



DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS



Brisbane

The 2012/13 season again saw wet weather play a significant part in our fixtures, with our Preliminary Finals being washed out for the first time in known history. Apart from the challenges with the weather, the year was a fantastic success with BSA trialling a few different initiatives, promoting a carnival like atmosphere at Downey Park.

Membership

The number of players increased this year as did our registered BSA members (numbers below include members and permits)

35 Senior Women's Teams

- 4 x A1 Grade with a total of 36 players
- 6 x A2 Grade with a total of 59 players
- 3 x A3 Grade with a total of 29 players
- 8 x B Grade with a total of 93 players
- 5 x C1 Grade with a total of 61 players
- 4 x C2 Grade with a total of 47 players
- 5 x U17 with a total of 58 players

25 Junior Teams

- 8 x U15 with a total of 75
- 8 x U13 with a total of 79 players
- 5 x 3Pitch with a total of 48 players
- 4 x T-Ball with a total of 29 players

13 Men's Teams

- 4 x A Grade with a total of 38 players
- 5 x B Grade with a total of 59 players
- 4 x C Grade with a total of 47 players

Facilities

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

- 1 International diamond under lights (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 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.

Grants/Sponsorships

Successful in 2 grants:

- Get in the Game (master coaching classes, SCCP and Softball Batter UP (or QLD equivalent))
- Strategic planning for BSA (3 - 5 years)

This year we were successful in obtaining 2 sponsorships:

- McDonalds (who have already confirmed they will sponsor us for the 2013/14 season)
- Leading Edge Sports

Representative Highlights

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

Our U19 Red Women's team won, defending their championship title whilst maintaining an undefeated status. Our U15 Girls team also went back to back and undefeated to win the U15 State Championship. Both teams won the Best defensive team. Our U17 Red Girls team narrowly lost in their grand final. Our Open Red team won the best defensive team and our Open White team were QLD Cup Runner's up.

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

Our umpires continued to represent us proudly at many state, national and international tournaments, topped off with Helen Strauss winning SAL Umpire of the Year.

Queensland Teams

U17 Girls

Mikayla Gregory, Sarah Hoger

Officials:

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



U19 Women

Eva Carless, Stephanie Curtis, Rachael Higgins, Brittney Flint

Officials:

Anne Vogler (Head Coach), Vaughan Whitworth (Assistant Coach), Brooke Wilkins (Assistant Coach), Faye Guy (Manager)

QLD Heat

Jodie Bowering, Melinda Weaver, Jocelyn McCallum, Stephanie Harm, Kate Sternes

Officials:

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

QLD Heat Squad

Alison Fleming, Eva Carless, Rachael Higgins, Brooke McNamara, Brittney Flint, Olivia McGinley

Australian Teams

U19 Women's Squad

Stephanie Curtis, Rachel Higgins, Mikayla Gregory (selected in Australian U19 Women's Team)

Senior Women

Jodie Bowering, Melinda Weaver, Jocelyn McCallum, Kate Sternes

Highlights

Season Launch – We endeavoured to create a carnival like atmosphere for our juniors with jumping castle and face painting – played out over 3 weeks due to the aforementioned rain!

Yellow Socks Softball Challenge – The event continues to be a great success for softball! Over \$14,000 raised this year – softball development money shared with Play for a Cure Foundation. Softball received coverage in the Courier Mail, on the Broncos website and on Channel 9 on the Broncos Insider.

Yellow Socks Slowpitch Challenge – The surprise hit of the year. A one day tournament held the week before our Yellow Socks Softball Challenge. A fun day had by all and teams signing on for the next year already. This tournament introduced slowpitch to BSA and is the catalyst for our Brisbane Bash OzPitch tournament starting in June 2013.

Deb McColm Shield – We held our 2nd event and this year was bigger and better in that 3 boys' teams competed. All played out in the spirit intended and a great hit out for all DA's prior to the U15 State Championships.

Softball Community Coach Programme

BSA was successful in obtaining a grant that allowed us to subsidise our members who wanted to complete this course. We held 2 sessions, training 16 members in the new game sense approach. BSA aims to have all coaches on the park, coaching U15 and below complete this course.

Brisbane also played host to:

- QGSSSA competition
- **St Andrew's Cup**

Technical

Regional Academy –

Sports Development Portfolio manager, Matt Blake set up this year's academy as Regional Administrator and Tony Nolan our Head coach. Again guest coaches will play a part in running this academy. The success of our Academy and talent of our juniors resulted in 6 players being selected to participate as part of the 2013 U15 Regional Academy Teams.

Scoring –

Our scoring delegate, Chris Bailey, held several sessions at Downey Park, to improve our scoring standards on the park.

Umpiring –

BSA again supported BSUA with the Red Shirt program.

Publicity

BSA received great publicity for softball in the Courier Mail, the Broncos website, Channel 9 (for Yellow Socks). We are very proactive in using our Facebook page (with a far reach) and our website. BSA also has a YouTube account where all event videos can be found.

Association Objectives

A great deal of work was done this year with many policies updated and an updated Constitution/ By-Laws and Ground Rules to be presented at our AGM in July.

BSA's vision is to bring the juniors back to our park and along with them, keep the players we currently have. We trialled several events to keep the interest high and ensuring our members want to be at Downey Park on Saturday. We continue to be collaborative, holding bi-monthly Club Councils, and again did an online survey for our members, seeking feedback on what they want!



Bundaberg

Bundaberg Softball had minimal impact on its facility and ability to continue its season in 2013 from Ex Tropical Cyclone Oswald. However, we did have a number of association members who were inundated from flood and affected through mini tornadoes. The association takes this opportunity to thank those members who assisted during the flooding, clean up and recovery phase of major event.

Membership

Membership remained steady for the 2012/2013 season. However, the association did see some fluctuation in junior participation numbers. The focus will be on junior recruitment for the 2013/2014 season with a number of programs/strategies developed to achieve this.

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
- Western Suburbs

Our Local Sport and Recreation Coordinator has provided valuable support to the Association and Clubs with good governance practices, recruitment frameworks and funding assistance. Our strong junior base continues to shine with player selections to both State and National Teams.

Grants

- Queensland Government
 - ◻ **Get in the Game 'Get Going'** - \$28,000 (7 successful applications)
- Bundaberg Regional Council
 - ◻ Young People In Sport - \$100 per representative player
 - ◻ Community Grants - \$4,500 Diamond Fencing
- **Jupiter's Casino Community Benefit Fund 2012** - \$28,000 Canteen Upgrade

Representative Teams

Bundaberg fielded teams at the following State Championships:

- Under 15 Boys (4th)
- Under 17 Boys (5th)
- Under 17 Girls (8th)
- **Under 19 Men's (2nd)**
- **Under 19 Women's (8th)**

Representative Players

- **Queensland U17 Boys' Team** – Callum McKay and Mitchell Silcox. Andrew Seabrook was a pick up player for Tasmania
- **Queensland Under 19 Men's Team** – Tyrell Priestly, Sam Field, Adrian Taylor and Colton Brockhurst
- **Australian Under 19 Men's Squad** – Tyrell Priestly, Adrian Taylor and Colton Brockhurst
- **SQI TID** – Simone Van Den Kieboom (17), Brennan Dempsey (17), Andrew Seabrook (17), Jamison Kaye (19), Callum McKay (19), Mitchell Silcox (19), Tyrell Priestly (19), Adrian Taylor (19), Colton Brockhurst (19).

Publicity & Promotion

Bundaberg Softball continues to receive local media coverage from the Bundaberg News Mail, Win TV and Channel Seven. This year the association also had a regular Saturday morning radio segment highlighting fixtures and representative activities.

Technical Areas

The association has been working in collaboration with the Regional Active After-school Community Coordinator to deliver Softball as a structured physical activity program linked to our recruitment strategy. To date we have 27 Accredited Community Coaches delivering programs in 13 schools.

A number of coaches are still working through the coaching accreditation program. Bruce Clifford was elevated to a Level 3 Umpire at the SQI U15 State Championship.

