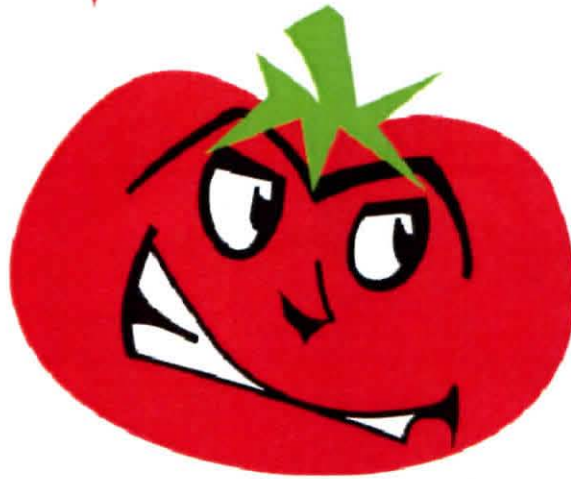


FRANKSTON BASEBALL CLUB

ESTABLISHED 1945
AFFILIATED DANDENONG BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED - ARN A0005287R

TOMATOES



***62ND ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENT***

SEASON 2007



HONOUR ROLL 2007

PRESIDENT	Mark O'Brien
VICE PRESIDENTS	Daryl Dicker Geoff Court
SECRETARY	Emma Medwin
TREASURER	Rod Burt
COMMITTEE	Anthony Richards Russell Clarke Sharyn Hussey Tim Hansen Tony Totaro
LIFE MEMBERS	John O'Brien Noel Winther Rod McClelland Annette O'Brien Paul O'Brien Michele Winther Mark O'Brien Daryl Dicker Susan Nicolaou Mark Anderton Peter Gloury Chris Love Geoff Court

PREMIERSHIPS

A Grade:	1953, 1957, 1962, 1988, 1991, 1996, 1999, 2003, 2007
A Reserve:	1984, 1996, 1998, 2003, 2004, 2006
B Grade:	1957, 1958, 1975, 2000, 2001
C Grade:	1959, 2007
D Grade:	1990
Women's Grade:	2005
Under 17:	1982
Under 15/16:	1973, 1982, 1987, 1999
Under 13/14:	1971, 1979, 1980, 1997
Under 12:	1995



Dear Members,

It is my duty as duly elected Secretary of the Frankston Baseball Club Inc. to present the Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2007 for your consideration. In line with the Club's constitution a vote will be taken to as to whether the report and statement be adopted.

ADMINISTRATION

At the Annual General Meeting on the 29th March 2007 the following members were elected as office bearers for 2007:

PRESIDENT	Mark O'Brien
VICE PRESIDENTS	Daryl Dicker Geoff Court
SECRETARY	Emma Medwin
TREASURER	Rod Burt
COMMITTEE	Anthony Richards Sharyn Hussey Russell Clarke Tim Hansen Tony Totaro



COACHES

In 2007 the club fielded 4 senior teams and 4 junior teams.

Simon Ratcliffe took up the role of Club coach. Tim Hanson continued as the A Reserve coach, as did Anthony Richards for C Grade, and Brad Gibson took up the position for D Grade.

Tony Totaro stepped in as the new Junior Coordinator. Tony oversaw one Under 16 team, two Under 14 teams and one Under 12 team. Chris Wilson continued, this time as the Under 16 coach, assisted by Darren Kenton. Peter Cross and Gary Smith took on the job for the Under 14 Red and Under 14 Black teams respectively, and Russell Clarke looked after the Under 12's.

TEAM REPORTS

A Grade

Simon Ratcliffe - Club Coach

We Are The CHAMPIONS. Go Tomatoes!

What a successful year for the Frankston Baseball Club, with 3 out of 4 senior men's teams making the finals. Well done to Ant and the C Graders Premiership, and to Tim and the A reserves, who had a great year but just couldn't get the job done in the finals. Bad luck guys, I know that you will come back stronger next season. Well done to Gibbo for his time and patience in managing to give 18 guys and girls a game each week in D Grade. Congrats to the under 16 boys for making the finals.

