

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS



### BRISBANE

The 2011/12 season again saw wet weather play a significant part in fixtures with a number of games having to be rescheduled. We could not have managed to get all but a couple of junior 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

Bucking recent trends, Brisbane Softball Association (BSA) managed to maintain relatively the same amount of registrations in our Women's Summer and Men's Winter Season (800+ members). This year, we introduced a part-time player policy which went a long way to ensure we keep players in the game. The challenge for us all, moving forward, is to try to grow numbers in our great game.

#### 37 Senior Women's Teams

- 4 x A1 Grade with a total of 44 players
- 5 x A2 Grade with a total of 63 players
- 4 x A3 Grade with a total of 52 players
- 7 x B Grade with a total of 107 players
- 5 x C1 Grade with a total of 71 players
- 6 x C2 Grade with a total of 70 players
- 5 x U17 with a total of 64 players

#### 23 Junior Teams

- 10 x U15 with a total of 112
- 7 x U13 with a total of 78 players
- 3 x 3Pitch with a total of 24 players
- 3 x T-Ball with a total of 31 players

#### 9 Men's Teams

- 4 x A Grade with a total of 41 players
- 8 x B Grade with a total of 95 players
- 4 x C Grade with a total of 54 players

#### Facilities

Brisbane Softball Association continues to operate 18 diamonds at Downey Park which include the following:

- 1 International diamond under lights (now named The Audrey McLaughlin AM International Diamond)

- 1 Senior diamond under lights
- 9 Senior diamonds
- 7 Junior diamonds

Other facilities include:

- Canteen and BBQ
- Bar and pig pen area
- Bumble Bee food cart (servicing our outer diamonds)
- Hall for hire

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.

Zillmere, as a venue for our Men's competition continues to be a success, with 4 diamonds prepared and managed by the Devils Softball Club.

#### Representative Highlights

Brisbane participated in all Girls, Women's and Men's State Championships with 2 teams competing in the U15, U17, U19 and Open Women's competitions.

Our Under 19 Red Women's team and Under 15 Red Girls' team were both crowned State Champions with our Open Women's Red and Under 17 Red narrowly losing the Grand Finals to be named runners up. All other teams participated well with Brisbane again showing their competitiveness.

A significant number of our players and officials went on to be named in State and National squads/teams.

Not only do we produce quality players, our umpires continue to excel by participating in State, National and International tournaments. Most notably, Helen Strauss and Yvonne Kahler taking the diamond for the Grand Final game at the 2011 IX Junior Women's World Series in Cape Town, South Africa. Helen was also awarded the QLD Umpire of the Year Award in 2011.



## Queensland Teams

### U17 Girls

Eva Carless, Brittney Finlayson, Mikayla Gregory, Kody Lang

#### Officials:

Kevin Jenkins (Head Coach), Ree-Anna King (Assistant Coach)

### U19 Women

Eva Carless, Kelly Crowe, Stephanie Curtis, Rachael Higgins, Kody Lang, Rebecca Lang

#### Officials:

Shane Morgan (Head Coach), Anne Vogler (Assistant Coach), Brooke Wilkins (Assistant Coach), Faye Guy (Manager)

### QLD Heat

Jodie Bowering, Melinda Weaver, Carmelle Sorenson, Jocelyn McCallum, Alison Fleming, Stephanie Harm, Amy Pagotto

#### Officials:

Kim Cooper (Assistant Coach), Chris Bailey (Statistician), Jenni O'Neil (Massage Therapist)

### QLD Heat Squad

Eva Carless, Rachael Higgins

## Australian Teams

### U17 Girls Squad

Brittany Finlayson

### U19 Women's Squad

Stephanie Harm, Eva Carless, Stephanie Curtis, Rachel Higgins, Mikayla Gregory

### Open Women

Jodie Bowering, Melinda Weaver, Jocelyn McCallum, Carmelle Sorenson

## Events

**Daniel Morcombe Day** – With special guests Bruce and Denise Morcombe and the local Police, BSA raised awareness and \$1,000 for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation.

**Yellow Socks Softball Challenge** - The event that is proving hugely popular and this year pitted our former softball stars against the absolute legends of Australian Rugby League – Gordon Tallis, Wally Lewis (The King) and Gene Miles to name a few. Over \$7000 was raised for the charity Play for a Cure and junior softball development.

**Deb McColm Shield** – the brainchild of our former President Deb. Rain had not been kind to us in

presenting this day in previous years but after a terrible few days of rain we managed to hold the event and the U15 Rep teams and Development teams loved it. The winners on the day were the kids and their coaches/spectators as well as their parents. It isn't always about winning and this was evident on the day with the games being played in great spirit.

**Legends Honoured** – During Grand Final day celebrations, two legends of our sport were honoured, with the naming of Diamond 1 to the Audrey McLaughlin AM International Diamond and the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout named after Daphne Hass OAM.



Brisbane also played host to:

- The U17 Girls State Championship
- Round 2 of the Gilley's Shield
- QGSSA competition

## Regional Academy

With Board members Leigh Martyn and Brooke Wilkins, Administrator Mick Gregory and Head Coach Tyson Howard, Brisbane has been running a 12 week Regional Academy program for our 'Stars of Tomorrow'. Players are given expert instruction on all aspects of the game, with special guests including Jodie Bowering and Kim Cooper.

The success of our Academy and talent of our juniors resulted in 8 players being selected to participate as part of the U15 QLD Regional Academy Teams at the Australian U15 Girls and Boys Regional Championship to be held in Rockhampton in July 2012.

## Association Objectives

With a rather new committee this season, Brisbane concentrated on implementing policies and procedures to ensure our Strategic Plan objectives are achieved. Key success continues to be increasing participation in both junior and senior grades and continuing to offer a high standard of competition.

Several grant applications are in the pipeline with plans to improve the facilities in the 2012-13 season. We will also continue to assist charities by running such events as the Yellow Socks Softball Challenge and provide support to our juniors by hosting the Deb McColm Shield tournament prior to the U15 State Championship.

Plans are also underway to run a Slow-Pitch competition early 2013.



## BUNDABERG

This year saw one of Bundaberg Softball Association's most significant achievements with the appointment of a full time Local Sport and Recreation

Coordinator for a three year term funded through the Queensland Government, Sport and Recreation Services. This position will provide our clubs with the support required to develop good governance practices, increase participation and alternate income streams (funding/sponsorship) as we compete with other sporting codes in the region.

### Membership

Bundaberg Softball Association saw a 21% decline in membership this season and now places high emphasis on the association to ensure it provides strong leadership effective governance and sound financial management practices to ensure its viability in the community with the view to increase membership and attract local sponsorship.

The association operates on a club concept and caters for T-Ball, U10, U12, U14, U16, A & B Ladies and Men.

Bundaberg Softball Clubs:

Across The Waves, Bargara, Brothers United, North Bundaberg Eels, South Sluggers and Western Suburbs

Decreases in team numbers for the season were attributed to both natural attrition and player elevation to high divisions. The increase in overlapping sport seasons and competition from other sporting codes continues to present a challenge to the association.

Our strong junior base continues to shine with player selections to both State and National Teams.

### Grants

- Department of Communities
  - Active Inclusion Program 2011 - \$5000.00 Technical Development (Coaching and Scoring)
  - Active Inclusion Program 2012 - \$2604.00 Simple Softball Program
  - Positive or its Pointless - \$2000.00
- Bundaberg Regional Council
  - Young People In Sport - \$100.00 per representative player
  - Community Grants - \$4500.00 Diamond Fencing
- Community Gambling Fund 2012 - \$19600.00 Lawn Tractor

### Highlights

*Representative Teams:* Bundaberg fielded teams at the following State Championships:

- U15 Boys (3<sup>rd</sup>) *Presidents Cup*
- U15 Girls (7<sup>th</sup>) *Presidents Cup*
- U17 Boys (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- U17 Girls (10<sup>th</sup>)
- U19 Men's (5<sup>th</sup>)

### Queensland U17 Boys' Team

- Tyrell Priestly, Adrian Taylor and Colton Brockhurst  
(Adrian Taylor named Pitcher of the Championship)

### Australian U17 Boys Squad 2012

- Tyrell Priestly, Adrian Taylor and Colton Brockhurst

The show case game in late November between the Queensland Patriots and the Bundaberg Representative team along with the skills workshop proved to be popular for both our junior and senior players. This opportunity also provided Adrian Taylor and Sam Field with invitations by the QLD Patriots to compete in the Southern Cross Challenge in New Zealand in April 2012.

### Publicity & Promotion

Bundaberg Softball continues to receive excellent media coverage from the Bundaberg News Mail, Win TV and Channel Seven. The coverage includes highlights on the Six O'clock News and weekly back



page exploits providing an arena to showcase the sport.

### Technical Areas

Technical development appears to be a strength area for the association with members completing coaching and scoring accreditation levels (35 registrations).

