The Victoria Bushrangers celebrate their Sheffield Shield success last season

AMAZING to hear during the week that the Victoria Bushrangers snubbed what doesn’t include Brad Hodge, the man voted by his peers as the best batsman in the country in the last 18 months. The Bushrangers have won four of the five Big Bash titles, but the team has yet to make the most of its strength.

In terms of the Test team, Peter Siddle is one of the best bowlers in the country and will play twice in the first week of the month, with his body and fitness after recovering from stress fractures in his back. The man who replaced him for the Test team will be missed.

After playing one Test, McKay was named 12th man for the rest of the summer, went on tour of New Zealand, but bowled only 10 overs in a month. Being stuck in the touring team and not playing, he wasn’t able to show the selectors what he was capable of at domestic level and missed out on playing in the Bushrangers final. When it came to naming the squad for Australia’s tour of England, McKay was all of a sudden south of South Australia’s Peter George. He seems to be a victim of the circumstances he’s been put in.

Time has passed Hodge and Chris Rogers by, but there’s already been enough newspaper space dedicated to how unlucky that duo have been. But one change that should happen is David Hussey replacing Marcus North. The Hawke has been pigeonholed as specialist Twenty20 player and, astonishingly, lost his Cricket Australia contract this year.

This is despite the fact the was the leading run-scorer in the Sheffield Shield last season, made 118 in the finals against Queensland and most recently smashed 25 no playing county cricket for Nottinghamshire. Compared to the 2001 Test series, which he has made 375 runs in his last 15 Test innings, scoring 100 of them coming against a so-so New Zealand team. Or more recently, as made 38 not out in four digs against Pakistan — with two ducks. There’s no numbers that fill anyone with confidence. However, selectors say the want the number six to be another bowling option.

The list goes on, White has proved himself in one-day and Twenty20 level and probably deserves more of a go, all-rounder Andrew McDonald has persisted. While young batters like John Hastings, Matthew Wade, James Pattinson and Marcus Finch will be pressing in the near future. Veterans Bryce McGill and Shane Harwood were thrown a once on the sidelines and lasted international cricket, but were out the door just as quickly. Those skills are no doubt getting performances on the board, dominating the Australian domestic scene, yet are not being rewarded.

What more do they have to do?