The A Grade Premiers were untouchable, going through the season undefeated in style averaging 10 runs a game. Well done guys! I set out at the start of the season determined to improve on our scoring opportunities by improving our batting, having "*quality at bats*" which in turn improved our run scoring. At the same time I wanted to develop through bringing some young ball players through the grades and eventually up to the A Grade. "*At the end of the day you have to score runs before you can defend them, if you want to win*" and the guys responded to everything I threw at them, every game.



The A Grade had a number of Tomato grown young guys keen to put their hands up and make their presence felt as regular starters, which in turn lifted us senior established guys to perform consistently. It was a great breath of fresh air for us A Graders who were very hungry for a good finals campaign this season, after last years disappointing one. All the guys inner confidence grew as a unit as the season progressed. There were some games during the season in which the younger guys followed in the presence of the senior guys to establish a "*never say die attitude*", which enabled us to come back against teams when we were 5, 6 or 7 runs down, to end up winning by that margin. That's a sign of a quality side who do not know how to lose. That virtually summed up our season. Well done guys on a spectacular year!

Congrats to Matty on a great year on the mound and for winning the DBA O'Brien award. Matty threw consistently well on the hill backed up by Pitta, who shared the load and for Smitty the fireman closer. But it was our tight defence throughout the season that backed up our pitching staff and it showed in the one that counted - the Grand Final, and what a defensive battle it was! In the end it was our consistent offensive pressure with "*quality at bats*" and our solid defence all season which made us a dominating premiership team.

With good numbers regularly turning up to training on Thursday nights, the other coaches and I noticed a huge improvement in consistency at game time with all players. Thanks to Gibbo, Ant and the guys for regularly getting everything started on those nights for me. Cheers.

The club is looking in great shape to follow on a very successful season, with more flags in sight. There are a lot of young talented guys at the club, who are very determined and confident ball players. I am looking forward to helping and watching them progress up through the grades this season. Go Tomatoes.

Thank you to all the helpers around the club who put in tireless hours to make the season a very successful one. The ladies at the canteen never let me down with those mouth watering burgers!

Good luck to Smylsey and Wiggy who will have knee operations during the summer.



Our socials were awesome this season, with big turnouts, which brought out the true Tomatoes spirit! Thanks to Emma and the committee for your help to make them a great success.

Thanks to Marko and the board for giving me the opportunity to lead the Tomatoes to a very successful season. Now let's back it up, bring it on in 2008. **GO TOMATOES!**

A Reserve

Tim Hanson

The Tomatoes A Reserve Premiership defense started well in 2007, with a majority of the flag winning team returning, our year ahead promised to be exiting and successful. New inclusions to the team included Chris Anderton and Daryl Dicker whilst Neil Barfuss, Dean Stephens and Stuart Capel had a year off. The team was encouraged by the continued support from A Grade players Will Keys, Ben Pittaway, Matthew O'Brien and Mark Richards.

The 17 game season certainly proved exiting as we went through the year undefeated finishing clear on top of the ladder - a fine performance in any sporting competition and one that the players should be proud of.

Finals baseball is always exactly that, and the joys of the season are quickly dismissed when you step out to face the first pitch of a do or die series.

We didn't perform to our best in the finals and faced a very strong and challenging two team Cheltenham line up that ultimately defeated us in both the semi and preliminary finals.

As coach, my congratulations go to all players, our scorer Sharon Hussey and the club committee for our achievements as Tomatoes for Season 2007.



C Grade

Anthony Richards

What a season! After a somewhat indifferent 2006 in B Grade, playing against other clubs firsts, we decided that C Grade would be the best option for 2007. However in the opening game, as I watched ball after ball from Tyabb's bat sail around the ground in a 10 run opening inning, I'll be honest, I began wondering what would 2007 hold for the Tomatoes? But something happened. We levelled in a 10 run inning of our own with a batting display which was to continue for the whole season.

