

# DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS

## BRISBANE

The 2014/15 season saw wet weather play a significant part in fixtures with a number of games and events having to be rescheduled. We could not have managed to get all games played, if not for the tireless efforts of our Fixtures and Grading Sub Committee and grounds crew. Apart from the challenges with the weather, the year was a fantastic success.



### Membership

For the third year in a row, BSA managed to maintain a small improvement in registrations of players and officials. This is a result primarily, of the popularity of slow pitch which continues to gain in numbers each year.

### Summer Competition

#### 37 Senior Women's Teams

- 5 x A1 Grade with a total of 48 players
- 5 x A2 Grade with a total of 71 players
- 4 x U17 with a total of 40 players
- 4 x B1 Grade with a total of 41 players
- 4 x B2 Grade with a total of 67 players
- 6 x C1 Grade with a total of 79 players
- 2 x C2 Grade with a total of 24 players

#### 23 Junior Teams

- 4 x U15A with a total of 41 players
- 1 x U15B with a total of 7 players
- 3 x U15 boys with a total of 14 players
- 6 x U13A with a total of 67 players
- 4 x U13B with a total of 49 players
- Swing Into Softball had 24 participants

#### 5 Mixed Teams

- 5 x Slowpitch with a total of 67 players
- 639 players in total including permit players
- 512 BSA registered players

### Winter Competition

#### 11 Men's Teams

- 1 x A Grade with a total of 8 players
- 3 x B Grade with a total of 32 players
- 7 x C Grade with a total of 85 players

#### 8 Mixed Teams

- 8 x Slowpitch with 101 players
- 226 players in total including permit players
- 200 BSA registered players

### Sponsorship & Grants

The facilities at Downey Park are aging and are expensive to maintain. We also have the challenge of having to dismantle and handover most of our playing surfaces to another sport to run their competition over winter.

Whereas some other District Associations are very fortunate to receive direct financial or in-kind assistance from their local council or a related licensed club, the BSA does not. It is the policy of the BSA to keep fees as affordable as possible so consequently, sponsorship and grants are extremely important and the only way we can improve facilities and introduce any new programs.

Unfortunately our sponsor sold his business and retired meaning we are without a major sponsor at this time. We are still fortunate though, to have *Height 4 Hire* provide extensive services in-kind to help replace a diamond lights during the season.

We were successful in using grants from the Brisbane City Council to replace diamond lights and replace some back stops damaged by storms, a grant from the Gaming Machine Benefit Fund to purchase a new large ride on mower, and a grant from the State Government to run a number of development programs.

### Representative Highlights

Brisbane nominated teams to compete in the U15 Girls and Boys, U17 Girls, U19 Women's and Open Men's and Women's (two teams) State Championships. This year the Boys team was in conjunction with the Logan Softball Association.

Our Open Red team were successful as undefeated State Champions and our U17 team was runner up.

A significant number of our players and officials went on to be named in State and National squads/teams. The BSA continues to be very proud of our representative players but this year, in particular, the number of younger players involved in the Queensland Heat team for the first time was also a highlight for the BSA.

Not only do we produce quality players, our coaches, managers, umpires and statisticians continue to excel by participating in State, National and International tournaments.



## Publicity & Promotion Media

BSA enjoys ongoing support from local newspapers with articles featured from time to time. Softball, as a sport, finds it difficult to get any penetrating coverage but, having said that, our Play 4 a Cure, Yellow Socks Softball Challenge continues to get good media both on television, on mainstream radio and in The Courier Mail. Although this is primarily due to the use of high profile ex-Bronco players but the exposure is valuable none-the-less (see events).

## Facilities

In order to facilitate a permanent skinned second diamond, the BSA traded two grass diamonds with the Brisbane Women's Hockey Association in a kind-for-kind negotiation. This means that we now operate only 16 diamonds at Downey Park which include the following:

- 1 International skinned diamond under lights
- 1 Senior skinned diamond under lights
- 8 Senior diamonds
- 6 Junior diamonds

Other facilities include:

- Canteen and BBQ
- Bar and "pig pen" area
- Mobile food cart (servicing our outer diamonds)
- Grandstand
- Umpire's Room
- Queensland Heat Gym and Administration room
- Hall for hire
- BSA Administration area and Board Room
- Representative Team Administration Room
- Events Administration area

We also offer a high quality batting cage facility to Clubs, teams and individuals on a for hire basis. The on-site Leading Edge Pro Shop continues to prove successful, providing softball equipment and clothing services to players and officials.

BSA also now operates the venue at O'Callaghan Park, Zillmere.

- 2 skinned diamonds
- 2 grassed diamonds

Other facilities at Zillmere include

- Umpire's Room
- Canteen / Bar
- an equipment container

## Events

A number of our usual events were cancelled this year for weather or other reasons. Those that did go ahead include:

Summer and Winter Brisbane Bash Slow Pitch – Well over 60 players in six teams in both the summer and winter months participated in two separate slow pitch competitions. It was very pleasing to see the games played in the right spirit with laughter and some interesting interpretations of rules as well as softball "skills" on display. Some players returning after a few years in retirement showed the 'still had it' and some were even swayed into playing again. A good promotion, a good competition and a good time.

This social side of softball is a growing area and one the BSA will continue to support and invest in.

BSA Rep Night – Our successful night recognising all of our BSA representatives happened again with more than 120 parents and players attending.

ANZAC Day Challenge – The BSA Men's Sub-Committee once again organised the annual "Australia" v "New Zealand" games on ANZAC day. Players from the land of the long white cloud try every year to beat the Aussies and, unfortunately, sometimes succeed. Again it is not the result that counts but the recognition of what the event symbolises and the spirit in which the games are played, especially this year. A good crowd supported the games and the funds raised go back into supporting the Men's competition at Zillmere.

Junior Presentation night – Awards for our junior grades saw over 100 junior players and parents attend.

Brisbane also played host to:

- Australian Defence Force National Men's and Women's Championships
- QGSSSA competition
- Primary School Andrew's Cup

## Technical Areas

*Coaching* –

This year the BSA again put the spot light on coaching across the park from grassroots to elite. Our hard working Coaching Coordinator, Michelle Waller, former Queensland player and dual June Spice medallist worked with others in our Development Team to run clinics. Working with Hall of Famer and Olympic Coach Bob Crudgington, the team ran another six week battery coaching / player development program. Initiatives include an on-line coaching portal, a coach mentor program and a coaching forum for coaches at all levels to share their ideas, experience and issues.

*Governance* –

Following last year's strategic planning processes, the BSA continued to review our operations and policies. The Constitution, By-Laws and Ground Rules were all reviewed and improved.

*Scoring* –

The Brisbane Scoring community continues to represent the Association at all levels of Softball.

We are very fortunate to have such a passionate and dedicated group of statisticians and we would like to thank them for their time and support throughout the 2014/15 year. Below are just some of their achievements.

#### 2014 – 15 Clinics

Some very successful Level 1, 2 and 3 clinics were run in February/March 2015. The demand for clinics seems to be cyclic, with every second year providing the maximum interest.

We are also planning to offer a one-day clinic in iScore. This is not an accredited scoring clinic but is sanctioned by the SQI Scoring Directorate. Given the interest within BSA and the encouragement of BSA representative statisticians to use iScore, the timing is appropriate.

#### Support

We would like to acknowledge the support provided to the Association by Joy Leach. Joy lectured the Level 1, 2 and 3 clinics that were organised and provides invaluable advice and support to the BSA scoring fraternity.

#### Accredited Scorers

Keeping track of accredited scorers within BSA remains to be a difficult task as SAL still has a backlog of completed exam results to process. However, this situation is improving. Our best estimate of the list at April 2015 is as follows:

- Level 1 - 26
- Level 2 - 9
- Level 3 - 4
- Level 4 and above - 6

#### Representative Scoring

BSA scorers continue to represent the Association at a Queensland level. Chris Bailey was the official statistician for the Queensland Heat team both at the National Championships and the Southern Cross Challenge. Deb Maloney and Wendy Harries also commenced their Queensland scoring careers by scoring for the Queensland U15 Girls and U15 Boys National Championships respectively.

Furthermore, we have a number of scorers offering up their spare time to oversee National Tournaments as Official Statisticians. This year, volunteers included Fiona Goffer, Jason Collins, Deb Moloney and Wendy Harries.

#### Pick-up Scorers

Once again, BSA scorers were able to assist less well staffed DAs by acting as Pick-up Scorers at State Championships. Thank you to Deb Maloney and Wendy Harries for making themselves available to assist the other Associations.

#### Umpiring –

Once again another successful year for the 3

Umpires of the BSUA. This year's Redshirt program saw two new umpires attaining their Level 1 accreditation. BSUA had two Level 2 Umpires who will hopefully progress to Level 3 later this year (2015).

Helen Strauss was recently awarded her SAL Level 7 accreditation. This level is awarded in recognition of Helen's contribution to SAL both on and off the Diamond. Internationally, Helen was the first Australian female umpire to be awarded the Gold Medal game (plate) at a World Series. Helen will be BSA's first Level 7 accredited Umpire, having originally started her Umpiring career as a Redshirt umpire at BSA.

Janelle Hicks and Jamie Harries have both been selected in the latest ISF Development Squad.

BSA Club Competitions – Number of games Umpired:

- 2014 BSA Men's Winter Comp – 137 games (Plates and Bases combined total)
- 2014-15 BSA Women's Summer Comp – 434 games (Plates and Bases combined total)

BSUA Umpires officiated at all State Championships, including U17 Boy's and U19 Men's, either as Umpires and/or Examiners. We also had three Umpires attend National Championships. We also supplied many of the umpires who assisted with the ADF games.

Of course, any of these competitions could not be conducted without the assistance of the club people who volunteer to umpire games during the season. This is a thankless task, and we recognise just how hard it is to get people to meet these commitments. Without the support of these people many games would not be played.

Lastly BSUA would like to acknowledge the support of the Umpires from outside of BSA who provide us with the opportunity to cover more games and occasional work three umpire systems on games other than the A1 competition.

#### **Player Development**

Thanks to a very active sub-committee, and a grant from the State Government, player development has continued to be at the forefront for BSA.

