
- Far North Coast U10s as an eight a side competition with teams from Ballina, Lennox Head, Bangalow and Alstonville



The U14s team of Warnervale Cricket Club pose for a selfie after winning their Central Coast DCA competition

MAITLAND GIRLS CRICKET

In March, the Maitland & District Junior Cricket Association launched a dedicated girls’ cricket competition. With 31 girls registering—many for the first time—the program offered a unique space for young female cricketers to play, learn and connect.

Held every Monday evening, the five-week competition featured flexible team structures, informal coaching, and a focus on fun and development. Players were grouped by experience and friendships, with teams evolving weekly to balance skills and foster new connections.

Umpired and coached by local ambassadors Jacinta Crawford and Clare Webber, the games were more than just sport—they were a celebration of community, empowerment, and joy.

Parents praised the short season and inclusive format, while the girls embraced the chance to play in an all-girls environment.



Stage 1 junior girls’ teams from MDJCA.

The national Community Cricket Survey identifies five key reasons why cricketers keep coming back to play:

- Social Interaction and Teamwork:** Cricket is often highlighted as a great way to socialise and make new friends. Many players enjoy the camaraderie and team spirit that comes with being part of a cricket team. It’s a sport that fosters friendships and social skills.
- Physical Benefits:** Players alluded to Cricket involving a lot of running, batting, and bowling, which are great ways to stay active and healthy.
- Skill Development:** Players enjoy learning and improving their cricket skills, especially with the help of coaches/parents.
- Competition:** The competitive aspect of cricket is appealing to many junior players.
- Family Tradition:** Some players play cricket because it is a family tradition, or they have family members who also play.

WOMEN & GIRLS CRICKET

The 2024/25 season marked an exciting chapter for female cricket in NSW, defined by innovation, inclusivity, and vibrant engagement.

Social Girls Cricket was introduced as a fast-paced 60-minute format, trialled at 15 pilot sites, offering girls a fresh and accessible entry point to the game. With over 100 participants, including 20 keen players at Eastern Suburbs, early success signals potential for expansion.

The Twilight Women's Cricket League (TWCL) grew significantly, delivered at nine locations statewide across two cricket seasons. With a focus on fun and connection, TWCL provides an ideal pathway for new players and returning veterans alike.

The Girls Colour Bash injected vibrancy into the holiday calendar. Combining cricket with splashy fun, each event culminated in a high-energy 'colour-run' filled with paint, water, and pure joy. Over 400 girls participated statewide.

A new Female Ambassador Program empowered nine passionate women to promote cricket in their communities. Their efforts drove local initiatives—from launching a Social Girls series in Bankstown, to tailored coaching programs in Maitland and Northern Inland, and elevated marketing in Western Sydney.

Together, these initiatives lay strong foundations for continued and sustainable growth in female cricket.



Sydney Thunder WBBL cricketers Chamari Athapaththu and Anika Learoyd visit the Greystanes CC junior girls team for training.

INNINGS WRAP

Increase in 5-12 female participation by 9%, reaching 13,765 participants.

100% growth in girls playing junior club cricket.

New junior girls team at Greystanes Cricket Club for the first time in the team's 53-year-old history.



Girls playing Colour Bash in Gunnedah.

IN FOCUS - GUNNEDAH COLOUR BLAST

Gunnedah Junior Cricket had 21 girls registering to play club cricket in Season 2024/25. Supported by the NSW Government's Play Our Way Funding the program boosted local interest in the game and got girls talking about how great it is to play cricket.

A total of 35 excited young girls joined the Colour Bash program in January 2025 and with the Sydney Sixers mascot Syd there to welcome everyone to the day, each of the girls were able to grab a photo as they arrived! In a Colour Bash program, participants play cricket with water filled balloons and coloured powder, creating a fun and playful environment for the introduction to the game.

Off the back of the success of the Colour Bash, a Social Cricket competition (a modified cricket format with relaxed rules and played with a soft ball) was developed with 20 girls registering to join the fun, 60% of whom were new to cricket and had not tried the game before.

A group of girls from the local St Xavier's School put in a team with their friends which was highly successful and engaging for participants.

All players were provided with matching bucket hats to give them a sense of belonging to their team. Matches were held where there were multiple grounds at the one venue to create a carnival-like atmosphere.

Gunnedah, is leading the way with more all-girls programs currently being set up across the entire Northern Inland.

Social Girls Cricket offers a fun and equipment-free opportunity to play cricket.



Participants at a Social Girls Cricket program share a laugh after a match.



Woolworths Cricket Blasters from Kissing Point Cricket Club join the Australia Test squad to sing the national anthem at the start of the Sydney Pink Test at the SCG in January.

ON-GROUND ENGAGEMENT

INNINGS WRAP

34 Match days across WBBL, BBL, Internationals and the Sydney Pink Test provided opportunities for Cricket Blast participants, junior cricketers and club & association volunteers to be on ground for a once in a lifetime experience.

707 young cricketers from 21 Country clubs and 70 Metro clubs were joined across the season by 1150 club and association volunteers.



Jordan Silk of the Sydney Sixers signs a beguiled fan's cap while Sydney Thunder's Chris Green is happy to take some memorable photos with his young supporters.

IN FOCUS - PINK TEST

The Sydney Test in January this year provided a powerful platform to showcase the skills of budding cricketers.

Across the three days of match play at the SCG, children from clubs across NSW participated in a variety of events on the ground in front of tens of thousands of spectators and took home memories of a lifetime. On Day 3, participants from all-abilities programs took centre stage on the SCG outfield, engaging in Cricket Blast skills and activities. The activation celebrated the program's mission: to create accessible and enjoyable cricket experiences for children of all abilities — building confidence, encouraging inclusion, and strengthening community connections.

It was a joyous moment not only for the participants and their families, but also a strong message to the wider cricket community: cricket is a game for everyone. The crowd's response was overwhelmingly positive, with clear support and recognition for the players on the field.