During 2007 we welcomed a few new faces, but also had the pleasure of some of the more experienced members of "The Patch" join us throughout the season. The Home and Away season was a really tough affair, with at least 8 out of the 14 teams capable of playing in the finals. As I mentioned earlier we started to hit, but more importantly, we consolidated by hitting with confidence and consistency. This enabled us to put pressure on the opposition forcing them to come up with the goods in order to beat us rather than us chasing them. But we were also up to the job defensively with some excellent pitching, and really solid work in the field. We finished the season with a 13 – 4 win loss record, and going into the last game of the season, we still may not have made the finals! If we lost we were out, if we won we were in however our place would be determined by percentage. We ended up in 2nd spot, beating Bonbeach to the double chance by 0.66%!

So into the finals we went, playing Pakenham at Pakenham with a chance to play off in the Grand Final. Although Pakenham had the home ground advantage, a couple of weeks earlier we had come back from an 8 run deficit at their home ground to convincingly beat them by 11 runs. The semi was extremely tight with the lead changing constantly and after 6 innings, scores were level. But a brilliant squeeze bunt, 22 hits, outstanding defence and our ability not to panic, allowed us to run out 21 – 8 winners in seven digs. Suddenly we're into the Grand Final with a chance to do something that Frankston had not done for around 50 years.



Off to Dandenong to take on a really strong Bonbeach line-up. After a slow start giving up 4 runs in 2 innings, we came back in the next 3 piling on 6 to take a lead. The game continued to see-saw from then on, with both teams taking the lead at various points. With a 5 run 7th inning, we took the lead back and despite a late comeback in the 9th, we managed to hold them out 14-12 to take out the flag!

Aside from winning the flag, the highlights for the season were plentiful. However, I purposefully haven't mentioned individuals, although the trophy winners were thoroughly deserved, the success of the season was based around the ability to play as a team. In particular though, I vividly remember being 6-5 up halfway through a closely fought Grand Final, with 3 sets of Father/Son combinations on the field with my Dad leading the supporters and I thought, this is what Baseball's all about! Thanks to all who contributed throughout the year and I look forward to a ripper 2008.

D Grade

Brad Gibson

The D Grade had a trying season for the most part as we had to accommodate an influx of players from the abandoned women's league and some others that came along to fill in. This made it hard for the team to gel in all aspects and playing time was made difficult with everyone having to spend time on the bench. Added to this was the ludicrous situation of having umpteen teams in the grade which made it difficult if we dropped a game against one of them as we didn't get the chance to take it off them in a rematch. Overall there were good performances by the team and we managed to be competitive most of the time. I wish to thank all those players who turned up week in and out and helped with the setting up of the ground and played with good cheer even though their playing time was restricted due to numbers.



Under 12

Russell Clarke

The Under 12 Tomatoes from all reports had a great time this season. They were a pretty young group, with only a couple having played the year before. The rest came up with me from T-Ball or were new to the club.

At training great emphasis was put on basic skills and by the end of the season, although we didn't have a very good win - loss record, each and every player had improved out of sight.

This year we really did achieve a lot. We looked like a team, all in uniform, attendance levels at all games was great and if enthusiasm counted for anything we should have won the flag.

All that having been said, building on those foundations over the next couple of years should be most rewarding.

On an individual note, congratulations to Adam Love, who was selected for the DBA Team and went to Mildura where they won their division. Hope to see you and your friends next season.

Under 14 Black

Gary Smith

The season started a bit unorganised due to having so many kids. Once we organised ourselves and sorted out two teams, the season was away. I appreciated the way the club didn't load one team despite the other – it made for an enjoyable season with a contrast of more experienced kids to the less experienced but enthusiastic kids.

The kids were keen to try out different positions with all but two not pitching, giving them a different perspective on the game and in turn building their confidence with their skills. We didn't have an overly successful season on the scoreboard, but the season of improvement was extremely good with the boys' accuracy, power and hand-eye co-ordination improving. We were very competitive in a lot of games, and all in all I think a good year was had.



Under 14 Red

Peter Cross

This year the Under 14's had a lot of players, so the decision was made to field two teams, Red and Black.