#### Swing Into Softball

What a hit! The parents loved it, the kids loved it and the skill improvement over the season was highly evident. So much so that we thought it time to showcase the kids and held a special session on a Friday night before two A grade games. With the A grade players and supporters in the crowd cheering them on, our SIS kids put on a highly skilled show and loved being on the big diamond! We replicated this on grand final day where the show was put on for the crowd before the A1



Grand final and the kids could then form a guard of honour for our grand final teams.

This year, we moved to a coach for every 4-5 kids meaning more effort could be given to one child at any time. Overseen by BSA president, the coaches Morgan, Kylie, Becky and Leslie worked well together but more importantly with the children. Using the drills from the Softball Community Coaching program and often adlibbing the kids were constantly on the move and never stopped learning.

Post season the coaches discussed the potential of each child and recommended directly to the parents what we believe the children should do next year. SIS will continue to be the introduction for kids into softball and next year we will deliver SIS Amateur. Same concept but more game based with coach pitching (but again and importantly, no midweek training). Some of our kids, whilst young we believe will be capable of playing in the U13B competition. The beauty of assessing on skill, not age!

We can definitely say that SIS in year 2 at BSA was a success and we look forward to seeing what the future holds.

#### Talent Identification Athlete Support Program

Our SQI talent program continues for our Association to prepare our players involved in SQI talent programs. This four week initiative offered access to specialty coaches who assisted batting, base running, fielding, pitching and catching. It is designed to have the players prepared for physical skill work as well as help to avoid injuries (shoulders in particular) for those not involved in a Winter Club competition. We are seeing a lot more players playing the winter competition which is helping their game sense and skill level.

#### Battery Clinic

As described under the Coaching section, the BSA has introduced an annual Battery Clinic to provide coaches and players with a six week clinic which focuses on the coaching methodology of pitching and catching in order to improve the quality of performance and training practice methods. The opportunity for existing and emerging battery players to receive high quality coaching during the clinic combined with the ongoing legacy provided by the enhanced competence of club coaching should lead to a greater number of quality pitchers and catchers in our competition. The session was opened up to all Associations and we had a great response. This program was very successful with the combined efforts of our Coaching Coordinator and Bob Crudginton. Bob is well placed to facilitate this program as a dual Olympic Coach (1996/2000) and academic leader in sports coach development with the University of Queensland. Our follow up four week program will occur over the 2015 winter season to assess the initial clinic and follow up with skills that our coaches have learned

and put into motion through coaching.

#### Coaches Corner

Our coaching coordinator along with the development team are putting in place more coaching opportunities for our club coaches for the upcoming 2015/16 season. Building on the coach mentoring opportunities provided across all program, club coaches are set to access short clinics throughout the season to enhance their coaching skills and game knowledge. Coach accreditation courses will also feature as part of this. We have also this year have identified another Coaching Coordinator Tyson Howard to work with Michelle Waller and our Development staff. The primary goal is to have another person with rep experience to be able to assess our rep coaches throughout their team preparation, be available to help run practices and provide feedback on hand and debrief these coaches after their State Title appearance.

#### Regional Academy

Our Regional Academy has become three-fold!

Our U15 Regional Academy consists of girls who have been selected to our Brisbane Red and White teams. Specialist coaching and SQI testing are run through this program. We also include our "Diamond Development" players in our Academy so that they have access to specialist coaching, a number of games and conclude with our Deb McColm shield. Unfortunately this did not occur due to rain and a one day game play was set up with other Associations and played at Redlands allowing our young athletes the opportunity to put all their skills into action. More inter-association games next year will only benefit softball as a whole. Being involved in Academy allows these girls to know what is expected of them when they step into a role on the Red or White team.

Our Regional Academy coaches along with the U15 Qld Regional Coach Tony Nolan implemented a preparation program for the athletes that made the U15 Qld Regional teams for their National Tournament. The program ran for nine weeks to prepare them for the physical and mental aspects of attending a one week tournament. Players worked on batting, base running, fielding, pitching and catching.

Our Development team ran a four week program for any girls who missed out on selection in our U17 and U19 teams. These sessions allowed the girls to gain feedback from specialist coaches to help them further their skills, encourage them to keep working on the areas of their play and link them up with other Association teams to participate at State Championships.

Further to the above we have now implemented a relationship with the UQ Sport Academy at the University of Queensland and have had access to

a strength and conditioning coach who has come on board with our U15 program to work on their speed and strength primarily for base running but overall identifying what areas we can improve on to benefit all of our Rep teams. A program booklet will be available for all of our rep coaches to implement a strong warm up routine and also a session with the coaches and players to identify areas of improvement and skills to introduce during their sessions.

### Association Future Plans & Objectives

The most pressing need of the BSA is to work with local and state government to minimise the damage that can be caused by flood waters. Our diamonds and equipment have been inundated too many times in recent years for us to allow this to continue.

We are working hard to continue to develop our skinned diamonds and make our grassed surfaces as safe as possible. We seem to always be at one of the extremes, too little rain or too much! In addition, the challenge of sharing our surfaces with another sport does have an impact at times but a good relationship with our neighbours and a better understanding of each other's needs is helping.

Like all Associations, we are concerned about numbers and we will be working with our clubs to have a collective effort to recruit and retain players and officials in coming years. Importantly, we need to recognise the attracting of other forms of softball be it slow pitch or sevens or some other variant and devote more resources to embedding the formats into our calendar.

## BUNDABERG

### Membership

The 2014/15 Season saw 5 clubs and 24 teams play in a competitive competition in 5 divisions. We also had 60 T-Ballers who participated in a non-competitive program. The total number of players for the season was 155 junior players and 165 senior players. This was about 30 players down from last season, mainly being juniors. This is especially evident in the 14, 15, 16, 17 year age group.

### Sponsorship & Grants

We are currently working on a Sponsorship Program to get some sponsors. The end of February concluded our grant money from the Queensland Government for the Sport and Recreation Officer's position. A number of local businesses did provide support through donations of food for hosting the Queensland Primary Schoolgirls and Wide Bay Carnivals and fundraising activities.

### Highlights

Bundaberg hosted the Queensland Primary School Girls State Championship in August 2014. This was attended by 12 regional teams from all over Queensland playing softball for 4 full days. In March 2015 we hosted the Wide Bay Regional Softball trials where 11 district teams competed.

We continue to send Representative teams away to all State Championships. Our Under 15 Boys team were runners up in the President's Cup at the recent U15 Boys State Championship 2015. The U19 Men's team were Runners Up and Best Defensive Team at the U19 Men's State Championship. The U17 Boys team was the winner of the Presidents' Cup. Many of these teams were combined with Hervey Bay and Maryborough Associations due to each Association being unable to fill their own teams.

A number of our junior players gained selection in Queensland Teams – Ella Cedergreen, Riley O'Neill and Kyle Lyster (U15 Development teams), Brennan Dempsey (U17, U19 and Australian U19 Men's Squad), Mitchell Silcox (U19 Men) and Tyrell Priestley (U23 Men and Australian U19 Men's team). Also Joy MacPherson (Coach) and Leanne Harvey (Scorer) went as officials with the U15 Development teams.

Our new website was set up thanks to Eric Drabwell and Nicole Findley. It worked very well. At the Annual General Meeting held in June a new Management Committee was elected and new management processes began. This has had some challenges for all those involved.

### Publicity, Promotion

Thanks to Eric Drabwell, Bundaberg has received huge amounts of publicity and media coverage throughout the year. Weekly talk on radio, constant newspaper coverage, television reports have all been beneficial. As well our new website and Facebook page are constantly being used by everyone. Eric has also put together a sponsorship package to gain sponsors.

### Technical Areas

#### *Umpiring –*

Our annual level 1 Umpiring Examination was held in May 2014. Our umpiring group continue to work hard to encourage new umpire to gain their accreditation.

#### *Coaching –*

In October 2015 a Level 1 Coaching Accreditation Course was conducted for 20 participants. It is planned to hold a Level 2 in July 2015.

#### *Scoring –*

Scoring courses are planned prior to the 2015/16 season commencing.

### Junior Development

5 Bundaberg Softball continued to supply coaches to conduct Active After School Programs in 5 primary



schools. Darrin Hebditch came and ran some pitching and batting clinics in September. A couple of clubs ran some holiday sessions for junior players.

We changed the format of our Junior Competition to a more ability based competition and even changed the name of some of our divisions in line with the Swing into Softball Program. Our T-Ballers participated in a fun, skills and games program mixed all in together. But separate junior and senior sessions depending on ability levels.

### Facilities

There are 4 diamonds with varying surfaces, grass and partly skinned running tracks. There has been an underground watering system put on 2 diamonds, with the other 2 to be done in the near future.

### New Innovations

Plan to complete BBQ area, new fencing around diamonds and shade sails.

### Future

Other sports starting and finishing times of season continue to make an impact. We began our 2014/15 season a couple of weeks later and finished a couple of weeks earlier to see if this would make any difference to numbers of people playing. A number of families did comment it relieved some stress.

We are looking to do some top dressing of diamonds and outfielders. Complete BBQ area, new fencing, painting and complete shade sails.

The management committee has some work to do in relation to updating policies and procedures and ensuring clubs are accepting and understanding of the new management structure and decision making processes.

We are hosting the Primary Boys State Softball Championship in August. We are also looking at conducting a T-Ball competition the long weekend in January. We are also constantly trying to find new ways to encourage new players and plan to hold a slow pitch competition in the off season.



## CABOOLTURE

### Initiatives by CSSA to increase membership for 2015

#### Modify Games

The Caboolture Sports Softball Association (CSSA) in conjunction with Softball QLD Inc (SQI) introduced a modified junior (T-Ball & Rookie Ball) game sense, working with coaches and players. A huge change to traditional softball. It doesn't always have to be about winning & CSSA want the young ones to learn in a fun environment, with the

desire to make participating in junior softball more enjoyable & relevant to today's children and society. CSSA delivered the modified games with reports the program was a great success.

### Promotion & Advertising

CSSA was in the public promoting our sport, whether it is in a shopping centre, Sports Expos, Sign On Come & Try Days, pre-season flyers to all Schools in the MBRC, have all gained additional club membership

CSSA established and maintained a successful long term relationship with local Newspapers with reports of games, junior and senior photographs, draws and results appearing on a weekly basis. The Sports Editor has shown a strong interest in and understanding of Softball and coverage of week-end games .