The Sydney Test provides a unique opportunity for Cricket NSW to raise awareness, celebrate achievements, and continue forging inclusive pathways for all aspiring cricketers across New South Wales.



Cricket Blasters from NSW's Far North Coast showcased their skills on Day 2 of the Australia v India Test at the Gabba in Brisbane in December 2024. A total of 20 Cricket Blasters, 10 from Lismore and 10 from Casino and Ballina, had the experience of a lifetime when they crossed the state border to participate in OGE in Queensland as a special event organised by the two state bodies in collaboration to bring cheer to these children from flood-affected families. Cheer they did as they witnessed both Travis Head and Steve Smith score 100s on that day.



The Bay and Basin Cricket Club from NSW's South East Region made a trip to the Sydney Thunder v Scorchers match at the Engie Stadium in December. The boys got to walk the ground and get players signatures and were also featured on the Big Screen. As a highlight, two of these future stars were selected to press the button to start the Power Play.



Cricket NSW's first cohort of Level 1 certified volunteers at a celebratory event honouring their achievements at Cricket Central in July 2024.



INNINGS WRAP

Volunteer Net Promoter Score (NPS): +21

Launch of the CNSW Volunteer Certification Program (VCP) with 220 volunteers registering in the first season.

Distinguished Community Service Award launched with 43 recipients presented.

Mandatory coach registration introduced with all junior cricket teams expected to have a coach registered in PlayHQ. Just over 70% of teams completed this task.

+8% year-on-year growth in e-scoring with 65% of games e-scored this season.

27 volunteer support webinars delivered covering topics such as e-scoring, child safety, PlayHQ administration, etc) with 1,200 registrations.

Monthly Community Cricket newsletter delivered to clubs and association volunteers across the State with a +9% increase in open rates this season

Delivered the Hat Trick program in partnership with the University of Technology Sydney, supported by the Fostering Integration Grants initiative to engage South Asian men in a cricket-based healthy lifestyle program. Over a 12-week period, 34 participants took part in a range of activities aimed at improving overall wellbeing.

Additionally, 24 participants completed a "train-the-trainer" workshop in February 2025, and 10 participants attended a spin bowling masterclass hosted by Nathan Lyon.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE ACTION PLAN

Volunteers are the heartbeat of community cricket, and in 2024, Cricket NSW launched the Volunteer Experience Action Plan to elevate their experience and impact. Built on five strategic pillars—Empower, Innovate, Reimagine, Celebrate, and Evaluate—the plan aims to support, recognise, and grow the volunteer community across NSW.

Launched in July 2024, a key initiative of delivering on the Action Plan is the Cricket NSW Volunteer Certification Program (VCP). The VCP is a free program designed to recognise and enhance the skills of volunteers in the cricket community. It provides a development framework with three certification levels, acknowledging varying experience and service duration. The program also focuses on educating volunteers about the importance of diversity and inclusion in cricket. Cricket NSW has recorded a 90% satisfaction rate from the 220 volunteers who have participated in the program so far.

COMMUNITY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

RECIPIENTS OF THE 2024/25 COMMUNITY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD:

- Robert Aitken | UTS North Sydney Cricket Club
- Carolyn Ball | Thornleigh Cricket Club
- Bruce Baxter | South Services Cricket Club
- Brian Breakspear | Yaralla Cricket Club
- Dean Bridges | Paterson Cricket Club
- Paul Brien | Moore Park South East Cricket Association
- Warren Campion | Albion Park Cricket Club
- Barry Cooper | Goonellabah Workers Sports Cricket Club
- Sharon Cooper | Bankstown Sports Women's Cricket Club
- Marie Cornish OAM | Wellington District Cricket Association
- Michael Drum | Nepean District Cricket Umpires Association
- Robin Gardner | Randwick Petersham Cricket Club
- Ken Garland | Gloucester Junior Cricket Association
- Helene Goadsby | Singleton District Cricket Association
- George Greentree | Freemans Reach Cricket Club
- Stephen Hodgkinson | Terrey Hills Cricket Club
- Tom Iceton OAM | Sutherland District Cricket Club
- Gary Kavanagh | Wyong District Cricket Club
- David Lane | Corowa Cricket Club
- Peter Lees | West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club
- Tom Lewis | Hunter Valley Region Cricket Council
- Adrian Mannel | Newcastle City & Eastern Districts Cricket Club
- Robert Marshall | City & Suburban Cricket Association 1903
- Damian McGovern | De La Salle Kingsgrove Cricket Club
- Kevin McGrath | GyMEA Bay Cricket Club
- Damien Miller | Tenambit Morpeth Cricket Club
- Michael Mooney | Cronulla Seagulls Cricket Club
- Matt Mortimer | Blacktown Mounties Cricket Club
- Kevin Pye | New South Wales Cricket Umpires' and Scorers' Association
- Michael Redpath | Waratah Mayfield District Cricket Club
- John Rixon | North Tamworth Cricket Club
- Andrew Robertson | Ulladulla United Cricket Club
- Michael Ross | Camden District Cricket Association
- David Rumbel | Dungog Cricket Association
- Mick Sedgers | Epping Bulls Cricket Club
- William Shepherd | Seven Hills-Toongabbie Cricket Club
- Simon Smith | Square & Compass Cricket Club
- Paul Theodossiadis | Keira Cricket Club
- Greg Wellington | Bomaderry Cricket Club
- Kay Wilcoxon | Fairfield-Liverpool Cricket Club
- Bruce Wood OAM | Hornsby Ku-ring-gai & Hills District Cricket Coaches' Association
- Lindsay Wood OAM | Maitland District Umpires & Scorers Association
- Ian Woolfe | Hill Top Northern Villages Cricket Club

As part of its Volunteer Experience Action Plan (2024-2027), that is committed to rewarding and recognising those who have given so much to cricket, in the 2024-25 season, Cricket NSW introduced the Community Distinguished Service Award.