*Coaching* – Level 1 Coaching - 14, Level 2 Coaching - 8

*Scoring* – Level 1 Scoring Clinic - 12, Level 2 Scoring Clinic - 4, Level 3 Scoring Clinic - 3

*Umpiring* – Bundaberg Softball Umpires officiated 220 season games with its 15 registered Blue Umpires. The recent umpires examination saw a number of umpires pass the basic umpires exam.

- Level 3 - 2, Level 2 - 7, Level 1 - 5, Red shirt - 1

### Junior Development

The association conducted a skills testing program that targeted Under 10 and 12 players. Data collected will assist in generating player profiles linking into regional academy programs.

The formation of the Wide Bay Regional Softball Academy has provided the platform for Bundaberg juniors accepted into the program. A number of Academy and Satellite training sessions have conducted to date.

The Simple Softball Program scheduled to commence in mid July 2012 is an opportunity to introduce juniors to the sport and will hopefully assist in increasing junior participation numbers.

### Facilities

Bundaberg Softball complex consist of four diamonds, two with deco running tracks and two with grass running tracks. This season saw a number of ground improvements. Ongoing facility maintenance will include clubhouse repairs, pitching mats and diamond rewiring/fencing.

Partnership with The Waves Sports Club now sees training lighting erected one of the diamonds.

### Future

The association looks to provide strong leadership and good governance practices to ensure its viability in the community. Building the profile of the sport to increase memberships and attract local sponsorship will be a priority for future

seasons. Social Marketing provides the key in the promotion and marketing of the sport.



### GLADSTONE

#### Membership

Our member numbers declined slightly this season.

The 8 week Diamond Ball programme proved popular with the little kids and our numbers were down in the T-Ball division. We barely had enough numbers to field 2 mixed teams but on the upside we were able to field 5 mixed teams in the U13 division.

This year we had 3 teams in the U15 division and 3 teams in the Ladies B Grade division. The two divisions operated independently this season because for the first time in a number of years Gladstone sent an U15 Boys team to the State Championship. The A Grade competition commenced with 3 teams in the competition.

This year we experimented with playing double headers each week in the U15, Ladies B Grade and Ladies A Grade divisions. It was agreed that we schedule a block of eight weekends of games, playing double headers each week instead of the usual one game each Saturday. Then we had a break until after the Christmas school holidays and returned in the New Year for a quick fire five weekends of more double headers which then lead into the finals series culminating in the Grand Final Day on 10th March.

#### Sponsorship/Grants

The active pursuit of money through sponsorship and grants was well below par for the season. It appears that Association members are reluctant to assist and fill vacant Executive, Committee and Association positions, so again it was left to the too few stalwarts and those fabulous members that are constantly left juggling a multitude of jobs. Same old story, so much to do, so little assistance.

#### Highlights

Gladstone did send an U15 Boys Team to the State Championship. We are very proud of the boys, because in their first outing they came third out of the entire competition. They were deserved winners of the Wayne Gaddes Trophy for the Most Improved Team, but I ponder how our boys can finish third behind Redlands and Toowoomba but

still not take home the trophy for the best Queensland Country Team. Michael Ludkin, Michael Noonan and Brock Finlay were selected in the Queensland U15 Boys Regional Academy Team.

### Publicity & Promotion

Radio promotion featured heavily in our campaign to recruit members, along with the usual flyers, notices in school newsletters and signs erected along major traffic routes.

### Technical Areas

*Coaching* – We had a few new faces join us this season. As part of our development programme our “old hands” mentored our “greenhorns” this season and the plan is to continue this development by getting higher accreditations.

*Scoring* – We are very light on in the scoring department. We do have an official scorer for our A Grade matches and some very competent scorers for our B Grade matches. We hope to get the parents more involved in this facet of softball.

*Umpiring* – We had some of the junior members step up and be counted. As part of our development programme the “old hands” mentored our “greenhorns” and the plan is to continue this development by getting higher accreditations.

### Junior Development

Due to Gladstone City Council development of our playing area at Memorial Park we were unable to hold our Primary Schools Programme. Participation in this programme is well supported by the local primary schools and it was sorely missed and I think is shows with the lack of numbers in our junior ranks. Development is still underway so hopefully we are up and running for next season. We will have to recruit heavily to increase the player number in our local competition.

### Facilities

Due to the development of Memorial Park our playing fields were decreased to only two playable diamonds. This was certainly a big inconvenience because we had to schedule games on Friday night and Saturday afternoon and into the night. Once the development is complete and this is scheduled for end of June, we will only have 3 diamonds (1-skinned and 2 grass).

### Future Innovations

We have had to change tact with our plans for a Grant Application for the construction of a new skinned diamond. We will still push ahead with the grant application and etc but the feeling is that we will not be recipients of this grant anytime in the near future.

Gladstone Softball Association has decided to concentrate on establishing and upgrading the grass diamonds. The Memorial Park re-development has included a new irrigation system to the three diamonds. The plan to enclose the open areas of the clubhouse with weldmesh is still on the cards – just the priorities have shifted to making the grass diamonds level and playable.



### HERVEY BAY

#### Membership

Participation numbers continue to decline. Only 17 players participated in the U10 division – not enough to conduct a fixture draw in this age group. In the U16 age group, Hervey Bay combined with Maryborough to conduct a viable fixture under lights on Friday nights. In the Men's comp, only two teams fronted consistently to play. Hervey Bay Softball Association (HSBA) is supported by three clubs – Sloggers, Terrors and Misfits.

#### Sponsorship

HBSA used a \$5000 grant from Sport and Recreation to purchase 2 gear bags of playing equipment and to produce 2 copies of SQI Junior Pathways for schools to borrow to run a softball program in their schools and to run two holiday skills clinics in the September school holidays in 2011. Thirty-two children attended these skills sessions with eleven of these joining our fixture season.

A grant of \$2500 from the Fraser Coast Regional Council was used to re-establish spoon drains to assist drainage on our fields. Fraser Coast Regional Council provided funds to conduct the U17 Boys State Championship in September 2011 and the U15 Boys State Championship in April 2012. A loyal band of sponsors continue to donate perpetual trophies to players on Grand Final presentation day.



### Highlights

Hervey Bay sent representative teams to the U15 Boys, U17 Boys, U19 Men and Men's State Championships in 2011. Our players competed in the inaugural U15 Australian Regional Championship in Rockhampton in 2011 and again are represented in this year's Championship. Damien Maahs will be a coach at this Championship. Josh Hartwig gained selection in the Queensland U17 State Team.

Damien Maahs was awarded Life Membership to the HBSA. This is recognition of Damien's dedication to softball in the Hervey Bay region.

### Publicity/Promotion

This area is seriously neglected in our region. There needs to be a combined effort by HBSA, Maryborough and Bundaberg to provide funds for television coverage of sign-on days. HBSA believes this should be State wide and funded by SQI but have received no support for this proposal.

### Technical Areas

*Coaching* – Although our regional coaching program has been implemented, no new coaches have been accredited this season.

*Scoring* – Co-ordinator, Kirsty Andrew, continues to provide her services to State and Australian teams. Kirsty is always available to mentor scorers in our district.

*Umpiring* – Co-ordinator, John Nairn, implemented a program to accredit nine umpires who await their certificates.

HBSA has received a grant of \$4000 from Sport and Recreation to accredit 10 new recruits in the areas of coaching, scoring and umpiring in the 2012 season in our region.

### Junior Development

As stated, junior numbers are dwindling. Physical education teachers in our region have little interest in softball – they are influenced by the development officers and packages offered by rugby league, soccer, AFL. SQI needs to match their promotional offers and regain the push to promote softball in schools.

### Facilities

Playing facilities are adequate to meet our needs – especially in the current climate. Future plans include a clubhouse and toilet facilities.

### Future

Unless dwindling numbers are addressed, our future looks grim. HBSA will continue with holiday skills sessions in 2012/13, will conduct a Gala T-ball come and try day to introduce our new season. A combined fixture draw with Maryborough from U13 upwards is being investigated to ensure a viable fixture in U13, U16 and Open division.



### IPSWICH

The summer season of 2011 – 2012 saw Ipswich softball registrations decrease slightly again in both team numbers and players numbers. In the current environment of increased competition from other sports, value for money and the ever-present challenge of finding disposable income for recreation and sport, we consider our continued membership to be more than acceptable but it is a worrying trend that we are investigating and will hopefully turnaround. In an effort to find answers we sent out survey forms E.g.. Summer/Winter season, what other competitions could we run to attract more players etc. Most forms came back with the response to stay with a summer season.

For the second year we are running social competition throughout the winter on a Friday night which we have seven women's teams participating.

Our grand final day was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March and there were some very entertaining games with most games being decided in the final innings. The junior finals were completed by lunchtime and the presentation commenced straight after. In the last couple of seasons we have been able to make Grand Final day a special day for all our juniors with players receiving participation trophies, winner's trophies and runner up trophies. Unfortunately the rain once again played havoc late in the day and we were forced to postpone some senior games to the following weekend.

