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THE GROWL

THE OFFICIAL NIGHTCLIFF CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER
– APRIL 2007



YEP, IT'S OUT!

EARLY TESTIMONIALS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

“Men will cross searing deserts on camels bearing luxurious gifts to reserve a copy of this exquisitely scripted masterpiece.” Australian Cricket Board

“I retired to make time to read this.” Ian Thorpe

“The most entertaining thing I’ve read that I haven’t had to sign.” David Hicks

“The most fun you’ll have with my clothes on.” Paris Hilton

“Yeah nah. Yeah.” Anthony Koutafides

“Yeah yeah!” Greg Matthews

“A must-read for all Australians...and for anyone else even thinking about applying for Australian citizenship.” John Howard

“Can somebody bring me some water?” Sean Kenny



THE PREZ SAYS...

Welcome and welcome back to everybody at the Nightcliff Cricket Club for the 2007 Season.

Well we are as excited as a pyromaniac on cracker night about Nightcliff's season ahead and the A-Grade in particular hopes to be able to go one better in 2007 after making the Grand Final in 2006.

As well as retaining a number of developing players from last year, Nightcliff also has had an injection of new talent in 2007 including one-time World Cup hopeful **Mark Hatton** fresh from winning Player of the Competition in the ACTCA competition, interstate representative players **Tom Scollay** and **Matt Birrell** from WA and a well-credentialed bowler from New Zealand, **Hayden Martin**, who has played representative cricket in NZ. **Ryan James** also returns from WA to add a little more glamour around the Club.

Congratulations to each of **Wayne Partridge**, **Alex Tate** and **John Fryer**, who have been appointed B-Grade, C-Grade and D-Grade captains respectively for 2007. Each of them brings a high level of skill and professionalism to their role. I have been reappointed A-Grade skipper for the season.

Other important early developments in 2007 include the reintroduction of the Nightcliff Under 17s side, which has already attracted great numbers and enthusiasm in the premier Junior grade, the continued improvement in our Junior ranks generally (with over 100 juniors across the board) and the building of a new Club Shed near the cricket nets to answer all the Club's storage questions and more.

A huge thanks to **Ben Mitchell** for the redesigned website. Our website is the most envied site in NT Cricket, featuring sections such as weekly polls, player forums and yearly stats dating back to 2004. Log on and check it out, it is gold.

Good luck to all Grades in round one and beyond for 2007, I look forward to seeing you all around the Club. Remember, if you are going to do it at all, then do it like a Tiger!

Brad Hatton
NCC President

UPCOMING DRAW & DATES – APRIL/MAY 2007

A GRADE:

Saturday, 14 April 2007: vs **PINTS OF BEER** at NIGHTCLIFF
 Saturday, 21 April 2007: **BYE**
 Saturday, 28 April 2007: vs **PALMERSTON** at (I GOT THE) POWER PARK

B GRADE:

Saturday, 14 April 2007: vs **PINTS OF BEER** at MARARRA NO.2
 Saturday, 21 April 2007: vs **UNIVERSITY** at UNIVERSITY
 Saturday, 28 April 2007: vs **PALMERSTON** at NIGHTCLIFF

C GRADE:

Saturday, 14 April 2007: **BYE**
 Saturday, 21 April 2007: vs **PALMERSTON** at NIGHTCLIFF
 Saturday, 28 April 2007: vs **SOUTHERN DISTTS** at HOWARD (STERN) PK

D GRADE:

Sunday, 15 April 2007: vs **JABIRU** at NIGHTCLIFF
 Sunday, 22 April 2007: vs **UNIVERSITY** at UNIVERSITY
 Sunday, 29 April 2007: vs **TRACY VILLAGE AQUA @ N/CLIFF**



1. **Sat/Sun 14 & 15 April 2007** – Round One of NTCA Season.
2. **Fri 4 May 2007** – **MILO CLINIC** from **5.30pm – 6.30pm**. The MILO Clinic will run **each Friday thereafter** (except during School holidays) at the same time at Nightcliff Oval. All welcome, kiosk and bar (for parents) facilities open.
3. **Sat 19 May 2007** from about **7.00pm** – Social Event – **MAGICAL MYSTERY BUS TOUR!!** Speak to Sean Kenny/Mike Pearson to get aboard!