This Award honours volunteers who have made significant contributions to cricket for more than 25 years. Launched in October 2024, the award saw nominations pour in from across the state.

After an overwhelming response from the community, Cricket NSW announced the recipients of the Community Distinguished Service Award for season 2024/25. The stories of dedication and passion of these inaugural

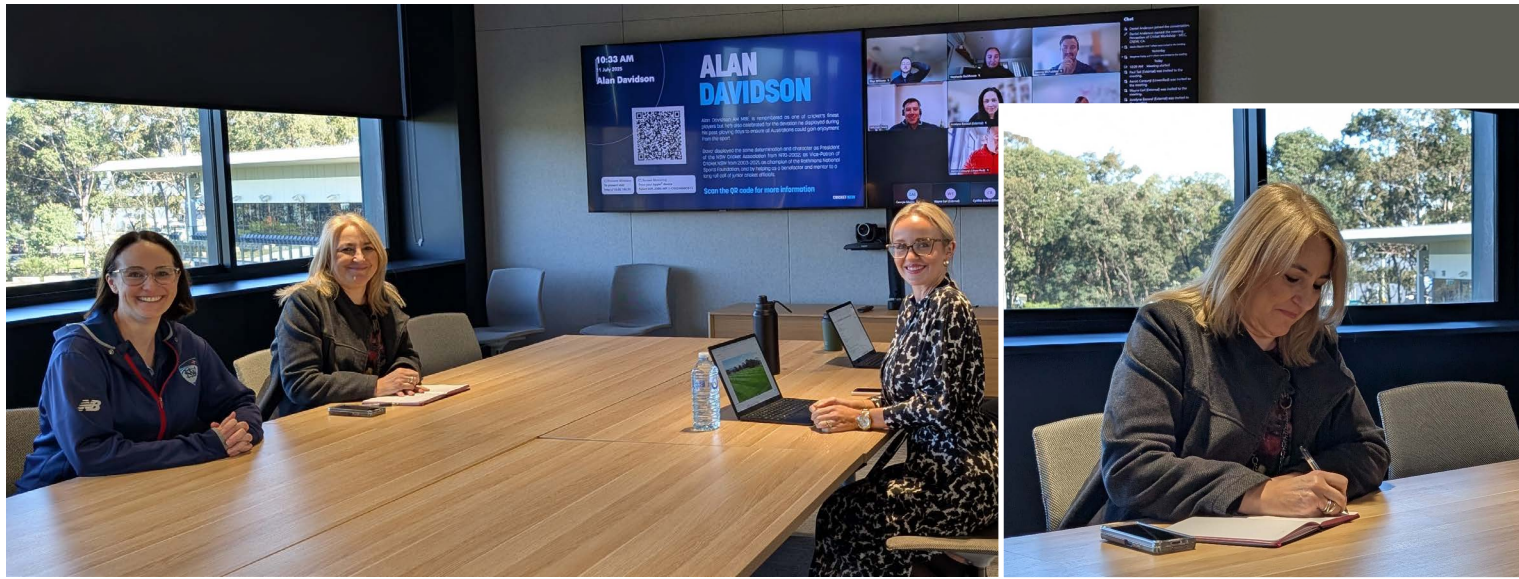


Tom Iceton OAM (right) of Sutherland District Cricket Club being awarded with his Distinguished Volunteer Award Certificate.

recipients will serve as an inspiration to future generations, ensuring that the spirit of volunteerism continues to thrive in the cricket community.



Distinguished volunteer award winner Helene Goadsby (front, centre) of Singleton District Cricket Association with association members.



Metro Council chair Matina Moffitt (second from right) and Cricket Australia's Senior Manager, Growth Initiatives, Samantha Krajina (front, left), at a workshop at Cricket Central with Cricket NSW staff and Metro Cricket Council members.

METRO CRICKET COUNCIL

On April 29 this year, the nine members of NSW's newly-formed Metro Cricket Council – five women and four men -- met for the first time to usher in a new era in the state's cricket community that will pave the way for how the game will take shape in the years to come.

The formation of this advisory committee came off the back of recommendations from the NSW Districts Cricket Association's (NSWDCA) Future Directions Project which was launched in August 2024. The review was conducted in collaboration with the NSWDCA Committee and metro associations, culminating in the members voting to dissolve the NSWDCA at their Extraordinary General Meeting in February 2025.

With the dissolution of the NSWDCA, metro community cricket associations will affiliate directly to CNSW. The Metro Cricket Council has been formed as a consultative and advisory board for CNSW management to work with on strategy and the direction of the game.

Identified from community nominations, assessed via a skills matrix and appointed by the CNSW Board, the Council's make up is representative of the community it will serve. This includes five of the members being female and two members with South Asian backgrounds, signalling the greater involvement in cricket from those sections of the community.

The primary task of the Metro Cricket Council will be to advise CNSW management on community strategy and the direction of community cricket in metropolitan Sydney and also advocate for and support the execution of the strategy.

The Council met for the first time on 29 April 2025 as an introduction with the first order of business to confirm the focus and agenda for the Metro Cricket Forum held at Cricket Council on 6 May 2025 which ushered in a new era in collaboration.

The forum was well attended by representatives of 15 Metro cricket associations, who took up the opportunity to have two-way discussions and the sharing of information on a variety of topics around community cricket practices in Sydney.

It was also a chance for Cricket NSW to listen to the community's thoughts and for the members of the Metro Cricket Council to understand the critical issues at this time.

The Forum concluded with a forward-looking conversation on what matters most in the next 12 months for Metro associations. Key themes which were raised included growing participation, enhancing participant experiences, optimising the delivery of cricket, and supporting volunteers to grow their clubs.

