

**The Berwick Diaries**  
**2010 Tour of New Zealand**  
**“Drop the Hammer, Down Under”**



**HCC performing a traditional “Haka”**

**Starring an Unusual Cast of Characters:**

**Bishnu Ramsarran aka “Rambo”** For Ram, cricket was the way out of the ghettos of Georgetown. This aggressive, middle order batsman has an amazing ability to make beer disappear, often before walking out to bat. He enjoys early morning walks and fresh coffee. Ram is the master of the quick single and is prepared to take on any fielder at anytime.

**Gary Peton aka “Pony Boy”** Gary is an all-rounder with the ability to make quick runs at the end of the innings. He is great to travel with because of his cheerful nature. Gary will always give 100% effort on the field and he is not afraid to throw his body around. We still have not figured out the reason for his ponytail though?

**Mark Berwick aka “Nancy”** Mark is an upper order batsman and versatile bowler. He was impressed by the kiwi beer, wine and coffees. Mark never met a sausage roll or meat pie that he wasn’t prepared to investigate further. He specializes in on-field sledging and ungentlemanly antics, you know, basically being an “Ugly American.”

**Munna Hussain aka “Red Light”** Munna is a solid all-rounder, with the ability to open the batting or bowling. He was finally able to “open his account” in Christchurch, thanks to some nifty footwork by Foxie (Even Munna can order from a menu). On this tour, Munna became best mates with Stevo, in fact, I believe that they are now pen pals.

**Nevin Field aka “Hard Time”** Nevin is an all-rounder that has the uncanny ability to pull a wicket from nowhere, even his own. We got to meet a large portion of Nev’s family on this tour. His sisters were a particular highlight. Nevin may not have reconnected with his four-legged “girlfriends” but Suzanne did not miss out on having a crazy St. Patrick’s Day.

**Pankaj Bhanot aka “The Keebler Elf”** Pankaj is the Club Captain and he is a talented all-rounder; from opening batsman to spinner to wicketkeeper, the man can do it all. Off the ground, he is in charge of procuring “special favors,” a similar role that he plays in Honolulu working for the Department of Human Services. A budding photographer, there is no telling where he will stick his lens.

**Ricky Pike aka “Blossom”** This Australian drew crowds wherever he went in NZ. Ricky enjoyed his fair share of lamb, curries, meat pies and sausage rolls while on tour. His bowling has been described as “a wet towel” because it sort of flops into your legs without much momentum and it tends to cramp batsmen as they struggle to get it away.

**Robert Cowie aka “Snail Bob”** Robert is a classic all-rounder; athletic in the field, bowls hand grenades and can hold down an end in the late overs. Like Nevin, Robert was fined for bringing his wife on tour. He enjoyed showing Ginny the South Isle, particularly on long walks in the countryside. Once lured out of his shell, Robert is a good time.

**Russel Freeman aka “Foxie”** Russel is the club’s traveling wicketkeeper. He lived up to his reputation for fun and took great pride in showcasing his native land. Russel led from the front when it came to exploring the “local talent,” Bluff oysters, Speight’s beer and Maryborough Sauvignon Blanc. Never short of enthusiasm, Russel has an odd tendency of wearing his whites all day for no apparent reason.

**Steve Pratt aka “Stevo”** Stevo is a hard-hitting middle order batsman and medium pace bowler. He is keen to “get on with it” whether at the crease or in the bar afterwards. Surprisingly introverted, he is a bit of a “Lone Wolf,” preferring to hunt alone. Stevo showed a lot of guts on tour and was prepared to take on the fiercest of attacks, even under threat of copping it “Desi-style.”

**Travis Wilkinson aka “Ravishing”** Travis is a polished upper order batsman and useful medium pace bowler. Once again, he played up to his potential and dazzled the opposition with his lovely timing. Travis appreciates a good of cereal in the morning. Heavily recruited by the locals throughout the tour, after all, NZ and Tasmania have a lot in common.

**Trevor Page aka “Trev”** Trevor serves many roles on our tours overseas from designated driver to most economical bowler. Having spent many years as a long distance truck driver, Trevor knows his way around NZ. He is a “social bloodhound,” he has a nose for a find a good time. No matter the situation, Trev is there with a smile and a joke.

**Troy Gomes aka “Snuggie”** Troy is a soft spoken opening bowler that lets the ball do the talking. Blessed with flexibility, the Kiwis found his action quite unusual. Off the field, he is an excellent cook and serves as the club’s grill master. Troy has a problem holding on to his body heat and often resorts to wearing a beanie and his beloved snuggie. Perhaps Munna should try “spooning” Troy?

**Uday Kari aka “Maui Wowie”** He pointed out to the Kiwis that as President of the Maui Cricket Club, he has played on turf. Turf is defined on Maui as “cut grass,” not to be confused with Maui’s other famous grass. Uday loves to go on walkabout, disappearing for days on end. He is an expert of many subjects and is willing to share his knowledge. Uday is also a connoisseur of homemade pie.

**Vinoo Ganapathy aka “Doc”** Vinoo is one of our opening batsmen; he provides stability at the top of the batting order. He is stoic while under pressure, which must be a result of those decades in the hospital emergency room, hopped up on cigarettes and coffee. Vinoo is superstitious and refused to wear the black tour shirt on an airplane. He is also quite fond of dance, house and trance music.

**Vishan Dookhu aka “The Panda”** Vishan is an effective all-rounder with a great attitude and double jointed fingers. For fun, he likes to travel overseas under the alias “Sishan.” The Chocolate Panda provided hours of entertainment for his roommates, rolling around on his back, playing aimlessly with his bamboo. A natural generator of swing, his bowling can leave opposing batsmen bamboozled.