Junior Development

The association conducted a skills testing program that targeted U10 and U12 players. Data collected will assist in generating player profiles linking into regional academy programs.

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. Success has been demonstrated through a number of these juniors at district, state and national selection.

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, canteen upgrade, replacing pitching mats and diamond rewiring/fencing.



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.

Priorities for 2013/2014:

- Junior Recruitment
- Softball Profiling in the Community
- Coaching Courses
- Scorer Courses
- First Aid Training (Clubs)
- Facility Improvements



Burnett

Membership

- 3 mixed Oz Pitch teams
- 4 U14 teams
- 2 U10 teams

Highlights

Burnett was fortunate enough to be included in the Stakeholders group being assisted by the new Jobs Plan Coordinator (Karen Robe) which has been **funded by the State Government’s funding program**. This new position has been invaluable to our association.

With the help of Karen we were able to secure our own home grounds at the Nanango Sporting Association – sharing the facilities with Soccer, Cricket and a Dog Kennel Club; and to submit the following funding applications which were successful.:

- Sport & Rec – Get Going program – Accreditation courses, equipment & Simple Softball Clinic \$9,522
- Volunteer Grant – Computer equipment \$3,117
- South Burnett Regional Council - Simple Softball Clinic and First Aid equipment \$1,000
- GCBF – Softball Equipment - \$3,500

Technical Areas

We held a Coaching clinic with the Active After School Communities program with 4 people acquiring their accreditation. With the success of one of our funding applications, we hope to hold accreditation courses for Coaching, Umpiring and Scoring leading up to our new season this year.

Future

We have a lot of plans for the future; however our short term goals are to increase our membership by 50% over the next couple of years and to construct back nets and dugouts for our members. We have a very keen committee and are very excited about increasing the awareness of Softball within the South Burnett region.



Gladstone

Membership

Our member numbers declined significantly this season. The 8 week Diamond to Ball programme proved popular with the little kids but our numbers were down in the T-Ball division. We barely had enough numbers to field 2 mixed teams and that transcended through to the U13 division where we were only able to field 4 mixed teams. This year we had 3 teams in the U15 mixed division and 3 teams in the Ladies B Grade division. The two divisions operated independently this season, having both divisions play double headers on the Saturday. Running the divisions independently allowed us to again send a team to the U15 Boys State Championship.

The A Grade competition had 3 women’s teams in the competition and it was decided to introduce a Development Squad Team (DST) as the fourth team. The DST comprised of those children in the U15 division, identified as current or future Gladstone Representative players. This allows the players to “gel” as a team before they head off to any State Championship. It also gives the players exposure to a higher level of game play and this proved true with a noticeable improvement in their skills and game play from go to whoa. We trialled and were unsuccessful with double headers over a shorter period of time – so it was back to the usual game on a Saturday from October until Grand Final Day on the 16th March 2013.

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 who came third out of the entire competition and were worthy recipients of the President Cup. The U15 Boys Rep players are Michael Ludkin, Jackson Adnum, Ben Maynard, Zac Gehrman, Nic Gibson, Bailey Stone, Tyson Curtis, Beau Crawford & Ihaka Wirihana. The members who went that one step further and are named in the TID are Tyson Curtis, Brock Finlay, Michael Ludkin, Jordan Ludkin & Michael Noonan.

We had good representation in the Capricornia Primary School Sport – Chyanne Downing, Chelsea Fanning, Chloe Hathaway, Lilli Adnum all making the cut.

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 have offered any interested parties to attend the scoring clinics being held around the DA's.

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. We have 6 umpires planning to sit the Basic Exam this May.

Junior Development

The council finished developing Memorial Park and the fields were handed back to us mid October 2012. There were some teething problems but we are working in conjunction with the appropriate authority regarding this. Now we have the fields back, we have to target the schools about reinstating our Primary Schools Programme. Participation in this programme is well supported by the local primary schools and it was sorely missed and I think it shows with the lack of numbers in our junior ranks. We will have to recruit heavily to increase the player

numbers in our local competition.

Facilities

Now the council have finished the upgrade to Memorial Park we have 3 diamonds (1-skinned and 2 grass). Plans are underway to complete the T-Ball/warm up area, erect a new back net, get the drainage correct and level the playing surface.

Future Innovations

We are also looking towards a few minor and cosmetic changes. Things like concreting the dug-outs on the grass fields, repairs to fences and back nets and enclosing the bench area on all diamonds. Future plans include skinning and lighting another diamond.



Hervey Bay

Membership

Participation for the season found mixed numbers, although this season, Hervey Bay and Maryborough Softball associations combined for a partial joint competition from U17s through to Senior Men and Women's competition. This did affect numbers slightly from the previous year. Hervey Bay had several players with dual membership.

Membership 2011-2012		Membership 2012-2013	
U10	17	U10	15
U12	15	U12	11
U17	46	U17	32
Senior Men	0	Senior Men	21
Senior Women	41	Senior Women	27

Adding the combined teams I would see both associations' senior competition strong with the level of softball played admirable and stamping a continued rise in memberships in the up and coming season.

Sponsorship & Grants

Maintained our wonderful sponsors for another season with a huge thank you to:

- Byrne Bros Concrete
- Samios Plumbing
- Hervey Bay Motel
- Bay City Marine
- Maahs Concreting (QLD)

We were lucky to receive \$4,000 from the Active Inclusions grants we used these funds to help our volunteers to achieve levels in Coaching, Umpiring



and Scoring. We also received sponsorship for our perpetual trophies and prizes from the Hervey Bay RSL and other businesses for representative raffles.

Highlights

Representative sides include U15 Boys and U17 Girls and Boys. The following players need to be acknowledged for their selection into the QLD and Australian sides:

- Cassidy Miles in the QLD U17 Girls and QLD School Girls
- Josh Hartwig QLD U17 Boys and Australian U19 **Men's Squad**
- Kirsty Andrews has once again been selected as the U19 Australian Statistician

Good luck to all of you with your upcoming tournaments.

Wide Bay School Championships being the most recent successful event held. It was great to see so many youngsters participating, with some outstanding ability.

Publicity/Promotions

Sport and Recreation Expo, radio, local newspaper **and social media 'Facebook' are all active ways** Hervey Bay Softball Association is communicating **with the community. Woolworths BBQ's are another way** we are getting ourselves out there to raise needed funds for our rep players and the continued growth of our association.

Technical Areas

Coaching –

Currently there are 13 new Level 1 coaches completing their assessment

Scoring –

Kirsty Andrews for level 4

Umpiring –

We held a very successful Umpiring Clinic with 12 people attending and all about to sit their Level 1 exam. Thank you to David Casey and the Umpiring Directorate for helping us with this event.

Junior development

Simple Softball was a huge success for our association with 32 participants loving the sport. We had 20 of these players sign on to play T-Ball. Thank you SQI for your assistance.

Facilities

Ground maintenance and facility improvements continue to be a priority for the association. Extension to Club House, drainage, fencing and extended dug outs are items that we are hoping to complete during the off season.

New innovations

Plans for the future within our grounds are to obtain grants to help with the assistance of further trainings, inclusion of batting nets and upgraded club house for the purpose of new and improved training facilities as well as fencing the entire grounds with two entry gate points.

Future

2013-2014 will be an exciting time for Hervey Bay Softball Association, focusing on dramatically increasing the numbers of participants in the U12 – U17 age groups and also to maintaining the strength in our senior competition. We are looking to include School based programs and Simple Softball again.

Volunteers

National Volunteers week at present brings me to my closing of my report. I would like to thank all of our volunteers, from coaches, umpires, committee members, groundsmen, canteen convenor, parents, grandparents and many more. Without their continued support we would find it difficult to maintain and keep softball alive and to keep the atmosphere at Hervey Bay Softball Association a family friendly environment. I am very proud to be a part of such an amazing group of people that make being the President an enjoyable and delightful experience for me.