COUNTRY ROADSHOWS

The 2025 Cricket NSW Country Roadshow program visited Armidale, Dubbo, Central Coast, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Maitland, Goulburn, Cootamundra and Lismore at the end of the season with Community Cricket leadership putting in a lot of kilometres to hear from our grassroots volunteers.

The roadshows are a fantastic opportunity for Country NSW volunteers to share their experiences, learn about new developments for the upcoming season, and work together to improve cricket in their respective areas and across the state.

Participants were asked to don their Green De Bono's Hat to bring out their creativity and new ideas. This worked very well in the workshops and will help to drive new initiatives for the 2025/26 season.

For its part, CNSW brought in the data and the good news, showing that junior participation was up across the state on

last season mostly thanks to Cricket Blast numbers. The leaders also demonstrated the benefits of being part of Cricket NSW's Competition Administration Support Program (CASP), especially within a strategic partnership.

Cricket Australia's new research on junior cricket personas was a highlight at some of the roadshow events and created a lot of conversation as volunteers reflected on their own journey to improve their understanding of how our junior cricketers want to experience cricket in different forms and the need for programs to cater to all skills levels.

The workshops rounded out the sessions as subjects such as club capability, school-based initiatives, infrastructure and volunteer support opportunities were discussed. This feedback has already influenced Cricket NSW's ways of working in Country areas and is set to be built up in the upcoming 2025/26 season.



HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Children at a holiday program at Cricket Central, where mutli-day programs are available for all cricket abilities.

INNINGS WRAP

Over 9000 registered participants in the 2024/25 season

+38% growth year on year

New formats such as Colour Bash and Holiday Bash introduced to cater to varied age brackets and abilities

Clear, identifiable next steps from previous offerings for participants

Regional clinics received additional funding support such as Play Our Way – Girls funding, to boost access

Review of pricing in Country areas (reduced cost for affordability) received increased support from communities

Listened to Voice of Customer and reduced length of Bash and Clinics from 6 to 4 hours in specific areas, with great success, as they allowed for more “quality” sessions and greater participant engagement



Over two big days in the January 2025 holidays, 141 participants enjoyed skill sessions and Cricket Blast games at Sutherland’s Holiday Bash, with plenty of fun for everyone.

IN FOCUS - CRICKET CENTRAL HOLIDAY CLINICS

Cricket Central’s holiday clinics, run in partnership with the Sydney Thunder and Sydney Sixers, are proving a hit with young cricketers across Sydney. Held twice each school holidays, the clinics give children the opportunity to develop their skills under the guidance of qualified coaches at a world-class facility.

Parents can relax at the Commons Café while their children play cricket,, with pre-ordered lunches available for participants. The lunchtime break also features the popular Thunder and Sixers catching inflatables, adding to the fun.

Participation has remained strong across both teams. Sydney Thunder clinics attracted 73 players in January 2024, 50 in October 2024, and saw an increase to 84 in January 2025. April and July 2025 drew 69 and 57 participants respectively.

Sydney Sixers clinics in 2025 saw 92 participants in January, 50 in April, and 42 in July. Across both clubs, boys and girls are getting involved, with girls’ participation showing steady numbers throughout the year.

These clinics continue to combine skill development with an enjoyable holiday experience, keeping cricket at the heart of the school break.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY OFFERINGS

Our Sydney Thunder school holiday programs offer something for everyone, whether you want to try cricket for the first time, sharpen your skills or play in a competition. Girls and boys aged 5-17 will experience fun-filled activities and games in a positive and engaging environment. Don’t miss out on the chance to make this holiday a memorable one!

THUNDER BASH	THUNDER CLINICS	THUNDER CARNIVALS
Try cricket	Enhance your cricket skills	Play competition cricket
- Ages 5-10 New or inexperienced cricketers 1 day program \$49	- Ages 7-14 Current cricketers 1 day program \$60 - \$75 (regional) \$100 (metro)	- Ages 9-17 Current cricketers 2 day program (Min. 4 x matches per team) - Stages 1, 2 and 3 competitions \$130 (regional) \$150 (metro)
Come and have a bash at cricket. Fast-paced, no equipment or prior knowledge required. Lots of skills development activities and modified game-based play.	“Build confidence through competence”. Coaching & skill development focused clinics delivered by qualified coaches.	Two days of fun, Big Bash-aligned competition cricket in a carnival atmosphere for boys and girls.
Learn through activities and play	Take your cricket skills to the next level	Playing and competing



SCHOOL HOLIDAY OFFERINGS

Our Sydney Thunder and Sydney Sixers school holiday programs offer something for everyone, whether you want to try cricket for the first time, sharpen your skills or play in a competition. Girls and boys aged 5-17 will experience fun-filled activities and games in a positive and engaging environment. Don’t miss out on the chance to make this holiday a memorable one!

SIXERS BASH	SIXERS CLINICS	SIXERS CARNIVALS
Try cricket	Enhance your cricket skills	Play competition cricket
- Ages 5-10 New or inexperienced cricketers 1 day program \$49	- Ages 7-14 Current cricketers 1 day program \$60 - \$75 (regional) \$100 (metro)	- Ages 9-17 Current cricketers 2 day program (Min. 4 x matches per team) - Stages 1, 2 and 3 competitions \$130 (regional) \$150 (metro)
Come and have a bash at cricket. Fast-paced, no equipment or prior knowledge required. Lots of skills development activities and modified game-based play.	“Build confidence through competence”. Coaching & skill development focused clinics delivered by qualified coaches.	Two days of fun, Big Bash-aligned competition cricket in a carnival atmosphere for boys and girls.
Learn through activities and play	Take your cricket skills to the next level	Playing and competing



SOUTH ASIAN ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Rooted in the pillars of Participation & Experience, Pathways & Performance, and Fandom & Engagement, the South Asian Engagement Strategy (SAES) is focused on creating long-term, meaningful opportunities for South Asian communities to belong, compete, and thrive.

