# CCNSW NEW ZEALAND NORTH ISLAND TOUR 2007 : TOUR AND (PARTIAL) MATCH REPORTS

## TOUR REPORT BY PAUL BRANDON

When one becomes a member of the Cricketers; Club of NSW, one quickly realises the many benefits associated. Benefits include meeting a variety of people, playing cricket in scenic locations and touring other countries and exotic destinations. 2007 promised to be no different with two tours on the agenda.

When the call to serve CCNSW was issued by Commander in Chief/ Club Secretary Adrian Hawkes, many answered, joining the 'Co-ee' march to New Zealand. Assembling in Wellington was a crack team of some of CCNSW elite. Alas club secretary and tour organiser Adrian Hawkes was forced to withdraw for two reasons- firstly family commitments prohibited his presence and secondly his young son Ian's fake ID was not ready by the tour departure date, precluding him from partying at the Cuba Street night spots. The dance floors of Wellington were poorer for his absence.

The tour consisted of a loop around the lower north island of New Zealand. Matches were played in Napier/ Hastings, Taupo, Marton and Wellington. This was of benefit as it allowed distant club members Ryan and Kelly Anderson and Scott and Deb McCallum to join our party at various stages. The tour provided entertaining and at times challenging cricket of which, everyone contributed. At some stage through the tour, every player made a significant contribution to the performance of the side. It was pleasing to see that there were no passengers in the squad, even though player ages ranged from 14 to 59.

The tour results were positive. Five matches played with 3 wins and 2 losses. Several notable performances are worthy of mention: Angus Neil's first spell of bowling on competitive cricket, Joe Scarcella (Jnr) wickets at Marton, Cameron Crosby (72*) and Gil McGraths 10$^{th}$ wicket partnership to steal victory in Taupo and at least one batsman in every match forced to retire by reaching the run cap (ten instances in total).

Off the field is where the tour proved just how successful it was. On every single evening, there was a dinner, drinks session or night out which was attended by virtually every tour member. Leigh Yardy did a magnificent job organising the team dinner on night one. The Wellington Cup day proved a real success (despite poor returns from the bookies). The names of those who rode 'winners' home shall be saved for the rumour mill.

Thanks must be conveyed to Adrian Hawkes. Tours such as this do not occur without an immense amount of time and effort. Sadly Adrian was unable to tour and enjoy the fruits of his labour. The remainder of the tour party appreciate your efforts. So in Adrian's absence, who post match, was going to stand naked on a chair in the dressing room, beer in hand and belt out 'Under the southern cross I stand, with a sprig of wattle in my hand'? A great Australian sporting tradition which must be maintained. There were many contenders. Clearly Corey 'The Cougar' Haigh was a serious candidate. Ian Neil had the job (until it was revealed he can't sing) before the torch was passed to Ken Yardy. Never has CCNSW seen such a fine specimen of Australian manhood. The true alpha male.

New Zealand proved to be a very beautiful and friendly country. In fact, the hospitality can be described as nothing short of embarrassingly good. Every single club that hosted us were unbelievably friendly, catered superbly and drank a 'good beer'. As the captain of the Marton cricket side said *"None of us would be here today drinking beer together if it weren't for cricket".* Truly an amazing tour.

PS: Not one minute of cricket was lost to rain during a whole tour of New Zealand. Now that is an amazing tour!

## MATCH 5: CCNSW vs TAWA TURTLES: MATCH REPORT BY PAUL BRANDON

Another fine day greeted us as we arrive for the final match of the tour. Reputation had spread far about the quality of the of the Tawa pitch (second only to the Basin Reserve) and no one was disappointed. Match day skipper Scott McCallum had no hesitation in batting. Corey 'The Cougar' Haigh and local recruit Kelvin Giles opened the innings. The Cougar had just placed the beer on ice and hence only had a very limited time to bat before the liquid amber had to be consumed. He quickly compiled 15 before cracking his first local brew. Kelvin's technique was well adapted to local conditions but was also knocked over for 15. Whilst the track looked good, it was very slow. So too was the scoring rate. Yet Nick Youngman 42*, Paul Brandon 36* and Rob Pelligra 38 took us in the right direction.