In the representative arena we unfortunately could not field teams in all divisions at State Championships and from an Association point of view this was very disappointing. From these Championships we are proud to boast some State Representative players and these players have not



achieved selection by accident as Ipswich Softball has a very strong development program for any player wishing to improve their playing skills. The Ipswich players selected for representative positions are proof of the commitment from our players, parents and coaches and the success of our programs within our Association.

Over the last twelve month we have endeavoured to maintain a closer relationship with the schools and their softball programs. We have the district schools playing at our grounds on Fridays and holding their selection trials etc. By all reports they are very happy with our facilities and are appreciative of all the assistance that we provide to ensure that all the school's events are a complete success.

Over the last year we have been working with the Ipswich City Council to achieve a closer working relationship and the results have been positive. We have purchased a five bay shed which will be erected at the grounds with the view of batting cages off the side. Since the devastating floods of 2011 we have erected four new back nets also have six new moveable dugouts. We have also fully fenced off our third diamond. We have also top dressed the fields which now gives us seven good diamonds to play on. None of this would have been possible if not for the hard work from the management team and the support from the Ipswich City Council.

Through sound business principles and strong financial management our District Association has again shown a slight financial profit. This financial surplus will allow us to continue to invest in our players through addition training and development assets and improving our playing facilities.

**Successful Grant Applications**

- Department of Communities – Sport & Recreation Flood Fight back Plan – Equipment Program
- Department of Communities – Sport & Recreation Flood Fight back Plan – Infrastructure Program
- Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation – Gambling Community Benefit Fund
- Commonwealth Bank Community Flood Recovery
- Ipswich City Council Community Donation from

- Ipswich Softball Assoc. Patron Charlie Pisasale
  - Ipswich City Council Grand Final Sponsorship
- The acquittals for all grant monies was a long process but all have been completed.

Audit was completed on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012 for Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation - Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

I would like to acknowledge the fine work done by our coaches, administrators and volunteers, and in particular our very strong, committed and successful Management Committee without whom we would not be in such a strong position.



**LOGAN CITY**

**Membership**

There has been a very notable decrease in the numbers of juniors this year, especially T-Ball and U17s.

We believe that in this social economic climate families can just not afford to play, not only the registration but the excessive amount clubs want for uniforms.

Registration numbers:

Seniors Male 52	Senior Female 192
Junior Male 40	Junior Female 70

We currently have 10 Logan City registered clubs making up a total of 5 Men's and 17 Women's teams in 3 grades of competition. Junior teams 2 x U17s, 3 x U15s, 3 x U13s and 2 T-Ball teams all mixed.

We started the season with 6 T-Ball players and decided to offer T-Ball at \$25.00 a head and the parents just purchase a red polo shirt. This has brought in another 10 T-Ballers, so we may look at trying this in another age group for next season.

**Grants**

Applications – We have with the enormous help of Karen Robe submitted two grant applications and are waiting to hear back if successful or not.

**Highlights**

We had a fair year with our representative teams, the highlight being our U19 Men's winning the President's cup in the closest competition we have seen in this age group ever.



### Publicity & Promotion

We would like to acknowledge John Butterworth from SQI for the time and effort he has put in helping us promote softball in Logan City. He handed out some 3000 flyers to schools on our behalf and is really pushing to get softball noticed.

### Technical Areas

*Coaching* – We currently have 15 people studying for their level one coaching certificate. We have also been asked to host a Community Coach pilot program.

*Scoring* – We currently have 3 people studying for their level one scoring certificate and one studying for their level 3.

*Umpiring* – As with most Associations, we are struggling in this department, so we have started rostering on our U15 and U17 teams. At the same time we are holding umpiring training sessions at the club trainings for these players and have a senior umpire with them for this season with the hope that we will have a couple that find it is a vocation and come back as trainee umpires next year.

### Junior Development

Logan City and Wynnum started their regional academy this year, we recently held our second training sessions so this is still in the try and see stage and hopefully next year we can report great results. We will also be commencing regular training sessions for all players under the age of 15 to bring up our current standard.

### Facilities

Meakin Park, our grounds leasee, has been approved for a grant for a new toilet and change room block which we were hoping would be completed for Masters this year but sadly it will not be ready until next. We have had a new backnet put up on Diamond 5, so those of you who play SQ Masters will get the benefit of this. We have spent a considerable amount of money cementing the floor of all of our dugouts.

### Future

To bring up the standard of our officials and hopefully this will follow through to our players.



## MACKAY

### Membership

Membership in Mackay has been holding and we have seen an increase in junior numbers which is something we have been working at for quite a few years. We play T-Ball, U12, C Grade, B Grade, A Grade and Men's. 4 Clubs play in Mackay, Angels, Hawks, Magic and Dragons. We also have the Satellite club Whitsunday softball that plays in Cannonvale.

### Sponsors & Grants

No grants were applied for in the last season.

### Highlights

We were able to send Open Men's and Open Women's teams away to State Championships for the 2011 season. The Mackay Men were runners up which was a great achievement for our Association. The Women were competitive in their division and pleased with their efforts. We did not send any junior teams away to play for Mackay but had our key players picked up by other associations.

Debbie Carey was presented with Life Membership to Mackay Softball Association (MSA).

We had our May Day Masters Carnival which was once again a great weekend enjoyed by all with players coming from all over the State and from New Zealand. The CROSS TASMAN CHALLENGE was won by New Zealand.

Val Cross has retired from MSA after 50 years of service to the association as a player, coach, umpire, scorer, administrator and grounds person. MSA named Diamond 1 the VAL CROSS DIAMOND in honor of her contribution to MSA. Linda Parry has now taken over the reins at Mackay and is doing a very good job.

### Technical Areas

Coaching, Scoring and Umpiring clinics were run throughout the year. We have 2 new Level 1 Scorers, 4 Coaches are still in the process of doing their Level 2 Coaching and Peter Baxter is working with our Junior and Senior umpires.

### Junior Development

Coaching Co-ordinator Linda Parry and a band of



club coaches have been busy visiting the schools to increase our junior numbers and this has seen a big number of new players for the 2012 season.

Linda is also the head coach of the CQ Regional Academy and runs the Mackay Development squad.

### Facilities

We have 4 Diamonds, club house and a large shed. 2 Diamonds are under lights, major work was done at the grounds last season with the turning around of the back 2 diamond and new back drops and dug outs on Diamond 3 & 4.

### Future

We believe that the future of softball is in the junior numbers, without our juniors we have no future so our aim is to keep up with the recruitment of junior players.

With the mining boom in Mackay there are a lot of people transferring to this district and we are lucky to have the softballers that have arrived coming down to play with our Association.



- Gambling Community Benefit Fund – Incas (\$6203)

### Highlights

Our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated in style with several events/activities:

- Several former clubs (All Stars, Dodgers, Wildcats, Lemondrops and Apaches) were recognised with teams from the Incas and Aztecs clubs playing in the colours of these former clubs throughout the season, making for colourful Saturdays at the Park
- A formal dinner was held and attended by 130 past and present members who got together to celebrate our history and share memories
- The history of the Association was written by Mark Jeppesen
- Framed photographs of our first representative teams from 1952/53 and 1954/55 for display in the Canteen and a celebration table cloth were donated
- Our Life Members were recognised through the donation of a “Life Members Honour Board” by Vicki Warren and Mark Jeppesen
- Women’s and Men’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Teams were named and are below

POSITION	WOMEN	MEN
Pitchers	Barbara Morris	Chris Rayner
	Mary Cordie	Kevin Dennis
	Rebecca Whalley	Darren Stevens
Catchers	Sue Staib	Phil Roberts
	Lora Hanson	Graham Noffke
	Win Webster	Ric Gosano
	Sylvia Moulds	
Outfielders	Alice Williams	Reece Maude
	Barbara Hovard	Ian Chappell
	Vicki Warren	Kinley May
	Val Murphy	Matthew Watego
	Karen Baxter	
Infielders	Kaye Price	Damon Morris
	Kathy Rayner	Chris Edards
	Glenyis Cordie	Michael Edards
	Glenys Probert	Nathan Caulley
	Janelle Anderson	
Coaches	Tom Doyle	Joe Holt
	Lew Moulds	Tracey Holt
	John Kersnovski	Dave Morris
	Floyd McCullough	Bev Thatcher
	Bob Girling	
Scorer	Barbara Anderson	Pauline Maude
Manager	Daph Price	Gail Morris
Umpire	Win Webster	Mark Jeppesen

## MARYBOROUGH

### Membership

2011/12 saw a slight increase in the number of teams competing in Softball Maryborough Inc (SMI) competitions, with 26 teams entered into Saturday fixtures and 4 teams competing in the Men’s Gala Day.



### Grants

SMI and its Clubs have been successful in gaining the following grants during 2011/12:

- Volunteer Grant 2011 – Canteen Equipment (\$2400)
- Positive and Pointless – Aztecs and Incas (\$500 each)
- LEAP Program – Black Beautiez (\$8 800)



SMI looked to the future by adopting:

- A new modern Constitution, supported by a new Strategic Plan, By-Laws and Ground Rules
- A new operating name (Softball Maryborough Inc)
- New representative colours to support greater flexibility in uniform design and marketing, they being Royal Blue, Gold, Gray and White.