Throughout 2024/25, the strategy came to life through grassroots cricket activations and community-led initiatives. Tape Ball Cricket was introduced as a welcoming entry point to the game, attracting both new and experienced players.

The strategy also focuses on cultural engagement across a wide range of events. These included the Harman Foundation's Cricket for Harmony Picnic and Light & Hope event for the Indian Sikh community, and the multicultural Eid Festival & Fair at Fairfield Showground, which brought together South Asian and Middle Eastern communities.

Cricket NSW also participated in the Gallipoli Turkish Cultural Foundation's Iftar Dinner and the Gallipoli Eid Festival, both celebrating the Turkish and broader Islamic communities.

Other key events included the NSW Premier's Harmony Dinner, Cowra's Festival of International Understanding featuring India, and the GWS Giants Iftar Dinner attended by South Asian and Middle Eastern Islamic communities.

The Women's Thunder Nation Cup Launch celebrated South Asian women in cricket. Celebrations continued at Chatswood's Chinese New Year event, Starry Sari Nights in Liverpool, and the WBBL Cricket & Culture Festival.

The season concluded with The Eid Show at Bankstown Showground.

By embedding cultural understanding, expanding opportunities, and celebrating South Asian communities, Cricket NSW continues to build a future where cricket is truly a sport for all.



INNINGS WRAP

Launched the inaugural South Asian Engagement Strategy to build lasting cultural inclusivity in the game.

Introduction of Tape Ball Cricket—a culturally familiar, low-barrier format popular across South Asia.

Delivered 4 Tape Ball competitions (Senior & Junior) with 184 participants, 83% identifying as South Asian.

Activated and participated in 12 multicultural cultural events, forging ties and strengthening our relationship with the diverse South Asian communities.

23% of 5-12 year olds playing cricket in 2024/25 are from South Asian backgrounds.

South Asian participation in junior cricket grew 11.5% across NSW compared to 2023/24.

THE STRATEGY SUMMARY

OUR PRIORITY AREAS



PARTICIPATION
Both inside and outside traditional cricket systems



PERFORMANCE
within our elite pathways



FANS
of W/BBL and Australian international matches

OUR ACTIONS

1

Engagement with South Asian communities social leagues

3

South Asian Communities Cricket Champions

5

Opportunities for talented South Asian coaches and administrators

7

South Asian fan ambassador program

9

Fan engagement opportunities with elite South Asian players

2

Two-way education to improve community knowledge and cultural understanding

4

Cricket as a vehicle to help integrate new South Asian migrants

6

Two-way education to improve knowledge and cultural understanding within performance pathways

8

Match day experiences for South Asian Fans

10

Amplify the voice of communities

OUR IMPACT METRICS



Increased participation



More volunteers



Number of NSW contracted players



Number of high performance coaches and administrators



NPS for Cricket as a sport from Fans



Attendance at W/BBL and Australian matches

OUR INVESTMENT

\$450k

\$300k

\$300k

\$1.1m Total Investment

What this will mean for our South Asian Communities



More Opportunities



Improved knowledge and cultural awareness



Better talent identification and recognition



Greater representation

IN FOCUS - TAPE BALL CRICKET LEAGUE

Tape Ball Cricket is a fast-paced, social variant of traditional cricket, played with a tennis ball wrapped in electrical tape. Originating in South Asia, its minimal equipment requirements and open-access nature make it ideal for informal play in community spaces. The format's cultural familiarity and low barriers to entry make it an effective way to connect with South Asian communities and lay the groundwork for broader cricket participation.



The Holroyd Giants Junior Baseball team is now also a champion Junior Tape Ball team at Moorebank! The team was put together by coach Darren Bowman, who put the side together with his sons and a few other players. Darren wanted to give his kids a go at a more informal version of cricket, and enjoyed the format as a great gateway to the sport. A lifelong cricketer, he'd struggled to pass on his passion, with his sons instead drawn to baseball's shorter format — until Tape Ball offered the perfect fit.

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT



INNINGS WRAP

Almost 30,000 Primary School students from over 223 schools participated in cricket through Sporting Schools, PDHPE and Mascot Challenge programs.

School cricket across NSW grew 6% with 18,817 boys and girls playing in organised cricket competitions.

1,689 School Ambassadors are now active across NSW

Over the past year, awareness of CNSW school offerings has continued to grow, aided by improved communications, digital resource sharing, and proactive outreach to schools and education networks. This has resulted in an uplift in program inquiries, resource downloads, and school engagement across metro and regional areas.

There have also been developments with our school strategy. Now with a full suite of offerings, CNSW has built out the school participation journey, helping to deepen connections with schools whilst improving opportunities to transition students through the cricketing journey.

In addition, CNSW has also taken important steps to deepen its integration within the broader education system. This has included meetings with key stakeholders to better understand school structures, including the PSSA (Primary School Sports Association), and how best to align cricket delivery within those frameworks.

Notably, CNSW was invited to present to an online state classroom of PDHPE educators. A strong endorsement of cricket's relevance and alignment with curriculum outcomes. These connections have helped the continued efforts to position CNSW as a trusted partner in school sport and education.

Collectively, these efforts have built stronger relationships with schools, improved access to quality cricket programs, and ensured more students experience the game in a positive and lasting way.

IN FOCUS - SCHOOL CRICKET IN WILCANNIA

Servicing rural and remote schools requires some creativity to ensure that students have the opportunity to play and love Cricket. One good example of how this was brought to life was making the trip to Wilcannia in the Central Darling Region and delivering cricket and cultural opportunities to students over consecutive days.

The format of the two days allowed for engaging skills sessions and modified games at both St Joseph's Primary School in Wilcannia and Wilcannia Central School. It also provided valuable upskilling time for teachers and other school staff who were then able to embed cricket into the school curriculum later in the year.