## Friday 12 March

Our group assembles in the check-in area for Air New Zealand between 7:00 and 7:30 PM for our nine hour flight to Auckland. Traveling together tonight includes Robert, Ginny, Nevin, Suzanne, Troy, Ram, Vinoo, Gary, Vishan, Munna, Uday, Pankaj and Mark. The first fine on tour is given to Vinoo for refusing to travel in the official black travel shirt on the grounds of superstition. He instead is wearing his floral HCC tour shirt from the 1999 tour of British Columbia.

Robert and Nevin are subsequently fined for bringing their wives on tour. There are also issues with the visas for Vishan and Munna. Apparently Vishan is known to the Air NZ system as "Sishan" so I make the connection to Seuchuan, and then to Kung Pao Panda. From now on, Vishan's new nickname is "The Panda" or "Chocolate Panda". Munna's Muslim name is too long for the Air NZ system and has caused it to crash. By the way, did I mention that I am a big proponent of racial profiling? After checking in, we head off to the Kona Brewery Bar for a couple of refreshing ales. Uday warns us that he snores and drools excessively (boy, I hope that I am sitting next to him on the plane). Troy is fined for admitting to bringing a "snuggie" on tour.



Enjoying a few ales at Kona Brewery



Last photo in Hawaii before the journey "down under"

The flight to Auckland while long (nine hours), is relatively enjoyable because of the good level of service. The food is tasty and the entertainment systems in the seatbacks are outstanding. The only annoying part is that the flight staff feels the need to repeat pieces of information multiple times, and tend to talk too much. How many times do we need to be told that our meal choices are braised beef or parmesan chicken? The head steward also has a curious way of pronouncing "www" to announce a website address which is "dub dub dub." I bet we can expect some strange things ahead in NZ.



Our arrival in Auckland



Awaiting our transfer to Queenstown

## Sunday 14 March

During our three hour layover in Auckland we enjoy the flat white coffees, breakfast, blackjack and Texas holdem. Vishan took a misstep and wandered into the women's bathroom. Another two hour flight and we have arrived in Queenstown. If first impressions count for anything, this place is beautiful!



Air New Zealand was fantastic



Troy and Munna, fatigued but happy to be in Queenstown

Russel was waiting for us in the arrival lounge, already dressed in his whites. After checking into our six-star accommodation, The Thomas Hotel we grab a quick bite to eat and head off to the Queenstown Cricket Club to watch a bit of Canterbury versus Otago. I had a brief meeting with Ian Paterson, President of QCC and thanked him for setting up an unofficial sixth tour match with the current 20/20 champions, the Central Queenstown Pelicans. I pick up Steve and then Ricky from the airport. Travis and I were waiting for P-Rick with a large inflatable kangaroo to signal that the Australians have arrived. We enjoy a net session at the QCC before heading back to The Thomas.



First night out in New Zealand



Ricky and Pankaj welcome Trevor

The evening is passed in Winnie's Pizza and Pub, enjoying tasty pizza, delicious beer and live music. Winnie's is a great location and it has one curious feature; the roof can open up to provide a gorgeous view of the stars. Trevor arrived in town and found us in the second pub he looked in, amazing. Relatively quiet night, we are in bed by midnight.



Ram ordering a beer at Winnie's



Travis and Ricky enjoy a dry root (traditional Aussie greeting)

#### Monday 15 March

Ricky and I have a pleasant walk around town to get a lay of the land and figure out what we want to do this morning. We must have bumped into Trevor three or four times during our walk, the man is everywhere. At 9:00 am we meet up with Travis and go up the gondola for a view of Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu. We also decide to race down their luge course which looks like fun plus it has the added element of danger. Ricky is making big claims of his pending victory. What he did not factor was that Nancy has a weight advantage. I effectively demonstrate the physics behind gravity and won our race. While two objects of differing weight will fall at the same rate, the fatter object clearly had more racing skills. In his frustration of losing, Ricky nearly runs me over at the bottom of the course. He spends the next ten minutes complaining about the size of the luge and how his knees were hitting the steering wheel. A good carpenter never blames his tools.

We leave for Arrowtown in the mid-morning and stop by Russel's house to see how they were setting up for the "Hangi" tonight which is a NZ version of the "Imu" or earthen oven. The "Hangi" was being prepared by Russel's son-in-law John, with a hot fire. The plan was to fill the earthen pit with lamb, chicken, pork and various vegetables. Mixed with kiwi hospitality and copious amounts of beer and wine, you will have one hell of a party.

The short drive to Arrowtown was pleasant with Russel pointing out P\*\*\*y Mountain along with way which I named "Mount Baldy." The ground at Millbrook was very picturesque, quick, yellow outfield, trees beyond the boundary and mountains in the distance. The weather is still and hot. We meet up with John Petre and the rest of the Millbrook CC players for a beer prior to the start of play.



HCC's first tour to a test cricket nation



Ricky pelts one down at Millbrook

Millbrook won the toss and elected to bat first. Troy and Munna took the new ball and proceeded to tie the opposition down. Stevo and Mark came on first change and really put them under pressure, only giving up five runs in the next four overs. After 20 over Millbrook had made 97 runs. As they pushed the run rate after drinks, the wickets started to fall regularly and as a team, we held six catches. Millbrook made 210 runs from their 40 overs for the loss of eight wickets. I topped the bowling figures with two wickets for seven overs for twenty-two runs. Stevo and Vishan each picked up two wickets and Nevin grabbed a scalp as well.

Lunch was delicious. A collection of aged cheeses, cured meats, creamy potato salad, pate and of course, plenty of great NZ butter and Speight's beer. The Speight's played a critical part in staying hydrated on this clear, sunny day.

