

# NEWSLETTER NO. 2 - DECEMBER 2006



PRESIDENT'S XMAS MESSAGE

Well the Christmas break is almost upon us again. The final round of baseball for 2006 has now been played. It is gratifying to see so many children and adults enjoying the game which has been made possible by the numerous volunteers who devote their time week after week.

On behalf of the Executive and Committee, I wish you all a happy and prosperous Christmas. We look forward to seeing you around the diamonds in the 2007 New Year.

#### Mark Harris CLUB PRESIDENT

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME???

A \$50 voucher to the Dugout, that's what!! Congratulations to Chris Lumb from U16B who sent in the winning name BASEBALL BANTER.



To the following Macquarie players who have been selected in the Sydney All Stars Teams:

> Tom McCann – Under 12 Jake Wilkins – Under 14 Ben Cambourn – Under 14

#### <u> //DON'T FORGET – DATES FOR DIARIES</u>

- RHBL Competition recommences
  on 2 February 2007
- Macquarie Saints Dinner Dance 24 February 2007 – see flyer

#### PARENTS T-BALL GALA DAY

The highlight of the Baseball Calendar has once again been run and won. The competition was hot, and so was the day. The home runs were flowing just like the beer. Many of the parents surprised their children (and themselves) with their talent but there can only been one winner. After a tightly contested final between the Martinis and last years winners, Sorbys Sluggers, the Martinis were crowned this year's Parents T-Ball Champions.



#### CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

What could follow the excitement of the Parents T-ball Gala Day – What else!!! – Santa!! Around 100 of our younger Saints players waited in line expectantly for their present from Santa who arrived via a Harley Davidson. After that it was straight onto the jumping castles, or perhaps some food and an ice block. What a great way to finish off the year. Santa was ably assisted by his helper and judging by the photo below I'm not sure who had the most fun on the day, the kids, Santa or Janine aka Santa's helper.





U7 Washington Nationals Date: 11/11/06 Opposition Team: New York Yankees

Game Report: Our training is really paying off and this was very evident today – particularly in our batting. There were some very big hits that ended up in the outfield and our players ran strongly to first base. Keep up the good work everyone.

#### Award: Ben Hayes – All Round Play

#### Date: 18/11/06 Opposition Team: Tampa Bay Rays

Game Report: What a great game, everyone was on fire! Best with the bat today were Dylan, Lachlan, Ben and Oscar, all putting in good base hits to bring our runners home. Between the bases PJ, Lotus, Alison and Brendan ran hard to secure safe bases. In the field were outstanding efforts by Ethan at shortstop and Sam Ferguson on third base – with 5 tag outs. We kept the Tampa Bay Rays at "Bay". Well done team and many thanks to the parents for helping out while our Manager is absent.

#### Awards: Ethan Baptist – Fielding Sam Ferguson - Fielding

#### Date: 25/11/06 Opposition Team: San Francisco Giants

Game Report: What a great game. The Giants really kept our runs down in the first innings with some good field work. Solid batting performances from Ben, PJ, Ethan and Lotus backed up by our anchor batters Oscar and Sam helped to turn the tide. Great

mid-fielding by Alison and Brendan, with a fantastic combination of throw and catch by Lachlan and Dylan saw an "OUT" at 1<sup>st</sup> base, well done.

#### Award: Lachlan Giulieri – Fielding

#### Date: 02/12/06 Opposition Team: New York Yankees

Game Report: It may have been a wet day but we still had fun and managed to play without too much trouble. This was not our greatest game; however there were a few big hits and some tight running too. We would like to thank Lachlan Bush very much for umpiring his first official game for us. Well done Lachlan, your help is appreciated anytime.

Award: Ethan Baptist – All Round Play

# <u>U7 Tampa Bay Rays – No Report</u>

# <u>U7 New York Yankees – No</u> <u>Report</u>

# U7 San Francisco Giants

#### Date: 25/11/06 Opposition Team: Washington Nationals

With our coach Jeff enjoying his time overseas all the players were ready to take on the challenge under the guidance of our talented assistant coach Amie and her assistant Siobhan. Some fabulous fielding was the highlight of this game. Tayla was on the ball when she tagged a runner and then got the next one out on a base. Great batting by Simon and Tim with Finn getting two runners home with his final hit of the game. Inez continues to delight the spectators (and scorers) with her enthusiasm and with Jake as catcher and Luke in pitcher we were hard to beat with that strong combination. Becky diligently defended the outfield to take out the big hitters of the opposition. A great game.