A highlight of the trip was a video of Sydney Thunder player Hannah Darlington explaining the meaning behind the Indigenous design on the playing shirt which led into an activity where students could paint their own design on mini cricket bats.



Children pick up umpiring skills at Milparinka.

INNINGS WRAP

In Season 2024/25, a total of 1,980 children were able to play cricket through community programs and initiatives funded by the CNSW Foundation in 2025

The CNSW Foundation funded 18 all-abilities clinics, four Breakfast Blast clinics, 12 Indigenous clinics, three remote clinics and 24 regional holiday clinics throughout the season

Over 350 cricket balls donated to community clubs thanks to a donation from Sydney Thunder principal partner, Homestar Finance to the CNSW Foundation

The Foundation also donated new and quality pre-loved equipment and gear to clubs across the state

\$17,410 donated directly to cricket clubs from 50-50 Charity Raffles held during BBL14 Sydney Thunder and Sydney Sixers home games



Over 350 cricket balls were donated to community clubs thanks to a donation from Homestar Finance

CRICKET NSW FOUNDATION

The Cricket NSW Foundation works in partnership with the CNSW Community Cricket team finding solutions for barriers to participation – whether they are financial, location-based, equipment or resources. Utilising a solution-based approach, the team creates engaging and positive experiences which have a lasting impact for communities.

The Cricket NSW Foundation is proud to support the work of the Community Cricket team, and to continue giving opportunities to cricket players across the state to experience, grow and love cricket.

IN FOCUS - MILPARINKA BIG BASH

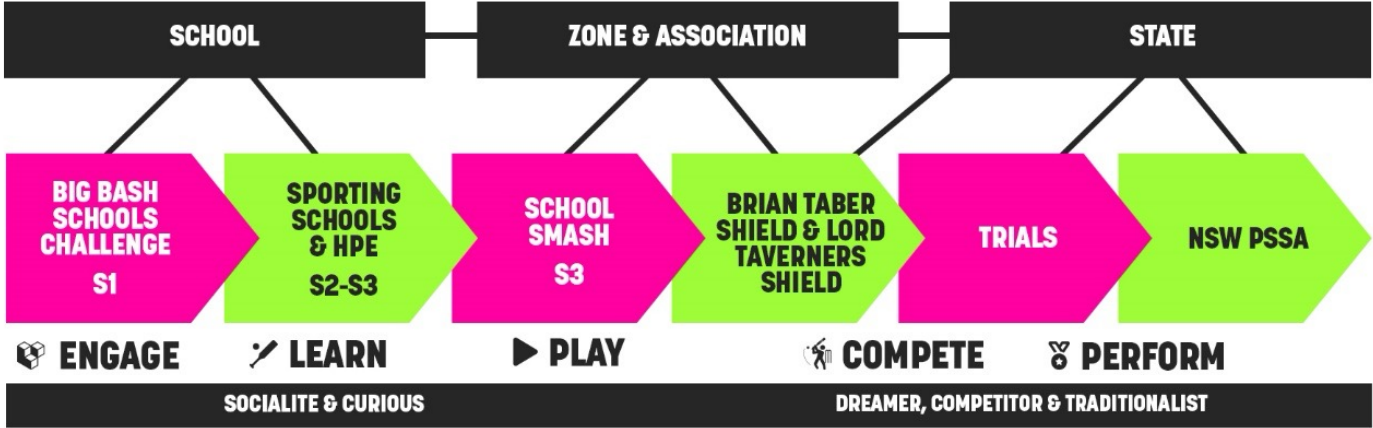
In September 2024, Cricket NSW saw the gathering of “School of the Air” students at Milparinka as an opportunity for the children and their families to gather at the MCG (Milparinka Cricket Ground) for a bat and bowl.

Situated 300km north of Broken Hill along the Silver City Highway, sits Milparinka a small mining town on the banks of Eveyln Creek. Years ago, the MCG was a hub for the miners and the wider community, to connect, unwind and play a game of cricket. The Milparinka Big Bash bought back this tradition, bringing out the competitive spirit of not just the students, but their parents too!

Engaging over 100 children and their families, Cricket NSW staff led cricket skills and drills leading into the main event - the Milparinka Big Bash. Having not had opportunities to be part of a team or attend regular coaching; this was a milestone event that students and their families could experience together.



Casino Cricket Club Indigenous Youth clinics



Socialite: The Socialite wants to have fun, connect with their family, score more runs and take more wickets, and be confident and try different skills.

Curious: The Curious wants to have fun, connect with friends, be confident and try different skills, and be active and healthy.

Competitor: The competitor wants to win as many matches as possible, be a better cricketer, get the new bat they want, and perform well at sport.

Traditionalist: The traditionalist wants to be a better cricketer, learn more about the game, spend more time in the nets, make their family proud.

Dreamer: The Dreamer wants to play for Australia, continue to improve as a cricketer, score more runs and take more wickets, and make their family proud.

COUNTRY BLITZ

INNINGS WRAP

35 Sydney Thunder, Sydney Sixers, NSW Blues and NSW Breakers stars visited over 40 schools in 37 towns in a span of 48 hours in August 2024

The players participated in 15 come-and-try days and cricket clinics

They attended a total of 20 meet and greet events in the span of two days

Six of the 35 cricketers visited their hometowns and some went to their old schools

The tour tied in with Play Cricket Week that was being celebrated across Australia, to mark the launch of the 2024/25 cricket season, encouraging Australians to play #cricketanywhere



Sixers star Josh Philippe is all smiles with young Sixers fans at a meet-and-greet event at Beechwood Hotel.



Sydney Thunder's Sam Konstas (second from left) swaps his bat for a baguette at the local bakery of teammate Ebony Hoskin's (left) hometown Howlong, that he visited with her and NSW Blue Ryan Hackney (far right).



Sydney Thunder's Liam Hatcher startles some of the residents of Dubbo Zoo with his explosive batting and also wins a few new fans.