Vinoo and Travis got us off to a good start before Doc was caught for 27 runs. Their opening stand of 59 seemed to settle us down so that Munna and I could focus on pushing the rate along. Ram and Gary came through with several timely boundaries and between them made 39 runs from 32 deliveries. Not out batsmen included Travis on 37, Mark on 32, Munna on 31 and Gary on 23 runs. We made 212 runs from 39 overs for the loss of nine wickets.



The Millbrook clubhouse with lots of cold Speight's

Another gorgeous day in Otago

Russel and his son-in-law put on a wonderful feast. The meats were tender, the salads and steamed veggies were great including pumpkin and Kumura (native sweet potato). The food nourished us while we were refreshed by the massive amounts of alcohol. Russel provided two wheel barrows of wine and beer plus a bottle of rum.



The guests are enjoying the Hangi

Russel receiving Panhandler Pete

Russel was awarded Panhandler Pete for his sharp keeping on the day. After a long day of excitement most of us were asleep by midnight. Ram had a huge night at Russel's, enjoying perhaps slightly too many of the beverages. He tripped and fell over on to some debris and bruised not only his hip but perhaps his ego as well.



Mark and the Millbrook Captain Simon Fraser



Gathering around the fire to keep warm

#### Tuesday 16 March

I woke up with a nasty reminder of why I should not drink two bottles of wine followed by numerous strong rum and cokes. Nothing a hot shower, greasy breakfast and aspirin can't fix though. As we are about to walk the town the power goes off in the entire area. We decide the best thing to do is drive out of the town and see some nature. We drive up to the ski fields of Coronet Peak and take in the breathtaking views. Travis decides that it would be clever to roll a large truck tire down the hill which rolls several hundred meters down on to the mountain roadway.



How to amuse a Tasmanian, give him an old tire



Ricky and an old snowmaking machine

On the way back to Queenstown, we visit the Shotover River Gorge to watch the jet boats and take some videos. Once back in town, our lunch is Turkish kebabs served by some Muslim ladies who definitely needed to be brushed up on customer service. Then again, how happy would you possibly be if your clitoris were cut out? The afternoon was spent relaxing at the hotel, preparing for our evening 20/20 match with the Pelicans.

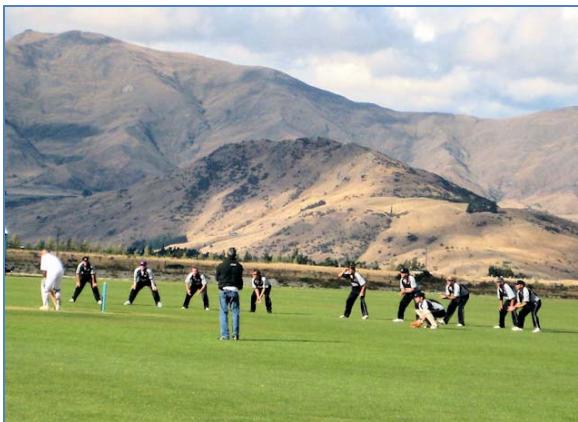


Nevin, Suzanne and Stevo enjoying the ride



The Shotover Jet Boat in action

We collect Robert and Ginny from the airport prior to heading to the QCC for our 20/20 match. The ground at the QCC is great with a smooth outfield and a green, turf wicket. The weather is nice with a slight chill in the air and The Remarkables (mountains outside Queenstown) provide a beautiful backdrop.



The Pelicans employ the nine slips for Vinoo



Russel, Gary and Trevor at the QCC

The Pelicans seem like a friendly bunch of guys and they have several unusual traditions involving match play. For instance, their opening bowler is provided with nine slips until a run is scored from the bat. Any Pelican who takes a wicket or a catch has to chug a beer immediately before play continues. These guys are talented cricketers with a great sense of sportsmanship and fun.

We won the toss and elected to bat first. Being our first turf wicket on tour, for most of us it presented a challenge to get used to the lack of pace in the surface. Travis played a sparkling innings of 38 however no one else seemed to get established and besides Travis the top scorers included Munna (19), Ricky (16) and Stevo (16) as we went on to make 123 runs in our 20 overs, not a bad effort all things being considered.



The Fields enjoying the Queenstown CC



Vino rip into the underbelly of the Pelicans

Troy a very economical opening three overs for only eight runs while the rest of us could not quite get our length right and subsequently gave up around seven to eight runs per over. Ricky topped the bowling figures with two wickets for sixteen runs from two overs with Mark and Nevin taking one each, and Russel and Vino taking one catch each. Unfortunately, experience on the turf wicket allowed the Pelicans to knock off the winning runs in the 18<sup>th</sup> over. The leader of the Pelicans is a guy named Bradley and he is quite the character. He loves his cricket and having a good time. The after-match ceremonies, known as "Operation Drop the Hammer", happen at the Speight's Ale House.



Munna and Mark react to a Pelican shot



Awards and rewards of a hard day of cricket

The Pelicans have a unique fine system whereby players are fined for both mistakes and good performances. The idea is to build up a large sum of money for the bar. Many beers and laughs later we are off to sleep around midnight.



Bradley and Operation Drop the Hammer



The ales are going down nicely

## **Wednesday 17 March (St. Patrick's Day)**

After a light breakfast, we meet up at 9:30 am for our long drive to Wanaka. Along the way, our drive through the mountains and rolling hills of Otago, we stop at the Cardrona Hotel which is a lovely hotel in the middle of nowhere.



The group gathers at a mountain lookout



Stevo leads the boys into the Cardrona Hotel



After a coffee, we are ready to roll!