#### Date: 2/12/06

#### **Opposition Team: Tampa Bay Rays**

A rainy day wasn't going to dampen our enthusiasm. Again we saw some great fielding from Finn and Tayla. Kevin was in pitcher to stop those last few runs. Some great batting from Inez who has definitely got her eye in, Tim who hit a couple of two base hits and Becky who consistently hits a winner. Spectacular running between bases to get home by Luke and Jake. Thanks again to our assistant Coach Amie for her great work. Well done everyone.

#### <u>U8 Xiao – No Report</u>

#### <u>U8 McAlister – No Report</u>

#### <u>U 8 Kilby</u> Date: 4/11/2006 MACQUARIE Vs NTH RYDE GOLD Result: WIN 27-16

It was a cold and wet day for our game at Pioneer against Nth Ryde Gold. The conditions made the ball slippery for both teams when batting and fielding.

We started off really well with great fielding and batting in the first 2 innings, however we did clock off a bit early in the last 2 innings.

Max hit a great home run, which was his 1<sup>st</sup> for the team. Jordan was unlucky not to get a home run in the 2<sup>nd</sup> innings with a big hit.

Simon did yet another 3 base run with a monster hit and Jack hit a powerful shot to run 2 bases. Charlie also hit the ball well.

Harrison W, Jordan and Nicholas made good stops in the field. Jordan made a smart tag. Great team work in the field was also achieved by Max, Harrison K, Kendall and Madison. Simon fielded well at catcher.

Jack and Harrison K made brave efforts to make catches in the field. **GO THE SAINTS !** 

#### Date: 11/11/2006 MACQUARIE Vs STEALERS Result : WIN : 23-12

It was a hot spring day for our important top of the table clash against the Stealers at Golden Jubilee.

We practiced a lot of fielding drills at training and that certainly showed today. It was the best we have fielded all season and it was against quality opposition.

Jordan was sensational at pitcher and took a great catch. Charlie did a great job at 1<sup>st</sup> base. Harrison W was very reliable at pitcher and formed a good partnership with Nicholas at 1<sup>st</sup> base. Simon had a magnificent day in the field by taking an outstanding outfield catch and doing smart work at  $2^{nd}$  base.

The fielding play of the day, which included fantastic team work was when a Stealers batter hit a hard ball, Max dived and stopped it at short stop, Simon then ran over picked it up and threw the ball like a bullet to 1<sup>st</sup> base which was then caught on the full by Nicholas and the batter was out !.

In the batting, Simon and Nicholas made big hits and Madison and Kendall batted very sensibly. Jack and Harrison K showed great pace between the bases. **GO THE SAINTS !** 

#### Date: 18/11/2006 MACQUARIE Vs CONCORD Result : WIN : 27-15

It was another hot spring day that greeted us at Majors Bay for our game against Concord.

Our crowd support seems to be growing and growing with not only just the parents the sidelines, we now have on grandparents and other family members coming to watch the team as well and the additional support is very much appreciated. The team also put on a show for the big crowd with a fantastic batting display and some great work in the field.

Harrison W at 1<sup>st</sup> batter led the way with some powerful hits and achieved 2 base hits on 3 occasions. Jordan batting last was as reliable as ever with some big hits to bring us home. In between, Nicholas, Harrison K and Jack made some huge hits. Solid reliable batting was achieved by Kendall, Madison & Max. Everyone ran well between the bases.

In the field, Nicholas took a great catch and made it look easy. Nicholas and Max formed a good combination on pitcher and 1<sup>st</sup> base with some accurate throws and catching as did Jack and Harrison K.

Jordan performed a brilliant diving tag and did some smart work at 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Charlie also did some great fielding at short stop. **GO THE SAINTS !** 

# U 8 Kilby

#### Date: 25/11/2006 MACQUARIE Vs GLADESVILLE Result : WIN : 29-12

ELS was the location for our game against Gladesville in yet another hot day.