PLAYER PROFILE

MARK HATTON

One of Nightcliff cricket's real success stories, Mark has returned to the fold for 2007 after spending some time living and playing cricket in Canberra. His side Western Districts made the ACTCA Grand Final after the local media had picked them to finish stone motherless last. Mark attributes this to a solid pre-season, in which the players had the chance to bond and develop as a side and enter the season proper with some momentum. Oh, and he took 44 wickets for the season at just over 9 runs apiece.

Date of birth?	24 January 1974
First cricketing memory?	Hitting brother Brad across the head whilst batting in the back yard. He required 6 stitches to his head. Brad was about 3 years old, fielding at (very) silly mid-on. Brad waited until 2003 to get his own back when playing for the NTIS against the Tigers in a semi-final. He destroyed us taking 7-for including me. I was captain.
First Game for Nightcliff?	1983. Under 12's under brother Jason's captaincy. I batted at #11 but did not get a bat. Took 2 catches.
Favorite food?	I'd say spaghetti bolognaise, with a side of chips & gravy.
Favorite drink?	You can't beat a good old cold Carlton Draught.
Megan Gale or Jennifer Hawkins?	Jennifer Hawkins. She's as hot as a BMW in Karama.
Most admired sportsperson?	Steve Waugh. Absolute hero.
Other hobbies & interests?	My son Brendon and spending time with my family, keenly following the property market, I maintain an interest in the political environment as well as a few other sports, like Aussie Rules and thugby.
Any tips for any budding young Tiger aspiring to "be like Mark"?	Hard work and application. Play straight, train like you play, therefore train straight as well. Stay off the drugs. Back yourself and/or try a new tactic or tack in your career and try to always get the best out of yourself.

Favorite Spice Girl?	I'm a Posh man. She likes her appearance and I like it too.
Favorite Hatton?	Can I say me? Nah I'd say Brendon (my son), my Mum second with me flashing home for third.
Five people I'd invite to a dinner or cocktail party?	Bill Clinton, Jennifer Hawkins (see above), Jennifer Aniston, Posh Spice gets a guernsey (if she can't find anything else to wear) and Shane Warne. Should be some party!
Best batsman I've dismissed	Brian Lara in an invitation game in Alice Springs. He'd just touched up our opening bowlers like a child at Neverland and I was rushed on by the skipper (Gilly) in about the 12 th over. I bowled him with my 3 rd or 4 th ball. Happy with that.
Worst bowler who has ever dismissed me.	Alex Krepapas in the nets a few weeks ago. Not so happy with that. But my family is now talking to me again, which is good.
Complete this sentence..."I couldn't live without..."	...Cricket!

2007 FEES

A reminder that all Nightcliff cricket senior fees paid **before 1 May 2007** attract a discount of 12.5%. Fees are **\$210 if paid before this date** and fees are \$240 if paid after this date. Prompt payment of fees by the players is crucial to maintain and develop the Nightcliff Cricket Club and its facilities. Paying early is about equivalent to a free slab of beer.

There will now be **EFTPOS** facilities available at training to pay fees, including by credit (\$2 fee for credit transactions), so there are no excuses not to pay your dues. Part-Payments arrangements may be able to be made, but it is up to you to approach the Club, via the Treasurer Wayne Partridge or any Committee member to make arrangements.

“THEY SAID IT” - QUOTABLE QUOTES

"If toast always lands butter-side down, and cats always land on their feet, what happens if you strap toast on the back of a cat & drop it?"

Steven Wright providing some food for thought for cat-people and dog-people alike.

“Cometh the Hour, Cometh the Man.”

Wayne Saunderson recycling an oldie but a goodie last year whilst whittling wood on his porch reading of **Josh Smith**'s super 2006 finals series with the bat.

“Er, is that legal?”

The **Mayor of Darwin**, after first seeing the new state-of-the-art 117-storey revolving Casino & 13-star deluxe Hotel recently built out at Tracy Village.

Apparently there are only limited rooms available on the 2nd floor for non-TV residents, who will also have to all share one bathroom & an iron.

“You're gorgeous!”

Ryan James re-acquainting himself...with himself walking past a reflective surface on his way to training.

“I drink therefore I Am.”

Anon. Perhaps Colin Ralph, but it was quite dark...

ON THE REX HUNT

Australia to win the WC = abt. \$2.00 or the Aus-NZ quinella = \$3.20

Put down that Sony Playstation and go ask the folks for an advance on the next two months' pocket money kids and get on board **Australia** to win cricket's World Cup. It all sounds so simple when put like that. Whilst the boys topped \$3.00 after coughing up the Trevor Chappell/Ray Hadley Cup, this is just money on tap but will not remain there for ever. They are just better than the other kids. Like a frozen egg, they will not be beaten.