Lake Wanaka and snow-capped mountains

Most everyone takes the opportunity to have a cigarette, a takeaway coffee and a bathroom run. Uday however decides to order a cup of coffee and a slice of pie (not sure what time schedule he is operating on?). Wanaka is a lovely little town on a lake and provides another opportunity for us to stretch our legs briefly before we complete our drive to the town of Luggate.

The ground at Luggate is nestled along a creek and a camping ground. The artificial wicket looks nice and the outfield is flat and green. The cricket club has all the amenities here including a full clubhouse and a practice net. While it is pleasant in the sunshine, in the shade it is a bit chilly.



Travis and Vinoo opened at Wanaka



Munna retiring at Wanaka

We won the toss and elected to bat first. While Travis was unfortunate to get caught early, Vinoo was in good form and went on to play a steady innings. Munna joined Doc and was able to lift the run rate dramatically with several boundaries including two big sixes. Ram played a solid innings that allowed others around him to play their natural game. We were 108 after 20 overs and we finished on 212 from our 40 overs for the loss of nine wickets. Ram top scored among the not out batsmen with 33 runs, followed by Vinoo on 30, Munna on 30 with Stevo making 24 runs.



HCC after posting 212 runs from 40 overs



Ricky and Ram with the Pink Shoes

In their run chase, the Antiques got off to a fantastic start with both openers being retired, however after that we got a couple of quick wickets and pulled the match back in our favor. They were 90 runs at drinks for the loss of four wickets. We settled down after the break and bowled a tidier line as they felt the pressure of maintaining a decent run rate. We ended up bowling Wanaka out for 154 runs from 37 overs. I led the way with five wickets for 19 runs from seven overs, supported by Travis who got two for eleven, Troy who got two for 28 and Munna who took two for 31 runs.

Due to his commitment in the field (maybe because of the pie?), Uday receives Panhandler Pete. After some poetry from our hosts, Russel says he knows a shortcut back to the highway which involves ignoring private property signage and using a small, "hidden," private bridge. Needless to say, we get turned around for a while, miss the hidden bridge initially and the vehicles have kicked up so much dust that presence has been alerted for miles around.



Both teams gather after the match



With Wanaka Captain, Mike O'Connor



A cleansing ale after a hard day on the cricket pitch



New Zealand deer farm...venison anyone?

Dinner at the Cardrona Hotel was quite nice with most of us trying either the local lamb or venison. During dinner we wondered aloud what Suzanne and Nevin's sister must be doing back in Queenstown? Probably they are absolutely hammered by now, grinding on the leg of some stranger? Nevin seems to stiffen and is quite anxious to depart as soon as possible. Upon arrival back in Queenstown at 9:00 pm we immediately notice that the entire town is buzzing with happy partying. When we return to our rooms, it is noted that Suzanne and Nevin's sister are nowhere to be found. Nevin seems concerned.



Troy seems shocked that I took five wickets



Russel and Pankaj at the Cardrona Hotel

After cleaning up, most of us venture out for a few drinks to take in the festivities. While it is immediately clear that many people have overindulged, the mood is fun. We end up at the Pig N Whistle Pub for several rum and cokes until 1:00 am. The wait staff has been drinking with the patrons and everything is raucous. The staff are shooting the guests and each other with the soda guns and throwing ice cubes everywhere. I am impressed that there is no police presence required in Queenstown because everyone seems focused on having a good time. If this were Waikiki, my sense is that we would see HPD on almost every street corner. However, in Queenstown, there is not a single policeman in sight.

### Thursday 18 March

The weather today is cold and it is drizzling. The wind has really picked up as well. We drive out to the Kawarau Bridge (43m) which is the original site of commercial bungee jumping. Vinoo goes first and jumps in stoic fashion, hardly making a noise. Nevin goes next, in his cricket gear including whites, leg pads, gloves and helmet, screaming "how's that!"



Vinoo just before jumping

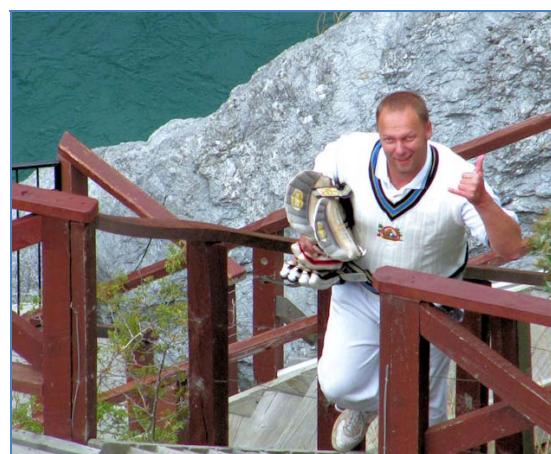


Nevin taking his batting stance on the ledge

Stevo jumps next in his cricket whites revealing his entire torso, it is difficult to determine where the whites stop and the body begins. With his arms out he looks like a white lobster. Suzanne goes last and lets out a tremendous scream as if she were being attacked by strange little leprechauns. Might be the after effects of a massive St. Patrick's Day?



Suzanne leaping towards the river below



Stevo relieved that the bungee cords held

Next stop is the historic village of Arrowtown where we take some time to enjoy meat pies, sausage rolls and ice cream plus take care of some shopping. After a quick stop back at The Thomas, we drive over to the QCC for our second 20/20 match with the Pelicans.



Meat pies and sausage rolls...yum!



