

- NZSL Cricket Tours to Sri Lanka - Goodwill, Cultural and Community Experiences on Tours



New Zealand-Sri Lanka (NZSL) Tours to Sri Lanka are organised by Amita Weerakoon, Director of Cricket (DOC) Takapuna District Cricket Club and DOC Rosmini College, Takapuna and Director of NZSL Community Cricket (Auckland, New Zealand)

Cricket gear and funds were donated by Amita Weerakoon to the Bopitiya School (from an underprivileged area) to upgrade their cricket facilities. Amita's gear and funding donations were acknowledged at a special ceremony that was organised by the Bopitiya School for Amita and his son Niko Weerakoon (currently a Turf Specialist at Eden Park). Niko contributed to this project to upgrade the Bopitiya School grounds by advising the school ground staff with the tips of better ground maintenance using his Turf Manager



Cricket gear and funds were donated through Amita and NZSL Cricket Management & Tours...



Acknowledgement:

A message from Kushil Kushil Gunasekera (from Foundation of Goodness – Sri Lanka)

Dear Amitha and the Auckland group,

Many thanks for the donated cricket gear. Most grateful Amitha and may you continue to flourish greatly with blessings in abundance.

When you give more than one expects, you get more than what you expect. Nicest wishes,

Kushil.

Kushil Gunasekera

Founder/Chief Trustee at Foundation of Goodness – Sri Lanka

*<https://unconditionalcompassion.org/>
The Foundation of Goodness aims to bridge the gap between urban and rural life in Sri Lanka, by fighting poverty through our unique rural development mode*



Donation of cricket gear and funds from NZSL Cricket groups - Wakatipu High School (Queenstown, NZ) and Selwyn College (Auckland), to the cricketers from the underprivileged areas in Sri Lanka.



More donations of gear and funds from NZSL Cricket members – Former New Zealand cricketer Matthew Hart (top left) on behalf of NZSL Cambridge District XI, , Wakatipu High School Captain (right) and NZSL North Harbour-Auckland U19 Captain Alex Waldron his mother Catherine Waldron (left bottom).



Donation of cricket gear and funds to purchase a cricket matting pitch from the Auckland University Cricket Club (photo on left, July 2024).

Photos on the right - fielding clinics for the juniors run by the Wakatipu High School 1st XI players at Foundation of Goodness cricket ground (April 2024).



Donations of more cricket gear and funds to cricketers from under privileged areas from NZSL Cricket members.



NZSL Cricket members supporting the Sea Turtle Conservation projects in Sri Lanka - These programs aims to rehabilitate disabled turtles and protect turtle eggs that have been stolen by local poachers. Participants will learn how to collect eggs, identify different kinds of turtles, how eggs hatch, how to treat turtles, how to send turtles back to the sea and so much more!. Photo on next page – release of baby sea turtles to the ocean at dusk at Hikkaduwa beach.





NZSL Cricket members supporting the Elephant orphanages in Sri Lanka that plays a crucial role in the conservation and protection of Sri Lanka's elephant population. By rehabilitating and releasing orphaned elephants, they contribute to the preservation of this magnificent species and its natural habitat.



NZSL Cricket members experiencing the unity of diverse cultures and religions of Sri Lanka –

Sri Lanka is a country with a diverse cultural and religious heritage. Buddhism is the main religion, but Christianity, Hinduism and Islam also have a significant influence and many followers in the country.





NZSL Cricket members experiencing the Sri Lankan Safaris -

Sri Lanka has some of the richest wildlife sanctuaries and national parks that offers the opportunity to its visitors to indulge in the most thrilling safari experiences. Sri Lanka safari is all about exploring the untamed side of life in the country. Dominated by the population of elephants, leopards, deer's, boars and flamingos, there wildlife in Sri Lanka will surprise at every turn during your safari.





NZSL Cricket members Interactions with local cricketers and building new friendships.



NZSL members experiencing the traditional festivals in Sri Lanka –

Visiting Sri Lanka during important festivals is one of the best ways to meet locals, learn about cultural traditions and customs, and have a good time. Due to the country's big Buddhist and Hindu populations, religious holidays make up a big part of annual celebrations and festivities. Photos on the left – members of the NZSL Cricket members participating in the Sri Lankan New Year celebrations in April 2024.



NZSL members experiencing UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Sri Lanka - There are 8 UNESCO World Heritage sites in Sri Lanka. These sites range from historic cities and sacred shrines to verdant woods and amazing cave complexes. These sites illustrate the unique blend of cultural legacy, spirituality, and stunning natural beauty of the country, known as the Pearl in the Indian Ocean.

Photos of the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy (top photos) and Dutch Fort in Galle (bottom photos).



NZSL Cricket groups experiencing other activities while on tour (photos in clockwise) – NZSL North Harbour-Auckland (NHA) Under 19 Girls at the Independence Square in Colombo (Oct 2023), The NZSL NHA U19 Boys at a Sri Lankan traditional wedding, the same group at a Tea Factory in Kandy (July 2024) and Westlake Boys cricketer Luke Hunter making friends with a tamed python by the Kandy Lake (July 2024).