Illawarra boy from Oak Flats, NSW Blues cricketer Blake Nikitaras (centre), with Sydney Thunder's rising star Will Salzmann (left) and NSW Breaker Isabella Malgioglio (right), at the Kiama Blowhole during their Country Blitz tour of 2024.



Sydney Thunder mainstay Hannah Darlington (far right) takes the perfect selfie with Thunder's newest recruit Sienna Eve and their young fans at Newcastle.

IN FOCUS - PLAYERS' HOMECOMINGS

On the morning of August 22, a large procession of cars and other vehicles made their way to the historic Bargoed House at Swansea, near Newcastle. The setting, with banners and flags everywhere and the beautiful backdrop of Lake Macquarie, couldn't be more perfect.

That morning, Sienna Eve, NSW women's cricket's wunderkind, who had signed on as an NSW Breaker earlier in the year, was announced as Sydney Thunder's latest team member in the presence of media, players, and a number of onlookers that included the state's youngest cricketers. All the while, Newcastle's Eve was going back to where it all started. The Country Blitz, that brought Eve back to Newcastle that week, is Cricket NSW's regional engagement tour to inspire children to play and love cricket.

In August 2024, six of the 35 cricketers visited their old hometowns.

Illawarra was excited to have Oak Flats' Blake Nikitaras visiting, more so as Country Blitz returned to the region after a gap in 2023. Further to the southwest, Breakers star Ebony Hoskin visited her primary school in Howlong. Lismore's Sammy-Jo Johnson went far north to revisit her alma mater, Blue Hills College, in Goonellabah.

Thunder player Matt Gilkes revved up the South Coast with a visit to his high school, Ulladulla High. Meanwhile, fellow South Coast native, Thunder men's team's newest addition, Nic Maddinson, was caught in a whirlwind of interviews including a few at the Dubbo Zoo in the presence of some very unique creatures who might be cricket's newest fans.



Cricket Blasters during a Country Blitz program a beach in Newcastle

COACH DEVELOPMENT

INNINGS WRAP

Delivered 79 Community coaching courses with 825 attendees

Conducted 10 Cricket Blast Coordinator training sessions with 86 attendees

Delivered eight community officiating courses with 122 attendees

Mandatory junior coach registration introduced, with 71% of junior teams having a registered coach - +14% increase in unique coach registrations

Implemented a coach newsletter, designed specifically for registered coaches

First ever female only representative coaching course



IN FOCUS - ALL FEMALE LEVEL 2 REP COACHING COURSE

In early June, 2025, in what can only be termed as a turning point in women's cricket coaching history, Cricket Central hosted a groundbreaking all-female Level 2 Representative Coach Accreditation Course. Such an all-female coaching course, in addition to being conducted for the first time NSW's cricketing history, also marked a significant milestone in Australian cricket.

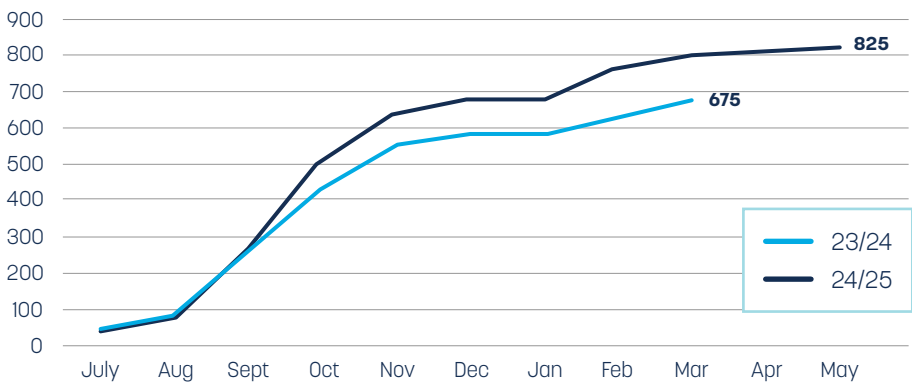
This pioneering program was made possible through the federal government's Play Our Way initiative and involved 15 women from across the state participating in the three-day intensive workshop. The course included practical assessments and covered essential topics such as effective coaching, mental skills, child safety, and self-reflection. Participants had already completed online modules in areas like fast bowling safety and representative coaching.

IN FOCUS - BLACKTOWN CDCA CLUBS' INITIATIVE

Clubs in Blacktown have got behind their association's drive to support coaches with 98 volunteers attending Community Coach Courses during the season. While many registered for the free course as team coaches, a large number of mums and dads registered to assist the coach and gain a broad understanding of contemporary coaching methods.

The Community Coaching Course involves completing a short set of on-line modules followed by participating in a practical group session focused on teaching methods. A highlight of the practical sessions is the discovery phase on the use and application of the CA Coach App, a free download available to everyone. The App provides technical and tactical support for coaches at all levels and contains a session planner and hundreds of skill videos to use to develop player skills.

Community Coach Course (Level 1) Attendance



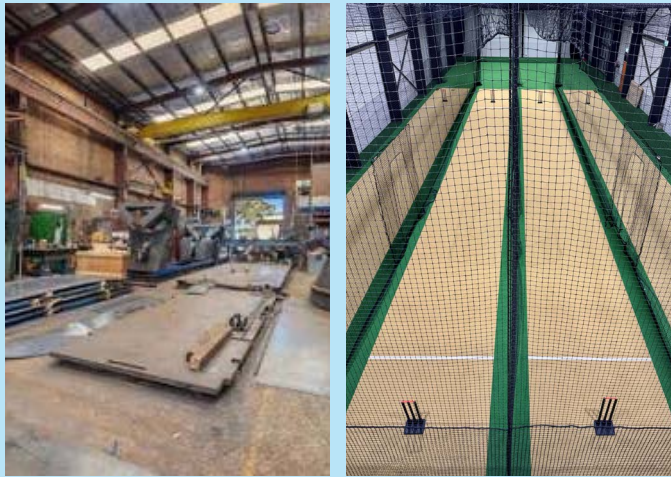
INFRASTRUCTURE

Above - Cricket NSW staff and local leaders at the award-winning Artie Smith Oval in Bomaderry.
Top right - Mark Taylor Oval redevelopment; Bottom right - New facility Raby Sporting Complex includes six new lanes and nets.