Ginny and Robert in the historic Arrowtown



Ice Cream for being good boys



All smiles before the second Pelican match

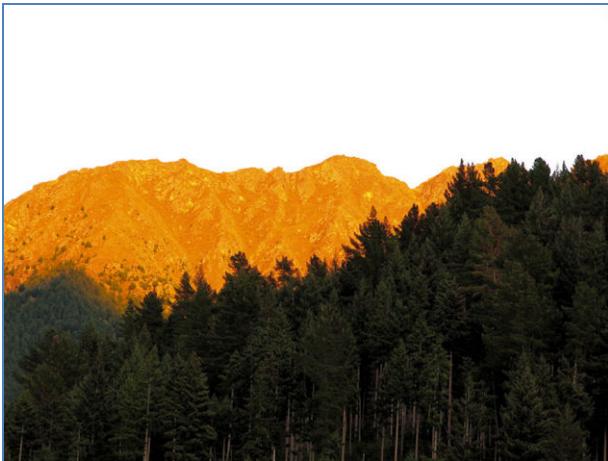
We won the toss again and Pankaj elected to put the Pelicans into bat so that we could see how the wicket would play and know the target required for victory. What followed was a brilliant session of bowling and sharp fielding and we were able to restrict the Pelicans to 97 runs from their 20 overs. We held six catches with Stevo topping the bowling figures with two wickets from three overs for sixteen runs, with mark taking two for 24 runs and Ricky, Munna, Troy and Nevin each picking up one wicket.

Unfortunately, besides Vinoo, our batting was not up to scratch again including ducks by Travis, Munna and Gary. Doc got out for 26 runs and no one else seemed compelled to stay until the end. Stevo made 15, Pankaj 15, Mark 13 and Ricky 10. Needing twenty runs from the final three overs, we came up short with a total of 92 runs. A great victory for the Pelicans, and a heart wrenching defeat for the HCC. I feel absolutely gutted and am in no mood to socialize.

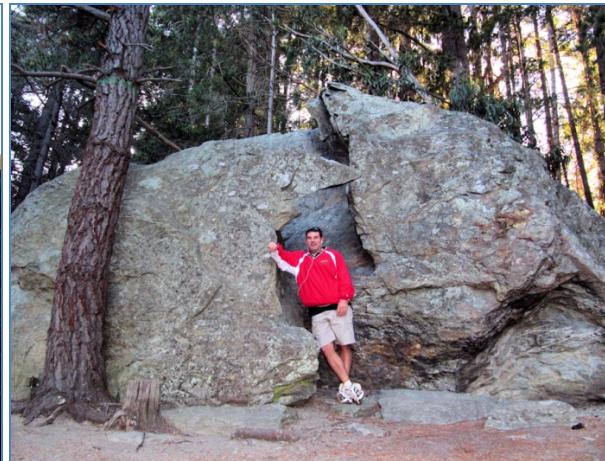
Ricky fielded well and was awarded with Panhandler Pete. We go back to the local pub, the Frankston Ale House for a few quiet beers. Travis, Ricky and I had dinner in a small bistro called VKnow, in the Queenstown suburbs. After a day filled with highs and lows, we are asleep by midnight.

## Friday 19 March

I woke up and decide to walk the town this morning. After sitting by the lake and enjoying a great breakfast sandwich and flat white coffee from Good Food I walk into the Queenstown Gardens. The morning is cool and crisp but the walk through the Queenstown Gardens is lovely. There are many fantastic viewpoints of Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu from the park plus several fountains, works of art, a tennis club and a lawn bowls club.



Sunrise over the mountains



Enjoying the Queenstown Gardens

The drive to Clyde was pleasant and the day begins to warm up nicely. The match versus the Central Otago Wanderers (COWS) will be played at another mixed use, camping and sporting facility.



HCC prior to the match with the COWS at Clyde



The COWS were throwing the willow around

The COWS won the toss and elected to bat first on the green, turf wicket. Vishan and Nevin took the new ball and pinned them down for 24 runs from the first ten overs. Ram and Gary followed the openers with a spell as well. The COWS scored 100 runs from the second session but it was only enough for 173 from their 40 overs. We used twelve bowlers in our attack and Munna top the performers with two wickets for eleven runs from five overs supported ably by Travis with one wicket from five overs for fourteen runs, Stevo with one wicket from 6 overs for twelve runs and Nevin with one wicket for four runs from four overs. Our bowlers combined for six maidens.



Vishan demonstrates how to bowl to your field



Nevin zings a quick delivery at a COW



Rambo takes a COW to task



Uday dazzles a COW with his flight

Our batsmen seemed to have been gaining in confidence when it comes to batting on turf. Ricky and Travis opened the batting and set about building a solid platform. Both were retired on 35 runs. Stevo picked up where they left off, retiring on 35 as well. Munna and Russel formed a winning partnership, making 30 not out and 20 not out respectively. We knocked off the winning run with ten overs to spare for the loss of just two wickets. A comprehensive victory.

The early evening drive back to Queenstown is very relaxing. Along the way, a few of the boys provide aid to a lost German tourist. Munna is eager to provide a personal touch. After a long day we enjoy a curry dinner at Bombay and then a few drinks at Pog Mahones. We have an early start tomorrow so in bed by midnight.



I try my hand at pole dancing



Munna and tourist are impressed by what Russel is showing

### Saturday 20 March

After another enjoyable breakfast at Good Food, it is time to say goodbye to Queenstown and fly over to Christchurch. The flight to Christchurch was short and uneventful. Unfortunately the weather was quite overcast so we could not see much of the famous mountains of the South Island from the airplane. After securing our next pair of rental vans we drive to our hotel. The Riccarton Village Inn is a nice step up from our previous accommodation. Riccarton is a quiet neighborhood with many restaurants and shops. We drive into downtown Christchurch to look for cricket gear and have a bite to eat. Most of us find some cricket gear like shoes and other protective equipment in one of three shops that we visit. Dinner is being hosted by Nevin's father at his residence near the hotel.