Ipswich

Having been elected for the first time this year taking over from Steve Muller as President was never going to be easy. The Ipswich season started well with 10 clubs affiliating this year. This included a new Club forming within our **Association with 1 junior team registered. Let's hope they can register more teams next season.**

Our team numbers in each grade consisted of:

- T-Ball – 6
- Rookie Ball – 6
- U13 – 7
- U15 – 4
- C Ladies – 6
- B Ladies – 4
- B Men – 6
- A/A2 Ladies – 4
- A/A2 Men – 5

Totalling to 48 teams this year.

Our Season Commenced on 13th October 2012, with a great start leading up to the school holidays. A few rain delays set us back prior to Christmas and again

in the New Year. With postponed rounds to catch up, our Games and Grading Committee and members voted to play the games where possible. Games were set down for Friday nights and Sundays, packing in a lot of softball over several weeks, which included still playing our normal draw on Saturdays so this saw our members happy to get all rounds played.

Sadly again Mother Nature was cruel to us but this time the delay was bad enough for the council to close our grounds for 3 weeks which delayed our final series. With time running out to finish our season prior to Easter and with the onslaught of winter sports sadly we had to cancel our semifinal round and play our finals series over 2 days instead of 3 but we managed to get through to our Grand Final day held on 23rd March 2013 ending our season with a beautiful typical Ipswich hot sunny day. A perfect day all round for softball. All players I am sure enjoyed themselves, from what I witnessed through the season we have a great group of members within our association and some great talent coming up through our juniors, young men and women also. I'm excited in what I see for our future.

Our Representative players showed themselves proud again this season, with our Open Men's Team placing 2nd to Redlands. So close, what a great game, bad luck boys let's hope we can do it this year and go one better. I witnessed several tournaments and seeing our players in the green and white was just fantastic. Also having to join forces with Mackay, Caboolture and Toowoomba within some age groups, I was still pleased we had the ability to allow our members to take the field and have the opportunity to play at a representative level. So a big thank you to those Associations it's great to see that no matter who we play for or who we are first registered with its all about the game – "Softball" A big good luck to all Ipswich members this year playing at representative level.

This year we have taken on board Special Olympics who attend coaching sessions on a Saturday afternoon throughout the year. Numbers vary from week to week depending on other sporting commitments. It is pleasing to see the enjoyment that these young people are obtaining from participating and when they get the opportunity to 'have a game' with the 'real players' their enthusiasm is catching.

I would like to also put out a big thank you to all those people behind the teams and clubs. Especially the Coaches, Managers, Scorers, but also not to forget the associated family members, the mums and

dads who put in all the efforts to keep our Association a very family orientated place to come and play or even just to come and cheer on your favorite club teams.

Even though I have been around softball for many years now I have learnt so much more, it's definitely been an education. To my committee members who have helped me through this year, 3 cheers to you all and words cannot express my gratitude. I am looking forward in 2013/2014 to have another fantastic year associated with Ipswich Softball Association.
Play Live Love – SOFTBALL.



Logan City

Membership

We had a slight increase in our adult male players, women's a slight drop and a drop in juniors. Registration Numbers (male/female, junior/senior) 11 clubs with 6 Men's teams, 15 Women's teams and junior teams.

Sponsorship/Grants

- Logan Diggers – Grant for a pitching machine
- Logan City Council sponsorship \$3,300.00 for the Softball Queensland Masters Tournament
- Grant for two trailers - one for bases and a luggage trailer for rep teams.
- Grant for Strategic Plan

Highlights

State Champions for the Open Men's State Championship

Publicity & Promotion

3,500 fliers printed and sent out to all schools in the area advertising Simple Softball

Technical Areas

Coaching –

We currently have 12 coaches doing their Level 1 accreditation.

Scoring –

We have 6 new Level 1 scorers.

Umpiring –

We currently have 6 junior trainee umpires.

Junior Development

Regional Academy selection has been carried out. A Simple Softball program is currently running.



Facilities

Dugouts have been installed on Diamonds 3 and 5. The Meakin Park Junior Sports Association Clubhouse has been extended and now includes umpire change rooms, a first aid room and toilets.

Future

Currently working through our Strategic Plan to see what we need to do for the future of softball in Logan City.



Mackay

Membership

2012 brought a slight decrease in registration numbers for Mackay Softball. This decrease can be attributed to involvement in or-

ganised sport across the board declining, financial woes that are affecting a lot of families in the Mackay region and sadly the folding of one of our clubs. Our junior competition continues to see the return of key players and their families to the sport that they love and these players are continuing into higher grades. We have a pleasing number of male players taking on the sport and our female membership remains fairly high.

In 2012 we had approximately 100 female players, many of whom played in 2 grades to ensure that we had a good competition in both the A and B grade **competition. We were able to continue the Men's** competition that was established in 2009 with 4 teams taking to the diamonds each week. It is pleasing to note that a group of young men who had never played softball before chose our sport as worthwhile to fill their Saturday nights, their skill base improved each week and they were having fun evidenced by the smiles on their faces.

With the folding of Rebels the association was made up of 5 clubs in 2012, Angels, Hawks, Dragons, Magic and Whitsunday.

The T-Ball and C grade competition was small but allowed players the opportunity to develop skills and team work capabilities and take part in friendly competition. The B grade competition again had 6 teams taking the field each week in what was a fair and enjoyable competition. A grade saw players who in the past have played B grade step up to the mark **to ensure a 4 team competition. The Men's draw was** also made up of 4 teams.

Sponsorship & Grants

Sadly with the business of life no one was appointed to be grants officer for 2012 and therefore no applications were lodged. The association was able **to gain some sponsorship from South's Leagues Club** in the form of a function room free of cost to host our association fundraiser of a cent sale.

Highlights

- Our junior representative players were combined with players from other associations to form teams. U17 and U19 Men combined with Ipswich at the respective Championships. U19 Women combined with Maryborough and Noosa. U15 Girls joined with Logan. All children are still current members and have full intention of competing again, proving to us that these experiences were positive.
- **Open Men's team had an enjoyable and successful competition.**
- The May Day Masters tournament was once again a highlight of the season with players travelling long distances to play in Mackay. The long weekend brings a sense of excitement to softball in the week prior to the start of our season. Although the work load is generally placed on the shoulders of a few key members in our association many members offer their support in preparing the grounds, volunteering in the canteen and cheering at the games. This tournament is also a wonderful way of promoting softball in Mackay.

Publicity & Promotion

- Long time softball supporter Jenny Dumma was appointed publicity officer in 2012 and ensured that softball was regularly featured in the newspaper highlighting the achievements of individual players and teams.
- Clubs promoted the sport of softball at the Mackay sports expo, seeking to increase membership numbers and bring new blood to the sport of softball once again this was very successful.
- Our fundraiser held in September introduced a whole new group of people to softball with some community members commenting that they **didn't know softball existed in Mackay.**
- Our association is hoping to secure a grant to help with promotional drives to increase numbers for the future of our sport.

Technical Areas

Coaching –

Coaching co-ordinator Linda Parry continued in her quest to impart her skills and drills on players and these sessions were well attended by players from the different clubs in Mackay.

Scoring –

We held Level 1 scoring clinics with Val Cross sharing her extensive knowledge and understanding with both players and players parents.

Umpiring –

Once again, Peter Baxter and clubs tried their hardest to get more players and families interested in the art that is umpiring but sadly numbers of people attending courses was low. Although it is pleasing to note that 15 year old Mason Pollack has endeavored in his overall love of the sport and is now a leveled umpire.

Junior Development

Sadly through lack of time and lack of interest we were unable to get our local schools involved in any way this season. We will continue in our efforts as we have many young players that are keen to help with school programs. All representative players are part of our Development Squad who then attend Regional Academy testing. Due to travel issues we find it very difficult for attendance and participation in the CQ Regional Academy and will be looking in the future to apply to be stand alone Academy. All representative players attend in-Association camps before their departure to State Championship. These are great bonding and development weekends for all players and officials. Junior players are strongly encouraged to take on roles such as umpiring, scoring and coaching using older members as mentors. This has been very successful with a lot of junior players now participating in personal development programs run by association.