Our batting was again superb with everyone contributing. Harrison K & Nicholas hit powerful shots and were able to run 2 bases. Jordan had a terrific day with the bat by hitting the ball through the field and running 3 bases on 3 occasions. Big hits were also achieved by Harrison W, Kendall, Charlie & Simon.

In the field Madison & Kendall combined well together at pitcher and 1<sup>st</sup> base as did Simon & Jack. Simon also made a good tag, which could have been mistaken for a Rugby tackle! Max & Nicholas both did smart work at 3<sup>rd</sup> Base. **GO THE SAINTS** !

#### Date: 2/12/2006 MACQUARIE Vs TIGERS Result : WIN 28-15

It was an overcast day for our clash with the Tigers at Pioneer.

We fielded first and once Jordan took a great catch at short stop the team then clicked into top gear.

Charlie fielded brilliantly at Pitcher (including putting his body on the line) and worked a good partnership with Harrison W at 1<sup>st</sup> base.

Max had a great game at pitcher which included a fantastic catch and teamed up well with Simon at 1<sup>st</sup> base.

Jordan also performed magnificently at 2<sup>nd</sup> base by getting a number of runners out.

In the batting Nicholas led the way at first batter with some big hits. Charlie, Jordan & Madison also hit the ball powerfully. Simon made a monster hit to get a home run. Kendall, Max & Harrison W also batted solidly. Harrison K brought us home well at last batter which also included a fantastic home run. The positive thing that came out of today's game was that the team remained focused from start to finish in a hard fought game. **GO THE SAINTS !** 

#### Date: 9/12/2006 MACQUARIE Vs NTH RYDE GOLD Result: WIN 24-14

A cloudy game greeted us at Magdala Rd for our game against Nth Ryde Gold.

We started off well in our batting then fell asleep, however we did come home strong.

In the field, Simon took a magnificent outfield catch. Kendall did well at pitcher and formed a good partnership with Charlie. Nicholas and Madison both did some smart work on 3<sup>rd</sup> base as did Harrison W on 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

In the batting, Madison again hit the ball well. Big hits were achieved by Harrison K, Nicholas, Simon and Jordan. Charlie, Max, Kendall and Harrison W made solid hits.

Even though the score line suggested a comfortable win, there were plenty of areas we could improve on today. **GO THE SAINTS !** 

#### Date: 16/12/2006 MACQUARIE Vs STEALERS Result : WIN : 24-13

It was an overcast day for our top of the table clash with the Stealers at Pioneer.

The team practiced very hard on their fielding at training during the week and that was a highlight of their performance today.

We fielded first and Nick at pitcher took 2 brilliant catches. On both occasions the ball was hit hard at him and he showed lightning reflexes to catch them one handed.

2 other sensational catches were taken in the field. Jordan took an unbelievable diving catch at short stop. His mother had the video camera out today and I can only hope she managed to capture it on tape. The other superb catch was taken by Max in a wonderfully judged effort at right out from a high ball hit to him.

# <u>U 8 Kilby</u>

Other highlights in the field was Jordan's "Tag", Harrison's pick up a throw to 2<sup>nd</sup> base to achieve an out and some great fielding by Madison at 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

In the batting Simon, Nicholas, Jordan, Max, Madison and Harrison W made big hits. Jack, Charlie and Kendall also hit the ball well. A special mention for Kendall's determined running between bases.

The team has now taken 14 catches so far this season which I feel is an amazing effort for an U8's team! **GO THE SAINTS !** 

## <u>U9Gough</u>

As Round 12 approaches, the Under 9C 6's continue to experience the highs and lows of competition. Batting consistency with the zooka machine continues to elude the team, though there have been some great fielding moments. As we approach the final two games for this year, we hope to consolidate what we have learnt and not forget it during the holidays! There has been tremendous all round improvement from Christopher Davies who has collected a batting and a fielding award in recent weeks. Thomas Priddle must be mentioned for his two recent batting awards including a home run against the Tigers at Ermington. The other awards since the last newsletter have gone to Matthew Brescia for batting and all round play, Lachlan Roser for fielding and all round play, Joshua Taylor for all round play, and Patrick Gough for fielding.