But at 3-147 overs were running out. Ian Neil strode to the crease seeking quick runs in the gloomy light against a quick who had a bit of 'nip'. The quick did not fail to deliver, with a first up ball that was short and striking Ian Niel a sickening blow to the side of the head. The ball did not deflect away but dropped to his feet. To his credit Ian Neil displayed plenty of courage, stood his ground and batted on. Ian, like all true batsmen~ NEVER shows the bowler pain. Remember bowlers only bowl because they CANT bat!! The next delivery saw the same quick drop in another bouncer. Ian Neil stepped inside the line and hooked the ball over the fine leg fence for six! The third delivery saw the ball squirt into the gully. Ian's enthusiasm for quick runs brought to his demise when his lack of batting spikes saw him slip whilst attempting to regain his crease, leaving him sprawled out on the pitch, centimeters short of his crease. An eventful innings that surely made the local news sporting highlights. Joe Scarcella came to the crease scoring a quick 9* to see us to a respectable 4-181 from our allocated 40 overs.

During the whole Tawa innings, Corey 'The Cougar' Haigh diligently guarded the ice cold beers from within the grandstand, which compelled us to use our two 11 year old (secret strike weapons) Angus Niel and James 'The Cub' Scarcella in the field. Both gave their all and performed well. However we were immediately on the back foot with the Tawa top order bludgeoning our attack with some very impressive cricket strokes, racing to 50 odd very quickly. But CCNSW fought back with wickets to Cameron Crosby, Scotty 'I've got emphysema' McCallum and Joe Scarcella Jnr. This made the wheels fall off the Tawa innings with wickets falling at regular intervals, even to the point where we contemplated part time bowlers to drag the match out. At 7-80 odd, the game looked safe. To Tawa's credit, their tail dug in playing some colourful stokes to any type of delivery, all of which went through mid wicket. But runs are runs and Tawa batted bravely. Despite wickets to Joe Scarcella Snr, who bowled an exceptionally impressive spell, Tawa claimed victory acquiring the runs with one wicket in hand.

What really made the match however, was Tawa's exceptional hospitality. Not only did the put on a great lunch and dinner, but they stayed around for plenty of beers and a chat after the game. But most importantly, they played their cricket (both on and off the field) in a manner similar to CCNSW which made for a most enjoyable day and concluded what was a fantastic tour.

**The Team was: -** Kelvin Giles 15; Corey Haig 15; Nick Youngman ret not out 42*; Paul Brandon (w) 36*; Rob Pelligra 38; Ian Neil 6; Joe Scarcella 9*, Scott McCallum (c) dnb; Joe Scarcella (Jnr) dnb, Cameron Crosby and G. McGrath dnb

**The Result was: -**

**CCNSW: 4-181** (N. Youngman 42*ret not out; R. Pelligra 38, P. Brandon 36*) (40 overs)

**Lost to**

**Tawa Turtles: 9-182** (S. McCallum 3-30) (39.1 overs)

**By one wicket**

**FoW:-** 1-22 (C. Haigh), 2-48 (K. Giles), 3-147 (R. Pelligra), 4-167 (I. Neil)

**The Bowling was**:- S. McCallum 8-1-30-3; C. Crosby 3-0-15-1; J. Scarcella Snr 8-2-21-2; J. Scarcella Jnr 4-0-16-1; G. McGrath 5-0-36-1; R. Pelligra 3-0-20-0; K. Giles 3-0-9-0; N. Youngman 5.1- 0-23-0

**The Fielding was: -**

**Catches:-** One to J. Scarcella (Jnr)

**Stumpings:-** nil

**Run Outs: -** one to anonymous