



VINTAGE SOFTBALL CARNIVAL

ROTORUA • NEW ZEALAND • MARCH 2007

The 1st ever World Vintage Softball Carnival held in Rotorua, New Zealand in March 2007, attracted teams from Australia, New Zealand, USA and Ireland. Individual players from England, Canada and the Netherlands were also part of the fun.

Teams who took part in the inaugural Vintage Softball Carnival were:

AUSTRALIA: Bets Vets; Perth Cats; Cruisers; Easy Riders (2 teams); Ejays x 2 (2 teams); Vicsens; Redbacks; Hard Knox; Lightning Strikes; Mt Isa Djimarra; Galaxy Masters; Hooters.

NEW ZEALAND: Public Missiles; North Harbour Manaia; Krushers-Albion; Te Atatu Red Roosters

USA: Florida Legends/Human Kinetics

IRELAND: Wild Rovers

100 Games A Year? No Problem

The Human Kinetics/Florida Legends Mens Slowpitch team led by Julie and Rainer Martens made the trip to New Zealand and proceeded to display their Slow Pitch skills during each day of the Carnival.



With massive hitting, shrewd pitching and great fielding skills the Human Kinetics team took on anyone who wanted to play them...and there were quite a few.

Fastpitch teams trying Slow Pitch for the first time, combined Slowpitch teams and the Slowpitch entries all enjoyed their opportunity to play against a US Champion Slowpitch outfit.

The Human Kinetics comprised players from the Florida Legends and Human Kinetics teams.

The Florida Legends are the undisputed world champions in the 65+ senior softball age group. The team's creden-

tials include:

- ❑ Ranked #1 in all national rankings by winning 6 of 7 national championships in 2006.
- ❑ Over the past 15 years the core members of the team have won over 55 national championships.
- ❑ In the Florida Half Century League, 60+ Division, the team won 72 consecutive games over a three year period.

The Human Kinetics 60+ senior softball team was organized in 2005 by the players who were too young to join the Florida Legends when they moved up to the 65+ age group.

In those two years in national tournaments the team won 2 championships, 3 second places, and 3 third places. The HK team is currently ranked number 1 in the highly competitive Florida Half Century League.

Collectively the team is an outstanding group of professionals who have honed their skills in softball through dedication to fitness and years and years of practice and playing. All team members are over the age of 60 and average over 100 games per year.



WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

CATEGORIES

Mens Fastpitch
Womens Fastpitch
Co-ed Slowpitch

MVP's

Mens Fastpitch
Womens Fastpitch
Hard Case Team
Friendly Team
Fun Team

Te Atatu Red Roosters
Redbacks
Public Missiles

Stuart Page (Red Sox)
Jenny Covill (Redbacks)
Krushers Albion
Mt Isa Djimarra
Wild Rovers

PERSONALITY OF THE CARNIVAL

Wade Burrell (England and Wild Rovers)

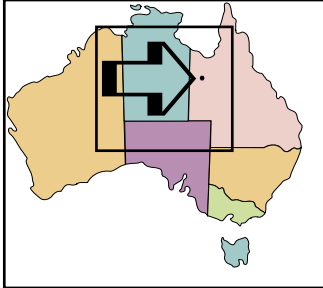
EARLY BIRD ENTRY DRAWS

Bets Vets (Polynesian Pool Spa Experience)
Lightning Strikes (One Nights Accommodation Rebated)
Perth Cats (Tamaki Maori Village Cultural Experience)
Wild Rovers (Rotorua Restaurant Experience)

First Time Travellers

How about the Mt Isa Djimarra contingent who were all leaving Australia for the first time and chose the Vintage Softball Carnival in Rotorua to be their debut international experience.

Their first mission seemed to be to find their favourite brand of XXXX beer - something that proved to be very difficult. But they made a pretty good job of finding some local substitutes and



proceeded to enjoy a week long party.

The Mt Isa Djimarra were a great bunch who mixed, mingled and enjoyed themselves to the max. Extremely popular with all the teams and with the



locals, the team from Mt Isa will be welcome back to Rotorua anytime they wish to come.