# U9 Nicoll – No Report

## <u>U9 Sieper – No Report</u>

#### 10A Sorbello

10A's V Stealers 1 Round 8-11<sup>th</sup> November 10-3 Loss

Some great batting this game, David hit a three bagger and was then able to convert this into a run with a hit by Sam, and Bree hit a two bagger which brought Sam and Jackson home for the other 2 of our 3 runs.

Murdoch hit a huge hit to centre field and was unfortunately caught- but what a hit!

Olly pitched the first 2 innings striking three of the Stealers out, after which Zac and Sam pitched also striking three out between them.

Fielding was a bit sloppy this game but David at catcher did a great job. Sam made two good pickups at short stop and threw to Zac for two outs at first. Olly almost got a double play with a quick thinking throw from first to home.

#### 10A's V North Ryde Round 9-18<sup>th</sup> November 8-2 Loss

Lots of strike outs and misses off the tee really kept us out of this game. Our pitching was also a bit off target giving North Ryde lots of opportunities to hit off the tee. Sam and Zac made it home for our 2 runs and Sophia and Nicole were the only other players to hit pitches. We can only go up from here!

#### 10A's V Concord Round 10-25<sup>th</sup> November 6-3 Loss

The fielding was excellent during this game. Nicole and Jackson both took great catches and Bree played well on second base throwing to first for the out. Sophia hit to second base, safely making it to first and then great running around the bases brought her home. Brendan did good hitting in both his plate appearances. Murdoch and David pitched well early in the game and Bianca took over in the fourth and struck two players out. The sharp fielding by everyone kept Concord's score down.



Who's this lurking outside the Ladies toilet with a camera? Go to page 9 for the answer

SAINTS BASEBALL BANTER DECEMBER 2006

#### 10A's V Stealers Round 11-2<sup>nd</sup> December 7-2 Win

Great return to form in this game after a difficult start with 3 players being hit by the Stealers first pitcher. Bianca had a great game, batting well and tagging a player out on third late in the game. Zac and Sam both pitched fantastically, striking 6 and 4 players out respectively. David, Callum, Zac, Murdoch, Sam all hit off live pitch and made it safely onto base, the highlight being a home run hit by Olly in the 3<sup>rd</sup> innings with the bases loaded. Fielding was fantastic by everyone with great stops by Sophia and a big throw to first from out field by Murdoch. Callum caught consistently as he has done all season. Well done everyone.

#### 10A's V Rangers Round 13-16<sup>th</sup> December 12-0 Win

Great game by everyone! Everyone was able to hit pitches consistently during the game with David, Sam, and Bree all scoring two runs each! Brendan and Bianca hit well and Nicole, Callum, Zac, Olly, Sophia and Murdoch all made it home once. Callum caught really well, he had the ball and was ready to throw to base quickly throughout the game, limiting the Ranger's base sneaking. Zac got 3 players out with 11 pitches and Bree did a great job in her first pitching assignment. Murdoch also pitched well putting great heat on the ball. A great end to the year as we farewell David who is moving to Queensland. We will miss your skills and enthusiasm!

# 11B/C Martin

Stage set for baseball's second act Ready for more?

As baseball rolls back onto the track out of the *All-Star Break* (well ... the parents T-Ball Gala Day anyway), we know precisely what will happen, and have no idea how it will turn out. Speaking of the Gala Day, what a great victory it was by the Martini's after some excellent mid season trading which saw the now **PREMIER TEAM** secure the services of one of the superstars from last year's champions, Sorby's Sluggers. In a trade, the likes of which had never been seen in Australian T-Ball (nor will it likely be allowed again), Anne proved to be the difference on the day with her excellent fielding, batting and running. In what the New York Times called the "trade of the millennium", Martini Management is now being sought by the board of BHP in an attempt to boost sales of coal to the Newcastle region.

For the newly named 11B's it's a long season, and you always have a second half to make a first impression. From Pioneer to the rolling hills of Golden Jubilee, wonderful stages have been set, and now it's time for the second act.

Names will be made, reputations will be reinforced. There will be curtain calls for some veterans, just curtains for others.