Hold beer and insert hand in pocket please



The Garden Fairies

George, Nevin's father puts on a fabulous spread including chicken, lamb and beef all cooked on a spit. Another highlight is meeting Nevin's sisters, all four of them. They seem to float about the home so we name them the "Garden Fairies." Also joining us are Travis' parents and Robert's sister and her friends. After a copious amount of beer and wine, it is time to explore the nightlife of Christchurch.



A time to enjoy family and friends



Strategy session in full swing

After enjoying a few bars we end up at Calendar Girls for our version of “Operation Drop the Hammer.” While the overall feel of the CG club and the staff has a distinct flavor of Russian Mafia, the dancers provide an effective distraction. Jasmine and her colleagues provide the sort of flirty yet sophisticated spectacle that the HCC has grown accustom to over the years. Back at the Riccarton Village Inn at 1:00 am.

### Sunday 21 March

Found a nice café in the Riccarton area prior to our drive to the Valley of Peace. We make our way through several Christchurch neighborhoods before the scene turns more rural. After about thirty minutes, we find ourselves at the end of a narrow road, looking at a majestic scene. The cricket ground is flanked by paddocks of cows and alpacas.



One of the most unusual settings for cricket



The ground was at capacity

The Valley of Peace won the toss and put us into bat. The ground is quite unusual with forty meter boundary lines and two trees include the field of play. Given the quant surrounds, special ground rules exist regarding scoring. Fours are scored as twos and sixes are scored as fours. We will be playing fifty overs with no batting retirement. The wicket was a greasy and the ball held up more than the other turf wickets that we have encountered in NZ. Vinoo was the pick of the openers, scoring 30 runs. Munna followed with a quick 34 runs. While other struggled to adjust to the slowness of the wicket, Mark and Stevo built a vital partnership, 166 runs for the fifth wicket. Mark played a steady 57 runs but the star of the day was Stevo. He made a stunning 97 runs before being run out off the bowlers hand from the straight drive off Mark’s bat. Just three tantalizing runs short of having his name forever painted on to the Centurian’s Club in the VOP clubhouse. HCC amassed 259 runs from our 50 overs for the loss of ten wickets.



Vinoo works one away to leg side



Munna shares a laugh with the opposition

VOP started positively with their run chase with their Captain Phil Smith leading the way. He played a very bright innings of 52 runs before being run out by a quick piece of fielding by Stevo. With Phil back in the clubhouse, other batsmen got starts but never managed to push things along at the required run rate. We used nine bowlers in our attack and VOP were bowled out for 203 after 49 overs. Stevo secured his man of the match recognition by getting three wickets for 22 runs from eight overs. Robert took two wickets for 38 runs while Mark, Trevor and Pankaj took one wicket each.



Russel works on his forward defense



Nevin shares a moment with his father

For his efforts in the field and an excellent catch of P.J., Gary was awarded Panhandler Pete. Back at the Riccarton Village Inn we enjoy many beers and some wine on the large patio. Russel leads a small but determined group of players into Christchurch to enjoy a "Kiwi touch."



Stevo is poised to punch this one through covers



Despite missing a century, Stevo is in high spirits



What is better than one duck? Two ducks and a monkey



HCC at the Valley of Peace

#### Monday 22 March

The drive to Akaroa takes nearly two hours for our final tour match with the Goat Herders. The day is sunny and the views are spectacular, a mixture of rolling hills and coastline. We arrive in Akaroa, a quiet but picturesque town on a bay. I decide to keep with the tradition of dipping into the local water while on tour. I jump off a pier near the cricket ground prior to the game. The water is cold and provides an excellent wake-up call for me prior to the match.



Can you spot the white whale?



HCC in action at Akaroa

Our final match on tour with the Goat Herders at the town's sporting ground in Akaroa. Our hosts won the toss and elected to bat first. These guys may be sheep farmers, but can they ever bat. What they lack in technique they more than make up for with strength. They batted all the way down their line-up and amassed 268 runs from their forty overs. Troy topped the bowling figures with two wickets for 25 runs from five overs. Pankaj, Ram, Travis and Vishan took one wicket each and we held four catches.



Robert works one away through gully



Ram pulls one away for a boundary

The conditions were similar to those in Honolulu, a hard artificial wicket and a relatively fast outfield so we felt confident that we could attack their bowling as required. We got off to a good start, losing Travis early was a definite blow but we kept pressing forward. While we did our best to keep up with the scoring before drinks, we lost our way after drinks as our run rate slowed to three runs an over for the better part of eight overs.

Some of the veteran players accelerated matters after over thirty and by the time the retired batsmen had recycled through the order, we required 62 runs from four overs. We threw everything we had at their bowling and when the dust settled, we had made 253 runs from our forty overs, sixteen short of our target. Mark topped the run makers on the day with 62 runs followed by Vinoo with 44 runs, Pankaj with 37 runs, Robert with 36 runs, Ram with 30 runs and Russel with 17 runs.



Vishan glances one through midwicket



The Keebler Elf is in a Forest of Goat Herders

For smashing the stumps, I am given the opportunity to make amends by kissing the stuffed goat head. Without hesitation, I put a huge, open mouth kiss on my new BFF. I am also awarded Panhandler Pete for my sharp fielding. The post match festivities put on by the Goat Herders were simple but delicious. Cold beer, wine, grilled beef patties, sausages and buttered bread. Meat and booze, I love it!



Ram and Nev enjoying some ice cold Speight's



Our touring party with Goat Herder family and friends

We enjoy a quiet night at the Riccarton Village Inn, spent having a few beers while packing our bags. Since we have to be up particularly early, I head off to sleep just after midnight.