Other highlights included:

- Establishment of a new Club in Kahwun-Wooga Black Beautiez
- Our Under 15 Girls representative team (combined with Bundaberg) won the President’s Cup Grand Final
- Tayla Barron, Dylan Hard, Aaron Clifford and Dylan Mallam were selected in the Under 15 Regional Academy Teams that completed in the 2011 Australian Under 15 Regional Championship in Rockhampton
- The conduct of a successful Men’s Gala Day (36 participants).

SMI premiership records for 2011/12 are as follows:

GRADE	PREMIERS	RUNNERS UP	MINOR PREMIERS
Senior Women	Aztecs Apaches	Incas Mercury	Incas Mercury
Senior Men	Incas Warriors	Aztecs Indians	Incas Warriors
Under 17	Incas Cobalt	Incas Wildcats	Incas Cobalt
Under 14	Aztecs Archers	Incas Dodgers	Aztecs Archers
Under 12	Sparx Stingers	Incas Gold	Incas Gold
T-Ball Division 1	Incas Imps	Incas Comets	Incas Imps
T-Ball Division 2	Sparx Spiders	Incas Metears	N/A

**Publicity & Promotion**

SMI has established a good relationship with the Fraser Coast Chronicle with reports of games, plus junior and senior photographs, draws and results appearing on a weekly basis. The Chronicle also provided a full page article on the history of the Association in recognition of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. WIN television has also been very supportive with games being shown and reported on during their news bulletin.

**Junior Development**

SMI made a significant contribution to the establishment and ongoing development of the Wide Bay Regional Softball Academy, providing coaching, administration and financial expertise.

SMI conducted a Simple Softball Program during 2011/12 which attracted 21 participants, of which around half joined Clubs. SMI also hosted the Primary School’s Softball Competition that was conducted over several weeks and which attracted 14 teams.

**Facilities**

The SMI complex in Searle St, Maryborough is dedicated to Softball and contains four senior and two junior diamonds. Work progressed in 2011/12 to build dugouts on Diamond 4 with the assistance of Aldridge State High School students, meaning all senior diamonds now have cover for our players and spectators. Further work is planned included the fencing of outfield on senior diamonds and the building of additional junior diamonds.

Significant refurbishment work in the Canteen was undertaken throughout 2011/12 and plans have been developed for the further development of this facility and the building of new toilets and change rooms.



Maryborough Senior Women’s Representative Team 1952/53

**Awards**

During 2011/12, SMI introduced a new Award: the Lew Moulds Memorial Trophy. Lew, a Life Member of both SMI and Incas Softball Club, was a key player in establishing our Association and passed away in 2008. This Award recognises the Most Valuable Player of the Grand Final in the highest junior grade. The trophy was donated by Mark Jeppesen.

SMI Award Winners for the 2011/12 season were:

AWARD	WINNER
Most Potential Under 15 Female	Keysha Baker
Most Potential Under 15 Male	Jackson Hoyes
Most Potential Under 17 Female	Tayla Barron
Most Potential Under 17 Male	Dylan Hard
Female Softballer of the Year	Darlene Green
Male Softballer of the Year	Cody Barron
Female Junior Softballer of the Year	Brooke White
Male Junior Softballer of the Year	Nic Johanneson
Most Improved Junior Team	Sparx Stingers
Best Junior Team Performance	Aztecs Archers
Best Senior Team Performance	Incas Mercury
Sportsmanship Award	Sarah James
SMI Award	Barb Hard
Margaret Hyne Memorial Trophy	Kelly Collins
Lew Moulds Memorial Trophy	Katie Thorburn
Junior Umpire of the Year	Dylan Hard

### Future

The SMI has established the following priorities to support ongoing growth and development:

- Further development of our facilities with a focus on T-Ball and Diamond Ball facilities, the fencing of the outfields on senior diamonds and planning for new toilet and change room facilities
- Growing our Senior Women's and Senior Men's competitions, while maintaining our strong junior competitions
- Supporting the ongoing viability and growth of the Kahwun-Wooga Black Beautiez Club.

SMI has a proud history over the past 60 years and we look forward to a successful future.



## MOUNT ISA

### Membership

Membership for 2011 declined even more dramatically this season due to a number of factors (refer to following lists). An influential and dedicated family relocated, which saw a lot of organisation within a club deteriorate, and their numbers being halved. But also still a major factor in our numbers being down is the fact that Softball is competing with various and numerous other sports playing at the same time. With the limited number of available players in Mount Isa, Mount Isa Softball Association (MISA) seriously needs to reconsider when we play, and liaise with other Sporting Associations.

MISA has continually promoted the junior competitions and has provided flexibility in running the various levels to ensure maximum participation of all junior players.

There remains a problem where younger players drop out from the sport during the season. Whilst there can be many reasons for this e.g. family relocation, other sports, school commitments etc, MISA does recognise this situation and should be looking at plans and initiatives to retain players at all levels.

Mount Isa Softball has to contend with the issue of shift workers. Most of the registered Men and many of the women are rotating shift workers. This can cause problems with lack of numbers creating forfeits. This is to be addressed at the next AGM regarding pick up rules.

Another concern for MISA is our inability to fill some of the MISA Executive and Committee positions. Whilst the Association does continue to function satisfactorily, the workload on some members is forever increasing in order for us to continue to move forward. I encourage those people who are considering nominating for the committee to commit to their role, it can be very rewarding and imagine what we could achieve if we all did our bit.

Whilst I acknowledge these are unpaid positions, some positions require actioning for the entire 12 months for us to function effectively, MISA may have to consider funding for a paid position/s. This situation needs to be addressed and does form part of our forward planning.



MOUNT ISA MEMBERS – 2011					
Club	Junior	U15-U16	Senior	Non/Players	Total
Red Devils	35	15	49	6	105
Wanderers	35	11	62	12	120
Pirates	12	11	25	2	50
Rebels	22	11	70	4	96
M.I.S.A.				3	3
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>385</b>

TEAMS 2011					
Teams	Red Devils	Wanderers	Pirates	Rebels	TOTAL
T-Ball	1	1		1	3
3 Pitch	1	1		1	3
U12	1	1	1		3
U15	1	1	1		3
C Ladies	1	1		1	3
A/Res Ladies	1 *	1 **	1	1	4
A Ladies	1	1		1	3
A Res Men	1	1	1	1	4
A Men	1	1		1	3
-	9	9	4	7	29

\*\* - Wanderers A Reserve Ladies applied and were approved permission to drop back to C Grade once the decision to have an Open Ladies comp due to few team.

\* - Pirates A Reserve ladies were eliminated due to forfeiture of 3 consecutive games and failing to show cause. This caused a problem with Rebels being the only team in A Reserve and automatic premiers for that grade. To their credit, they continued to show up and play against the A Grade Ladies teams.

### Sponsorships/Grants

The following organisations remain/have become Sponsors of Mount Isa Softball during the period.

- Carpentaria Buffalo (Buffs) Club
- Southern Cross Television (see Publicity/Promotion below)
- Breakwater Island Community Benefit Fund \$42 97.03 Office Equipment / Kiosk Equipment and Grounds Equipment – A new laptop and printer were purchased with a bonus of a new tower thrown into the package with programs.

The Harley Davidson Club - funding for the upgrade of the junior diamond (D5)

It goes without saying how important the successes of grant applications are to the continued improvement of our facilities. Unfortunately, last season we did not apply for as many grants as were available. Without people with the knowledge and capacity to write the applications, it proved difficult to get them approved. However, with the help of Softball QLD and, after much liaising with our local member, Betty Kiernan, the notification of the appointment of a Sports and Recreation Grants Officer for the next three years in our local council to assist, MISA should see some well need funding to upgrade our facilities. The various Representative teams of 2011 also acquired sponsorship and donations from a large number of businesses within the Mount Isa community. It is a credit to these Companies who continue to support the sport of Softball in this Region.

### Representative Teams

The following teams represented Mount Isa during the period

- 2011 U15 Boys
- 2011 U15 Girls
- 2011 U17 Boys – Hervey Bay – 4th
- 2011 U17 Girls – Brisbane
- 2011 U19 Men – Redlands – 1st Champions
- 2011 Open Ladies – South Brisbane – 2011
- 2011 Open Men – Rockhampton – 12th

We were again well represented by our aged teams and some great softball played. Well done everyone. Congratulations to all our Development and State Representatives you, have done us proud.

### U15 Development selections

Alex Cleary, Nikki Byrne, Tahnia AhKit, Jacinta Heggarty

### State Representatives

U19 – Matthew Hovi and Jason Morgan  
U17 – Alex Cleary, Jaymon King and Jarrod Nilsson  
Jordan Pickering was picked up by Western Australia

Janice Blackman for U/17 Girls.