Cricket NSW increased engagement with key stakeholder groups with a focus on local governments (Councils) in 2024/25. Improved communication with councils has increased investment in cricket infrastructure over the past 12 months.

In 2024/25 the Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund (ACIF) committed \$1.2 million in grant funding for community cricket facility projects across NSW. This investment was allocated to 67 projects, with a total project value of these projects reaching \$18.722 million.

Since 2013, Cricket NSW, in partnership with Cricket Australia and the Australian Cricketers' Association, have provided approximately \$12 million in funding to support 493 NSW cricket projects with the total value of these projects more than \$200 million for the renewal of cricketing infrastructure across NSW.



After more than 20 years without an indoor training facility on the Northern Beaches of Sydney, the Manly Warringah Cricket Academy is now completed. A successfully transformed former metal fabrication factory, this is now a state-of-the-art, much-needed four-lane indoor complex. This project was partially funded as a strategic project under the 2023/24 ACIF.

IN FOCUS - CENTRAL COAST CRICKET PITCHES

In a collaborative effort that sets the blueprint for how Cricket NSW staff and local governments can work together, Central Coast undertook a cost-effective project that saved both time and money.

The Central Coast Council, Central Coast Cricket Association (CCCA), and Cricket NSW partnered earlier this year to upgrade five synthetic pitches—at Pat Morley Oval, Wadalba Sports Complex, Kariang Oval, McEvoy Oval, and Patrick Croke Oval. Upgrading them simultaneously cut costs by nearly 25% compared to individual projects.

Earlier this year, the second National Infrastructure Audit (NIA)—the largest of its kind—identified five pitches on the Central Coast as needing immediate upgrades. Rated 'poor,' they required rebuilding to comply with Cricket Australia Facility Guidelines. Total upgrade cost: \$76,000.

The Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund (ACIF) provided half of the project's cost with the Council covering the other half, saving considerably from the original budget.



Patrick Croke Oval before and after without synthetic.



Three generations of cricket lovers. National award-winning Community Cricket Coach of the Year, Dave Neil (left), with his father, Terry Neil (right), and his son, Paddy Penberthy-Neil (centre) at Orange.

COMMUNITY CRICKET AWARDS

Cricket NSW announced the winners of the 2025 Community Cricket Awards in 15 categories in April as a recognition for our volunteers, leaders and outstanding initiatives in the NSW cricket community.

The winners, who were then nominated for Cricket Australia's National Community Cricket Awards in May, brought home a third of the national awards.

NSW's award-winning volunteers included Dave Neil of Orange CYMS Cricket Club, who was named Coach of the Year, and Shane Wilson of Kiama Cavaliers CC, who was named Cricket Blast Coordinator of the Year, a category that was introduced last year.

Warringah CC shone among club-based awards to win the Junior Initiative of the Year, while NSW's community cricket facilities such as Shoalhaven's Artie Smith Oval and Central Coast's Charmhaven Indoor Sports took the major facilities awards.

NSW also received high recommendations in four categories. Matthew Pearce Public School was recommended for its efforts in Celebrating Cricket in Schools. Ken Bakon was a high recommendation in the Community Match Official category. Harris Park Cricket Club was recommended in the Women & Girls Initiative of the Year category, while Newcastle's Alyssa Wharton was recommended as a Young Leader of the Year.

Earlier in April, among Cricket NSW's major award categories, Thornleigh Cricket Club won the Community Club of the Year for its focus on inclusivity, breaking down volunteer roles and recent participation growth, while the state's Volunteer of the Year award went to Cynthia Rouse of the Eastern Suburbs CC, who is also now a member of the Metro Cricket Council.



NSW's Young Leader of the Year, 21-year-old Alyssa Wharton (far left) of Newcastle, has received a high recommendation from Cricket Australia for her achievements. Here, she is coaching the next generation of NSW's female cricket stars.



NSW Volunteer of the Year, Cynthia Rouse (centre), is also an avid Sydney Sixers fan.

This year, CNSW received 229 nominations across the 15 categories from members of the community.

Full list of 2025 Cricket NSW Community Cricket Awards:

CATEGORY	WINNER
Volunteer of the Year	Cynthia Rouse (Eastern Suburbs Juniors Cricket Club)
Community Club of the Year	Thornleigh Cricket Club
Community Cricket Association of the Year	Nepean District Cricket Association
Young Leader of the Year	Alyssa Wharton (Newcastle City & Eastern Districts Cricket Club)
Cricket Blast Coordinator of the Year	Shane Wilson (Kiama Cavillers Cricket Club)
Community Cricket Coach of the Year	Dave Neil (Orange CYMS Cricket Club)
Celebrating Cricket in Schools	Mark Gardner (Matthew Pearce Public School)
Community Cricket Partnership of the Year	Hornsby Ku-ring-gai & Hills District Cricket Coaches Association and Hornsby Ku-ring-gai & Hills District Cricket Association
Community Match Official of the Year	Ken Bakon (Parramatta District Cricket Umpires Association)
Inclusion and Diversity Initiative	Diggers Cricket Club (Coffs Harbour)
Indoor Facility of the Year	Charmhaven Indoor Sports
Junior Initiative of the Year	Warringah Cricket Club - Juniors Gala Day
Technology and Media Initiative	Waratah-Mayfield District Cricket Club
Women and Girls Initiative	Girls Cricket League (Harris Park Cricket Club)
Facility of the Year	Artie Smith Oval Redevelopment