### Tuesday 23 March

Our 4:00 am wake-up call has us on the road early to the airport. Once checked in we are able to enjoy a coffee while watching IPL action on the television at the gate. The flight to Auckland provides one final opportunity to see New Zealand from the air. Once in Auckland, we get one final chance to shop and savor one final, flat white coffee.

The flight home was pleasant and quite subdued. The group appears fatigued but happy. Discussions on the final day of this tour seem to come back to one point in particular; when can we return? The Honolulu Cricket Club's first cricket tour outside of the Americas has gone especially well, on and off the field. My personal favorites include partaking in the Hangi at Russel's house, The Remarkables mountain range, filming the bungee jumping, Queenstown's nightlife, playing at the Valley of Peace, and of course hanging out with the HCC players.

A few things stand up in my mind from this successful tour. First, make sure to get the balance between matches and sightseeing time correct. We may have played too much cricket, having picked up two additional matches after arriving. Schedule a few more team building exercises and finally but most importantly, do not forget to have fun. Do not take ourselves too seriously; enjoy the cricket and each other. Looking forward to returning down under in 2012!



Troy with his new friend. Where is the curry goat?



At the Queenstown Cricket Club



At the Valley of Peace



Dropping the hammer!



Taking in the scenery



Nap time in the deck chairs



The end of a fantastic day of cricket



Cocktail anyone?



The end of a great tour



Beautiful Canterbury



Mark demonstrating his superior racing talents. That is Ricky being schooled.

## 2010 Tour of New Zealand Fines

Vinoo	Improper club travel attire
Munna	Fined for having a long, suspicious name
Robert	For bringing his wife on a cricket tour
Nevin	For bringing his wife on a cricket tour
Troy	Last to complete the Air New Zealand check-in process
Troy	Owning and bringing a "Snuggie"
Vishan	Entering the Women's bathroom in Auckland
Nevin	Complaining about the accommodation at the Thomas
Russel	Wearing his cricket whites all day and night and not playing cricket
Uday	Wearing sweat pants out to dinner in Queenstown
Ram	Last one to the van on match day
Ram	Dropped catch versus Millbrook CC
Travis	Dropped catch versus Millbrook CC
Munna	Dropped catch versus Millbrook CC
Troy	Dropped catch versus Millbrook CC
Russel	Dropped catch versus Millbrook CC
Pankaj	Involved in a run out versus Millbrook
Mark	Involved in a run out versus Millbrook
Uday	Golden Duck in Millbrook match
Nevin	Duck in Millbrook match
Travis	Rolling tire down mountainside with no care for human life
Stevo	Leaving hotel room key at Shotover Jet Boat reservation desk
Nevin	Poor duck management
Uday	Poor duck management
Vishan	Duck versus Pelicans
Vishan	Involved in a run out versus Pelicans

Stevo	Involved in a run out versus Pelicans
Travis	Dropped catch versus Pelicans
Munna	Dropped catch versus Pelicans
Mark	Language unbecoming of a HCC tourist (1 God Damn It and 4 Fucks)
Mark	Failing to have pink shoes trophy ready for after-match ceremony
Ricky	Involved in a run out versus Ornaments
Ram	Involved in a run out versus Ornaments
Trevor	Involved in a run out versus Ornaments
Ram	Involved in a run out versus Ornaments (again)
Stevo	Involved in a run out versus Ornaments
Robert	Involved in a run out versus Ornaments
Russel	Dropped catch versus Ornaments
Mark	Abusive Language (Fuck off)
Russel	Getting team lost while using a “shortcut” to dinner
Munna	Dropped catch versus Pelicans
Troy	Dropped catch versus Pelicans
Travis	Duck versus Pelicans
Munna	Golden duck versus Pelicans
Gary	Duck versus Pelicans
Gary	Involved in a run out versus Pelicans
Pankaj	Involved in a run out versus Pelicans
Troy	Involved in a run out versus Pelicans
Pankaj	Involved in a run out versus Pelicans (again)
Mark	Getting the name of our waitress (Anya)
Uday	Dropped catch versus the COWs
Vishan	Duck versus the COWs
Ram	Involved in a run out versus COWs
Munna	Involved in a run out versus COWs

Travis	Poor monkey management
Pankaj	Duck versus Valley of Peace
Gary	Golden duck versus Valley of Peace
Mark	Involved in a run out versus Valley of Peace
Stevo	Involved in a run out versus Valley of Peace (on 97)
Mark	Dropped catch versus Valley of Peace
Vishan	Dropped catch versus Valley of Peace
Trevor	Dropped catch versus Valley of Peace
Russel	Dropped catch versus Goat Herders
Uday	Duck versus Goat Herders
Nevin	Duck versus Goat Herders
Gary	Duck versus Goat Herders
Troy	Duck versus Goat Herders
Mark	Involved in a run out versus Goat Herders
Russel	Involved in a run out versus Goat Herders
Mark	Disrupting the stumps versus Goat Herders

**Total Fine Count:** 70 fines (new tour record)

**Most Individual Fines:** Mark (9), Munna (6), Russel (6), Troy (6), Nevin (5), Ram (5), Travis (5), Uday (5), Vishan (5), Gary (4), Pankaj (4), Stevo (4), Robert (2), Trevor (2), Ricky (1) and Vinoo (1).