Forever approaching School based contacts, trying to get softball back into the local schools, encouraging the teachers and volunteers to help softball gain a prominent interest in inter-school sport & utilising the grounds at Dances Road as a means to develop a strong and open relationship coordinating sporting camps and workshops.

### Special Olympics Program

Introducing and supporting the opportunities for disability, indigenous & other cultures to participate. CSSA are building on existing programs for the long term goal for the Special Olympics Program to be provided in regions of Queensland.

This program has provided for a foundation of competition to be held as part of the Southern Cross Challenge and for Special Olympics QLD (SOQ) to enter a softball team in the Australian Special Olympics Program. CSSA working alongside 3 other District Associations partnered with SQI and SOQ to provide the opportunities for the participants to try softball.

### Active After School Program

Involvement to the Active After School Program has shown in increase to juniors within 9 schools

### Technical Areas

CSSA encourage our members to increase their abilities and attain or upgrade their accreditations for Coaching, Scoring and Umpiring, with the aim to empower our members with knowledge and information on the game. Accreditation levels required to provide a bigger pool for CSSA State Representative duties.

The 2014/15 CSSA season was an extremely successful year with CSSA members attaining accreditations

### Junior Development Programs

Technical Coordinators with the assistance of SQI

special guests presenters introduce programs to prepare our players in Battery, Base Running, Fielding, Pitching and Catching. The opportunity for existing and emerging players to receive high quality coaching to lead to a greater number of quality players within CSSA competition.

Players and Coaches are invited to attend various Clinics which focus on the coaching methodology of core techniques in order to improve the quality of performance and training practice methods.

#### **Improvements to CSSA Grounds or facilities in 2014/15**

The Dances Road Complex is of high standard and within the guidelines and directions of the MBRC and Caboolture Sports Club Inc were constantly maintaining and improving the complex.

- New drainage to facilitate the excess water runoff from the ground to try and prevent the flooding and loss of deco on Diamond 2
- Ducted Air conditioning to the CSSA Offices and Canteen areas
- Upgrade and replacement to a number of training lights on Diamond 1
- New signage to front of building
- Honor Board

In the longer term, priorities include further facility development. It is important to adopt new and innovative strategies to attract new members to our sport and to retain current members.

Proposed terracing around existing club house

- Observation Deck
- Lighting of Diamond 3

The lighting of another diamond and the proposal of renovations/improvements to the rear of club house will establish alternate competitions.

- Master Night Ball
- Slow Pitch
- Social mid week competitions

All for the outcome of increased members and player development opportunities.

#### **Numbers of teams/participation in 2014-2015**

Our volunteers and players are ultimately the back bone of CSSA as are many. To show appreciation a Service Awards event is organised every year to recognise the continued efforts and dedication to Committee Management, Technical Coordinators, Club Delegates and Players.

For a relatively small Association, CSSA has been well represented with players at both State & National level being successfully selected.

CSSA continues to be very proud of our representative players. Not only do CSSA produce

quality players, our umpires and coaches continue to excel by participating in State tournaments.

Over the last year CSSA introduced a number of new development initiatives, which has managed to maintain relatively the same amount of registrations to the competition

CSSA is very fortunate to receive direct financial assistance from the Caboolture Sports Club Inc and it is the policy of CSSA to keep fees as affordable as possible, so consequently sponsorships and grants are extremely important and the only way CSSA can improve facilities and introduce any new programs

The ongoing support from:

- Caboolture Sports Club Inc
- Softball QLD Inc
- Moreton Bay Regional Council

allow CSSA to continue to grow to a bigger and better softball community and prosper financially.

## **CAIRNS**



### **Membership**

At the close of the 2013/14 season, CDSA was in the unenviable position of having only 88 members. The association was on the verge of collapse and had been so for the past 3+ years. This year, through a lot of hard work, changes to the executive committee and a different approach to recruitment, we have increased our membership to 185 members for the 2014/15 season. A number we are extremely proud of and hope to continue to grow.

The 2014/15 season saw the inclusion of two new clubs outside the Cairns metropolitan area. Both of these clubs, from Cardwell, travelled 2 hours each way to play in the Cairns summer competition. We also saw the creation of the first softball club from Port Douglas who will join the competition next season, the return to playing for a former team and one of our existing teams growing to include juniors.

Registration numbers are still increasing as we are yet to commence our winter midweek season and are expecting additional numbers. At the time of writing, the membership breakdown was as follows:

- Male - 40
- Female - 145
- Juniors - 85
- Seniors - 100

CDSA had the following breakdown of clubs, teams and grades in place over the summer 2014/15



Club/ Team	Grade			
	Saturday Fastpitch 1	Saturday Fastpitch 2	Midweek Fastpitch	Sec- ondary School
Allsorts*			1	
Cardwell Strikers	1			
Cardwell Warriors				1
Hawks	1			1
Hooters			1	
Panthers		1		
Redsox	1	1		2
Steelers			1	
<b>Total</b>	3	2	3	4

season.

\*Allsorts were a combined team of Saturday fast pitch players from all clubs.

Yorkeys Knob Boating Club	Cairns Spring Works & Engineering
Edge Hill Tavern	Premier Catering
McDonalds Gordonvale	Brendan Pearce Painting
Leading Edge Sports	IGA Cardwell
Lenard's Mount Sheridan	Salad Bowl
Chris Lodge Photography	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
The Cairns Post	Cardwell Rainforest & Reef Visitors Information Centre
Curtis Pitt MP	The Tinnie Shack
Cairns Regional Council	Cardwell Op Shop
2'ot Chillies	El Arish Tavern
Cardwell Lions Club	Michelle Lawson
Fragile Freight Solutions	Colleen Hindmarsh

**Sponsorship & Grants**

CDSA was well supported by local community businesses and individuals. The following is a list of businesses and individuals who have provided financial and/or in kind assistance to CDSA and its clubs this season.

CDSA became an accredited member of the national Good Sports Program promoting

responsible consumption of alcohol and healthy eating at sporting venues. We joined the Cairns Regional Council's Go Clubs programs responsible for supporting the growth and development of clubs in the region. CDSA became a registered "Get Started" club to enable our members to access the Queensland government program and associated funding aimed at tackling the child obesity epidemic.

To date we have not applied for any grants. However, we have a number of grant applications in the draft stages.

**Highlights**

CDSA sent a team to each of the following state championships:

- U15 Girls (two teams)
- U17 Girls
- U19 Women
- Open Women

We sent individual players the U19 Men's State Championship. Our Open Women's team successfully won the 2014 Country Championship.

The following players were selected in Queensland and Australian teams:

- Justine Smethurst – QLD Heat and Aussie Spirit
  - Samantha Hodgman – QLD U23's U19's
  - Maddie Fox – QLD U19's
  - Stevie Livingston – QLD U17's
  - Moe Kurihara – QLD U17's and QLD U19's Secondary School
  - Hirari Kurihara – U15 Development
  - Ashlee Dennis – QLD U12's Primary School
- The following players were talent identified by SQI:
- Samantha Hodgman
  - Moe Kurihara
  - Stevie Livingston
  - Tayla Jackson

CDSA nominated Elizabeth Fleischfresser (Liz Fresser), for the Softball Queensland 2014 Coach of the Year award. Liz's many coaching roles last season included Head Coach North Queensland Regional Academy, CDSA Coaching Director, CDSA Open Women's Head Coach, CDSA U15 Girls Head Coach, QLD U17 Girls Assistant Coach, QLD U19 Women's Friendship Series Head Coach, Peninsula U19 Girls Head Coach, and QLD Primary Schools Head Coach. Softball Queensland agreed that Liz was the most deserving nominee and she was awarded this honour at the 2014 SQI Awards dinner.

This season CDSA ran Fastpitch for open and secondary schools divisions on Saturday afternoons. All open teams played each other



through the year, splitting into two divisions for the final series. We ran a midweek Fastpitch division for the first time in 3 years. The results were:

Grade	Premiers	Runners Up
Weekend Fastpitch 1	CSW&E Redsox	Cardwell Strikers
Weekend Fastpitch 2	Redsox Rollers	Panthers
Midweek Fastpitch	Steelers	Hooters
Secondary School	Cardwell Warriors	Redsox 4

### Publicity & Promotion

CDSA is well supported by the local News Ltd publication, The Cairns Post. Whenever our members achieve representative honours, they are featured in the sports section of the paper. With the inclusion of teams from Cardwell in the CDSA competition, softball publicity is being distributed by the Cardwell Rainforest & Reef Visitors Information Centre.

This year, CDSA was lucky enough to have Curtis Pitt, Queensland Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, agree to be the association's patron. Curtis' support has been immeasurable and we are extremely lucky that this support is ongoing. Curtis threw the first pitch in the Saturday Fastpitch 1 Grand Final. A slow motion and normal speed video of this was published on Facebook. The videos were widely viewed by many within the softball community and beyond.

We are fortunate enough to be supported by Chris Lodge Photography. Chris attends fixtures at varying times through the year and takes high quality action shots of our matches. These images are then made available to all CDSA members via his Facebook page at no cost as long as we acknowledge him as the photographer. This form of promotion of softball has been wonderful. Chris photographs many other sports in the area and has a large following on Facebook. Consequently, the softball images are seen by many people outside the local softball community.

CDSA received some less favourable press, when the results of the court proceedings between CDSA and our former association treasurer were completed. Our treasurer stole over \$16 000 of association funds. We successfully pursued her through the court system. She received a sentence of 18 months imprisonment (14 months of this was suspended) and was ordered to repay the full amount taken. She appealed the severity of this sentence and her appeal was upheld. On appeal, the sentence was fully suspended less the time already served and the restitution order was cancelled. This is extremely disappointing and we are currently investigating our rights to pursue this mat-

ter through the civil court system.

### Technical Areas

#### *Umpiring –*

CDSA ran two practical umpiring sessions for club umpires which were well attended. Damien Hindmarsh completed his level 1 umpiring accreditation and attended the U15 State Championships.

#### *Coaching –*

In October, Cairns ran the SCCP & Presenters courses for 5 local coaches and 3 coaches from the Live Learn Leap program. The SCCP course was run again May for 17 Cape York communities who will return to their communities to run softball programs. Tayla Jackson and Lydia Nestor completed their level 1 accreditation and are presently working towards their level 2.