Facilities

2012 involved a remarkable amount of upgrades to our fields with 2 of our diamonds getting a total revamp thanks to the support of our members and the tireless efforts of Peter Baxter over the years to ensure that our diamonds are safe and of high quality for competition. We have 4 grass diamonds 2 of which are completely lit giving us the ability to play night games.

Future

- Future plans for the Mackay Softball Association include further upgrades to the diamonds, with hopes that we will be able to fence them.
- We are endeavoring to get more members to take on roles within the association to lighten the

load of a few and allow greater growth within the Mackay Association.

- Participation in the community coaches program to encourage our coach base and extend coaches knowledge.
- Strongly advertise and implement a T-Ball competition with emphasis and vision on junior pathways program.

Finding a large threat to our junior male players in the progression of baseball locally, nationally and internationally. Planning locally is in progress to try to encourage these players to continue in our sport.



Maryborough

Membership

Membership numbers were maintained at the same level as 2011/12. It was very pleasing to see that our Diamond Ball competition (U8s) increased from two teams to four. Also **pleasing to see was the Primary Schools' competition played on the Softball Maryborough Inc's (SMI) diamonds** which attracted 18 teams over several weeks. While not necessarily members of SMI, it showed that interest in the sport is still high in the district.

Sponsorship & Grants

SMI and its Clubs have been very successful in pursuing grants during 2012/13. The following grants applications were successful:

- Gambling Community Benefit Fund – SMI (facility development) - \$26,600
- Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs – SMI (indigenous participation) - \$2,810
- Gambling Community Benefit Fund - Aztecs Softball Club Inc (storage container and shelving) - \$5,900
- Sport and Recreation Disaster Recovery Program – Aztecs Softball Club (playing equipment) - \$4,500
- Get Going – SMI (scoring, coaching, umpiring and first aid training) - \$5,050
- Fraser Coast Regional Council – SMI (security improvements) - \$3,000

Highlights

The highlights for 2012/13 were as follows:

- Adoption of our new emblem: the Maryborough Blue Sox
- **Adoption of striking new uniforms for our Boy's rep teams**
- Establishment of a new Club in Gympie Storm Softball Club



- Improvements to our facilities, notably upgrades to our kitchen, canteen, dining area and toilets
- Dylan Hard was selected in the Under 15 Regional Academy Team that competed in the 2012 Australian Under 15 Regional Championships
- Keysah Baker was selected in the Queensland **Primary Schools' Team that competed in the 2012 National Championships**
- Establishment of joint competitions with Hervey Bay Softball Association (HBSA) for A Grade Women, B Grade Women, Men and U17s

SMI premiership records for 2012/13 are as follows:

Grade	Pres Cup	Minor Premiers	Prem-iers	Runners Up
A Women	Incas Strikers	Aztecs Apaches	Terrors	Incas Strikers
B Women	Aztecs Apaches	Sparx Hyne	Sparx Hyne	Incas Silver
Senior Men	N/A	Misfits Masters	Misfits Pirates	Misfits Masters
Under 17	N/A	Misfits	Misfits	Sloggers

Premiership records for the joint SMI/HBSA competition were:

Grade	Minor Premiers	Premiers	Runners Up
A Grade Women	Aztecs Apaches	Aztecs Apaches	Incas Strikers
B Grade Women	Sparx Hyne	Sparx Hyne	Incas Silver
Under 15	Gympie Storm	Gympie Storm	Incas Dodgers
Under 12	Sparx Stingers	Sparx Stingers	Incas Gold
T-Ball Div 1	Aztecs Angels	Aztecs Angels	Incas Imps
T-Ball Div 2	N/A	Sparx Spiders	Incas Comets

Publicity & Promotion

SMI has established a good relationship with the Fraser Coast Chronicle over many years with reports of games, plus junior and senior photographs, draws and results appearing on a weekly basis. A new **Sport's Editor at the Chronicle has shown a strong interest in Softball and coverage of weekend games has increased this season.**

Technical Areas

SMI has identified the need to increase its volunteer base. To this end, a grant application for \$5,050 was lodged to conduct level 1 coaching, scoring and umpiring courses and to provide first aid training. This application was successful.

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. As noted above, SMI again successfully hosted the **Maryborough Primary School's Softball Competition at its Fairfield Park complex.** The competition was conducted over several weeks and attracted 18 teams.

Facilities

The SMI complex in Searle Street, Maryborough is dedicated to Softball and contains four senior and two junior diamonds. SMI was successful in obtaining a grant of \$26 600 from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to undertake a range of facility improvements. These have included:

- New stainless steel bench tops in the kitchen
- The concreting of the dining area and a number of pathways
- The purchase of additional storage sheds
- The building of two change rooms

In addition, SMI has funded the following improvements:

- New floor coverings in the kitchen and canteen
- Tiling of the toilets
- Painting of the facilities

Awards

SMI Award Winners for the 2012/13 season were:

AWARD	AWARD WINNER
Most Potential Under 15 Female	Kaitlyn Russell
Most Potential Under 15 Male	Jackson Hoyes
Most Potential Under 17 Female	Kali Bunt
Most Potential Under 17 Male	Dylan Hard
Female Softballer of the Year	Karen Hansen
Male Softballer of the Year	Nic Johannasen
Female Junior Softballer of the Year	Marita Abell
Male Junior Softballer of the Year	Tate Clark
Most Improved Junior Team	Sparx Stingers
Best Junior Team Performance	Aztecs Angels
Best Senior Team Performance	Sparx Hyne
Sportsmanship Award	Sheree Lehr
SMI Award	Mark Jeppesen
Margaret Hyne Memorial Trophy	Kaithlyn Russell
Lew Moulds Memorial Trophy	Jakeb Ptoleme
Junior Umpire of the Year	Taylor Morrison & Bailey Steinberg



Other Awards to SMI members were:

- Julie Arthur – Life Membership
- Daph Price – Posthumous Award (1st base dugout on Diamond 3 named in her memory)
- Mark Jeppesen – Softball Australia Service Award.

Future

The SMI has established the following priorities to support ongoing growth and development over the next 12 months:

- Re-establishment of our representative teams
- Development of new T-Ball and Diamond Ball facilities
- Top dressing the facility
- Fencing of senior diamonds

In the longer term, priorities include the:

- Building of new toilet and change room facilities
- Building of Umpire facilities
- Conduct State Championships.

SMI has a proud history over the past 61 years and we look forward to a successful future.



Noosa

Membership

Junior membership for the 2012/13 season dropped slightly from the previous year. Family relocation, financial hardship, other sporting commitments and work commitments were the main reasons given. But after a concentrated promotional campaign we were pleased to see many new faces around the diamonds for the season.

Despite increasing our senior numbers to 5 mixed teams (consisting of 72 players) at the start of the season, we had no seniors playing in a SQI sanctioned competition for the season. The senior players wanted to play a social, family based, mixed fast pitch competition. But as we could only offer OzPitch for a mixed competition, both old and new members were unhappy with this and voted to withdraw their membership after a trial period of the game.

Sponsorship

NDSA would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous and ongoing support throughout our season and during State Championships:

- Leading Edge
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- Bendigo Bank
- Paint Place
- Tewartin Noosa RSL Club

- Paul Smith Images Photography
- Richies Bakery
- Noosa Pest Control
- Garys Handyman Service
- Laguna Electrical
- Tewartin State School P & C Assoc.
- Mode Screenprints
- Jarvos Seafood

Grants

- Sport & Rec Sports Field Maintenance Grant
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council – 2 emergency grants to repair fencing and repair flood damage
- Sunshine Coast Regional Council – minor grant to replace perished pitching mats

We are currently developing an application for the next round of the Gambling Community Benefits Fund.

