

To all our Macquarie Saints club members, I say welcome and thank you for joining us here today.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for contributing in many ways to the success of the 2013 season and growth of our club. We are in an envious position at Macquarie Saints, managing to grow both our Junior's and Senior's team bases, which is a great credit to the enormous support & effort of our many members.

To the many new members and families in our club, we hope you've had a great season.

I'll keep my report fairly brief as Nicole Hansl will provide an update on our Juniors, John Elliott on our Seniors. David Lawrence will also report on our financials.

As many of you have hopefully seen this season, the club has completed a number of investments into our grounds and our equipment. This includes new drop-in bases pitching strips on our diamonds, our new sand bunker, new kits for all our teams, as well as club shirts for Coaches and Managers.

I wish to say special thanks to our Equipment Officer (Bill Elliott) and other members, Peter Godden in particular, for helping with establishing these infrastructure investments.

We have also recently reached agreement with Council to co-fund the remaining Epping Road side fence at Pioneer Park and will continue to work with the Council on improving the amenities around the park. I hope we can report on further infrastructure improvements and other initiatives in due course.

Our club continues to have very good representation with our parent baseball associations, RHBL and PCBL, and, thanks to the hard work of many members, we enjoy a co-operative ongoing relationship with each.

From a team & club results perspective, we have truly excelled ourselves this season, especially in our Junior's, with 9 out of 16 teams reaching the final series of games. Of these our two u9's, u10's, u12 1's, our u19's and all three u14's teams made it into Grand Finals or Plate Finals. To the many players, coaches, managers, scores, umpires and team officials, thank you all on a job well done.

I would also like to point out that this year we had 8 teams coached and/or assistant coached, by current or past Macquarie Saints Juniors. This is a fantastic credit to these players and their families in supporting the development & mentoring of our more junior club members. So to Sean O'Sullivan & Adam Barbaro (of the u8's), Andrew Johnstone and Brianna Martin (of the u9's), Dom Hansl (of the U10s), Sean McCrohan, Jack Young, Jon Nicoll & Beau Sorbello (of the u11's), Forrest Johnson-Fisher, Chris Nicoll & Jordan Sorbello (of the u14's) and Sam Collins (of the u16's), I say a very big thank you.

Not to be out done, in our Senior's competition 5 teams qualified for the finals, of which 2 played Grand Finals. Our C1's teams won their competition with D2's runners up.

We have also held a number of Senior's gala days and gala nights at the Ranch Hotel through this season. These events have been very successful and it is great to see a real strength and social vibrancy developing within our Seniors Club. I encourage all our members to

attend these club events in future and thank the Hotel for their support of our Club Memberships rewards program.

Our BlueSox night was another resounding success with over 100 members and their families attending the game. It was again fantastic to see many of our teal uniformed Junior's out on the diamond with the BlueSox during the National anthem and full credit to Jarred Scott of our u7's for such a great rendition of 'take me out to the ball game'. Particular thanks to Nicole & Michael Hansl and Janine Hunt for co-ordinating these events on our behalf.

The club continued our Aussie Tee Ball Program to our youngest u7's players this season. I understand that all the kids enjoyed their Aussie Tee Ball season. Special thanks to Lisa Easey & Paul van der Westhuizen for co-ordinating this for our club.

In 2013 we brought back our highly vaulted Parents Tee Ball Gala Day. We had great representation from the following teams, u10's – "TwoSox 10's", u11 Div 1's – "Mighty Ducks", u12 Div 3's – "GST (Gabby's Senior Team)", u14 Div 3's – "Gala Galah's" and combined u14 & u16 Div 1's – "Soup'a'Stars".

In a great final game the "Mighty Ducks" and "Soup'a'Stars" fought to the last with the "Soup'a'Stars" running out winner on the day, 9 runs to 5. This was a great day..... and we intend to maintain this for next season.

I encourage all our Junior's parents to enjoy this event next year, although I hear that seniors talents scouts are on the prowl...

One of the real stand-outs of our Club is our Junior Blue Umpire program. With again 11 Junior Blues this year, the Program has gone from strength to strength. In all our Junior Umpires called over 85 home games, from home plate and the field. I would like to extend a very big thank you to our junior players who have stepped up into the leadership roles umpiring our junior games. They have done a fantastic job and it is a great credit to their commitment and desire to learn more about the game and put back into our younger teams. I'd also like to thank Jason Shrimpton for continuing to manage & develop our Junior Blues Program this season. Jason will have a special presentation for our Junior Blues later.

Finally, there are quite a few people we need to thank for helping to keep the Club running:

- Jenny Rubie for managing & co-ordinating our club uniforms, who is stepping down after 5 years in this role
- Rebekah Chan for organising the trophies this season
- Fi Masina as our Club secretary and organising photos this season,
- Janine Hunt for acting as the juniors score collection point each week and helping out our scorers;
- Bob Mansfield for his continued help at the Xmas Club Day;
- Jonathan Burnett for his continued help with our web site;
- Ang Montesano as our Club Registrar and Compliance Officer;
- Bill Elliott for managing the Club equipment,
- Jason Shrimpton for managing our Junior Blues and council liaison throughout the year;

- John Elliott as Club VP Seniors and sitting on the PCBL Delegate Committee;
- David Lawrence for his huge & tireless role in co-ordinating our club accounts, and with assisting the numerous projects we've worked on throughout the year
- Nicole Hansl for all the endless hours she puts in as VP Juniors, co-ordinating field allocations and co-ordinating the canteen this year. Nicole also sits on the RHBL Delegate Committee;
- Our Club sponsors,

Tony Sorbello of Schibello Café who provide our coffee supplies at Pioneer,

Anne & Shane of McDonagh's Quality Meat Boutique,

Cooper Teamwear who supply our uniforms and sponsored the t-shirts for the Aussie T-Ballers.

The Ranch Hotel who assist our Club meetings, social events and support us with membership rewards program

Please support them as they help keep the cost of playing down ;

- Finally, The coaches and managers of all our junior and senior teams for their roles each week.

To all these people we express our thanks for their help.

Many of you will be aware that this will be my last report as Club President and I will be stepping down into an immediate past role, assisting the new committee in the 2014 season.

I have been extremely proud to have been involved with such a great club committee who have really led the way in the growth and development of this club. To each of you I say many thanks for all your personal efforts and support over the years I've been involved.

To our many members I wish to say, if you (or your children), have been positively assisted, or impacted by these people, and the great the initiatives we're pursuing, then I would like to ask your help.

We're looking to further improve the vibrancy of our club and looking for new members to take our club forward.

Our Committee members are the group of people who do specific things to help out in the club but aren't necessary part of the Executive team.

If you think you can help, even if only in any small way, please see Nicole Hansl, David Lawrence or myself.

We hope you enjoyed your summer baseball season and we look forward to seeing everyone back next summer and our seniors continuing in winter.

Thank you,

Dave Rubie