U15 – Nathan Drew, Chris Lovejoy, William Bulgarelli, Alex Cleary, Alex Kostowski

U15 – Jaycinta Heggarty, Tahnia Ahkit, Amelia Davis

For the first time in 6 years, Mount Isa fielded a Ladies team, coached by Joy McPhearson. It has been several years since our Ladies have represented. MISA needs to encourage our women to continue fielding a team, and the future benefits would be a stronger competition and somewhere for our up and coming talented juniors to aspire.

Our Men managed to scrape a team together, with gratitude owing greatly to Matthew Hovi, Jayson Morgan and Jordan Pickering who stepped and helped our older fella's out.

Mount Isa needs to take into consideration, in comparison to our Southern Coastal counterparts – who average 4 games per week-end – our aged players are seriously disadvantaged with game time, and perhaps MISA needs to accommodate for that by adopting strategies to ensure an increase in possible game time. This also is true for our senior players, as it's been many years since an open Mount Isa Representative has been selected for QLD, not including our non-local team member.

Thank you to all the officials who give their time to help with our representative teams and special mention to all the supporters who were at the tournaments. Mount Isa had a good following at all the tournaments, which is no mean feat given the distances.

#### **Publicity/Promotions**

During the period we have been actively involved with further promoting the sport of Softball in Mount Isa. Media coverage has continued to prosper during 2011 with the following part of our routine media involvement

- Weekly reports, draws and features with Northwest Star newspaper
- Weekly segments with ABC Radio Northwest as part of their Saturday morning Sports Saturday Program

We have also appointed the wonderful Angela Nilsson as our Promotions Officer, who has worked tirelessly even throughout the off season, to get softball into the papers, as well as a Facebook Page, and updating the Website. 2012 Season can look forward to some dynamic write ups.

The signing of a 3-year Sponsorship agreement with Southern Cross television commenced 2010. The contract includes television and radio

advertising over a three-year period. This has been a huge boost to the promotion of our sport, not only in this region but in other rural areas of Queensland as well.

#### **Technical Areas**

*Coaching* – The shortage of qualified coaches continues to be a concern within MISA. Despite a large number of applicants for past Level 1 and 2 courses, only a small number have completed these on-line courses.

Clubs once again struggle to attract sufficient numbers of qualified practising coaches, which in turn leads to a reduction in the quality of coaching within our association. Work commitments, shift work and family pressures are but a few of the reasons for the decline in coaching numbers.

In 2009, a Coaching Committee was formed, headed by the MISA Coaching coordinator Joy MacPherson, to address these issues and formulate a plan to further promote the role of coaches within our district. However, lack of commitment from club coaches and failure to support, saw no improvement in this area, with only one new Level 1 Coach this season.

In going forward I would like MISA to consider encouraging/enforcing that all coaches must acquire their Level 1 Coaching accreditation or renew by mid season to help grow and retain the knowledge within our association. Current coaching accreditations within MISA and affiliated clubs:

- Level 3 x 6, Level 2 x 7, Level 1 x 11

*Scoring* – This season, we had 3 ladies sit for level 3 scoring clinic, which was conducted via phone link, a first for Queensland Softball I believe, which was successful in them attaining their qualifications.

- Level 3 x 6, Level 2 x 5, Level 1 x 24

*Umpiring* – Brian continued his quest to get more umpires qualified in their levels and co-ordinated the Umpires Association with his typical passion. The UA was again a success for our season. Current umpiring accreditations within MISA and affiliated clubs:

- Level 3 x 1, Level 2 x 3, Level 1 x 23



### Junior Development

MISA will need to continue to focus on:

- Involvement with Schools softball (mainly at the coaching level)
- Successful Softball Academy
- Low fees as compared to other sports
- Availability of funding (through Grants etc) for Clubs
- Promotion of Softball as a family sport

### Facilities

Thank you to groundsman Brian MacPherson for his hard work in maintaining the oval and surrounds. Mount Isa City Council (MICC, Facilities Leasor) have now recognised their role in assisting us to maintain the Alexandra Oval facility, with the repair and replacement of the fencing. However, it is noted MICC have yet to complete a number of major tasks including the urgent repair of the Ladies ablution block and the main water line on the Barkly Highway

MISA extends our sincerest appreciation to Mark and Leanne Bellamy (North West Crane Hire) for their continued support to supply equipment and Shane and Chris Wright (Outback Forklifts) for ongoing servicing of our ride on mower.

### New Innovations

2011 Pre-Season Come and Try – The concept of the Carnival was to allow clubs the opportunity to help prepare for 2011 season by getting their past members together, start collecting registration money and forms in a relaxed non-competitive manner. It also gave new players the opportunity to experience the sport of softball before committing to signing on with the various clubs. Unfortunately, this did not receive the support we had hoped for, and perhaps MISA needs to reconsider the preseason.

At the beginning of the season, our local Rodeo Queen Entrant, Liahni Holt, hosted a Twilight Markets at the Grounds, which was a success and brought many people to the grounds during the last game of the day. However, due to competition from another market being held on the same night, the second monthly market did not attract the people it did first time around. However, it may be something the new Committee could consider on a regular basis, communicating with other market venues to avoid the clash.

Mrs Leanne Bellamy organised a fun day, with the Open Women's Team and Open Men's Team playing off against club teams and a masters team. As always, she managed to organise a great day with prizes for catch of the day, home run derby off a pitching machine and raffle boards and such. It attracted quite a large crowd for the day and the fund raising proceeds went towards sending away the first Open Women's Team in 6 years.

MISA held a short summer season, on Sunday afternoons for 6 weeks, with the aim of attracting new players, as well as showcasing the talent we have here and giving our representative players some much needed game time. We had some success in attracting two entire teams of ladies who had never played before, as well as an established C Ladies team, and a fourth team put together just by people turning up for a bit of fun on the first week-end. However, with few numbers of a level to challenge our Reps, the day wound up being a social competition, which turned out to be a lot of fun full of laughs.

Unfortunately, we had to cut the season to 4 weeks due to other commitments for that time of year, leading up to Christmas, I think it would be well worth re-visiting in the future.

MISA held its Inaugural Green & Gold Night. A presentation night for the entire association, with special acknowledgements to our representative teams. For those who came, it was a night of storytelling and recapping of the various tournaments Mount Isa participated in, Pennants awarded to all representatives in Regional, State and National Teams, and trophies awarded to Best Batter, Best Fielder and Players Player – which was selected by a vote from all team members.

Again, it was disappointing to see the lack of support, however the people who did attend gave very positive feedback, with suggestions on how to improve the night, one issue being the time it was held. It is hoped that the next committee will continue this on, and conduct it the week-end after the last State Tournament, being the Men's in October.

### Future

Key items identified include

- Continue to upgrade diamonds
- Install lighting to at least one diamond which is a high priority given the heat we play in.

- Increase participation by hosting Carnivals/ Special event functions
- Increase use of the Facility during the off-season perhaps with a Social Comp and markets.
- Recognition we will lose a large number of experienced long-serving Club and MISA members within the next five years and the urgent need to address this
- Promote and expand our Coaching, Scoring and Umpiring base
- Source grants/sponsorship to improve our overall facilities including the building of a Club House

MISA will be sad to lose Joy and Brian McPhearson, who both worked tirelessly within the association as coaching coordinator, representative coordinator, umpires coordinator as well as care takers and grounds keeper. How we will fill their shoes will be a huge task. They will be sorely missed.

The appointment of Dale Kaimora, the travelling umpire (the gent who pulled up at the grounds in his Winnabego and ended umpiring about 5 games over finals week-end) as caretaker and groundsman, who just happens to be a level 4 umpire, should see our facilities continue to improve.

To conclude, it has been a challenging year with a messy start to the season, with rain outs and numbers down, people standing down from positions and so forth, but with the support of my executive committee, and club delegates, and the volunteers, we managed to see out the season in one piece, and ended on a high note with a fantastic week-end of finals and the commentating of Dave Horne the DJ, which elevated the atmosphere immensely and of course the dance performed by all the junior players on Diamond 1 to Nutbush City Limits.

The Committee we had this year had a good rapport with one another, allowing for a more unified association, which is probably what got us all through this season. Here's hoping for the continuation of a unified Association with the BETTERMENT OF SOFTBALL the common goal.



## NOOSA

### Membership

Noosa District Softball Association (NDSA) once again ran a strong summer season of softball this year. We have 200 members across 5 clubs playing T-Ball, U13, U15, U17 and Seniors. This year we welcomed new club Wildcats to the Association.

Like many other Associations we lost some Saturday games, due to the weather, with our grounds under water at some stages. We did manage to make up some of those games on Sundays. It is thanks to our groundsman and his tireless group of volunteers that we managed to complete most rounds. Our Semi-Final day proceeded in the rain, with all players and most officials covered in mud, but all still smiling at the end of the day.

### Sponsorship

NDSA would like to thank Leading Edge, Paint Place and CSP Hire for their generous and ongoing sponsorship throughout our season and at State Championships.