Highlights

NDSA fielded the following Rep Teams:

- **Men's and Women's Masters teams**
- Combined Mackay/Noosa/Maryborough U19 **Women's team**
- U17 Boys
- U15 Boys and Girls
- Congratulations to Luke Thomas for his selection in the Tasmanian team for U17 Boys National Championship.
- Congratulations to Josh Sheehan and Owen Blackmore on their selection in the U15 Regional Academy team.
- Richard Wakeham was announced the Queensland **Coach of the Year, to the Associations' delight, at the 2012 Annual SQI Awards Dinner.**
- NDSA hosted the Primary School Boys Regional Trials in 2012.
- NDSA hosted the U17 Boys State Championship in 2012. Thank you to the Committee and volunteers who contributed so many hard working hours to the running of a successful tournament.
- October 2012 – Girls Night In saw many of our members attend a Pink Party in honour and support of a fellow softball cancer survivor. A fun night of laughter and silly games raised approximately \$500 for Breast Cancer Research. This will now become an annual event.
- When the season breaks for the Christmas holidays, we host our Christmas Party with food and drink, a visit from Santa and overnight camping available. The Karaoke was a hit this year and the tent decorations, including lights, get more impressive each year.
- Australia Day 2 was celebrated in style, on a club day, with many members donning the green and gold or red, white and blue. Lamingtons featured in the canteen, the BBQ ran hot all day and the Thong



- Throwing contest was a hit with the young ones.
- As part of our Grand Final Day celebrations we decided to help out one of our members and her young family in her battle with cancer. Two senior members offered to shave for cash. One member shaved off his pride and joy – his mullet. The other member, our immediate past President, Glen Gorton, shaved and had a full upper body wax. Thanks to Energex workmates and our membership a large donation of cash could be handed to the family to help with accommodation costs and time off work expenses.
 - We hold a small Noosa Club U13s Carnival each year. The one day carnival sees some great softball played by our younger teams and a lot of fun is had by all.

Publicity and Promotion

In conjunction with our local Council we hosted a Come and Try Day in September 2012. This was a great opportunity to showcase our sport, our facilities, our great coaches and friendly Committee and canteen helpers.

Our new Publicity Officer did an amazing job of distributing flyers and posters to schools and shops in the district. Our Sign On Days and Season start were seen on TV and in all local newspapers, and heard on several radio stations. The result of her huge publicity push was that we gained many new members, to replace the one that had moved on.

The U17 Boys State Championship were well covered with full page spreads in several local newspapers and both Win TV and Channel 7 featured the Championships in their News bulletins.

Technical Areas

Coaching –

- 4 new Level 1 coaches and 3 working towards their Level 1
- 4 coaches working towards their Level 2

Scoring –

Congratulations to Kim Wakeham on achieving her Level 3 accreditation. Kim is now working towards her Level 4

Umpiring –

- Each year we encourage our juniors to sit the Basic exam to expand their knowledge of the game
- May 2012 saw 3 members sit the Open Exam
- 2 juniors – Luke Thomas and Oliver Frye are to be congratulated on gaining their Level 2

Accreditation at the U15 State Championships in April 2013

First Aid –

- 16 members refreshed their First Aid and CPR certificates

Junior Development

Combined team training sessions were held during the season with many new training aids in use. These training sessions are designed to be fun, practical and educational for all members from any club.

Facilities

We installed new fencing around the diamonds in August 2012 in time for our season and for the U17 Boys State Championship. Unfortunately the new fences around Diamond 1 were vandalised and damaged over the Christmas break. They were completely replaced before the season recommenced, thanks to our hard working groundsman and an emergency Grant from the Council partially covered the cost. Our grounds were under water during the summer floods, luckily there was no damage to buildings and no major damage to the fields. Another emergency Grant from the Council and the hard work of members repaired the pitch and the washed out running tracks. Thanks to the few regulars that turn up to working bees the grounds and buildings are all looking in great condition for upcoming events.

Innovations

Due to an early lack of numbers, our U17s played a 5-a-side competition this season. With enough players for 4 teams we worked out a rotating system of byes and a full game of softball with combined teams every 5th week. We are still looking at ways to restructure our T-Ball competition. With an increase in numbers this season we need ways to keep these players and help the Association grow.

Challenges

Our main challenges are:

- Retaining existing members and attracting new ones
- Regaining senior members
- Filling Committee positions to ease the work load on the existing volunteers.

Plans

- We are trying to develop to encourage more people to be involved in the decision making process for the future of the Association. Thanks to our Sport and Rec Support Officer, Alinda Bryant. We have had advice and assistance with

many projects and setting up of some new grant applications.

- The new Constitution along with By-Laws and Ground Rule changes are still being worked on and will be ready for presentation and **acceptance at this year's AGM.**
- We are hoping that we will be successful during the present rounds of the Grant Applications and can get started on a large undercover area and batting cages.
- We are looking forward to hosting three large events later in 2013 :
 - Primary School Boys Regional Trials
 - U12 School Girls QLD State Titles
 - **U19 Women's State Championship.**

So as usual even though we are presently out of season there is plenty going on to keep us busy with softball matters.



Redcliffe

Membership

- Our membership held firm this year. We did see an increase in senior **teams with a new Ladies A3 and Men's**

B Grade divisions.

- We lost our open 17 comp, but gained A3 Ladies and B Grade Men.
- Overall we had 65 teams taking part in summer season 2012/13.
- We have 8 teams taking part in our first ever OzPitch competition.
- Winter Season we increased from 7 teams to 10 teams.
- We tried to attract more T-Ballers by reducing the cost for them to play.
- Redcliffe Softball clubs came together to offer a sign on day at the grounds in August 2012.

Sponsorship & Grants

- \$110,000 from QLD Gove for lights on Diamond 1
- \$110,000 from Morton Bay Regional Council (MBRC) for lights on Diamond 1
- \$8,000 from Sport and Rec for the Get Going grant.
- \$12,000 Volunteers grant
- \$10,000 from Redcliffe Leagues Club Sponsorship
- Leading Edge Sport ongoing sponsorships of awards night
- Apogee Sports sponsorship of Club Champion awards
- MBRC sponsored water bottles for our Under 15 rep teams.
- The Wall Family Best Defensive Team Award in Queensland for rep teams
- Wagner Trophy awarded to best Ladies A Grade Team

- Best Volunteer Award sponsored by Rae Frawley
- Promising Pitcher Award sponsored by Lillian van Litsenburg

Highlights

- Redcliffe Under 15 Girls won Bridie Noble Trophy
- Redcliffe Under 15 Boys 8th overall
- Redcliffe Under 17 Girls 4th overall
- **Under 17 Boys President's Cup Winners**
- **Redcliffe Under 19 Women President's Cup Winners**
- Redcliffe Under 19 Men Best Defensive team 3rd Overall
- Redcliffe Open Women Open Championship winner
- Redcliffe Open Men State Championship Runner-up
- Queensland Patriots visited and they ran training session for juniors, raffles and participated in an exhibition game - we had over 400 spectators at the exhibition game.
- Queensland Heat came to our OzPitch fun day and played on local teams as well as a game against a Redcliffe Team.
- Josh Wagner went to the World Cup in Argentina.
- **Sandra Holden made the Australian Women's team.**
- Redcliffe players and officials played a major role in Queensland success at National Championships in 2013.
- 16 players from Redcliffe picked for Queensland and other state teams at National Championships.
- All clubs joined together to offer a sign on day at the clubhouse.
- Met North Schoolboy Championships held at Association in July.
- Sunshine Coast School Girl Championships held at grounds March 2013.
- Awarded the QLD State Championships for Under 17 girls to be held at RLSA Sept 2013.
- Strategic Plan meeting in April 2013 to focus on the future of RLSA.
- First ever Red and Blue gala dinner to acknowledge the efforts of our rep players and officials.
- Rubber pitching mats used at senior games for the first time summer season 2012/13.
- New Rep equipment store room opened.
- New bin storage area opened.
- First time ever Redcliffe will field 2 teams at the **Men's Open State Championships 2013.**
- Volunteers thank you dinner at end of summer season.
- SQI Battery camp June 2012

Publicity & Promotion

- Ongoing publicity in the Redcliffe and Bayside Herald and Redcliffe City News.
- Simply Softball ads placed in local newspapers and sport stores around the area.
- Redcliffe Rumble ads placed in local newspapers and sports stores around the area.
- Redcliffe Under 17 Girls and officials ran the Redcliffe Jetty to Jetty in uniform to promote Redcliffe Softball.