#### *Scoring –*

No development, programs or accreditation was performed by CDSA for scorers.

### Junior Development

CDSA ran the Swing into Softball program over the 2014/15 summer season and attracted nearly 40 participants, easily our most successful junior development program in many years. Batter Up programs were run in Tully and Cardwell. School Clinics were run at Mission Beach and Cardwell schools. The new Cardwell clubs have greatly assisted in this development and Cardwell Strikers are looking to extend their club to include a junior team for the 2015/16 season.

The North Queensland Regional Academy has grown to include 6 players from the Townsville area.

November saw CDSA travel to Normanton to deliver softball clinics as part of the Live Learn Leap programs' "5 Sport Initiative Coaching Course". This course was extended to be 6 sports when CDSA again joined the program and travelled to Cooktown in March for more softball development clinics.

Over half of the participants of the Swing into Softball program this season were boys. CDSA needs to develop our boys and men's competitions to ensure that these players have a pathway to keep them playing softball.

### Facilities

The CDSA softball grounds are currently located as part of the Martyn Street Sporting Reserve Complex. This facility contains 4 diamonds, one of which is a fully skinned international standard diamond. Cairns Regional Council is in the process of developing a major sporting complex at Walker



Road, Edmonton and provision is being made to locate softball at this venue. The summer 2014/15 season was the last to be held at Martyn Street.

### Future

CDSA has been working with SQI to update and realign our constitution and by-laws. As a consequence, we have voted to rename our association. From the 2015/16 season onwards we will be known as Softball FNQ. This name better reflects that the association caters for softball from Cardwell to Cape York, the Torres Strait islands and west, an area in excess of 300,000km<sup>2</sup>. The association will maintain the yellow, light blue, black and white colours with the representative teams competing as Softball FNQ rather than Cairns.

The biannual Great Barrier Reef Masters Games will be held in Cairns this year. The games will run in August for the final time before moving to April/May for the 2017 event. Planning is well underway and we have already seen a growth in registered teams compared to the 2013 numbers. This is extremely encouraging given that we are still three months out from commencing the event. Significant promotion has been done throughout the Cape York communities which we are hoping will be well represented. Teams from overseas and interstate have also registered their intention to attend.

The Great Barrier Reef Masters Games will be the last softball to be held at the Martyn Street Reserve, the traditional home of softball in Cairns centrally located close to the CBD. Martyn Street is being redeveloped to expand the adjoining Netball facility and the resulting configuration does not allow enough space for softball fixtures to continue at this venue. As previously mentioned, Cairns Regional Council is creating a new sporting precinct at Walker Road in the southern Cairns suburb of Edmonton. The current plans for this venue contain provisions for 3 softball diamonds, one fully lit and skinned to international standards. The remaining two will have lighting to a training level.

The Walker Road Precinct is expected to be available for the Summer 2017/18 softball season. For the two softball seasons between now and then, Cairns Regional Council is facilitating temporary accommodation at a grass hockey complex in Woree, also a southern Cairns suburb for our weekend competitions. They are still locating a venue with sufficient lighting for our midweek fixtures. Council have assured us that we will not bear any financial costs associated with this temporary relocation. The move to a new venue, and temporary accommodation at a third and fourth venue are a major risk to the continued growth of the association. It is expected that there will be local players who will not be willing to move with us to Woree and then on to Edmonton. Conversely,

Edmonton is a growth suburb with many young families and the association is hopeful of accessing this potential player pool. The committee is working hard to make this transition as smooth as possible so as to keep any loss of membership to a minimum.

This season has seen the incorporation of the first Port Douglas Softball Club. They are busily training and preparing for inclusion in fixtures in the Summer 2015/16 season. Port Douglas is approximately 45 minutes North of Cairns. The distance was considered a barrier for inclusion in a competitions held only in Cairns. The inclusion of a team from Cardwell, approximately 2 hours South of Cairns, has opened the minds of the CDSA committee to look further afield for teams. There has been interest expressed for a team to be based in Mossman, approximately 1 hour North of Cairns. The CDSA committee is hopeful that the 2015/16 season will see fixtures scheduled at the newly acquired softball grounds in Cardwell as well as Port Douglas, if they are ready in time. It is hoped that this will further assist in the development and growth of softball in these towns.

Softball in Cairns has emerged from a dark period with theft of funds and declining numbers threatening its very existence. The traditional model for running the competition has been abandoned in order to survive. Covering a North/South distance of over 1600kms means that a single site for the competition is not viable if we wish to continue and to grow. We know it will take us some years to achieve but, ultimately, it is hoped that the future Softball FNQ will consist of a series of competitions, located in the larger towns with teams from the surrounding smaller towns all travelling to their nearest town to compete. We have a large number of indigenous communities in our catchment and as such we believe this model is achievable.

### GLADSTONE



### Membership

Our membership numbers were slightly down from last year. We believe this is mostly because Gladstone is such a transit town where people come and go depending on the construction work. Our total registration numbers for last season was 200 + 40 registered Oz Pitch players. Our teams consisted of 5 ladies, 2 men's, 3 U15, 3 U13, 7 T-Ball, Batter up & Diamond Ball.

### Sponsorship & Grants

As our association now has all financials compliant, we have this past year applied for a number grants, both local council and local government. We were shortlisted for both but unfortunately not successful with either. We will continue to pursue submitting for grants in the upcoming year.

This year each of our representative teams secured sponsors. This was a great help to all players and families with the funds paying for uniforms. We would like to have a sponsor come on board for our regional academy this season. This would allow us to purchase new equipment required to run the academy training at a high standard.

### Highlights

This year again consisted of many highlights for our association with players representing our association at different levels within our sport:

- Our U17 boy's teams played in Ipswich and came home State Champions.
- We combined U19 Boys with the Rockhampton team and won Presidents Cup.
- Gladstone also had a men's team play at Redlands this past year. Our team did not come home with any silverware, however it was a significant competition for us as for the first time we had three of our young men play in this team.
- Our U15 Boys went away to defend their title of State Champions, however were piped at the post and came home Runners Up.
- We also had our U15 Girls play in Mackay and came home with not only the Presidents Cup but also the Country Cup Champions Trophy.

This year again we had a number of players selected to play for QLD in the National Championships and the Friendship Series in their respective age groups. Continuing to build our Association in a diverse way, we have had a number of members get accreditations for scoring and had juniors go away as assistant coaches with representative teams.

Our Oz Pitch competition was a highlight as all teams enjoyed it and have returned with new players for this season's competition.

### Publicity & Promotion

We have continued to work closely with our local paper to keep our sport highlights recognised. We have team highlights and scores printed each week and they also do write ups about our junior players or teams and also about any significant happenings for our rep players. Our representative players are always thrilled to have their playing shirts presented to them by our Mayor and their sponsors.

Our Facebook page has been a great way for us to spread the word of our sport and also keep in touch with our members on a day to day basis.

### Technical Areas

#### *Coaching –*

We have had the same coaches as last year, with increased assistance from parents to help out with the large number of T-Ball teams. We also had

some of our U15 players help out with coaching the T-Ballers.

#### *Scoring –*

We continue to promote this area of the sport as it is another area that has a limited amount of interest. However we are happy that we now have a number of levelled scorers and others interested in learning.

#### *Umpiring –*

We have over the past two years had the same three young men helping out umpiring our U15 games. This year was no different and seen them be acknowledged by being presented with gift vouchers for their contribution. We hope to encourage new players to help in this area next year and will continue to encourage our U15's to keep up the good work being done with umpiring our U13 games.

### Junior Development

For an association of relatively small numbers, we are proud that we are continuing to support new players, up and coming players as well as our experienced players by using this diversity to form representative teams. We believe that developing our up and coming players and training them to a high standard for rep teams has been the reason why we have been able to continue to have teams play in each age level at State competitions. Our belief is not to send a representative team away to win but to have a team that have a go and build on what they learn for the following year.

We continued to have great numbers in our Diamond Ball, Batter Up and then moving into T-Ball. Again this year we had a lot of the Diamond Ballers and Batter Up player's transition into T-Ball.

We have worked on our junior academy this year, however with limited availability of coaches to take on this role, we have not been able to run it at the level we would have hoped. This is something our committee is working on and hope we can have this sorted for this coming season.

### Facilities

The makeover on the club house has made a big difference. We have now also finished the makeover on the inside of the office with new tiles and a lick of paint and we are now working on new furniture for the area. The canteen has also had a facelift with a coat of paint throughout.

The fencing around diamond one has been replaced, this making our spectators area safer. Our continued partnership with the local council to keep the diamonds upkeep at a high level has paid off. Our grounds are looking fantastic and we have noticed the difference with the playing surfaces.

### New Innovations & Future

Our hope moving forward is to be successful with



some of our grant applications so we can upgrade our lighting to diamond one.

Last year was the first time our association had leased out our canteen. Because the staff is able to focus on running the canteen and not having to have it maned between games by members, we have all enjoyed the quality and variety of fresh food available. It is something the association is more than happy to continue through the foreseeable future.

This past year has seen many changes for our association and seen it be bought up to standard on many different levels. We hope to continue to build numbers with in our association for both players and also volunteers to help continue to build the sport in the community.



## GOLD COAST

### Membership

The amount of registered players has been approximately the same as the last year. Currently we have 55 registered players. There are 4 teams all competing in the A grade division.

### Sponsorship & Grants

No sponsorships and currently no applications for grants are in place.

### Highlights

- Our Gold Coast Rep team competed at the Open Women's State Championship at Redlands in Sept 2014.
- Gold Coast Dolphins Masters Team competed at the Softball Queensland Masters in Aug 2014.
- Pan Pacific Masters were held In Nov 2014 and the Gold Coast Masters received Gold for their division.
- Peter Moore was given the Service Award for the Gold Coast for the 2013/14 season.

### Publicity, Promotion

Advertisement in local newsletter and pamphlets distributed at local shopping centres and at Bunnings fund raiser. Advertisement was taken out on Medical Whiteboard, which was distributed locally to 1000 homes.

### Facilities

We currently have two granite diamonds and two grass diamonds. The dug out was restored on Diamond 2 from previously being damaged in 2014. Also sun shades installed on dugout on Diamond 1 in 2014.

