

1 October 2014**Queensland's great divide**

Queensland will be divided this weekend, when hundreds of cricket enthusiasts from across the state converge in Townsville and Stanthorpe for the third annual Bulls Masters Country Challenge, supported by Suncorp Bank.

The two-day event (4 - 5 October), will see aspiring cricket players represent their home towns in a Twenty20 tournament, and be coached and mentored by some of Australia's former sporting legends including Jimmy Maher, Adam Dale and Andrew Symonds.

The tournament will divide the Sunshine State into North and South teams, with players from the Gold Coast, Ipswich, Darling Downs and Wide Bay representing the South and players from Far North Queensland, Mackay, Whitsundays and Central Queensland representing the North.

Suncorp Bank's Regional Manager for North Queensland, Brad Steele, said the Bulls Masters Country Challenge would bring together some of the state's finest cricket players and showcase the benefits of participation in sport.

"Participation in sport is so important for young Queenslanders and events like the Bulls Masters Country Challenge inspire the next generation to get involved and be part of a team," Mr Steele said.

"As Australia's leading regional bank, we are proud to support an initiative that not only contributes long lasting benefits to regional Queensland, but promotes the importance of healthy and active living.

"The Bulls Masters Country Challenge is a free community event and we are encouraging everyone to get behind the players from their local region and cheer them on from the sideline this weekend."

The winning teams from both regions will compete against each other in a curtain raiser event for the Brisbane Heat at the Gabba on 4 January.

The Bulls Masters Country Challenge is arranged in conjunction with Queensland Country Cricket and is supported by Queensland Cricket.

Media are invited to attend as follows:

Northern Challenge (Townsville)

When: Saturday 4 October – Sunday 5 October
Time: 10am (Saturday and Sunday)
Where: Endeavour Park, Townsville

Southern Challenge (Stanthorpe)

When: Saturday 4 October – Sunday 5 October
Time: 10am (Saturday) and 9am (Sunday)
Where: CF White Memorial Oval and Sheahan Oval, Stanthorpe

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About Suncorp:

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