The teams were split evenly based on groups from similar schools and transport arrangements. The result of two teams is that we only just made the numbers each week. The Reds started with a big win against a very young Berwick. The team then came back to earth when playing a very disciplined Cheltenham side. The team finished the season in the middle section of the ladder, which reflected many of our games – in with a show but without the depth to win the close games. The team had many first you players who will have benefited from the season.

Under 16

Chris Wilson

The season's focus was to improve on the 2006 effort and to see whether the boys could step up and win a flag. After a terrific build up where we finished second in the home and away games, we were unfortunate not to accomplish that aim. However, we all thoroughly enjoyed playing what could possibly be the final junior year for most of the team. A special thanks to Darren and Sandy Kenton for assisting and scoring respectively, and to all the parents and club for their support.

JUNIOR CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Recommendations for 2008

More senior player involvement – e.g. more coaching clinics throughout the season

Re-stocking of equipment for ground setup, i.e. bases, tools etc.

Advertise registration through local schools

Review existing uniform stocks

Review existing equipment stocks, i.e. baseballs



Numbers for 2007 were very good – an obvious reflection on the work done by the previous co-ordinator Steve Schneider, who the club and I owe a great deal of thanks. Special thanks to the junior coaches Russell Clarke, Peter Cross and Chris Wilson, and a special mention to Gary Smith who was unknowingly selected for the extra Under 14's team and did a great job with the boys.

Overall the season did not reflect much joy on the scoreboard other than the Under 16's, however the atmosphere and enthusiasm from week to week was a good indication that all the kids were having fun developing not only their baseball skills, but their team ethics as well. All the kids who started completed the season.

A huge thank you must be said to Emma Medwin, Mark and Annette O'Brien and the rest of the committee for their support. Thank you to Simon Ratcliffe and all the seniors for umpiring and the most informative of coaching clinics. Thanks also to Michele and Noel Winther for their canteen duties and Chris Love for his Parents Information Booklet.

Tony Totaro



DBA REPRESENTATION

The club would like to offer their congratulations to the following players and officials for representative selection in 2007. We have received reports on the excellent attitude of representatives and thank them for being fine ambassadors for the club. Congratulations.

Senior Men

Daryl Dicker (Coach)

Ben Laux

Ben Pittaway

Brendan Ratcliffe

Dayle Selleck

Mark Jones

Mark Richards

Michele Winther (Scorer)

Noel Winther (Team Manager)

Craig Kernick (Team Manager)

Matthew O'Brien

Paul Wignall

Russell Anderton

Simon Myles

Simon Ratcliffe

Will Keys

Under 18

Floyd Selleck (Coach)

Under 16

Cody Wilson

Nicholas Veale

Under 12

Adam Love

Well done to all of the above and we hope to continue our strong DBA representation in 2008.



JUNIOR PRESENTATION

Junior Presentation was held this year on Friday 24th August at the Clubrooms, and we had a great turn out of players, parents and supporters. Thank you to all those who attended, we hope you enjoyed your night.

The award winners this year were as follows:

UNDER 12

Most Valuable Player Adam Love

Participation trophies to all players

UNDER 14 BLACK

Most Valuable Player Rhys Tippett

Coach's Award Sam Alter

Participation medals to all players

UNDER 14 RED

Most Valuable Player Nicholas Cross

Coach's Award Matt Dwyer

Participation medals to all players

UNDER 16

Most Valuable Player Nicholas Veale

Runner-up Most Valuable Player Cody Wilson

Batting Award (hitting .520) Gareth Corcoran

Coach's Award Chris Mosca



SENIOR PRESENTATION

We took a break from the traditional Grand Final Eve celebrations this season, with senior Presentation Night held the week after the O'Brien Medal at the Long Island Country Club. The club would like to extend its thanks to Geoff and Lorraine Court once again for their efforts in staging a very enjoyable night.