- Association raised money for the people of Bundaberg.
- Shave for Sandi a former member who passed away, all money went to the PA Hospital in Brisbane.
- Fund Raiser night for Redcliffe Hospital.
- Local Councillor ran updates in his ¼ year newsletters.
- North Lakes weekly newspaper promoted Redcliffe Rumble and Winter season.
- OzPitch demo night come and try in November 2012.

Technical Areas

Coaching –

We ran level 1 and level 2 courses where 12 people passed the level 1 and 10 passed level 2.

Scoring –

Have set up scoring level courses to start within the next few months

Umpiring –

State Championship Representation

The following umpires made themselves available at State Level during the past 12 months

- Steve Gutteridge (State and National), Alan Walsh, Michael Pedler and Ross Winn.

Accreditations

The following umpires have successfully pursued higher levels in the past 12 months

- Level 1 - Robyn Jones, Leila Higgins and Sarah Rodgers.
- Level 1 to 2 - Michael Pedler
- Level 3 to 4 - Alan Walsh

Training

The Umpiring Committee's offer of training for club umpires was re-iterated at the start of the season with no requests forthcoming. Formal training days were proposed early in the season without success having no one volunteering for the training. We offered advice for rule clarifications and general umpiring inquires upon request throughout the season when asked by club umpires or coaches.

During the last 12 months the Umpiring Committee has continued its policy of on the diamond feedback/mentoring for those umpires seeking to improve their umpiring skills.

Umpiring Issues

The principal difficulties faced are retention, maximizing training opportunities for both junior level umpires and those wishing to prepare for presentation for levels 3 and above.

The Future

While it is difficult to teach experience we are endeavouring to coax along all our umpires at whatever level

to be what they want to be for both their own benefit and the benefit of softball in general.

Junior Development

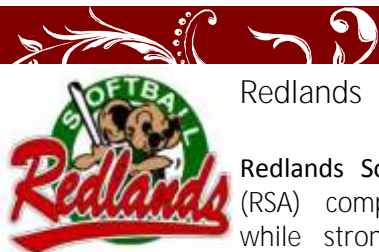
- Association ran a Simple Softball program over 6 weeks from August to October 2012.
- Queensland Patriots trained our juniors at a fun event over 100 juniors turned up.
- During summer season we ran both a modified and competitive competition at Under 13 levels.
- Pitching machine purchased
- New pitching nets purchased
- New Batting and Pitching cages opened
- Get Going grant accepted to purchase equipment

Facilities

- Major work completed on Diamonds 1 and 2 to ease rain run off.
- Fencing on all diamonds raised between 1st base and 3rd base for safety of patrons watching.
- Increased shade cover around grounds for patrons
- New Grandstand installed at Diamond 2
- Work to commence in canteen kitchen mid 2013
- More equipment bought for grounds staff to ensure safety and ease pressure on game days
- New pathway installed at grounds
- New safety bollards at diamonds 4, 6 and 8.
- More tables and chairs purchased for the bar and canteen area.
- Free Wi-Fi for patrons
- TV Installed at clubhouse
- Eftpos installed
- Cash register at canteen
- Hand dryers installed in toilets
- 3 new roller shutters installed at clubhouse.
- Can recycle cage at grounds
- Rubber pitching mats installed on 3 diamonds.
- Exterior fans installed in office and bar area.
- 2 new gazebos purchased.
- New benches installed at Diamond 4 and 6.
- Extra bins for game days from MBRC.

New Innovations

- New OzPitch competition started in April 2013.
- With lights going on Diamond 1 in June/July 2013, we will be able to offer more training times for our clubs.
- Looking at a mid-week comp in winter 2014.
- More summer night games in 2013/14.
- New constitution adopted.



Redlands

Redlands Softball Association's (RSA) competition this year, while strong, has showed a decrease in the number of teams competing, with six clubs suppling 49 teams, a **decrease from last season. This year's break down of membership shows that participation has decreased in junior grades through to the number of seniors. This has meant combining some of the grades to ensure maximum participation and a high level of standard being maintained.**

Redlands Softball Team Nominations

	2013	2012
T-Ball	4	4
Rookie Ball	4	4
U13	5	9
U15 Boys	3	2
U15 Girls	4	3
U17 Boys	0	3
U17 Girls	4	4
C Men	6	4
C Lades	7	8
B Men	0	4
B Ladies	0	5
A Reserve Men	3	2
A Reserve Ladies	5	4
A Men	3	3
A Ladies	3	4
Team Totals	51	63

On a positive note, RSA has introduced an OzPitch competition increasing opportunities for softball participation as well as providing a non-competitive environment to meet the needs of members, their families and the broader community. This was very successful with 12 teams and we are planning a joint RSA/SQI OzPitch event in September this year.

Redlands City Council (RCC) remains one of the major supporters of the Association; the Council is currently planning the replacement/upgrading of key Sturgeon Park Ormiston assets including seating, water systems and parking safety rails.

To facilitate the development of both the facilities and the game, RSA has been successful with three grants this season:

- **QLD Government "Get Going Program"** - \$9,725.
 - The purpose of this grant is to help put a program together that will Increased club membership and to Increase in the number of people playing social softball annually at RSA.
- Councilors' Small Grants from RCC - \$2,650.

- This grant will increase the capacity for RSA to provide and maintain services to the sporting fields and the associated environment, through the purchase of horticulture equipment. Also to increase access to the high quality softball services for Redland residents through the purchase of softball sporting equipment.
- Gambling Community Benefit Fund Round 73 \$27,000
 - To be used on the upgrade of diamond 2 safety fences and ground works.

While not too many events are to be held at RSA grounds this season, the Redlands RSL Southern Cross Challenge was a successful 4 days of **competitive softball for both Men's and Women's** teams from Queensland, Canterbury and Papua New Guinea. The final placing saw Queensland Patriots take out the Men's section and Queensland Heat the Women's.

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.

2013 Queensland Teams

Under 17 Boys

Officials: Edda Cailotto, Lexie Pearce, Matthew Chapman & Deborah Opie

Players: Cameron Francis, Brandon Goffer, Dylan McEachern, Jarrod Polzin, James Purcell & Aaron Whitefield

Under 17 Girls

Players: Sara Caterson, Ocearna Conaty-Boxall, Rebecca McEachern, Alicia Prybyszczuk & Dorinda Stone

Under 19 Men:

Officials: Tony Cailotto & Chris MacRae

Players: Brandon Goffer, Marshall Kronk, Ryan Merriman, Jarrod Polzin & Aaron Whitefield

Under 19 Women:

Players: Alisha Prybyszczuk & Dorinda Stone

QLD Heat:

Players: Sheridan Darroch & Stacey Webber
Squad: Rebecca Chapman & Tara Speakman

QLD Patriots:

Officials: Sean Francis
Players: Thomas Bailey, William Bailey, Andrew Blackshaw, Guy Covacin, Shaun Goffer, Julian Jemmott, Marshall Kronk, Jason



Nathan, Adam Pearce, Luke Van de Griendt & Aaron Whitefield

The Association continues to support school softball with the grounds being made available for rounds and finals of Golden Glove, Metropolitan and District schools softball competitions.

Dianne Blackshaw continues to support us as the Scoring Director. The Redlands Umpires Softball Association has grown in numbers this season and continues to run the green shirt program. Thank-you Norelle Thomas, Sheryn Gillin and Dianne Blackshaw.

Many thanks to Mathew Chapman for the continued success of the Redlands Academy in developing our junior players by the enhancement of their playing skills.

We would like to thank the members of the committee Robyn Jemmott, Shauna Bailey, Kiri Scott and Ivan Cailotto. The Association continues to prosper from the enormous efforts you put in and we are grateful for your support.

To our clubs, your continued support has again helped form the backbone of this very successful **Association and to your officials and players' thanks** for a more than memorable year.

To our staff members, a small band of dedicated and tireless workers, thank-you for the work you performed, your efforts greatly contributed to the smooth running of our association.