All systems are go for launch



Rocking it Gora-style

## **2010 Tour of New Zealand Match Results**

### **Honolulu Cricket Club defeated the Millbrook Cricket Club**

15 March 2010		Arrowtown, Otago
<b>Millbrook CC</b>	<b>211</b>	Patterson 34*, Fraser 31*, Berwick 2-11, Dookhu 2-14, Pratt 2-19
<b>Honolulu CC</b>	<b>215</b>	Wilkinson 37*, Berwick 32*, Hussain 31*, Peton 23*, Fraser 3-47, Cushen 2-21

### **Honolulu Cricket Club was defeated by the Central Queenstown Pelicans**

16 March		Queenstown Cricket Club, Otago
<b>Honolulu CC</b>	<b>123</b>	Wilkinson 38, Hussain 19, Pratt 16, Pike 16, Fraser 2-11
<b>Pelicans</b>	<b>124</b>	Williamson 45*, Beggett 26, Patterson 18, Pike 2-16

### **Honolulu Cricket Club defeated the Wanaka Ornaments XI**

17 March		Luggate CC, Wanaka, Otago
<b>Honolulu CC</b>	<b>212</b>	Ramsarran 33*, Ganapathy 30*, Hussain 30*, Pratt 24, O'Connor 2-50
<b>Ornaments XI</b>	<b>154</b>	Henry 32, Curtis 30*, Berwick 5-19, Wilkinson 2-11, Gomes 2-28

### **Honolulu Cricket Club was defeated by the Central Queenstown Pelicans**

18 March		Queenstown Cricket Club, Otago
<b>Pelicans</b>	<b>97</b>	Blair 34, Ralph 21, Pratt 2-16, Berwick 2-24
<b>Honolulu CC</b>	<b>92</b>	Ganapathy 26, Bhanot 15, Pratt 15, Berwick 13, Windle 2-11, Dzin 2-17

### **Honolulu Cricket Club defeated the Wanaka Ornaments XI**

19 March		Clyde, Otago
<b>COWS</b>	<b>173</b>	Gibson 36*, May 34*, Clark 24, Hussain 2-11
<b>Honolulu CC</b>	<b>174</b>	Wilkinson 35*, Pike 35*, Pratt 35*, Hussain 30*, Hanson 1-43

### **Honolulu Cricket Club defeated the Valley of Peace CC**

21 March		Valley of Peace, Canterbury
<b>Honolulu CC</b>	<b>259</b>	Pratt 97, Berwick 57, Hussain 34, Ganapathy 30, Croft 4-26, Dolden 2-20
<b>Valley of Peace CC</b>	<b>203</b>	Smith 52, Henson 41, Pratt 3-22, Cowie 2-38, Berwick 1-13

### **Honolulu Cricket Club was defeated by the Goat Herders XI**

22 March		Akaroa, Canterbury
<b>Goat Herders XI</b>	<b>268</b>	Marshall 36*, Bulman 35*, Fraser 31*, Gomes 2-25
<b>Honolulu CC</b>	<b>253</b>	Berwick 62*, Ganapathy 44, Bhanot 37*, Cowie 36*, Wiseman 4-21

## 2010 Tour of New Zealand Statistics

### Honolulu Cricket Club

2010 Tour of Otago and Canterbury

Batting	Matches	Innings	Not Out	Runs	4's	6's	Avg	Balls	S/R
Bishnu Ramsarran	4	4	1	84	10	0	28.00	120	70.00%
Mark Berwick	6	6	2	178	22	8	44.50	192	92.71%
Munna Hussain	6	6	3	144	17	3	48.00	115	125.22%
Vishan Dookhu	5	5	1	15	1	0	3.75	25	60.00%
Pankaj Bhanot	6	6	1	73	5	2	14.60	64	114.06%
Steve Pratt	6	6	1	193	37	8	38.60	156	123.72%
Gary Peton	6	5	1	34	5	0	8.50	34	100.00%
Russel Freeman	6	6	1	60	6	0	12.00	85	70.59%
Trevor Page	4	3	1	11	1	0	5.50	14	78.57%
Troy Gomes	5	5	2	13	2	0	4.33	12	108.33%
Travis Wilkinson	6	6	2	132	15	3	33.00	109	121.10%
Vinoo Ganapathy	6	6	1	160	18	0	32.00	203	78.82%
Rick Pike	5	5	1	78	9	0	19.50	107	72.90%
Robert Cowie	4	3	1	53	4	0	26.50	79	67.09%
Nevin Field	6	3	0	2	0	0	0.67	10	20.00%
Uday Kari	4	3	0	1	0	0	0.33	8	12.50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>1231</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20.86</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>92.35%</b>

### Honolulu Cricket Club

2010 Tour of Otago and Canterbury

Bowling & Fielding	Matches	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Econ	S/R	Catches	Stump	Drops	R-Out	Ducks
Bishnu Ramsarran	4	10	0	60	1	6.00	60.00	1		1	3	
Mark Berwick	6	34	5	133	11	3.91	12.09	6		1	3	
Munna Hussain	6	26	2	110	5	4.23	22.00		3	1	1	1
Vishan Dookhu	5	21	3	103	3	4.90	34.33		1	1	2	
Pankaj Bhanot	6	9	0	62	2	6.89	31.00	3			3	1
Steve Pratt	6	34	4	136	9	4.00	15.11	1			3	
Gary Peton	6	7	0	46	0	6.57		2		1	3	
Russel Freeman	6							8	3	3	1	
Trevor Page	4	4	0	19	1	4.75	19.00			1	1	
Troy Gomes	5	24	1	112	5	4.67	22.40			2	1	1
Travis Wilkinson	6	22	1	113	4	5.14	28.25	2		1		1
Vinoo Ganapathy	6							2				
Rick Pike	5	19	1	96	3	5.05	32.00	2			1	
Robert Cowie	4	6	0	46	2	7.67	23.00	1			1	
Nevin Field	6	25	2	120	4	4.80	30.00				2	
Uday Kari	4	2	0	12	0	6.00		2		1		2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>1168</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>4.81</b>	<b>23.36</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>