But in the meantime they are giving serious thought to their next major overseas trip-to the 2009 Vintage Softball Carnival in Hawaii. To quote their capable manager, Leanne Bellamy. "Yes we are all... keen about Hawaii, especially to catch up with all the new friends we made at Rotorua. Can't wait to hear more from you".

MT ISA TRIVIA

- The nearest metropolitan centre is Townsville a mere 980 km away.
- The town of Camooweal, located 188 km to the west, is in fact a 'suburb' of the city.
- Greg Norman and Pat Rafter were both born in Mt Isa.

Well That's One Way of Getting There

An Englishman guesting in an Irish team (The Wild Rovers) is curious enough but Wade Burrell is used to being just a little bit different.

Wade has a tradition of riding his bicycle to the tournaments he attends in Great Britain. Acknowledging that it was not easy to ride from England to New Zealand he compromised and flew into Christchurch in the South Island, sorted out his trusty bike and proceeded to ride to Rotorua - a distance of over 800 kilometres plus a ferry crossing over Cook Strait.



The journey took 11 days and culminated in a great week in Rotorua where Wade was voted Personality of the Carnival. Following the Carnival, Wade continued his cycle odyssey by riding back to Auckland via the beautiful Coromandel - at least another 300 k's. There was even a rumour that the bike was to be packed, loaded on the aeroplane and re-employed in Singapore.

Which way he'll ride his trusty bike to Hawaii should be interesting.



Cruisers

All settled back (unfortunately) we all had a great time in Rotorua and are looking forward to the next event.

The Cruisers had been planning for this tournament for a good 12 months trying to do lots of fundraising to get us there and we made it!!!! All the teams that we played were lovely and besides the injuries that most of us (well not the fit ones) incurred are well on the way to healing. Although we came second a lot... we had fun and that is the spirit of the game. New Zealand is a fantastic place and I know those that did go sightseeing were amazed at the beauty of it.

I was asked to write some stories from our trip but you know the golden rule "What happens on tour stays on tour"...LOL.....

Roll on Hawaii- Aloha!!!"

Sue Batley, Cruisers Softball Team, New South Wales



The winners of the Mens Fast Pitch Section, the Te Atatu Roosters Red Sox set bold targets in their fund-raising efforts to get to Rotorua. Using some innovative techniques the Roosters Red Sox not only managed to raise their costs but had a wee bit over as well. Particularly well organised and presented the Red Sox also had the honour of wracking up the first injury of the Carnival with one of their players (who shall be nameless in the meantime) losing a tooth in his efforts to bring victory to the team.

We, at Vintage Softball, always thought the recognised technique was to use your glove to stop the ball!

And now appearing for the first time in Roto-Vegas - **ELVIS!!!!**

Easy Riders Special Guest
Elvis Joined the Party

It is alleged that, at the time of death, Elvis would have weighed 307kgs if he were on Jupiter. This turned out to be somewhat of an exaggeration when Elvis made an unofficial appearance at the Vintage Softball Carnival in Rotorua in March 2007!



Yes! Elvis left the building and went straight into left field turning out for the Easy Riders Slow Pitch team and coming in at well under the above weight, in his blue suede cleats.

Elvis showed he's certainly not lost some of his old moves judging by the way his legs were all shook-up in the batters box while facing the dangerous pitcher from Public Missiles.

He was frequently heard around the diamond humming that old favourite:

*'.._ My Teammates done told me, Coach done told me too
That bat you're foolin' with, it ain't no good for you
But that's all right Mama, that's all right with you
That's all right Mama, anyway you do _ '*

While his teammates might have preferred (hummed to the tune of In The Ghetto):

*'.._ Then one game in desperation
The old man breaks away
He takes a signal, steals a base,
Tries to run, falls on his face
And his teammates cry
In the dugout _ '*

Thanks for the memories Elvis, can't wait to see you in Hawaii 2009!...One of the real Elvis' favourite haunts.

Submitted by Gerry Munden of Public Missiles

But That's A Better Way To get There

Krushers-Albion of Christchurch also travelled to Rotorua by road from Christchurch, the same distance as Wade Burrell, but they did it a lot easier - in their distinctive team bus...and probably with more interesting stops.