### Future

- Application to have better signage put in place on main road.
- To gain more support from council and apply for sporting grants to help increase membership.
- With competition from other sports during the winter season proves hard to increase junior membership.
- Completion of Community Coaching due June 2015 and after this is completed Batter Up program to be run.
- Because of lack of coaches at Gold Coast more coaching clinics to be held.
- Uni Games to be held at our Association in Oct 2015

## IPSWICH

The Ipswich season started well with 9 clubs affiliating this year. Our grades and team numbers consisted of:

- T Ball - 7
- Rookie Ball - 9
- U13 - 8
- U15 - 5
- C Ladies - 6
- B Ladies - 7
- A2/A Woman - 4
- B Men - 9
- A2/A Men - 2



Total teams this year was 58 and with close to 630 registered members and 7 playable diamonds, we are growing steadily. With our junior numbers totaling 303 this season it was great to see lots of little people out at the fields having a go, playing our game.

Ipswich fielded several representative teams this season, the most memorable being our Open Men who took out 1<sup>st</sup> place going through undefeated. Well Done.

For the first time in many years we had members make QLD Teams – Josh Harding, Jonathon Todd and Jordyn Hollands. Ipswich also had Met West players that were selected in QLD School teams, well done to all those players, also need to mention our officials who were selected to participate in various QLD Teams.

Our biggest event was the Switch Money Ball tournament, a very successful long weekend saw players from around our country and internationals play fast pitch, with lots of awesome games played, this tournament is going to be an annual event from

now on.

A Murri Women's Tournament was held for the first time over at Redlands DA. Ipswich fielded a team, which was awesome for those ladies that came to play. This was a very fun day and new friendships made along the way. A thank you goes out to Ipswich City council and Kambu for sponsoring our team with great shirts. Good news for Ipswich - this tournament will be held out at our fields later in the year.

Ground improvements this season saw our storage shed go up and with more communications with Ipswich Council for other general maintenance sees our fields staying safe for players. We are also hoping to see Diamond 3 get put under lights in the near future, so excellent for our grounds we will be able to hold more night time games.

We encourage our members to increase their abilities and get accreditations for scoring coaching and umpiring.

This year we achieved new and higher qualifications across all areas for those members wanting to go further.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the contribution and achievements of the volunteers who support our sport and make it possible for us to be able to hold a fantastic competition in Ipswich and to my committee THANKYOU.

## MACKAY

### Membership

- 200 members

### Sponsorship/Grants

- Domino Pizza - \$500

### Highlights

- U15 Girls State Championship
- Fun in the Sun Recruitment Carnival

### Publicity & Promotion

- U15 Girls State Championship – television and radio
- Promotional flyers – Mackay Regional Council – Good Sports
- Weekly coverage – television and radio
- Promotional events – Mackay Regional Council Sports Forum

### Technical Areas

#### Coaching –

MSA currently has Active Coaches in the Association. 2 x level 1 and 1 x level 2 accreditations achieved.

#### Scoring –

Mackay Softball has increased their numbers of accredited scorers with 6 new Level 1 scorers at the beginning of 2014 and the beginning of 2015. Following on from Level 2 and 3 lectures we have 1 new Level 2 and 2 New Level 3's who all passed their exams in 2014.

Val Cross has still been busy attending State Championships as the scoring rep. Mackay hosted the U15 Girls State Championships in April 2015, Debbie Carey was the SQL Scoring Rep and Jodie Baxter the recorder.

Nationally both Val and Debbie were part of the official statisticians at the Open Men's National Championship held at Redlands in March 2015. Val was the Southern Cross Challenge Chief Statistician and Debbie the QLD U23 Men's statistician at the combined tournament held at Redlands in April 2015.

#### Umpiring –

Leveled umpires contributing well to the DA/State/National Umpiring program. 5 x new level 1 umpires awarded in Nov 2014 with 2 umpiring at their first state champs (U15 Girls). Graeme Love successful in obtaining Level 5 and continuing positive contribution to the SQL umpiring technical directorate.

### Junior Development

Junior Development consists of club development, regional academy trainings, attendance at scoring, coaching and umpiring clinics/courses and representative trainings.

### Facilities

- Ground upgrade – fencing, drainage, plumbing, turf scarifying, dressed fields
- Clubhouse upgrade – security locks changed, air-conditioning in umpires room, upgraded security on shed and clubhouse, new IT equipment.

### New Innovation

MSA have implemented a coaching and umpiring mentor program for Juniors.

### Future

MSA future goals include increasing our membership by 5%, following our and meeting our goals in our strategic plan, increasing profitability by 5%, applying and securing further grants, successfully applying for and conducting tournaments and implementing and creating new policies and procedures.





## MARYBOROUGH

### Membership

Softball Maryborough Inc (SMI) consists of three clubs: Aztecs (established 1973), Incas (1969) and Sparx (1982). In addition, Hervey Bay Softball Association Inc entered three teams into SMI competitions this season, giving us a total of 29 teams.

### Sponsorship & Grants

SMI and its Clubs have again been successful in pursuing grants during 2014/15. The following grant applications totaling \$67 157 worth of funding were successful:

- Gambling Community Benefit Fund – Aztecs (playground equipment) - \$24 500;
- Fraser Coast Regional Council – SMI (new junior back nets) - \$4 200
- Get Going - Incas and Aztecs (8 week come and try activity and marketing) - \$1 870;
- Get Going - SMI (education and development programs) - \$4 587; and
- Gambling – SMI (new mower) - \$32 000.

RSL Maryborough extended their sponsorship of Softball Maryborough this year by sponsoring the Diamond Ball competition, meaning that participation was free. In addition, SMI recruited Byrne Bros. Concrete, Bunnings Warehouse, Maryborough Sports Club and Maryborough Sugar Factory as new sponsors. This sponsorship will be used to undertake a range of facility improvements and to support our junior players.

### Highlights

Our highlights for 2014/15 included:

- An increase in the number of registered members (10% increase) and teams;
- The recruitment of new sponsors;
- The sponsorship of our Diamond Ball competition by RSL Maryborough;
- The conduct of a successful Softball Batter Up Program;
- The entry of Hervey Bay teams in our U12 and U14 competitions;
- Our U17 Boys (combined with Hervey Bay and Bundaberg) won the President's Cup;
- Introduction of a successful Softball Social 7s competition for our Men; and
- Introduction of the Swing into Softball Major League program;

SMI premiership records for 2014/15 are as follows:

### Publicity & Promotion

SMI has established and maintained a successful long-term relationship with the Fraser Coast Chronicle with reports of games, junior and senior photographs, draws and results appearing on a weekly basis. The Sports Editor at the Chronicle has shown a strong interest in and understanding of Softball.

### Technical Areas

SMI had 11 members complete the Community Coaching Course and 10 completed the Level 1 Coaching course during the 2014/15 season. Funding through the Get Going grants programs will support further coaching and scoring training and education.

### Junior Development

This season, SMI conducted a successful Softball Batter Up program with 15 participants. This activity was supported by a grant made to Aztecs Softball Club through the Get Going program.

### Facilities

The SMI complex in Searle St, Maryborough is dedicated to Softball and contains four senior and two junior diamonds. Improvements made during 2014/15 included:

- fully fencing two diamonds;
- roofing dugouts on Diamond Four;
- installing playground equipment, new player and spectator seating and shade structures; and
- commencement of the building new backnets for two junior diamonds.

SMI has also established a Facility Development Plan with a vision to have the best facilities in regional Queensland. This Plan will support the future development of our facility in a coordinated manner.

### Awards

SMI Season Award Winners for the 2014/15 season were: Other Awards made to SMI members in 2014/15 were:

- Ashleigh James – SQI Service Award Bronze (5 years)
- Fiona James– SQI Service Award Bronze (5 years)
- Sarah James– SQI Service Award Bronze (5 years)
- Vicki Warren– SQI Service Award Diamond (25 years)

Geoff and Sandra Edards – 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout named in their honour (unfortunately Sandra passed away only weeks after this honour)

### Future

14 SMI has established the following priorities to

support ongoing growth and development over the next 12 months:

- coordinated facility development;
- commit to further building our junior grades;
- ensure separate A and B Grade ladies competitions;
- offer more social competitions;
- build our links with the indigenous community by establishing an indigenous women's carnival (Butchulla Day); and
- establish more intercity carnival days.

SMI has a proud history over the past 64 years and we look forward to a successful future.



## Noosa

We have weathered some highs and lows this Summer season – the highs include having 5 players selected in Queensland teams and the incredible low, in January, with the sudden passing of our friend and Slammers Club President, Darren Lange. While we all felt the loss of Darren, it was his family and his Slammers club that felt it the most. In true Slammers style they rallied and against the odds, Darren's team won the U13 B grade final which was a lovely way for them to finish the season. Well done to everyone involved. Each year we hold an U13 inter-club carnival which has now been named the Darren Lange Memorial Cup.

## Membership

Ten years ago our 8 diamonds were full of players in every time slot on a Saturday morning and our 5 Clubs fielded multiple teams in each grade and still had bench players. Now our juniors consist of 2 x T-Ball, 4 x U13, 4 x U15 and 2 x U17 teams out of 4 Clubs. Even more surprising is that that includes 15 new juniors this year. So how has it gone so terribly wrong in the past 10 years?

The fact that softball has been left out of the Olympics may be a reason for the Brisbane based Associations, but has very little impact on us. Our biggest problem is that there is no industry in Noosa, other than hospitality and families have to move away to find work. Our own children, once they finish school, have to move away to go to university or to find work.

While our numbers dwindle we enter a catch twenty-two. Our elite players leave our small Association and head to Redcliffe or Brisbane for better competition. On one hand this is understandable, but on the other we can never increase our competition if these players get to a certain point and then leave, and our competition standard is weakened even further.

players are leaving at U13 and U15 age groups.

