

## **Women's Report**

It was exciting to re-commence women's baseball again at Essendon after an absence of several years. Starting any side to compete at the top level from scratch is a difficult task and the women's team was no exception. Commencing with a core group of players of varying skill levels it is to their credit that they stuck together throughout the season to continually improve and challenge the 2<sup>nd</sup> division sides towards the end of the season. Joining the women's competition in a season where there was a combined division 1 and 2 was very challenging especially against the division 1 sides where our starting pitcher was 14 years old and with no recognised pitchers in support. Losing games by 20+ runs was not a deterrent for the side to keep coming back each week to compete. Winning the last three games of the season was very pleasing and demonstrated the vast improvement in the skills of the young women.

Special thanks to the following people who assisted greatly to get the team up and running:

- Gary O'Brien and Julie Jones for assisting with registrations, uniforms and administration to initially get the girls on the field for game one.
- Senior coaching staff especially Gary Bitmead and Peter Giles for their assistance and allowing the women to join in senior and junior training
- Bronwyn, Sharryn and Rob Gel for their assistance with training, scoring and encouragement
- The Kelly family, Peter with ground prep and training, Nikki for scoring and team selection and the amazing Kelly girls, Abbey, Megan and Sarah.

Special mention to the women who excelled personally throughout the season being Vibeke Pedersen for batting award and Abbey Kelly for MVP as well as individual awards collected the youth women national championships held over the 2013 Easter weekend.

The next challenge for Essendon women's is to recruit 3-4 players who are capable of playing at the top level including pitchers. Ideally, having enough players for two sides would be a great outcome to enable a side to compete at the top level and the second side for those players who want to play but not in a highly competitive environment i.e. Div 3.

There is now an avenue for girls competing at the junior levels at EBC to remain at the club and continue their baseball with Essendon through to the women's side.

### **Award Winners:**

**Most Valuable Player**

Abbey Kelly

**Batting Award**

Vibeke Pedersen

**Ron Copperwaite**

**Coach**