

# Metro Messenger

Brisbane Metro Baseball Newsletter



## LITTLE LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WRAPS UP

Metro's inaugural LL Development Program wrapped up last week, ending with a fun parents V players game. The 7 week program saw 30 Little League players working hard on developing and improving their skills. Thanks to the many coaches who turned out to support the program.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW  
YEAR TO OUR  
BRISBANE METRO  
BASEBALL FAMILIES.**

Best of luck to all Brisbane Metro players and teams competing in tournaments over the mid-season break.



U12 Girls, U16 Youth Women, and Open Womens's Div 1 & Div 2 State Titles at Bannister Park in December.

LL Div 1, LL Div 2, Junior League and Senior League teams competing at the Gold Coast Classic Tournament in January.

And our Metro representatives in the U16 & U18 Queensland Bandits teams competing at Nationals in January.

GO METRO!

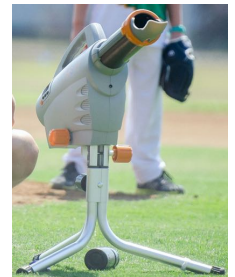
# Metro and Clubs Pilot T-Ball & Rookie Ball Single Site



**Last month, Metro trailed a T-Ball and Rookie ball single site round where all 23 teams played their games at Bannister Park - it was a big day of Baseball!**

All Stars Baseball Club did a fantastic job hosting the day providing a coffee cart and a welcoming breakfast BBQ. The Brisbane Bandits showed up to support our young ballers. The kids loved the demonstration of power hitting and the opportunity to get autographs and posters signed by our ABL reigning champions. Check out the amazing video here: <https://www.facebook.com/brisbanebandits/videos/vb.150304384984211/2515141758564326/?type=2&theater>

Metro introduced a Zooka pitching machine for some Rookie Ball games. These battery powered machines are used widely in other regions around Sydney and Perth. The concept proved popular with parents and kids as it sped up the game and gave a more consistent pitch. It also allowed coaches to focus on helping the kids instead of pitching. The region is exploring what it would mean to roll this out more widely.



Special thanks to all Metro volunteers and the many coaches and helpers who made it a fun day. Metro is consulting with the clubs to see how we work together to get more of these days built into the youth baseball schedules. Special thanks to Erin at Honsa Studios for the fantastic photos.





## Bunnings BBQ nets \$2K for Metro

Last month's fundraiser at Bunnings Cannon Hill was a great success, raising funds to reduce the fees to be paid by Metro families for this year's LL, JL and SL Div 1 teams. The remaining funds will be used for equipment and Metro programs.

Tom Potter from Crusty Devil, <https://crustydevil.com.au/> generously donated all the bread for the BBQ. Crusty Devil has great coffee and bakery items and we encourage our Metro families to stop in there if they are in or around the Carina ballparks. Thank you Tom and Crusty Devil!!!

Sonia Crowhurst took most of the heavy lifting of organising and pushing for volunteers. We had many fantastic families join us to assist including, Georgina Bentley and Raul and Rubens, Michelle Dance, Jo Holdsworth, Dan & Asami Polidano, Juan & Isabelle Ramirez, Hideki Shimizu, Megan Angliss & Renato Rostagno. Special thanks to the Metro committee members and their families who volunteered.

We know you put a lot of effort in already so to put aside a few more hours on a Sunday is a very much appreciated.



Metro is developing a fundraising policy that will outline where any money raised for the region will be allocated and how we can best support our Clubs and members. [Your help is needed at our next Bunnings BBQ on Saturday, January 4th at Newstead.](https://volunteersignup.org/HM3HD) Please click on the link to volunteer-<https://volunteersignup.org/HM3HD>

# Announcing LL Pathways Coaches

**Derek Van Hilst (Senior League)**

**Conor Laverty (Junior League)**

**Phil Thomas (Little League)**



## PHIL THOMAS - METRO LITTLE LEAGUE DIV 1 HEAD COACH

Metro is excited to have secured the services of Phil Thomas as the LL coach for this year's team. Phil Thomas has been a pillar of baseball within the state for over 40 years. Player, coach, administrator - his depth of knowledge and the inner workings of the game have few rivals in the state.

Phil got his start with some legends of the game in Qld, none other than Dave Nilsson's father, Tim as well as Ken McGuire when he played at school and with Wests U20's. He and Ken developed a long rivalry in school boys baseball over the years.

Phil's first coaching experience started in the U14 wests team in 1980. He continued his coaching experience when he took his first teaching role in Gayndah in 1981. In 1987 Phil took the head coach role of the Wide Bay region team before his job took him to Cairns in 1988. From 1988 onward Phil took a lead role in the development of baseball within the Peninsula region. Highlights include winning the state championship in 1989 with no other than Cameron Cairncross (Cleveland Indians) striking out 13 in the final. Other highlights include being assistant coach to the Australian School Boys side that played tournaments in Florida and Lismore.

"We are very lucky to have Phil's depth of knowledge and experience coaching within the region" says Metro President Morley Foster. "There is an increasing depth of talent at all levels of Metro but especially at LL. The region is committed to giving all of these kids the best opportunity to succeed. Quality coaches like Phil are part of that recipe".

When asked about his coaching style Phil responds "It is important at this age to give kids the opportunity to explore all positions and opportunities in the game. This way we develop more skills across the team" Phil will be spending the next few months familiarising himself with the clubs and the potential members of the Metro LL team. Please join us in welcoming Phil to Metro.



**Div 1 State Titles player registrations will open on our website before Christmas, with Div 2 nominations open in the new year. Both will be advertised on our Facebook page.**