### Grants

- Sports and Rec Sports Field Maintenance Grant - \$11743 a year for 3 years
- Sports and Rec Club Development and Training - \$5000
- Sports and Rec Healthy Living - \$2000 to assist with Sports Medicine at Noosa hosted State Championship
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council – Emergency Grants
  1. Storm damage to grounds - \$2 000
  2. Replace vandalised pitching mats - \$140
- Australian Sports Commission – Special Initiative Grant \$530

### Highlights

- NDSA sent teams to the U15 Girls and Boys and U17 Boys State Championships. Five girls picked up by Cairns for the U17 Girls State Championship and five girls picked up by Caboolture for the U19 Women's State Championship
- We had 8 players participate at the Regional Academy and of those 3 boys and 2 girls were selected to play at the National U15 Regional Championship. Congratulations and good luck



to Josie Wilcox, Chloe Young, Mitch Woodworth, Julian Scott-Davies and Leigh Ryan

- Two Noosa girls progressed through the Primary School Girls trials to represent Queensland. Congratulations again to Josie Wilcox and Chloe Young
- Noosa enjoyed hosting the Primary School Boys District Trials in June 2011
- We hosted the U19 Women's State Championship in Sept/Oct 2011. Thank you to the crew of volunteers who put in many hardworking hours before and during the Championship to make it a successful and fun weekend. Congratulations to all the athletes who treated us to some great softball
- NDSA granted Life Membership to 10 members and thanked them for their valuable contributions to our Association

#### **Publicity and Promotion**

Our new Publicity Officer did a great job of advertising our sign-on days and up-coming season, through a free Community Services facility, on local TV, radio and newspapers. She also visited 20 local schools to distribute leaflets advertising our season. We run a weekly column in our local community newspaper featuring results and events throughout the season.

NDSA provided 2 coaches to the Active After School Care programs at local Primary Schools and we participate in Come And Try Days within our Sports Complex. With the assistance of our local Sports and Rec Support Officer we now have a page on the Sunshine Coast Regional Council Community Hub website.

#### **Technical Areas**

The Sports and Recreation Education and Training Grant was well utilised to help develop members in technical areas. We now have:

- 15 new First Aid Certificate holders (all coaches and team managers were encouraged to attend the 2 day course)
- 6 new Level 1 Scorers
- 5 Scorers attended the theory component of their Level 2
- 22 members participated in a coaching course – 16 x Level 1, 6 x Level 2

Unfortunately our umpiring course missed out, but we are actively encouraging and promoting umpiring among our members. We are also encouraging all Rep players to sit their Basic

Umpiring exam in the hope of broadening their knowledge of the game and increasing our umpiring base.

#### **Junior Development**

- Our DA Academy Coach, Richard Wakeham, runs training sessions 5 afternoons a week for all interested players
- Come and Try Day approaching
- After School Active Care program – 2 upcoming
- Purchase of new training aids for all clubs to use

#### **Facilities**

NDSA is set in the Tewanin Sports Complex. We have attractive grounds with plenty of shady trees and a large carpark. We have 8 diamonds, two of which have skinned running tracks. Throughout this year we have had a constant battle with the weather. The grounds have been wet and running tracks washed away, so maintenance has been on-going all season. Even so we have still managed to repair and renew some fencing, improve dugouts, renovate the amenities block and the canteen and make preparations for a batting cage.

#### **New Innovations**

- Purchase of new training aids for all clubs to use, making training fun
- Combined training day for players from all clubs to participate
- Investigating the restructuring of our T-Ball competition, focusing on a skills session before games.

#### **Future**

The summer of rain highlighted ongoing drainage problems throughout the Sports Complex. NDSA will continue to liaise with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC) to rectify the problem. We thank the SCRC for the assistance and advice we receive from Alinda Bryant, Sport and Recreation Support Officer, her predecessor Darren Hoare and Jack Rae in relation to our Sports Field Maintenance Grant and related program.

Our long term goals are to have a large common area roof structure, fully bitumened carpark and to complete all fencing. We will apply for grants to assist with these projects. Increasing junior numbers is a constant goal of our Association and we are identifying methods to do this. We are looking forward to hosting and have 'to do' lists under preparation for this year's Primary School Boys District Trials and the U17 Boys State Championship.





## REDCLIFFE

### Membership

We had 7 teams play in winter season 2011, summer season we had 66 teams take part.

#### Winter season

7 mixed grade teams  
82 players

#### Summer season

66 Teams  
4 T-Ball teams  
4 Rookie Ball teams  
11 U13 Teams  
6 U15 Teams  
5 U17 Teams  
3 Open 17 Teams  
9 Men's Teams  
7 Ladies A Grade Teams  
4 Ladies A-Res Teams  
7 Ladies B Grade Teams  
6 Ladies C Grade Teams

### Sponsorship / Grants

- Redcliffe Leagues Club
- Leading Edge Sports
- Focus Research and Marketing Australia
- Steve Wagner Plumbing
- Apogee Sports
- The Sign Cellar
- Morton Bay Regional Council
- Total Childcare Solutions
- Adams Pool Supplies

We received \$25,000 from Gambling Community Benefit Fund to purchase a tractor for the association in September 2011.

Bunning's at Rothwell gave us over \$500 of equipment including tables and a gazebo.

Councillor Rae Frawley from MBRC gave us a \$300 gazebo.

Guinness Australia sent merchandise for prize draws on Grand Final day to thank us for taking part in a World Record attempt.

Leading Edge sports gave 2 x \$50 vouchers for a name the bar and canteen competition.

News Ltd gave us office desks, chairs and cupboards for our Softball office

### Highlights

#### At Rep Level

- Open Men's Redcliffe won the QLD Cup
- Under 19 Ladies won the President's Cup
- Under 15 Girls finished 3<sup>rd</sup> at championships and won the Bridie Noble Shield.

#### State and National

We have players play for both QLD and Australia at various levels.

#### Life Members

Scott McIntyre  
Graham McLeary  
Patty White  
Terry McLaughlin

#### Service Awards

None this year

#### Competitions

We hosted are normal Summer and Winter Competitions in 2011/12

#### Carnivals

50th Anniversary game to celebrate 50 years of Redcliffe Softball, with the State Member of Parliament and Councillors present.

We hosted a mini Carnival in March 2012 for Under 15 representative Boys and Girls.

### Publicity, Promotion

We updated our Website to give out better information to all members; we also started a Facebook page for the association and encouraged clubs to do likewise.

We had articles in the Redcliffe City News every week and after long exchanges we finally got regular inserts in the Redcliffe and Bayside Herald.

We now have contact details for the Courier and Sunday Mail to have our results added every week. We also purchased Hoodies and Polo shirts and sold them as Association supporter merchandise.

We now have over 200 shirts and hoodies around Australia with Redcliffe Softball on them. Redcliffe Leagues Softball Association to take part in the annual Redcliffe Jetty to Jetty fun runs in July



wearing our softball shirts both club and rep.

Took part in the World's Greatest Shave and raised over \$1000 for the cause we also got local newspaper coverage.

Guinness Australia world record attempt to make 17/03 the friendliest day off the year. 6 million people worldwide took part.

### Junior Development

Batting Clinics

7 new level 1 coaches to work with the juniors

### Facilities

We have 10 Diamonds in total, 8 Adult Diamonds of which 2 are deco plus 2 Diamonds for T-Ball/Rookie Ball.

2 new Batting Cages

1 new Pitching Machine

### New Innovations

- Promoted a Sun Smart programme over summer season 2011/12,
- installed extra shade cloth at Diamond 1 and 2 and 4/6,
- Purchased gazebos, Bunning's Rothwell and our Patron Councillor Rae Frawley donated a gazebo.
- Completed improvements to kitchen,
- Exterior fan installed
- New furniture and printer
- 2 new Batting Cages
- Laptops for Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar
- Coaching and Umpiring courses
- 2 members attend First Aid Courses
- 3 members passed a Food Hygiene course
- 8 members passed a Level 1 course in R.S.A.
- 7 new level 1 coaches
- New line marking equipment
- New signage for canteen and bar
- New enclosed bar area for over 18s
- Sandwich maker and slushy machine
- Interior door added from bar to office for better security and safety
- Trophy shelves installed
- Life member and honour boards
- Hand dryers added to toilet block
- Volunteer night thank you dinner
- Smoking areas with bins
- Tables and chairs at the canteen and bar areas to promote a family friendly area.

- Saturday night softball under the lights
- Fund raising BBQ for teams and clubs
- Batting clinics
- U15 Rep teams Bunning's BBQ

### Future

#### Challenges

We aim to increase our numbers by better promotion of Softball across Moreton Bay with more Newspaper ads as well as getting into Schools and also local radio stations.

We will host a Come and Try day, as well as having the QLD Patriots and Heat visit the association to run training days and play exhibition games in summer 2012/13 season.

#### Plans

- Application for lights to be installed on Diamond 1 to offer better training facilities, mid week competition ,State Championships
- Grant application for concreting and extra shed cover between Diamonds 1 and 2
- Increased and improving fencing for both players and spectators safety
- Working with Morton Bay Regional Council to improve spectator areas, a playground at softball, getting more bins installed at the grounds and having a new road added. Also to bring a Master Tournament to Redcliffe in 2014/15 and a New Constitution and By-Laws in 2012/13
- Hall of Fame boards
- Continue with training courses for coaches umpires and if possible scoring.
- Rep awards dinner to recognise the efforts of everyone in our rep setup.