Or alternatively go the ANZAC double with the Wizards of Oz and our NZ brothers for the Cup quinella at about \$3.20. Both are traveling sweetly and the Boston stranglers from South Africa are starting to tighten up as we near the pointy end of the competition. Those Kiwis are as fired up as a bonfire in an oil refinery and should account for the fiery Lankans in the other expected semi-final match up.

ODD SOCKS

COMPETITION – “WHERE’S HUMESY”?

NCC are having a competition for anyone in the Darwin & Districts region (okay, anyone north of Elliot is included) who can provide credible proof of life of **Brett Hume**. Hume is the mystery man who flew from Melbourne to Darwin this January with new father of the year contender and prospective NCC Senior Manager **Alex Krepapas**. We are looking for photographic evidence or production of the man himself, if only for the purposes of reuniting him with Alex. No Ralph Fiennes jokes here please.

THE NIGHTCLIFF SHOPPING CENTRE WORD OF THE WEEK:

Sagacious: Of keen penetration and judgment; wise.

I would like all Tigers to attempt to use this word in a sentence once this month, be it at training or at the game or just loitering with intent around the Sports Club. An example of its use might be, “*Sending them in first on that seaming wicket was a sagacious ploy.*”

TRIVIA.

Did you know that the **shortest War** recorded in history only took **45 minutes**, in August 1896 between Zanzibar and England?

Shorter than most television shows. After Sultan Hamad bin Thuwaini (who had been cooperating with British colonial administration) died, his nephew Khalid bin Bargash assumed power in what amounted to a *coup d’etat*. Britain asked him to abdicate, he said “nup” assembled about 2,800 boys and brought in a ship into the harbour. Britain gave an ultimatum, brought 5 warships into the Harbour in front of the Sultan’s palace and opened fire from 9am on 27 August 1896 giving them a lead shower for 45 minutes, whilst the Sultan bolted like Kiwi in the 1983 Melbourne Cup and sought asylum in the German consulate. Oh, and his boat was sunk. The Brits later sent a bill to the Zanzibar government for the shells they used in this attack. Nice.

PASSING THOUGHT.

Can you name any other country that so readily kills and devours the animals appearing on its own national Coat of Arms? Ah Australia, it is indeed the lucky country - lucky you are not a kangaroo that is!

JOKES

West Indian cricket. It's like getting totally wasted at your own party and falling head first into the punch bowl. Awful does not quite sum up just how Michael Jackson-"Bad" they have really been at their own World Cup.

Here's another one – Why did the Roman chicken cross the road?

She was afraid someone would Caesar!

How many surrealists does it take to change a light bulb?

Sea Horse.

RECIPE FOR THE TIGER ON THE GO – "VEGEMITE TOAST"

Ingredients 2-4 slices of bread, butter, vegemite.

Method Take bread out of the freezer if no fresh bread in the house. Microwave for 10 seconds to defrost giving you ample time to go convince your housemate or mother that *they* would really like some toast – then ask them to make you some whilst they are at it.

A DITTY

Twinkle Twinkle Aussie Stars,

I wonder just how good you are.

Up above the World so high

Off your bats the balls will fly,

Twinkle Twinkle Aussie stars,

So long as you stay out of bars!

SOME MORE DITTIES

CHILDREN'S SONG – “UNICORN” (CIRCA JAN 2006)

A horse walked into a bar one day and said,
“I can't believe the enormous length of my head.

I've got a swish-y tail,
And four hooves that never fail,
But I wish I was a Unicorn instead.”

Unicorn, Unicorn,
The most amazing animal never born.
Unicorn, Unicorn,
Sh*ts all over a camel or a fawn.

“I've got a swish-y tail,
And four hooves – *they've* never failed,
But I wish I was a Unicorn instead.
So I can have a horn upon my head!”

“OSAMA” (MARCH 2007)

Osama, Osama, tropical banana,
Why don't you come out and play?

Osama, Osama, spicy kabana,
You might survive till the next day.

Osama, Osama, polka-dot pyjamas,
Why don't you return my calls?

Osama, Osama, fine woolly llama,
Saddam's not really dead at all.
He lives in LA with Jerry Hall.

A GRATUITOUS PICTURE OF AN OTTER



THE END

WRONG WAY, TURN BACK

NO MORE. ALL GONE.