Races will be run, duels will be waged. Dreams will come true, and so will some dreads. Tears and Gatorade will both be spilled, and mixed with sunflower seeds and killer pythons covering dugout floors.

Base runners the likes of Sebastian, Kate and Isaac will blow gum bubbles, and closers Conor and Sam will blow saves. Shortstops Georgie, Lauren and Brianna will dive into holes, outfielders whose names will be etched in Saints history such as Ross and Naomi will leap above walls, catchers (Bas, Isaac and Naomi) will flip over railings ... acts in nightly performances of base-ballet.

Walk-offs will be struck, and batting helmets will be heaved away a few strides from the end of triumphant trots. Water coolers will be punched in anger, and palms slapped in joy. Did I mention that we won the Parents T-Ball Gala Day. Go Martini's.

Home runs will be admired, and admiring home-run hitters will be called out. Catchers will be leveled at the plate, second basemen spilled at the bag.

Fathers and sons, mothers and daughters will still play catch.

"Is this heaven?" "No, it's Pioneer."

# 11B/C Martin

Yeah, sounds about right. The emergence of one of the truly great baseball clubs has given the entire region goosebumps. And why not, the crowds are flocking back to the game after a sensational start seeing the 11C's (now b's) emerge as the dominant force in the league. With Georgie (our ace starter) retiring sides on four pitches, it's not surprising that baseballs most sought after ticket is fetching big dollars on ebay each week. Bas is a giant behind the plate and with glove work reminiscent of the great Sam Collins, this kid is tipped for a huge future. Powerhouse hitting is what's required to back up the excellent defence. Saints are looking sharp here too with Ross, Brianna and Isaac already embroiled in negotiations with several clubs (the Martini's to name one .... Did I mention we won the Gala Day?) for their future services.

Coach Martin, responding to suggestions that he may lose some of his charges to the high priced offers rolling in (reportedly a whole bag of redskins), grimaced through uneasy smile with another of his usual quick witted responses ... "Not going to happen .... I'll offer them two bags!"

With the prospect of a tough start to the second half of the season, Lauren, Kate and Naomi had other things on their mind ... when would the Christmas stock take sales begin and what will I do if I break another nail?. Pivotal to the team's success is the continued brilliance of this trio, both on and off the field. Their contribution is invaluable in all aspects. (Waiting for the punchline? Well there isn't one, I'm being nice, see I can do it). What better way to end than with our star closers. With the prospect of no "go to guys or gals" in the bullpen early in the season, Sam and Conor have risen to the challenge, throwing blistering fastballs, mesmerizing changeups and a few pitches vet to be named, to mystify opposition batters.

Every once in a while there comes along a team which will forever be remembered, not just in the sphere of their own sport, but throughout the world. Bradman had his immortals, the wallabies their Grand Slam, the Saints Gala Day now has their Martini's. The 11B's could just be the next.....

As the second-half fanfare builds, so does the team and individual storylines to which we'll be glued: Enjoy ...

11 B/C McCrohan No report

11 B/C Fischer No Report

# U12/A Hollings

At the midpoint of our season we have had a few losses (although close). Our batting has lost some of its previous sting and we have been struggling as a team to hit consistently each week. Hopefully we will return in the New Year rested and finish strongly.

12B/C Elliott No Report

12 B/C Mansfield No Report

## <u>U14/A Heal</u>

Following Round 11, the 14A's are sitting second on the ladder, half a game behind the leader, having won all of their games since the last report. The team has scored some gutsy wins in what is proving to be a very tight competition. Some standout performances under pressure in games that could have gone either way have given the coaching staff some ulcers, but the players seem not to worry too much about that. With seven rounds left in the season, and some tough games ahead we need to continue playing at our peak if we are to feature in the finals series.

14C Bell No Report

16A Sims No Report

16B Collins No Report

16B Harris No Report

#### U16/C Luczynski Team Vs Hornsby Rangers (4 November)

Result: Loss 14 – 4

Not the best day for baseball, with rain drizzling down an hour before the game. Finally at 11 o'clock the rain stopped and we commenced the game. We managed to keep them scoreless in the first inning, but they also kept us scoreless. Second inning they managed to get four so we had to knuckle down and play. Unfortunately we only got three. From there on we only managed to get one extra run in where they got a lot more including a couple of home runs. Runs were scored by Andrew, Anthony, Adam and Louise. Good catches were made by Adam at left field and a big one by Jacquie at centrefield.