### REDLANDS

Redlands Softball competition continues to be strong; however there is still a declining number of male teams throughout our competitions. This year's winter season was played with 7 clubs supplying 71 teams.

Congratulations to our 2011 Club Champions – 'Sharks' and to all the winning teams –

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| A Men     | - Sharks    |
| A Women   | - Scorpions |
| A Res Men | - Scorpions |

A Res Women	- United B
B Men	- Scorpions
B Women	- Sharks
C Men	- Fraser
C Women	- Wildcats
Under 17 Boys	- Scorpions
Under 17 Girls	- United
Under 15 Boys	- Sharks
Under 14 Girls	-Scorpions

We also held our Mid-Year Grand Final. Congratulations to the following teams who were our President's Cup Premiers.

A Men	- Raiders
A Women	- Scorpions
A Res Men	- Scorpions
A Res Women	- United B
B Men	- Scorpions
B Women	- Mariners
C Men	- Fraser
C Women	- Mariners G
Under 17 Boys	- Scorpions
Under 17 Girls	- United
Under 15 Boys	- Sharks
Under 14 Girls	- Sharks

Our main supporter and sponsor continues to be Redlands City Council. The Association has received a Redland City Council Grant to hire a professional grant writer which will hopefully have Redlands Softball successful with further grants.

With the inclement weather South East Queensland had earlier this year we found our grounds were impacted with water throughout many diamonds much of which were unable to drain away. Also our uniform room had an abundance of mould throughout it and our stock. The committee spent countless hours removing the mould and recovering all uniforms and stock. In regards to the grounds after consultation with Redlands City Council the committee were advised to hire an extra groundsman to dig drains behind the diamonds and to help our full-time groundsman to recover each diamond. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian Cleary and Murray Rivers for all the outstanding work they accomplished this year to enable us to host and play on our fields. Another huge thank you needs to go out to the remarkable volunteers who came to our working bees and tournaments, without their help we wouldn't have been able to host the successful Open Men's & Women's (Gilley's Shield Finals) National Titles held in

February this year and the U19 Men's State Championship.

Our Representative Teams again excelled at State titles, winning 4 State Championships.

- **U15 Boys** – 4<sup>th</sup> Place
- **U15 Girls** – Champions
- **U17 Boys** – Champions
- **U17 Girls** – 4<sup>th</sup> Place
- **U19 Men** – Unable to field a team due to Aussie Colts players in Argentina
- **U19 Women** – 5<sup>th</sup> Place
- **Open Men**
  - QLD Cup Team – Champions
  - Open Men's Team – 4<sup>th</sup> Place
- **Open Women**
  - QLD Cup Team – Champions
  - Open Women Team – 4<sup>th</sup> Place

Our excellent results in State titles translated into a very significant number of players and officials gaining State representation. Many of these players also gained selection in National squads and in the National teams. The committee would like to send out a huge congratulation to the following players and officials:

#### 2011/2012 QLD Players

- **QLD Heat Players** – Megan Blake, Sheridan Darroch, Brooke Spence, Jade Wall, Dawn McKell (Manager)
- **QLD Heat Squad** – Brittney Flint, Tammy McMillan, Stacey Webber
- **U17 Girls** – Sara Caterson, Rebecca McEachern, Alisha Prybyszczuk, Sean Francis (Statistician)
- **U17 Boys** – Carlin Anderson, Brandon Goffer, Christopher Kacin, Jarrod Polzin, James Purcell, Aaron Whitefield, Edda Cailotto (Manager), Lexie Pearce (Head Coach)
- **U19 Women** – Brittney Flint, Tania Puketapu
- **U19 Men** – Mitchell Daly, Jeremy Jemmott, Marshall Kronk, Ryan Merriman, Aaron Whitefield, Tony Cailotto (Head Coach), Chris MacRae (Assistant Coach)
- **Open Men** – William Bailey, Andrew Blackshaw, Guy Covacin, Shaun Goffer, Julian Jemmott, Jason Nathan, Adam Pearce, Darren Pyke, Luke Van de Griendt, Ngaire Huston (Statistician)



### 2011 Australian Team/Squad Members

- **Aussie Steelers (Open Men)** – Andrew Blackshaw, Shaun Goffer
- **Senior Women** – Jade Wall
- **Aussie Colts (U19 Men)** – Mitchell Daly, Jeremy Jemmott, Marshall Kronk, Ryan Merriman
- **U19 Women** – Brittany Flint, Stacey Webber

Sadly, this year saw the passing of Des Carsburg, this was a very sad day for his family and the Association. Des was a significant coach and player in the past for Redlands Softball. It was comforting to see the tremendous support offered to his family by our softball community.

This year the Association ran South East Regional Academy and is currently running our REDS Academy. These are fantastic programs which enhance the development of our talented junior players. A big thank you goes out to all the members who volunteered their time to help coach these wonderful young players.

We would also like to thank our Scoring Director Deb Opie for her support and assistance in getting more people involved in the important part of scoring for our game. To Norelle Thomas our Umpiring Director, many thanks for your efforts in growing our umpire numbers and for

holding a very successful green shirt program introducing many members to the umpiring side of the game. A very big congratulations goes to Gillian Opie who was named Queensland's Junior Umpire of the Year. Gillian has been umpiring for Redlands for many years and certainly has a bright future ahead of her.

Also a special thanks to Robyn Jemmott our Volunteer of the Year, who was always the first to raise her hand to help out. To Edda Cailotto for jumping in and helping out with part of the Registrar's job on a Sunday and to Di Barrett who helped out with organising the draw to accommodate most teams requests. Also to our paid staff, Sandy Miers – Canteen Convener, Brian Cleary – Grounds and Cindy Homer – Administration. Thank you all for your help and co-operation throughout the year.

The Association's overall financial position remains very sound following another successful season. We saw extra costs in our insurance due to past claims and the new alarm system's ongoing monthly cost. Due to the new alarms our insurance costs should come down over the next 2 years. We re-painted the canteen walls and floors and re-painted the floors in the bar, as well as refurbished the garden behind Diamond 1 dug-out.

### REDLANDS SOFTBALL 2011 TEAM NOMINATIONS

	Fraser	Mariners	Raiders	Scorpions	Sharks	United	Wildcats	2011	2010	2009
T-Ball	1	1	1	1	3			7	5	6
Rookie Ball	1	1	1	1	1			5	6	7
Under 12	1	1	1	1	1		1	6	5	7
Under 15 Boys			1	1	1			3	3	3
Under 14 Girls			1	1	1		1	4	6	5
Under 17 Boys			1	1	1			3	3	3
Under 17 Girls		1			1	1	1	4	5	7
C Men	1		1	1	1		1	5	5	6
C Ladies		2	1	1	1	1	1	7	6	9
B Men			1	1	1			3	3	4
B Ladies	1	1	1	1	1			5	6	5
A Reserve Men			1	1	1			3	4	5
A Reserve Ladies		1		1	2	2	1	7	7	7
A Men			1	1	1	1		4	3	4
A Ladies		1		1	1	2		5	4	4
<b>Team Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>82</b>

We have been a part of a very small committee this year, with only 5 of us and most being new to these positions have been a challenge to say the least. We believe the lack of volunteers is the main item that needs to be addressed over the next 12 months. With more volunteers we will see our association look and feel more professional plus reduce the need and cost of paid staff during tournaments which in the end takes away most of the profit.

Again a big thank you to everyone who volunteered over the past 12 months, we appreciated everyone that was able to help in their own way and also to everyone who has contributed positively over the last 12 months. We look forward to working together in the future.



## ROCKHAMPTON

### Membership

- Membership is slightly down by approximately 30 senior persons from 2011 records as at May 2012. Junior membership remains stable.
- Club Membership – 3 Clubs, 1 x School Based Team and 1 x Permit Team currently playing in the competition

### Sponsorships/Grants

- Nil sponsorships
- All grants successfully applied for in 2011 have been acquitted
- Have submitted one grant application for 2012 to date for extensions to shed and purchase of playing equipment
- Looking to make application for further grants for upgrading of lights and shade structure

### Highlights

- 2011 - Hosted the inaugural U15 National Championship with many positive appreciation letters received on the conduction of this event
- 2011 - Hosted the Open Men's State Championship with positive comments received
- 2011 - Players selected into Queensland teams (Patricia Dougan and Melinda West)
- 2012 - Was again successful in being nominated to host the U15 National Championship in July
- 2012 - Hosting the Open Women's State

Championship in September

### Publicity/Promotion

- Whilst good promotional activity was received through local newspaper early in the season, media coverage has dropped off since April 2012.

### Technical Areas

#### Umpiring—

- Umpiring Coordinator conducting basic exams and providing technical courses to improve plate/base understanding
- Umpiring Coordinator proactively monitoring games on a Saturday and providing assistance and advice to umpires during games to improve knowledge and performance

### Facilities

- 4 x Skinned diamonds
- All diamonds and grounds resurfaced and raised to assist water run off and potential for flooding.