2013: RACQ (replacement of equipment that was damaged in the floods – mats, fencing materials, bench seating) and Sport & Rec (to re-skin the 4 diamonds)

- Nil sponsorships for 2013

Highlights:

- 2012 – RDSA hosted the U15 National Regional Championships – 6 local players selected into Regional Academy teams
- 2012 – **RDSA hosted the Open Women's State Championship** – 1 local player selected into QLD Heat team
- 2012 – 2 local players selected in draft for U17 Boys National Championship
- 2012 – 2 local players selected in draft for U19 **Men's National Championship**
- 2012 – 1 local player selected for U19 **QLD Women's team**
- 2013 – 1 local player selected for Australian Schoolgirls Competition
- 2013 – 5 local players selected into U15 Regional Academy teams

Publicity & Promotion

- President gave an interview to Win Local News at the commencement of 2013 season.
- Start of local season aired on WIN Local News.
- Coverage in local newspaper for player selected for Australian Schoolgirls. RDSA supporting fundraising event for player.
- A number of articles in the local newspaper to recognise achievements of local players.

Technical Areas

Umpiring –

Approximately 20 are sitting for Level 1 and 4 are undertaking their Level 2 exams. Umpiring Co-ordinator proactively monitoring games and provides assistance and advice to umpires during games to improve knowledge and performance.

Scoring –

Level 1 & 2 clinics are being held weekend of 24 to 26 May 2013. iScore clinic also being conducted the same weekend for scorers wanting to use iPads/tablets.

Facilities

- 4 x Skinned diamonds.
- All diamonds and grounds were resurfaced, however water does not run off when it rains.

Future

- Challenges – attraction of new players, growth of membership. Attracting volunteers for events due to limited time (local committees and working bees).



Rockhampton

Membership

- 5 registered clubs – Frenchville, Outlaws, Magpies, Bluebirds (new club commenced 2013) and Hawks (club from Gladstone)
- Registration numbers – 43 male senior players, 81 female senior players, 17 male junior players and 38 female junior players Increase in senior players – 7 and a decrease in junior players – 72 in 2012, down to 55 in 2013
- Various grades in the competition – U15 (4 x teams), U17 (4 x teams), B Ladies (4 x teams), A Reserve (4 x teams), A Grade (3 x teams), Men (4 x teams)

Sponsorships / Grants:

- All successful grants for 2012 have been acquitted
- Awaiting outcome of two grant submissions for

- Threats - Management/Ancillary positions are not at full strength (Vacancies – Representative Manager, Development, Promotions, Event Coordinator, Junior Liaison Officer and Coaching Coordinator). Damage to diamonds is quite significant when it rains and games cannot be played due to excess water.
- Plans – Monthly Working Bees to evolve into **“family days” to attract more volunteers.**
- Opportunities – Recent flood events have allowed us the opportunity to seek funding for diamond improvements. Will enhance our ability to hold state and national events as well as allowing **us more ability to be more “weather proof”.**



Suncoast-Hinterland

Membership

Membership for 2012 season - Our association offered the following competitions:

- **Women's: B grades – 3 teams**
- **Mixed U13's – 3 teams**
- **Mixed 3Pitch – 3 teams**

Grants & Sponsorship

Grants submitted and approved:

- Sport & Rec – Get Going for education and training as well as junior recruitment \$9,263
- Sport & Rec – Get Playing for 3 back nets and dugouts \$99,000
- GCBF – Back nets and dug outs \$33,000
- SCRC – Sports field Maintenance Funding \$14,000
- State Government – Positive or Its Pointless program \$500
- Bedigo Bank – Sponsorship \$4,000

Highlights

- We finally were able to acquire a lease through the Sunshine Coast Council for our fields.
- Receiving a successful outcome for all our funding through various grants which was worked on tirelessly.
- A huge congratulations to Karen Robe a local player and administrator for our association in managing to get a position with Softball Queensland. Karen through her new position has been invaluable to us with her assistance and **guidance in all area's.**
- Another big day for us was the fundraiser for the Colby Speare festival. This was an enormous day for us with 7 teams participating and a number of these from other associations. We were able to raise a few thousand dollars to assist the family.
- Our Active After School Program has really grown in the past year with us now having 10 schools

involved.

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 – 9
- Scoring Level 1 – 9
- Scoring Level 2 – 3

Junior Development

- One junior development clinic was held at our softball carnival, with John Butterworth running this for us. It was a great success.
- Two junior members of our association attended the Regional Academy Camp with both of them making the squad. A big accomplishment for these kids and our association.

Future

We were able to secure funding for \$124,000 to upgrade our back nets and dugouts for 4 diamonds which will be completed by October 2013.

Due to the declining numbers the Association is currently playing a shortened Winter season. Upon completion of our new facilities in October we will be moving to trialing a Summer Competition. We are very excited about these changes and with this move are hoping and encouraged that we can begin to grow our numbers and put the game of Softball back in the community.



Townsville & Thuringowa

Membership

Having re-established softball in Townsville at the start of 2012,

we ran the following competitions:

- **2 x women's Fastpitch – 70 players (about 45 – 50 players in each competition)**
- **4 teams – Cyclones, Stingers, Rollers and Thunder**
- **1 x Simple Softball – 14 players**
- **1 x Junior U15 – 23 players**
- The senior competitions took place from March to September
- The Simple Softball ran in conjunction with Term 3
- The Junior U15 ran in conjunction with Term 4

The start of the 2013 competition started on April 21 with the following:

- **Women's Fastpitch – 45 players**
- **4 teams – Cyclones, Stingers, Rollers and Thunder**



- Simple Softball – 11 players
- Junior U15 – 21 players
- The initial number of senior players was expected to be higher for the start of the 2013 season. Having about the same number of junior players is a good sign, as playing at this time of the year (compared to Term 4 in 2012) we are competing with the major high participation sports.

Sponsorship & Grants

- Sponsorship was received from Struddys Sports through the discounting of the cost of playing shirts
- Solar panelling is to be constructed by local business Horan and Bird Electrical at no cost
- \$4,750 – Breakwater Island Casino Community Benefit fund for:
 - Popup shade marquees
 - Trestle tables
 - Laptop
 - External hard drive
 - Portable PA system
- \$8,050 - Get Going (Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) for:
 - Coach, umpire, scorer and first aid accreditation
 - Development of a Volunteer Management and Operational Resource (5 Year Development Plan)

Highlights

- Attracting over 100 fully financial members within the year
- Running successful competitions
- People enjoying playing softball again in Townsville
- Attracting various print and television media
- Raising the exposure of softball within Townsville
- Re-installing two usable softball diamonds
- **Negotiating a long term 'License to Occupy' Bicentennial Park with Townsville City Council**
- Attracting volunteers to umpire, coach and manage teams
- Forming a group of keen volunteers to continue to develop the association
- **Upgrading the association's playing equipment**
- Saving money that can be used to pay the **association's past debts**
- Running organised training sessions for senior players
- Creating a team structure that has the potential to develop into a club structure in the future
- Resolving past issues with the Office of Fair Trading
- Forming a representative team that has travelled

to play a Cairns team and hosted Cairns over a weekend in January

Publicity & Promotion

- We have enjoyed a number of newspaper articles throughout 2012 and at the start of 2013 in the Townsville Bulletin and Townsville Sun along with sports reports on both Win and Channel 7 news
- Having Melanie Roche and Melinda Weaver in Townsville in April to run the community coach course was fantastic. We ran the course in the afternoon, so that we could run come and try coaching clinics with them in the morning. We had a good response and got wonderful media exposure with the Townsville Bulletin, Win TV and Channel 7 all sending a reporter and photographer to cover the story.
- We use Facebook, emails and our website regularly
- Newspaper ads in the lead up to our sign on days
- 2,000 posters and flyers were distributed to almost every primary and high school in Townsville
- Every school in the district were asked to include information about softball in their school newsletter in 2012 and 2013
- We are working with 106.3FM to run softball programs at schools once a week in the morning, in conjunction with their outside broadcast.

Technical Areas

Coaching –

We ran a Community Coach Program at the start of 2013 that 13 people attended. We have coaches **assigned to our four Women's teams, Simple Softball and Junior U15s**. We have funding for a number of these coaches to obtain level 1 or 2 accreditations.

