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# It's diamond days for Cairns baseballers

MURRAY WENZEL • THE CAIRNS POST • JULY 09, 2015 4:00AM

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PITCHING IN: Local junior baseball players (from left) Teddy Ramos-Tremblay, Tim Sexton, Jordan Rose and Jamie-Scott Wellington have all been selected for the Australian Southern Stars USA Development Tour. Picture: BRENDAN RADKE

## **BASEBALL scout Greg Morriss has seen it all before and has no doubt the Far North can do it again.**

That's why the long-time Houston Astros talent hunter was in Cairns recently, hoping to unearth another "diamond in the rough".

Olympian and Queensland Baseball Hall of Famer Brett Roneberg and Major League pitcher Cameron Cairncross are the products of the Cairns system and Morriss saw enough in his visit to think they would be more than just anomalies.

"There are some very talented kids up here," the Brisbane-based Morriss said.

"North Queensland's had their share of signings in the past and there's definitely a couple up here with potential.

"That's what I like about visiting places like Cairns; you find diamonds in the rough and turn them into gold."

Four Australians occupy spots on the current Astros roster while many more play in the professional leagues around the world.

And the local body is doing their best to get their product some exposure to those leagues.

In the last fortnight Cairns trio Brandon Doo, Luke Turner and Daniel Turner toured Japan with a Queensland side hand-picked by Australian baseball legend Dave Nilsson, while local development officer Kevin Johnson took another group to the United States.

Jaimie-Scott Wellington, Jordan Rose, Tim Sexton and Teddy Romas, all between

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### **Snakes primed to strike for Craig**



THE Taipans have homed in on their next target - signing Torrey Craig.

### **Fan-tastic day for Sun lovers**



GOLD Coast Suns fan Tristan Crookes will be cheering with the best of them this weekend.

### **Dose of venom to fill the void**



The fact the Taipans can lure a player of Mark Worthington's ilk

15 and 18 years old, are part of the Australian Southern Stars USA Development Tour of California.

The group has mixed with San Diego University players and scouts and watched the San Diego Padres' batting practise and 12 high school and college games.

The highlight was a private workout with former MLB Stars Rene Gonzalez and Brett Barberie.

"Those sort of trips are just a great experience for the kids," Morriss said.

"And particularly Brandon, as a catcher, mixing with Dave Nilsson is amazing."

And while Morriss was always pushing players to strive for greatness on the - diamond, he said it was important they developed in other areas too.

"I always preach for them to go to college and then if they get signed or picked up that's a bonus," he said.

"Having that education and other skills is so important."

—MURRAY WENZEL

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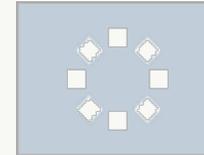
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is a sign of how far they've come in only a few years.

### Diamond days for baseballers



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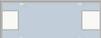
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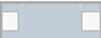
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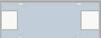
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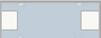
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