



## The Knights 2018 Christmas Message

In August 2008, I took my son down to a try teeball thing at Castle Glen. I say 'thing' as I wasn't meant to be there. My wife had swapped responsibilities with me so she could watch my daughter perform in the band at the Samuel Gilbert Fete. "But I want to watch her! What's with this teeball thing, anyway?"

I got stuck with teeball and my wife enjoyed my daughter's performance. I had no vision for my son in the game. I had no intentions to be involved. I knew no one at the time... and somehow I ended up being a coach who had no idea. Some of you might still think, yep, and still has no idea; and sometimes I'd have to agree with you on that.

There are parents who come into our baseball club and straight away want to do something. You're a special breed, a rare breed. Most of us, like myself, are reluctant. We look to our left and right to see who else is putting their hand up. Great, no one ok, I'll do it then.

However we find ourselves doing something, it doesn't matter. You're giving to your child's team, you're giving to the club, you're giving to the community, and moreover, you're showing your children an example that will be embedded in their minds as long as they live. More than our throw away words of discipline, more than all the comments we make on the sideline, more than the torturous ride home in the car as they're being told what they did wrong or what they can improve on... they are consuming our example.

We all have some redeeming qualities that we're proud that our children will imitate. If they're not imitating now, don't worry, they'll imitate later. Hence why those idioms we hear all the time ring true: he's a chip off the old block; an apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

I didn't verbally teach my son stubbornness. But he learnt it from me by watching how I interact with his mum. It's not good enough for me to say to either of my kids, don't be like me; they must see from my example of what I would like them to become.

In the end, it is always our example of hard work, attitude, volunteer spirit, and our love, that shines in our community and club, and moreover, in our children.

The Christmas message has always been about a special child being born in tough conditions and the example he showed to his people to how to treat other people. The same rings true for us in the example we continually set for our children so hopefully they can become a better version of us when they're adults.

I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year as we finish off another wonderful baseball season at the Castle Hill Knights.

Mark Maguire. President of Castle Hill Baseball Club.

