

## References from my 2017 tours to Sri Lanka:

Hi Iain,

(Iain Laxon – CEO – Auckland Cricket Association)

I am writing to you as a parent who attended the recent cricket trip to Sri Lanka organised by Amita Weerakoon.

We had already expressed our thanks to Amita for providing this incredible experience for our son Harrison not only to see his cricket grow but also to see him grow as an individual. So often people will take the time to complain but don't often have the time to stop and say thanks.

I wanted to make sure Auckland Cricket were also aware of our deepest gratitude for supporting this tour and to know the important part you have played in creating a lifetime memory for 11 young men and their families. I asked Amita to give me contact details for someone at Auckland Cricket to pass my thanks onto.

The tour taught the boys many things. Trying to list them all would be difficult but if I were to touch on a couple of things.

Before we even left Auckland, Amita talked to the boys at one of his sessions of what it meant to be part of a team and very simple but meaningful rules were set. I believe this was the foundation that set us up for a great tour. To see the boys and parents adopt this was central to the team's success in proudly representing ourselves and Auckland Cricket. We can only hope the boys will be able to take these learnings back not only to their Auckland Cricket teams but transfer these learnings to other sports and life in general. The comradery extended throughout the family members who attended the tour which is quite frankly a feat in itself given we were all strangers to start with and left as good bunch of friends, for this Amita must be commended.

The respect for Amita by the teams we played was also very evident. It was important for me to see not only that our team was benefiting from this incredible experience but so were the teams and families we played against. The boys played against very talented and incredibly respectful boys from Sri Lanka. I'm sure it will be some time before our boys will need to face spin bowlers of the calibre they faced on tour but have no doubt the added coaching clinic that was given for our spin bowlers will give them a little edge back here in Auckland!

It would be remiss of me to not cover off how well in general the tour was organised. At no time did we feel unsafe or have any concern for our accommodation, food/transport. In a word the tour was very professional. The biggest test would be to ask would I go again and the answer would be yes.

If you ever had doubt in endorsing another tour feel free to make contact and I will be more than happy to share more reasons why this is a good investment into building not only cricket but character for the next generation of Auckland representatives and hopefully future Black Caps.

Kind regards, Philip Gobbie - BCom CA

### **Insurance Design Group**

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Welcome home! We have just got back too – and we were healthy all the way through our busy schedule but now we are back Darroch is not well!!

Thanks so much for all your special care and attention to the details of our trip – was very special.

Asking Darroch what was special for him – his words: “a privilege playing the teams we did and in the places we went to, especially the Colombo Cricket Club because of its prestigious background. I cannot thank Amita enough for all the time he has put into this trip and my progress.” You rated up there with the fun of being with the boys!!!

Warm regards -Jennifer - *Jennifer George*

Hi Amita

On behalf of Nick and I, we would like to thank you sincerely for a fantastic trip. When we arrived back in Auckland, Bridget asked Nick if he enjoyed the trip and he said he ‘loved every minute of it’.

Your planning and attention to detail in ensuring everyone (including parents) had an enjoyable time was amazing, including your transparency and fairness in dealing with all the boys cricketing needs and aspirations. Not only was it a great cricketing experience for Nick, but also a great cultural experience for us both.

Many thanks once again.

Brian and Nick

Hi Amita,

Firstly a big thank you from myself and Liam in regards to the recent tour, he had an absolute blast, came home shattered and took 4 days to recover

I look forward to catching up with you

Regards

Greg Clarke

Good afternoon Amita

Welcome back, trust the rest of your trip was relaxful with you lovely family

Thank you once again for a fantastic trip, thoroughly enjoyed my time in your beautiful country.

All the best - Andrea