The award winners this year were as follows:

A GRADE

<i>Most Valuable Player</i>	Matthew O'Brien
<i>Runner-Up MVP</i>	Stephen Fox
<i>Batting Award</i>	Ben Laux (Avg .373)
<i>Best Finals Player</i>	Matthew O'Brien

A RESERVE

<i>Most Valuable Player</i>	Chris Anderton
<i>Batting Award</i>	Mark Richards (Avg .571)
<i>Best Team Player</i>	Ben Pittaway

C GRADE

<i>Most Valuable Player</i>	Russell Clarke
<i>Batting Award</i>	Stephen Schneider (Avg .606)
<i>Coach's Award</i>	Matthew Schneider
<i>Best Finals Player</i>	Chris Wilson



D GRADE

<i>Most Valuable Player</i>	Michael O'Halloran
<i>Batting Award</i>	Sean O'Halloran (Avg .507)
<i>Best Team Player</i>	Sally-Ann Cox

Michael Klinger Club Champion Award

Matthew O'Brien

John "Rocky" O'Brien Memorial Award for Best Clubman

Rod Burt

O'BRIEN MEDAL NIGHT

The club was well represented at the annual association awards nights with 23 members attending to see Frankston players come away with some awards.

Congratulations go to these Tomatoes for winning the following awards:

A Grade MVP (O'Brien Medal)	Matthew O'Brien
A Reserve MVP	Chris Anderton
	Mark Richards
A Grade Batting Champion	Ben Laux
Home Run King	Ben Laux
Most Victories	Matthew O'Brien
Ross McKenry Trophy (MVP VPBL Series)	Mark Jones
Golden Arm (VPBL Series)	Matthew O'Brien
Rookie of the Year (VPBL Series)	Paul Wignall



CANTEEN

The lifeblood of our club is undoubtedly the canteen and bar. Special thanks go again to Annette O'Brien for her work in the canteen – her efforts week in and week out are a pivotal part of this club and are greatly appreciated. The efforts of Sharyn Hussey assisting Annette through the season were also appreciated.

Thanks also to Noel and Michele Winther for their efforts in making sure the canteen was open during the early morning junior games - the coaches, players and parents especially appreciate your efforts.

BAR and CLUBROOMS

Rod Burt operated the bar once again this year, and we thank him for his tireless efforts. We were never short of a drink and appreciate his efforts in running the bar smoothly, and for his unseen work in re-stocking. Rod also gave his time to do the other unseen and sometimes under-appreciated work of cleaning the clubrooms. We thank him for this, especially for his efforts after some of our messier functions.

WEBSITE and NEWSLETTER

Chris Love again used his considerable computer and publishing talents to maintain the Frankston Baseball Club web site and also publish "Tomato Talk", the eagerly awaited weekly journal of club goings on. Thank you Chris for your ongoing commitment to these tasks, and the assistance you provide to the Secretary and members of the committee.



On a personal note, I'd like to say thank you all the other players and members who assisted in some way, be it large or small, during the 2007 season. Your help made other people's jobs that much easier, and along with all those who put their hand up for official duties you helped to contribute to a smooth and happy season. I look forward to working with you again in 2008.