### Future

- Challenges: Increase Membership figures
- Threats: Volunteers with limited time, filling of Management positions, attracting and retention of volunteers, succession planning and passing on information



## SUNCOAST-HINTERLAND

### Membership

Membership for 2011 season – 150

Our association offered the following competitions:

Women's: B grades – 4 teams

Mixed U15's – 4 teams

Mixed U13's – 5 teams

Mixed 3Pitch – 3 teams

### Grants

Grants submitted and approved:

- Sport & Rec – Club Development Education & Training \$3969
- GCBF – Softball Equipment - \$2500
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council - Simple Softball Clinic \$2000



- Sunshine Coast Regional Council - Sports Field Maintenance 3year plan - \$14 091 a year
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council -Operational Costs - \$2000

### 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 – 10  
Scoring Level 1 – 8

### Junior Development

We held a Battery Clinic throughout the year, with Steve Wagner and Rob Blatchford running the day for us with the help of U17/U19 Representative players from Noosa. It was a great success.

Three junior members of our association attended the Regional Academy Camp in 2011 with all making the squad. This was a big accomplishment for our junior members.

### Future

We have finally secured a lease over our grounds and currently have a great partnership with Mooloolah Soccer Club and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council in running the facilities.

We have submitted several funding applications to develop our facilities (improvements listed below) and we expect to hear the outcomes of these over the next few months.

- Upgrade of back nets and dugouts
- New shed to house our grounds equipment
- Upgrade of our canteen and change rooms
- Upgrade the outside of our canteen – painting and new roof
- Drainage issues corrected



### TOOWOOMBA

I wish to thank everyone for all they have given to this season for Toowoomba Softball Association (TSA). It has been a season of great success for several of our representative teams, success and credit to TSA from other regions and States; however, there seemed to be a drop in our numbers.

The junior teams were down in numbers. The availability of many activities and the overlap of these has been a challenge for TSA to compete

with. Perhaps the utilisation of the Softball Queensland Development Officer will see an increase next season.

TSA is made up of 5 clubs, 57 teams and grades including: 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.

TSA, in conjunction with Darling Downs and Queensland School Sport, successfully hosted the 2012 State Schoolgirls Softball Championship. Feedback from players, coaches, parents and officials was exemplary. The success of TSA in hosting Championships continues to be mentioned throughout Australia. At the recent National Schoolgirl Championships in Canberra, Toowoomba was held up as a great example of an exemplary venue and organisational body.

Despite the valiant efforts of our Junior and Senior publicity officers, the Toowoomba Chronicle and WIN TV are yet to fully embrace softball. Senior softball gained some recognition in the paper. Thanks to Nic Rees and Lydia Nestor for their efforts in this area. Thanks also to the parents and members who continue to send in their personal photos to the Toowoomba Chronicle in the hope of publicising our sport.

Our junior development was boosted through attendance at our local Friday Night Academy. This saw junior players put through their paces by a different representative coach each week.

TSA utilise 3 skin, 1 cut-out and numerous grass portable diamonds. As proposed by TSA, Diamond 2 should be the next diamond for upgrading. Fencing on Diamond 1 was fully replaced this season with funding received from the Commonwealth Bank.

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 Representatives, Di Dryden, Deb Prouten and Kelly Ireland. Thanks to these ladies for their continued persistence towards the betterment of softball.

This season we celebrated 60 years of Toowoomba Softball. Congratulations to Kaylene Holley, Judy Nielsen and their committee on the organisation

of the celebratory dinner. The night was a fantastic celebration of all that has been and all that can be.

Our main aim and goal for next season is to build our junior membership.



### TOWNSVILLE THURINGOWA

After no softball competitions took place in 2011, Townsville Thuringowa Softball Association (TTSA) has worked hard to attract people back to the sport and to start rebuilding a sustainable association with a number of successful competitions.

#### Membership

- 50 open women's members

#### Sponsorship/Grants

- Struddys Sports – discount on playing uniforms
- In discussions with a potential major sponsor
- Identified a range of grants and projects to apply for

#### Highlights

- Re-establishment of a softball competition in Townsville
- An 8 week women's fast pitch competition with 50 players across 4 teams started on 22 April, 2012

#### Publicity/Promotion

- Articles and reports on our competition have appeared in the Townsville Bulletin, Townsville Sun and on WIN News
- Promotion has been through the local media, Facebook, website and flyers

#### Technical Areas

- We have sourced qualified umpires, coaches and scorers that were either new or past members of the association

#### Junior Development

- Planned for later in 2012

#### Facilities

- Brought one of the diamonds at Bicentennial Park back to a useable standard

#### Future activities in 2012

- Winter Women's fast pitch competition to start in July
- Men's 5-a-side competition to start in July
- Simple Softball program to start in July
- Junior grades and coaching to start in October
- Mixed slow pitch competition to start in October
- Development of a full management and operational committees



### WYNNUM

#### Membership

Wynnum Softball Association (WSA) has experienced a minor decrease in membership in the period 1 May 2011 to April 30 2012. Our final membership numbers for our current season have not been finalised however based on current team numbers our preliminary figures are not as favourable as last year.

#### Number of Clubs/Teams/Grades

WSA has four affiliated clubs, these being Marist, Te Arohanui (TAN), Springwood and Hooters. Our current 2012 competition consists of four senior Men's and six senior Women's teams as well as one U15 girls team which currently travels to Caboolture to play in their fixtures on a fortnightly basis.

#### Mentionable Highlights

##### State Championships

For the period in mention, we had teams enter into the U15 Girls, U17 Girls, U19 Women, Open Women and Open Men's State Championships. All teams did our Association very proud however a special mention is to be made to the U17 Girls team who won their State Championship. Our Open Women's team also performed very well winning the Open State Championship. These are some very pleasing results for our Association over the past year.

##### Representative Selections/Appointments:

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



player selected in the Australian U17 Girls and one in the U19 Women's teams to compete at the International Youth cup in July 2012.

### Technical Areas

*Scoring* – The following points have occurred in the scoring department over the past 12 months:

- NOAS reaccreditation completed for four Wynnum Scorers, (Level 4 x 2 scorers, Level 3 x 1 scorer and Level 2 x 1 scorer).
- We had one of our scorers attended the Gilley's Shield as an official scorer
- Our Scoring Co-ordinator attended a workshop on scoring using the latest computerised technology, (i-score program on iPad).
- Progress has commenced with interested parties on running a level 1 scoring clinic to help get some more scorers out on the park in the near future.

*Umpiring* – A few mentionable highlights for Wynnum umpires over the past 12 months include:

- We commenced a basic umpiring clinic with nine participants, all of which were juniors, very promising to have some fresh interest in umpiring
- Wynnum had two umpires appointed to various National Championships with Darren Sibraa appointed as TCU at the U17 Girls National Championship
- Wynnum umpires were appointed as TCUs at three State Championship events and also the QLD Secondary Schoolgirls State Championship this year
- Wynnum umpires were appointed as examiners to numerous State Championships throughout the year.
- David Casey was selected by Softball Queensland to attend the Southern Cross Challenge held in Christchurch at Easter 2012.

### Funding - Community Association Club Coordinator

Along with Suncoast Hinterland, Logan City, Redcliffe and Burnett Associations, an application was submitted for funding to employ a Local Sport and Rec Co-ordinator to help these named associations with numerous areas of administration, recruitment, funding, governance and many other aspects of running our respective associations. The application was successful and we have subsequently had Karen Robe appointed

to the position. WSA are excited to have such an invaluable resource available to us to help us build stronger pathways in many areas of our Association into the future.

### Future – Challenges & Plans

Further into 2012 and 2013, Wynnum is looking at a number of primary focuses being:

- Junior Recruitment – We had two attempts to run the Simple Softball program as well as a free Come and Try day during the past six months with a low level of response. Our primary focus was for the past 12 months and will be for the coming 12 months, junior recruitment and retention programs. We currently have a low number of junior registrations and would like to really focus on recruitment of players of T-Ball age upwards. We compete with many other sports in our region, particularly in the winter months and will look at strategies to help with junior recruitment, possibly in summer months to create better opportunities for recruitment. We are committed to try all avenues to help recruit (and retain) juniors to help our sport strengthen move forward.
- Equipment and Facility Improvements – with now having the assistance of our Association Co-ordinator to help us with funding applications and opportunities, it is hoped we will be able to start working on our wish list of items to help improve our facilities and equipment over the next 12-24 months. First on the list is a submission for funding for new grounds machinery for preparation of diamonds for games and training.
- Volunteer Support and Recruitment – as a volunteer based organisation, one of the biggest challenges we continue to face is the acquisition of new and retention of current volunteers to assist on a day to day basis. We will be working on new ways to build and strengthen our volunteer basis. A special thank you to the volunteers who continuously give their time to assist us in a variety of capacities and help us strive to achieve our goals and improve our sport overall. Without our volunteers we simply would not be able to continue to serve our members and softball in our community.