Grade	Minor Premiers	Premiers	Runners Up
<b>A Grade Women</b>	Aztecs Apaches	Aztecs Apaches	Sparx Hyne
<b>B Grade Women</b>	Aztecs Cherokees	Aztecs Cherokees	Sparx Sirens
<b>Major League</b>	Sparx Strikers	Incas Wildcats	Sparx Strikers
<b>U14</b>	Hervey Bay Terrors	Hervey Bay Terrors	Sparx Stingers
<b>U12</b>	Incas Gold	Incas Gold	Hervey Bay Terrors
<b>T-Ball Div 1</b>	Aztecs Angels	Incas Comets	Aztecs Angels
<b>T-Ball Div 2</b>	N/A	Aztecs Aces	Incas Comets
<b>Social 7s (Men)</b>	Sparx Spinners	Sparx Spinners	Incas Warriors

Our seniors continue with a family based, social mixed fast pitch competition. This year we grew from 4 teams to 8 teams and had over 100 seniors participate throughout the season. The social games will continue through the winter and the serious senior softballers are heading to Caboolture for competitive games in the lead up to Rep season.

## Sponsorship

NDSA would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support through our season and during various events we conducted throughout the year:

- Noosa Council
- Richies Bakery
- Royal Mail Sporting Association
- Bendigo Bank
- Leading Edge
- Tewantin Noosa RSL Club
- Laguna Bay Electrical
- Noosa Landscape Supplies
- Paint Place
- Tewantin State School P & C
- Mode Screen-prints
- Pet Stock

## Grants

- Noosa Council – Sports Field maintenance Grant -\$13 950
- Noosa Council – Project Grant (new containers) - \$3135
- Royal Mail Sporting Assoc - \$2000



## Highlights

### Rep teams

#### 2015

- U15 Boys
- Shinae Shakespeare picked up to Redcliffe U15 Girls
- Amaya Foxover picked up to Toowoomba U15 Girls

#### 2014

- Luke Thomas picked up to Redcliffe U19 & U23 Mens
- Shinai Gibbins picked up to Cairns U17 Girls
- Kiara Poole picked up to Caboolture U19 Women's
- Leigh Ryan picked up to Caboolture U17 Boys
- Lewis Schefe picked up to Caboolture U17 Boys
- Leigh Ryan, Kayne Gill, Jedd Timbs, Wiley Taylor combined with Caboolture U19 Men's

### State Reps

- Charles Schefe – Primary schoolboys
- Lewis Schefe – U15 Boys
- Shinai Gibbons – U15 & U17 Girls
- Leigh Ryan – U17 Boys
- Luke Thomas – U19 & U23 Men's

### National Reps

- Luke Thomas – U19 Men's Squad

### Awards

- Nicki Bullock – Softball Australia Service Award
- Kim Wakeham & Richard Wakeham – SQI Silver Service Awards
- Debbie Malcolm & Meredith Muspratt – Noosa Softball Life Membership

Noosa District Softball Association would like to thank these five members for their outstanding contributions to our Association and to the softball world.

- Luke Thomas – Sunshine Coast Junior Sports Star of the Month, South Brisbane Softball Classic Rookie of the Year, SQI Awards - nominee U19 Men's Players Player and MVP. Congratulations Luke!

### Carnivals Hosted

- March 2015 – U12 Schoolgirls Regional Trials
  - April 2015 – U15 State Championship
- Thank you to the Committee and Volunteers. These events require a lot of planning and a lot of hard work to be successful, and once again it all came together and it is privilege to work with such a great team.

### NDSA AGM

Our AGM held in July 2014 saw two longtime members retire from the committee: President Glen 'Gordo' Gorton and Registrar Debbie Malcolm.

Gordo and Debbie have given years of service and countless hours of hard work to Noosa Softball. We thank them and they will be missed.

Sue Flynn, who has held several positions on the committee over the last 13 years, stepped up into the Presidents job and also became the Risk Management Officer. Jenny Clifford our longest standing member (30 years), along with her roles as Noosa Property Officer and Dodgers Club President, took on the Vice Presidents role. Michelle Clifford became the Registrar. Although these three women have been around Noosa Softball for many years it is always daunting taking on new and unfamiliar positions. NDSA extends heartfelt thanks and congratulates them on doing such fine jobs this season.

### **Publicity & Promotion**

Softball news fights for space in our local newspapers, but we do manage to get some stories in and with State Reps in the Association the papers are more likely to include a story and pictures. Noosa Council publishes a Community Enews and we thank them for always including Noosa Softball. We target local schools in the lead up to our September sign on and receive some new members through this avenue. Noosa Council did not hold their summer Come & Try Day this season, and this was a blow to us as we usually host the day and gain members through it.

### **Technical Areas**

#### *Coaching –*

Richard Murrhy completed his Level 1. We have some members still working towards their Levels. We will also be encouraging 6 new coaches to sit their Level 1 during this off season.

#### *Scoring –*

Greg Whitely completed his Level 1.

*Umpiring –* 12 people sat the Basic Exam in May 2014 and all had pleasing results. Nichole McCord was a Level 2 candidate at the U15 Boys State Championship. We would like to thank Bill Buckley and Ron Yardley for so generously giving of their time to come and talk to and work with our junior umpires and to help prepare Nichole for the State Championships.

### **Facilities**

We are grateful recipients of a Sports Field Maintenance Grant from Noosa Council which allows us to keep our playing fields in good condition. Our Groundsman, Fred Thiess works tirelessly on all areas of the grounds to keep up appearances and to fix anything and all done with a smile. Congratulations and thank you to Fred, the well-deserved recipient of NDSA Volunteer of the Year.

A small group of dedicated volunteers battled heat and a downpour, over the Christmas break, to spruce up the undercover area of the clubhouse



with some new paint work. Thanks team, it was fun too. With last year's successful OLGR grant we have installed a batting cage with removable netting. Thanks go to Warren King, for his knowledge, and his team of helpers who managed to get it all done in time for the acquittal.

### Junior Development

Combined training afternoons were offered for all players throughout the season. Our training aids were well used for fun, practical and educational sessions. Academy and other interested players were welcome any/all afternoons for training sessions with Richard Wakeham. Richard gives his time freely to all players regardless of their club and his work is paying off for as we see improvements and state selections.

Congratulations to the following players for gaining selection to the North Coast Regional Academy: Shinai Gibbins, Shinae Shakespeare, Riley Murrihy, Lewis Schefe, Charles Schefe, Dylan Todd, Amaya Foxover.

### New Innovations

Early in the December school holidays we offered a day to the Tewantin State School After School Care Program. This was a successful test run, with 60 children and their 6 carers attending. We offered a morning session of skill stations manned by Noosa coaches and players, followed by T-Ball games in the afternoon. We provided morning and afternoon tea and charged a small amount per child. We gained a few new members and enquiries for next season, as well as earning a little bit of money. We intend to run a couple of these days again in 2015 during the school holidays in the lead up to our season. The feedback we received from the Carers and parents was all very positive.

A lot has been said about our seniors mixed fastpitch over the past few years. We tried slowpitch and 5 aside softball and variations of both but our members wanted what they wanted. So we sought our own insurance and ran our own mixed fastpitch competition.

After a controversial safety audit by our Risk Management Officer, prior to this season, which nearly had her hung from the nearest tree, her recommendations were eventually implemented and changes were made such as:

- There was no competition – no points awarded and no finals and some games were not even scored.
- Major safety aspects were put in place particularly for the women and new players, with men toning down their competitiveness and a "safety run home line" was introduced.

The only reason I am mentioning our seniors is because without them, and the money generated by them, our small Association may not have survived. But we found a way to survive. Our small

numbers in juniors was not enough to sustain or grow our Association and we found that we had to give our members what they wanted. We did a survey about single sex games/competition. The results showed that if we only offered single sex games we wouldn't have enough numbers for 2 teams each of males and females. Yet we could get 8 teams in a mixed non-competitive, family orientated social game. Sometimes you have to take a chance especially when your survival depends on it.

### Future Challenges

- retaining members and attracting new ones
- easing the work load on committee members
- keeping running costs down
- Repair, refit and standardisation of diamond lighting to allow for social night ball
- Break ins and vandalism

These challenges are almost the same as last year and we are working on several, such as retaining and attracting members and keeping the running costs down. Easing the work load is a constant struggle but with some new faces on the committee alongside the couple of residual ones, and new people putting up their hands to help, the ease may come. Our lighting will require a large grant and will be something we look at in conjunction with providing more undercover areas. Once again this year we have been hit with break-ins, even with beefed up security doors, lighting and alarms. The position of our clubhouse is the main problem as we are tucked away out of sight with a large area of bush to the side.

### Plans

Our immediate plans for the off season are:

- The finalisation of the incorporation of all clubs
- The accreditation of all coaches
- An update of our Constitution

Our long term plans are for the refurbishment of our clubhouse, a large undercover area and field lighting.

The work on upgrading our diamonds and facilities is constant and ongoing.



### REDLANDS

It is with great privilege that we present this report on the progress of Redland Softball Association. Firstly, we would like to thank the members of the current committee, Kym Carsburg, Paul Ireland, John Scott and Scott Balcombe. The Association continues to prosper from the enormous efforts you put in.

2015 saw the Redlands Softball Association the host venue to two National Championships, the Open Men and the Under 23 & Southern Cross



Challenge combined Championship. In RSA's point of view, both Championships went off without a hitch.

The Redlands Softball 2015 competition is currently in mid season and comprises five clubs fielding 50 teams, a growth of three teams from last year. This year for the first time, we have combined our U15 teams into a mixed competition, fielding seven teams into a very strong competition. Our T-Ball and Rookie Ball teams have been introduced to the Swing Into Softball program, which they participate in prior to their weekly game.

2014 saw Redland Softball Association again field 10 teams in the State Championships, winning 3 State Championships, Runners Up in 2 tournaments and winning 1 President's Cup, another successful year for Redlands Softball Association – congratulations to all.

Team	Result
U15 Girls	6 <sup>th</sup> Overall
U15 Boys	3 <sup>rd</sup> Overall
U17 Girls	5 <sup>th</sup> Overall
U17 Boys (Combined Mackay)	Runners Up
U19 Women	State Champions
U19 Men (Combined Mackay)	State Champions
Senior Women - Green	Runners Up
Senior Women - Red	President Cup Winners
Senior Men - Green	State Champions
Senior Men - Red	5th Overall

Our excellent results in the state championships again translated into a very significant number of players and officials gaining State representation, with a number of these players also gaining selection in national squads and in national teams.