Emma Medwin

Secretary

19th March 2008



FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31st OCTOBER 2007

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	2006	2007		2006	2007
Subs Junior	\$1,075.00	\$2,567.00	Maintenance Ground	\$705.84	\$349.60
Uniform Rental	\$240.00	\$580.00	Stationary	\$518.75	\$427.33
Uniform Sales	\$890.00	\$1,109.00	Uniforms	\$1,548.90	\$1,499.10
Merchandise	\$236.00	\$3,478.00	Bar	\$11,151.67	\$12,348.55
Subs Senior	\$6,794.00	\$5,365.00	Utilities	\$4,074.91	\$2,062.58
Fundraiser	\$2,537.00	\$2,050.00	Umpires	\$2,360.00	\$2,020.00
Canteen	\$9,749.70	\$8,553.15	Canteen	\$4,901.80	\$6,385.04
Bar	\$15,624.55	\$18,491.72	Maintenance	\$1,092.70	\$1,462.03
Membership	\$950.00	\$925.00	Merchandise	-	\$2,650.73
Miscellaneous	\$690.00	\$528.12	Equipment	\$234.31	\$2,908.40
Social	\$917.00	\$1,522.00	Miscellaneous	\$409.24	\$350.73
Sponsorship		\$2,000.00	Ground Rental	\$3,795.00	\$1,320.00
Presentation Night	\$2,990.90	\$2,964.00	Fundraiser	\$1,200.09	\$1,200.09
Interest	\$453.96	\$646.67	Player Exp	\$199.00	\$854.50
			Junior Presentation	\$205.00	\$286.92
			Trophies	\$834.40	\$1,125.18
			D.B.A	\$5,864.60	\$5,484.00
			Licences	-	\$158.70
			Social	\$505.00	\$1,051.59
			Insurance Claim	-	\$400.00
			Presentation Night	\$2,410.00	\$2,620.00
			Bank Fees	\$50.60	
			Junior Training		\$129.70
			Post Office Box		\$65.00
Total	\$43,148.11	\$50,799.66		\$42,061.81	\$47,159.77
Balance 31/10/2006		\$17,655.10			
Income		\$50,779.66			
Expenditure		\$47,159.77			
Balance 31/10/07		<u>\$21,274.99</u>			
NET SURPLUS		\$3,619.89			

NB: The above statement does not include the loss of earnings caused as a result of theft following the break-ins and loss of power to the freezer. These circumstances generated the following revenue losses – Bar \$520.00, Canteen \$660.00.



PRESIDENT'S ADDENDUM

Once again it is my pleasant duty to add my comments to this report as a conclusion to another busy season.

The foregoing Annual Report and Financial Statements compiled by our Secretary and Treasurer acknowledge the extent of activity within our club during season 2007. We are grateful for the efforts of Emma Medwin and Rod Burt in maintaining our records and presenting this report.

The general running of the club has of course revolved around the Committee members, all of whom spent many hours in discussing and forming the principals for current activities and the future development of our club. To all members of the Committee I extend my grateful thanks for their untiring efforts without which the club could not operate.

To Simon Ratcliffe, Tim Hanson, Anthony Richards and Brad Gibson, I say thank you for your efforts and outstanding achievements in managing our senior teams throughout a very successful season. Without distracting from the efforts of the others, I particularly thank Simon for his work with all teams on Thursday nights. (Training! What a brilliant initiative.)

May I also place on record the club's sincere thanks to Tony Totaro for his efforts in co-ordinating our junior teams and to Chris Wilson, Peter Cross, Gary Smith and Russell Clarke and their willing band of helpers for the time and effort they put into managing, training and encouraging our junior teams.

Without doubt the highlight of the season was the A Grade and C Grade premierships.

Congratulations to Simon Ratcliffe, Anthony Richards and all those who represented the Club on Grand Final day.



As an amateur organisation proper compensation can never be given to those who spend so much time in giving of their efforts so liberally. I trust however that their reward is gained in the knowledge that they have achieved a result, which is appreciated not only by club members, but also by all who attend our club as guests.

Throughout the year we continued discussions with Council and the Frankston Softball Association with respect to the potential move to Robinsons Road. Following funding approval by Frankston Council we recently signed off on the plans for stage one of the development which will realise the erection of a back net, protective fencing, batting cage and base path construction for our new ground. Improvements to the existing netting on the main softball diamond are also being undertaken. There remains however a lot of bureaucratic process to go through before Council approves the necessary funding for stages two and three. Currently our position appears to be reasonably satisfactory. We will however need to be mindful that a lot of work and possible frustration lie ahead in the pursuit of a new patch.

My addendum would be incomplete without the acknowledgement of those people who assisted the club, those who worked so unselfishly behind the scenes and in particular those people who gave so freely of their time to ensure the operational success of our canteen and bar facilities.

In conclusion my thanks are extended to each official who helped administer the club and to each individual member who co-operated in the common objective of enhancing our sporting and social activities. I thank you all for your support and wish everyone well for the 2008 season.

Mark O'Brien
President