Baseball fever hits you as you walk through the grandstand and see the magnificent diamond, home of NSW Baseball and the 2000 Olympics. It must have inspired our team this year as we were very close runners up in the 2012 competition. As in previous years a slow start to game 1 against Broken Bay saw our team trial by 5 runs with simple ground balls rolling under gloves, missed throws and a lack of intensity in the batters box. As the game stretched into its third innings the boys “clicked” as a team and hits began to roll off the bats and we tightened up our defence. Jack Shaw threw 3 innings and was replaced by Ben Livermore who put in a strong performance in long relief to finish off the game. We eventually came up 1 run short to go down 8 – 7. A run, that would prove very costly, later in the day.

Game 2 on the Main diamond saw Lismore play a convenor’s team comprising 15 individuals who were put together to form a team. Michael Gahan took the mound and in a masterful...
display through his full quota of pitches (100) in 7 innings, gave up no hits, walked 3 batters and struck out 9. A performance which would later see him selected in the NSWCCC team. With a little momentum the Lismore team did not give the Convenor’s team a chance. Opening a two run lead in the first innings and never relinquishing that. Hits continued to flow as did the runs and the defence was red hot with double plays turned and hard outs made. This performance was truly a team effort which was a true reflection of how Lismore teams can play. We eventually ran out 9 – 0 victors.

Though not a part of the competition draw, we were able to manage a third game against the eventual winners, Metropolitan Catholic Schools (MCS). In this game Edward Kelly started on the mound and was throwing well but the MCS bats were working and they managed to get a few hits. However our defence shut them down - the closest their team came to scoring a run was in the third inning when a base hit to left field saw the runner on second base attempt to score but was thrown out at the plate. Hit after hit after hit in the third for Lismore saw us pile on 6 runs in the 3rd, and 4 more in the fourth to complete an easy victory 10 – 0. Unfortunately for us this game would not count to the competition as it was not a scheduled game. MCS went on to win the NSWCCC title as their win loss record in their first two games was marginally better than Lismore’s.

A silver medal was a just result for our team, we know we were good enough to beat the Champions but it was not to be.

We were successful in getting 3 of our 12 man squad selected in the 2012 NSWCCC team, they are Tom Youngberry, Jacob Youngberry and Michael Gahan. Josh Oaten was also deemed good enough to be selected but unfortunately he is deemed (slightly) too old to compete in the NSW All Schools or School Sport Australia Baseball tournaments ha was ineligible. Congratulations to these boys and all the boys in Year 12 who have played their last game for this side. We wish them all the best for their final year of school.

I would also like to thank, on behalf of the Diocesan Sport the parents of these players, who were all committed to getting their sons to this tournament at an extra expense due to the postponement due to bad weather a week earlier.

Tim Whitney and Mike Cannon

More photos below – team and action .....................