## 2015 Queensland Teams

### U17 Girls

Tegan Trindle, Tamiaka Whitefield

### U17 Boys

Josh Bedgood, Shannon Goffer, Parnell Hamilton, Isaac Caliero-Smith, Brock Stokes and Matt Chapman

### U19 Girls

Dorinda Stone, Rebecca McEachern, Georgia Blair, Alisha Prybyszczuk, Sara Caterson, Ocearna Conaty-Boxall and Darren Pyke

### U19 Boys

Brandon Goffer, James Purcell, and Dylan Sheehan

### U23 Women

Rebecca Chapman, Tammy McMillan, Alisha Prybyszczuk

### U23 Men

Jeremy Jemmott, Danny Kronk, Marshall Kronk, Ryan Merriman, James Purcell, Dylan Sheehan

### QLD Heat

Ashleigh Boxall, Tara Speakman, Stacey Webber, Alisha Prybyszczuk

### QLD Patriots

Andrew Blackshaw, Shaun Goffer, Julian Jemmott, Luke VandeGriendt, Jason Nathan, Marshall Kronk, Bill Bailey, Ryan Merriman, Adam Pearce Damien Nairn and Sean Francis

In order to maintain the high standard of players and officials we do have, we also need to keep our playing diamonds to a safe and professional level, and we wish to congratulate and thank our Groundsman, Murray Rivers, on the great work that he has done over the past year.

Special thanks must go to:

- Our Coaching, Scoring & Umpiring Groups for their work during the 2014/15 season. The work done in each Technical Directorate is often overlooked; however their work is invaluable to the future of our Association thank you for your time and effort in the continued development of the Redlands Softball Association.
- Adele Watson and Maria Caterson, who did a great job running our Academy program. The continued success of the Redlands Academy in developing our junior players by the enhancement of their playing skills is a priority, as this may assist them in achieving selection in the Redlands Representative teams and possibly go further within the sport - thank you very much for putting this extra time into our young players.
- Edda Cailotto, our Volunteer of the Year and the small band of volunteers' who once again put their hands up and supported us through-out the year – thank you, the work you do is greatly appreciated.
- Our clubs, your continued support has again formed the backbone of this very successful Association – we may only have five clubs but these clubs are outstanding.
- The Redland City Council, their exceptional support of the Association and assistance and advice on many matters that arise throughout the year.
- Our staff members, thank you for the work that you performed, your efforts greatly assisted in the smooth running of our Association.

**SUNCOAST-HINTERLAND****Membership**

Suncoast ran its 2<sup>nd</sup> summer season since moving from running winter competitions - with over 135 members.

**Summer 2014/15 season –**

Our association offered the following competitions:

- Women's: B grade – 5 teams
- Mixed U14's - 5 teams
- Swing into Softball – 3 teams
- Non-players – 7
- Men's team - 1

Our summer season was a success, increasing in membership by 20%.

**Grants & Sponsorship**

Grants submitted and approved:

- Sport & Rec – 'Get Playing' - Sports Field Lighting - \$100 000
- GCBF – Decking off the top floor of the clubhouse - \$34 500
- SCRC – Sports field Maintenance Funding \$13 091
- SCRC – Improve drainage - \$7 500

We would like to thank the Queensland Government – National Parks, Recreation, Sport & Racing – Get Playing funding program who provided \$100 000 to Suncoast Hinterland Softball Association to install Sports Field lighting at our facilities to increase Queenslanders participation in sport and recreation activities.

We'd like to thank the Sunshine Coast Regional Council for funding the Sports Field Maintenance funding program and the upgrades for the drainage. This program has enabled our association & Mooloolah Soccer to continue to provide our members with a safe playing surface. The condition of our fields has greatly improved since being a part of the SFMP. Without the financial support of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, both Soccer & Softball would not be able to maintain our fields to the standard expected by the council.

**Highlights**

In conjunction with 'SCUPA – Sunshine Coast University Paramedics Association', Suncoast ran an Oz Pitch carnival and Come and Try day for the kids. This carnival was organised with the intent to raise money for RACQ Care flight. There were over 75 senior participants and 15 junior participants throughout the day – resulting in 9 new members.

After years of applying for funding, we were finally

able to secure a huge amount of funding to upgrade our facilities – through the installation of

	Combined	Mariners	Raiders	Scorpions	Sharks	Wildcats	Total
T/Ball			1	1	2		4
Rookie Ball		2	1	1	1		5
U 13		1	1	1	2		5
U15 Mixed		1	1	2	2	1	7
U17 Boys	1						1
U17 Girls				1	1	1	3
C Men			1	2	1	1	5
C Ladies		1	1	1	1	1	5
B Men							0
B Ladies		1			1		2
A Reserve Men				1	1		2
A Reserve Ladies		1		1	1	1	4
A Men			1	1	1		3
A Ladies		1		1	1	1	4
<b>Team Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>50</b>

Grade	Presidents' Cup	Grand Final
U13	Scorpions Blue	Scorpions Blue
U15 Girls	Scorpions Gold	Scorpions Gold
U15 Boys	Sharks	Sharks
U17 Girls	Sharks	Scorpions
C Women	Scorpions	Wildcats
C Men	Wildcats	Wildcats
A-Res Women	Scorpions Blue	Mariners
A-Res Men	Sharks	Sharks
A Women	Wildcats	Mariners
A Men	Scorpions	Sharks
Club Champions:	Wildcats	

Sports field lighting to 1 of our diamonds. We are due to commence our first season of Nightball in a few weeks' time, in an effort to increase our membership by providing various types of programs/products to the general community.

With the huge success of funding over the past couple of years, it has allowed us to progress with our Facilities plan – constructing new Backnets, dugouts, grandstands, drainage, field upgrades



and now lighting! As a result of these improvements, we have finally been successful with our application to host a State Championship – U19 Women's in October this year, how exciting!

### Technical Areas

Through the successful grant applications we were able to put a lot of people through the different courses in the following areas.

Coaching Level 1 – 2

Coaching Level 2 - 1

Umpiring Level 1 – 6

### Junior Development

We held the pilot 'Over the line' Beach School Holiday program, both a great success.

We ran the 'Swing into Softball' program again this past season for 10 weeks with 22 participants ranging from 5 – 10 years of age. It was very successful. Most of the participants loved the program that much that 5 of the older children (the 9 & 10 year olds) wanted to keep playing, so they continued on and joined our next grade up in juniors.

We developed our own district Academy (preparing our athletes for the Regional Academy). This was extremely successful – led by our super Coach – Brad Adams... We had 12 athletes involved in our Academy. Unfortunately only 1 of our female athletes then went on to make the Regional Academy squad. An awesome effort by all athletes.

Due to the success of our District Academy - a few of our wonderful volunteers/officials took away our first ever U15 Boys team to the U15 Boys State Championships at Noosa in April. Even though our boys didn't place – they made us very proud. They played like champions! We can't believe how much they have improved from that first day of District Academy training 4 months prior to the State Championships. If it wasn't for our District Academy, we wouldn't have been able to get our junior Athletes to that stage required to participate in the State Championships.

### Future

We are very excited about all of our recent facility upgrades. It will put us one step closer to being able to host larger events; exposing our association & Softball in general to the wider community, and in turn increasing our membership

We'd also like to thank Karen Robe – Jobs Plan Coordinator for all of her hard work over the past few of years. Her help has been invaluable. We hope that collectively we can find a way to keep her on board to continue to assist us and other associations with our ongoing development.

## TOOWOOMBA

I wish to thank everyone for all they have given to this season for Toowoomba Softball. Our overall numbers were down again this season however TSA is holding a "Future Workshop" at the end of June to see if we



can overcome some of the hurdles we are facing with decreasing numbers and for future development of TSA. We will be working towards using the next couple of seasons as a "REBUILDING FOR TSA" in all areas being Junior, Senior Players plus Non Playing Roles and other avenues of fixtures.

### Clubs & Season

This season we saw the return of one of the Clubs that folded 5 years ago. Although a number of members transferred over to this Club from other current Clubs, they still introduced a number of new registered members to TSA. With the induction of the new clubs return, TSA is now made up of 5 clubs. Teams and grades including: U6, U9, U11 (mixed), U13 boys and girls, U15 boys and girls, U17 boys and girls, B Grade Women, A2 Men and Women, A Grade Men and Women. We are hoping to get the B Men up and running next season.

Once again our junior players enjoyed their Fun Days, especially our **SUPER HERO DAY** for our U6 & U9's. There are always some great costumes on this day and extra fun held by all. Santa also made his visit and had fun playing with the kids!!

### Premiers 2014/2015 Season:

#### TSA Awards:

#### Funding

TSA has been very successful with the funding applications this season.

- \$7 810 from QLD Sport & Rec Queensland –
- Coaching, Scoring, Umpiring, 3 x FREE Come and Try Days (with free glove given out) and Attendance at the QLD AGM & Forums.
- \$35 000 from Gambling Community – Upgrade our playing surfaces, fix netting and grounds equipment – mowers etc
- \$9 000 from Toowoomba Regional Council – Upgrade batting cages
- \$13,000 from Toowoomba Regional Council – Install new shade shelter (in conjunction with Tmba Touch)

### Representative

Once again TSA fielded teams in all grades at the 2014 State Championships.

Our goal as a DA is to finish better in final placings in all grades at the 2015 Championships.

Our 2015 State Representatives included:

- Connor Whitehouse (17 Boys)
- Bradley Davis (19 Men)
- Nick Moore (19 Men & 23 Men)
- Jesse Miles (23 Men)
- Hamish Monkman (Patriots)
- Wade Prouten (Patriots)
- Chris Edards (Assistant 23 Men)
- Deb Prouten (Manager 19 Men & 23 Men)

U15 Regional Team Representatives

- Zac Erlandson
- Zac Miles
- Rhys Shelly
- Lochie Tolputt
- Keeley Dennien
- Monquie Smith
- Jayke Reynolds (U15B Assistant Coach)
- Jill Codd (U15G Manager)

Congratulations to all TSA members (players and officials) who make up the Darling Downs Softball Teams in Primary and Secondary teams.

Also congratulations to all that take part in the QLD Masters games. There are a number of teams that are formed from TSA members who attend these games and come away with medals. Well done to all players including those younger ones that go away as Team umpires.

### Hosting of Championships

TSA, in conjunction with Darling Downs and Queensland School Sport, successfully hosted the 2014 National Primary Schoolgirls Softball Championship in November. Feedback from players, coaches, parents and officials was exemplary. The success of TSA in hosting Championships continues to be mentioned throughout the State and Country.