#### Team v's North Ryde (11th November) Result: Win 13 - 10

Today started out warm, we only had six players and couldn't borrow as the other teams were playing at the same time. We were just going out to have fun We started off batting well, getting 5 home in the first. Not a bad start. Andrew started the pitching and with the help of the fielders getting the outs at first, we managed to keep them to 1 run. So far so good. The second and third innings we only managed 3 runs, they managed three in the second but we managed to get them out for none in the third. So far we were 5 in front, unexpected with such a small team, we were going well. The 4<sup>th</sup> innings we managed to get 6 home side away, a good result. They managed to get three. The fifth inning we slumped with none home. Oh well we were still ahead. We just have to keep them in until time and game and we would win which we did. They managed to get three in but didn't catch up to us. Everybody played well with everyone getting home at least twice. A well deserved win.

#### Team v's Epping Eastwood (18th November) Result: Loss 11 – 10

Another close game. We were reminded of the last time we played them on a hot Saturday at George Kendall, with their fast pitcher. Today was going to be different. We took the field and started the assault. We managed to keep them to one run, a good start. Our turn to bat. "Happy" got up to bat and manage to coax a walk out of them, so far so good. He managed to confound the fielders by stealing and incurring their ire while the other batters took the heat from the pitcher. Unfortunately we only managed to get the one run in also. At least we were still level. The second inning they managed to get two home before we got them out. Our turn to bat but unfortunately we didn't manage to score. They were two in front. Third inning, they managed to get six home side away, suddenly it looked like the tide was turning against us but then we got up to bat and also got six home due to Jades great three bag hit and Anthonys' two bag hit. It was close, depending on the last innings. They came up to bat and only managed two, they were ahead by four. Our turn. We got up to bat and through good batting managed to get three home. It was close and would have been a draw had Harrys' run counted but unfortunately the batter was run out at first so it didn't count. It was a very good game and we gave them a scare, maybe next time. Well played everyone and a special thanks to Robbie and Jade for helping us out. Runs were scored by Daniel, Connor, Jacquie, Andrew, Harry, Anthony, Louise and Robbie, good batting by all.

#### Team v's Thornleigh (25th November) Result: Loss 19 – 3

Well here we were meeting the ladder leaders. We had six players and borrowed two 16Bs so we had a chance. The first inning started and we went out to bat, three up three down. We started fielding and managed to keep them to one run, so far so good. We started the second innings with hope but only managed to get one home. At least we were even. If we could keep them scoreless then we would be tied but unfortunately they got three, the gap widened. Third inning we were scoreless, they got three. It was getting away from us. Fourth inning we got two but they got six and it kept going. Everybody tried their hardest but unfortunately they beat us. There were good hits, outs, pitching and catches, especially Anthonys' in centrefield but the play of the game would probably go to Jacquie who stopped a certain home run as catcher, tagging the runner who was

# NEWSLETTER NO. 2 – DECEMBER 2006

sliding in Maybe next time we'll succeed in being the first to beat them, just like last year. Thanks to Alex and Dean for helping us out.

#### Team v's Concord (2<sup>nd</sup> December) Result: Loss 18 – 9

Our first night game. We started off alright but as the night wore on, the tiredness set in. They tried hard and despite a few errors managed to get 9 runs, better than last time we played them. A good steal at home by Daniel confused and frustrated the opposition, thinking they could do a pick off at third and not expecting his lightning feet. Good runs from Daniel, Anthony, Harry, Jacquie and Kieran. Good batting by Louise who made it to base 4 times but was left at second most of the time by side away. Good catching from Conner, Jacquie and Anthony and pitching from Andrew, Harry and Daniel. A big thank you to Kieran Li for helping us out and doing the play of the match by diving in to catch a fly ball at centrefield. The rest of the team thought it was awesome.

# **DON'T FORGET NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** <u>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 5.00pm</u> Please send to thehollings@aapt.net.au





It's OK it's only Charlie... Mac Saints Club Photographer snapped here during a break taking photos of the Parents T-Ball Gala Day.

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