Scoring –

We have two regular experienced scorers and two new scorers learning. We have funding to accredit/re-accredit our volunteers.

Umpiring –

Funding has been received and plans are in place this year to run umpire accreditation courses. We are currently using players that have previous umpiring experience to officiate games.

Junior Development

- The implementation of the Junior U15 competition at the end of 2012 worked really well. We had 4 coaches that did a wonderful job in introducing the game and teaching the players the necessary skills. The competition ran for 9 weeks. As many of the players were new to the **sport and inexperienced, it wasn't played like a**

normal competition. Each session was based on skills and gradual development and progression. By the end of the 9 week program, the players were playing structured games. We received a lot of great feedback for this program

- Our 2013 Junior U15 competition is being run in **conjunction with our Women's competition**, which means it is now competing with the major high participation sports. As a result our numbers have not grown, however they are similar to 2012 which is positive.
- There are two junior players that are quite advanced and enthusiastic to learn more and compete at a higher level. They played in the North Queensland Schools team and play **regularly in our senior Women's competition**
- A number of our 2012 Simple Softballers have continued in 2013 or progressed into playing in the Junior U15 competition

Facilities

- We obtained a License to Occupy Bicentennial Park from Townsville City Council for 10 years (2012 – 2022)
- At the start of 2012, the diamonds were all grass. Volunteers worked to create 2 diamonds with deco for the four bases
- Volunteers worked to prepare the diamonds and facilities for the commencement of the 2013 season
- We gained access to the Council change rooms at the park, which has allowed us to use these as a storeroom, instead of everyone taking home all the equipment each week
- We have started negotiations with Council to top dress the diamonds
- We have applied for funding to construct a canteen and storage facility

New Innovations

- **Our Women's competition is promoted as being social and suitable for people of all levels.** To provide an opportunity for more experienced players to play higher intensity games, we have **planned to play 'Sheepstation Games' every second week during our 2013 competition.** This will involve one game after our normal fixtures **that will consist of players from our four women's teams with the skills, ability and enthusiasm to play at a higher intensity.**
- We have travelled to Cairns to play a representative game and a team from Cairns has travelled to Townsville to do the same
- The association now has a fully functional committee and extended organising group of 14 people. All volunteers have a position description, so they understand their role

- We conducted a 5 year planning clinic after our AGM in April, to brainstorm ideas of how the association wants to progress and what needs to be done to achieve this. These ideas will form the **basis of the association's Volunteer Management and Operational Resource**
- The association has begun the process to update the Constitution
- We have commenced softball coaching in the Active After-schools Program
- **We had a stall at the Defence Force's 'Welcome to Townsville Expo' in February**

Future

- It is logical for the Townsville softball season to take place during the winter and not the summer. Every year we get torrential rain in January to March that would cause significant disruptions to games if they were being played then. As we **don't have lights to play under, it is too hot during the summer months to play during the day. We don't play games during the school holidays**, which would be a large issue over the Christmas period. All these factors will significantly decrease the attractiveness and viability of playing softball in Townsville during summer. Although we have to compete with the major football codes and other high participation sports during winter, with our games being played on Sunday mornings, it offers many juniors the opportunity to play softball and other Saturday or mid week sports. By playing through the winter, our representative teams will be prepared and in form to play at State Championships.
- 2012 was very successful. The future can certainly **be positive and there's the potential for a lot of growth**, if the association is managed appropriately by volunteers and they follow their development plan. There are many people within the association that want to see softball strong in Townsville again which is very encouraging. As is the case with most sporting clubs and associations, getting people to commit to volunteering is a challenge that is vital to the sustainability of the sport. There is enough interest in playing, but without a strong, competent and organised committee, the association will not succeed. This is the biggest risk to the future of the association and we are working hard to minimise as much as possible through using volunteer position descriptions and approaching members who have the skills, experience, enthusiasm and confidence to carry out these roles
- Our facility is ok, but could certainly be improved with lighting, top dressing and a canteen/storage area. Our main diamond could potentially be



flipped, so that the infield is closer to the current amenities block and Queens Road, which will create greater exposure.

- A mixed social competition and a social family/corporate carnival could be successful, as long as there is the drive of volunteers to organise and promote it early.
- **Getting a Men's competition started and sustainable** will also be important for the future of the association.



Wynnum

Membership

As with current trends across a number of sports, Wynnum Softball has, for the second year in a row experienced a minor decrease in membership in the period 1 May 2012 to April 30 2013. Whilst the decrease is less than 10%, it is not unnoticed and a number of recruitment plans have been put in place for the coming year.

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 the State Championship**. Our **Open Women's and U19 Women's teams also performed very well** placing second overall in their respective championships.

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 and QLD Heat teams as well as officials from Wynnum involved in the U19 Men, QLD Heat and QLD Patriots teams.

Scoring

During September 2012, Wynnum Softball held a scoring course, with two Wynnum registered members undertaking Level 3 lectures along with one additional member doing a Level 3 refresher. Our thanks to Matt and Christine Denkel for conducting the accreditation course for our members.

A scoring representative from Wynnum was appointed to one of the Regional Academy U15 teams at the Australian Regional Championships event in Rockhampton in July 2012.

Umpiring

Along with attendance at numerous QLD State Championship events, two of our senior umpires, being Darren Sibraa and David Casey, attended the following International and National softball events:

Darren Sibraa

- Open Men - Canberra
- Under 17 Girls - Sydney (TCU)
- Under 19 Men - Perth (TCU)

Darren Sibraa was appointed the Men's 2013 World Championships held in Auckland was awarded third base in the championship game.

David Casey

- Gilley's Shield Round 2 - Adelaide
- Open Men - Canberra
- Under 17 Boys - Launceston
- Under 19 Men - Perth

Awards

David Casey, Wynnum's Umpiring Coordinator, was the very proud recipient of the Tricia Bichel Umpire of the Year Award for 2012. David has been a dedicated umpire for many years, assisting other umpires and volunteering much of his time to the sport and a very deserving recipient.

Much to her surprise, Lisa Anderson, our Association Secretary won of the Softball Queensland Administrator of the Year Award as well as the Softball Australia Administrator of the Year Award for 2012. Lisa performs many additional roles to her position as secretary for WSA including Manager for the QLD Patriots and being a committee member for the South Coast Regional Academy. Lisa was very honoured to win both of these awards.

Funding

With the assistance of Karen Robe, our Association Coordinator, Wynnum has been successful in obtaining the following funding grants:

- Gambling Community Benefit Fund for a new **Toro 72" cutting deck ride on mower**
- Lord Mayors Suburban Initiative Fund for Simple Softball Program – First 60 free
- Community Sports Club Grant Program for Strategic Plan Workshop and Plan
- Department of National Parks, Rec & Sport and Racing for:
 - ◻ Level 1 and Level 2 Coaching Clinics
 - ◻ Simple Softball Clinics
 - ◻ Attendance at SQI Technical Forum

Our thanks to Karen for her hard work and assistance in helping us obtain these grants. They will all assist

us in our efforts to increase participation numbers and pave our way forward into a stronger future.

Future – Challenges & Plans

Further into 2013 and 2014, we have a number of primary focuses, these being:

- Equipment and Facility Improvements – we have a number of items on our 'wish list' that we are hoping to start crossing off over the next 12 months. We have some works to be done to our playing fields, the repair of these fields is crucial to not only our own competition, but also the school competition where we have hundreds of children using these fields during the interschool softball competition, a fantastic avenue for us to try to recruit new junior players from. We are also, amongst other things, hoping to erect shade structures and also obtain seating for our members and visitors to access around the diamonds.
- Junior Recruitment – We have a major focus on junior recruitment over the next 12 months, with funding to run free Simple Softball clinics, we hope to recruit enough numbers to set a T-Ball and/or underage competition. We compete with many other sports in our region so it is hoped that the free Simple Softball Clinics will introduce these new players to a sport they haven't considered before and convert to new registrations.
- 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.



Granite Belt Have A Go Day - October 2012