### Publicity

Despite the valiant efforts of our Publicity officer, the Toowoomba Chronicle and WIN TV are yet to fully embrace softball. Senior softball gained some recognition in the paper. Thanks to Liahni Truscott for her efforts in this area. Thanks also to the parents and members who continue to send in their personal photos to the Toowoomba Chronicle Junior Sport in the hope of publicising our sport. We are slowly getting back into the Schools as well. Thanks to those volunteers that give up their time to help us try and grow our membership in holding Clinics and giving out TSA flyers. TSA introduced a players profile each month this season. Liahni interviewed the member and their Profile published on social media. Positive feedback was received and we are looking at increasing the publication of these again next season. Getting to know your members is a great thing to bring your Association together.

### Player Development

Our own junior player development clinics were boosted through attendance at our Friday Night Clinics. This saw junior players put through their paces by a different representative coach each week. We have also booked clinics with Darren Hebditch (Steelers Assistant Coach) for September in line with our School Holiday "Come and Try" we are holding.

The Darling Downs Regional Academy has been quite active with the compulsory testing required for Queensland Regional selection. Our academy seems to be growing in numbers which is great for our Association.

### Umpiring Development

J.U.M.P – "Junior Umpire Mentoring Program" was introduced this season. The first season saw 12 new members join this program in the hope of learning more about umpiring. The group meet every Friday night during the season to discuss umpiring rules etc. They then went on to do the practical each week by being allocated to umpiring duties throughout the season along with being allocated to games during the final series.

We are excited to announce we have been able to obtain a sponsor for our J.U.M.P program. Thanks to QGC for coming on board with this sponsor which will see all J.U.M.P members receive a ball bag, umpiring brush and counter supplied to them at the end of each mentoring program.

### Grounds

TSA utilise 3 skinned, 1 cut-out and numerous grass portable diamonds. As proposed by TSA and the funding that has been received, Diamonds 1, 2 and 3 will be getting a "full make over" during the off season and will be ready in time for the Primary School Girls State Titles and U17 Boys & Girls Championships in September 2015.

### Kearney Springs

A continuing challenge for TSA is the relationship and/or dealings with Toowoomba Touch Association as Kearney Springs is a shared sporting venue. This relationship has steadily improved by the continued efforts of our TSA Kearney Springs Representative, Deb Prouten. Thanks to Deb for her continued persistence towards the betterment of softball. The Kearney Springs Committee is currently looking at the Development Plan for Kearney Springs. We are hoping with the grand plan that TSA has and with the backing support from Toowoomba Council we may see some diamond relocations happening in the near future which will increase our members atmosphere at the grounds. Whilst this is probably a long way off, planting the seeds are the most important.

Finally, I thank you for allowing me to be President of the Toowoomba Softball Association for the past season and wish you all the best in future seasons.



## TOWNSVILLE/THURINGOWA

The start of the 2015 winter season has seen an increase in participant numbers in Softball in Townsville. Sign-on/Come & Try Days were held over two weekends in early February. We had a lot of interest at our sign-on days as we were able to secure a grant in the off-season to fund an advertising campaign for both Television and Radio. Unfortunately, we were unable to get enough interest to offer an Open Men's competition as was planned. However, we are running a successful Swing into Softball Program as well as an Open Women's Fastpitch Competition. Our Women's Fastpitch Competition currently has 4 teams with each team having several casual reserves.



### Membership

- 60 Female Players (Total of Casual and Fully Registered) have played in the Open Women's Fastpitch Competition to date, comprising:
  - 48 players aged 16 and over
  - 12 players aged under 16
- 2 Male Players (aged under 16) playing in the Open Women's Fastpitch Competition
- 19 Swing Into Softball Participants, comprising:
  - 12 Females
  - 7 Males

The following strategies were successfully used in 2014 and have been repeated in the 2015 season:

- Fixtures held during the school terms only
- Option of signing-on as a fully registered player or as a casual player.

### Sponsorship, Grants & Fundraising

- \$5500 Get Going Grant – Pre-Season Advertising Campaign
- Current - Cadbury Chocolate Fundraiser
- Current - 2015/16 Entertainment Book Fundraiser

### Highlights

- Upgraded 4 diamonds in preparation for the 2015 winter season (top-soiled, added new deco around all bases & fixed all damage to fences from cyclones in the past).
- Held a successful Softball Batter-Up Program as a one-day event on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015.
  - 15 participants
- Successfully running a Swing into Softball Program with 19 participants after being unable to offer a Juniors Program in 2014 due to lack of numbers.
- Successfully hosted the 2015 Queensland Sec-

ondary Schoolgirls Softball Tournament in March 2015.

U13	Dodgers (B)		
U15G	All Stars / Glennie	U15B	Dodgers
U17G	Warriors	U17B	Dodgers
A1W	Warriors	A1M	Warriors
A2W	Dodgers	A2M	Dodgers
BW	Aces		
<b>Junior Club Champions:</b> Dodgers		<b>Senior Club Champions:</b> Dodgers	

Senior Female Player of the Year	Jaz Lucas (Warriors)
Senior Male Player of the Year	Nick Moore (Dodgers)
Junior Female Player of the Year	Keeley Dennian (All Stars)
Junior Male Player of the Year	Connor Whitehouse (Dodgers)
Coach of the Year	Gavin Doherty (All Stars)
Representative Coach of the Year	Joe Holt & Tracey Holt (Warriors)
Statistician of the Year	Jean Cameron (All Stars)
Umpire of the Year	Darleen Davis (All Stars)
Junior Umpire of the Year	Hayden Howlett (Devils)
Volunteer of the Year	Tracy Edards (Warriors)

### Publicity & Promotion

- Promotion has been through the local media (Get Going grant), Facebook, website, flyers and banners around town.

### Technical Areas

#### Coaching -

We have 4 members who are completing or have recently completed their Level 1 Coaching Accreditation.

#### Scoring -

Cheryl Green continues to work with members in teaching them how to score.

#### Umpiring -

Without any accredited umpires available to umpire weekly fixtures, players from each of the 4 Open Women's teams volunteer each week to umpire a game.

### Junior Development

- A successful Softball Batter-Up program was held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February with all but a few players signing on for the Swing Into Softball Program currently being held.

## Facilities

- Upgraded all 4 diamonds around undercover area
  - Top-soiled
  - Re-surfaced deco on 2 main playing diamonds
  - Added deco around bases on the 2 other diamonds
  - Installed set-in bases on the 3 diamonds that weren't installed in 2014
- Fixed damage on all fences around the diamonds

## New Innovations

- Successful Softball Batter-Up Program held at the beginning of the season which has led to a successful Swing Into Softball Program.

## Future

- Plan to increase junior numbers enough over the next 12-18 months using Swing Into Softball Program to develop into a Junior Fastpitch Competition.
- Invite Open Men, Open Women and Junior players from outside of Townsville (e.g. Ingham, Cardwell, Charters Towers, Ayr, Bowen) to enter teams into our competition in order to grow Softball numbers across North Queensland.

## WYNNUM



### Membership Increase/Decrease

Wynnum Softball has experienced a minor increase in membership in the period 1 May 2014 to April 30 2015. A Swing into softball program has helped assist with junior recruitment in this reporting period.

### Mentionable Highlights For WSA During This Period

#### State Championships

For the period in mention, we had teams enter into the U15 Girls, U17 Girls, U19 Women and Open Men and Women State Championships. All teams did our Association very proud however a special mention is to be made to our U15 Girls and U17 Girls teams who won their state championship events.

#### Representative Selections/Appointments

For a relatively small association, Wynnum has been well represented at both state and national levels with players selected in the U15 Girls, U17 Girls, U19 Women and QLD Heat teams as well as officials from Wynnum involved in the QLD Heat, QLD Patriots and U23 teams.

#### Scoring

There are 21 scorers with varying levels who are registered at Wynnum.

Accreditation – We are presently investigating options for Wynnum Scorers who are interested in attending L1 and L2 scoring clinics.

#### Representatives

We have had Wynnum representatives attend the following:

- Team Scorer/Manager at the International Friendship series in Blacktown July 2014
- Team Scorer at Southern Cross Challenge at Redlands April 2015.
- QLD Scoring Rep at the U17 Boys State Championship in Ipswich October 2014.

#### Coaching

2014 – 2015 has been a successful year for accrediting new coaches. The total number of accredited coaches within the Association is listed as follows:

- Level 1 – 6
- Level 2 – 2 (with another three to submit the Level 2)
- Level 3 + – 4

Further, Steve Anderson was appointed Head Coach QLD U23 Men's Team, Wayne Saunders to Head Coach and Loran Algar as Assistant Coach of the QLD Patriots during this period.

#### Umpiring

During this year, Wynnum umpires David Casey and Darren Sibraa attended numerous state championships in the role of TCU and as part of management crews. In addition, Adrian Ralph, Jo Voltz and Erin Blackmore also attended various state championships to umpire.

Of note, Wynnum umpires were appointed to plate the grand finals at the following state championship tournaments:

- David Casey – Open Women's
- Adrian Ralph – U15 Girls
- Darren Sibraa – U19 Men's and Switch Moneyball

### Future - Challenges & Plans

Further into 2015, we have a number of primary focuses, these being:

- Recruitment and Retention – the recruitment of new and retention of existing players is vital to the success of our association. Funding has been received to assist with running "swing into softball" and strategies are being considered to help maintain the current membership base.

Recruitment of new volunteers is also a focus for us, as it helps the current volunteer base as well as initiates new ideas for innovation and change. We are working on a volunteer handbook and other initiatives to help us retain and recruit volunteers also.



- Equipment and Facility Improvements
- Being a small organisation, we are limited to which funding programs we can apply for as far as big projects are concerned. However, we are making improvements wherever possible. The Association is excited with the plans presented by the Brisbane City Council to upgrade our top and bottom fields starting in September 2015

Our thanks to everyone who has been involved with our association over the past 12 months the players, spectators, umpires, rep officials, committee, Softball QLD, Brisbane City Council, our Patron, Councillor Peter Cumming as well as the numerous organisations we have had successful funding applications with. All of this involvement in one way has played a part in our associations overall success in the last 12 months.