"If we had seen him we could have given him a lift" said Pierre de Latour, organiser of the Krushers-Albion.

Reputed to have missed quite a bit of sleep during the week, the Krushers had a real smart outfit to match their team bus which became a highly recognisable feature around Rotorua during the Carnival.

And placed strategically on the back of the bus was a great photo of the 'Hard Case Team' of the Carnival.

Thanks To the Rotorua Softball Assoc

The Rotorua Softball Association led by newly elected Chairman, Kelly Winsor provided support for the Carnival in a number of ways. Arriving early at the stadium Kelly and local enthusiasts were responsible for preparing the diamonds, laying out the fences, overseeing the bases and generally having the facility in satisfactory condition for each days play.

Additionally, Kelly and his team provided top up players for teams who were short of players or had team members who were suffering injury, late night syndrome or who just needed a rest. They also formed teams to fill the draw and to provide an additional slow pitch team.

"It was something new for us..playing slow pitch. We found the actual pitching a bit difficult but we certainly enjoyed our first shot at slow pitch."

Kelly and a number of the locals assisted with umpiring and the local Association provided score sheets and team cards. Their presence at the Stadium was of great benefit and fun to all those who came in contact with the members of the local association who committed themselves to be part of the Carnival.



They also prepared and carried out a very special powhiri at the Opening of the Carnival at Arawa Race Course. The powhiri is a traditional Maori welcome where the tangata whenua (local hosts) formally welcome the manuhiri (the visitors). The Kapa Haka Group, Te Kura O Taki Waenga O Mokoia from Mokoia Intermediate School were a major part of the welcome and delighted the visitors with their enthusiastic and polished contribution.

Many of the visitors commented on the warm welcome from the local people and thoroughly enjoyed what for many of them was their first experience of Maori culture.

Kelly Winsor, a speaker at the Finale Prize-giving and Dinner represented his Association with dignity and warmth. A young man just starting his career as an administrator, Kelly was a popular part of the Carnival administration.

A delightful gift of pois was presented to all visitors. The beautiful handiwork of Ngareta te Whau.

Thanks were passed to Kelly, Ngairere Ngamoki, Iwi te Whau (our te reo (language) instructor), Lill and John, Natana, Gary Williams and Claude Hohepa for all they did to support the Carnival.

We were grateful to Yvonne Ngamoki, Harlem Hohepa, Ruta Houkamau and Sivarn Roberts, local youth players who along with Charmaine Hireme boosted our umpiring resources.

Vintage Carnivals are non-profit making and the organisers were able to make a donation of \$4,500 to the local association for their junior development fund. It was a much appreciated effort from the local Association who so readily welcomed the visitors and contributed to the enjoyment of the Carnival.



Umpires & Scorers

The Carnival was lucky to have Leon Leach, an experienced and highly qualified Australian umpire to oversee the umpiring and to spread our rather meager umpiring resources. The efforts of Manu Smith (North Harbour), Greg Reichler (Queensland), Paul Reichler (Queensland), Darryl Parker (Mt Isa) local umpires Awhina Haira, Gary Williams and Sally Nukunuku plus our very own umpiring star-young Justin



Rosenberg of Ascot in Queensland were much appreciated. Justin managed to umpire 17 games over the 4 days and was a popular part of every game in which he officiated. Justin's fee is to be applied to saving for a new bat or at least

that was what he told us. Thanks to all the umpires who were so competent, calm and positive.

Joy Leach, an experienced and highly competent scorer managed the statistics of the Carnival (at very short notice). Both Joy and Leon are already on the list of appointments for the 2009 Carnival in Hawaii.

A Foot in Two Diamonds

The Easy Riders from Queensland started in the right frame of mind. Nine months prior to the Carnival the following message came through.

"We currently play as Minerals Ladies and Fossils Mens once a year at the SQ Masters in Queensland. Most of the players compete in the local fastpitch competition, and we now have other players wanting to get old fast so that they can compete with us. Because this is a mixed team and we have Rosenberg Motorcycles as our sponsor, we changed our name to Easy Riders. We enjoy the social side and think perhaps a tinny at each base might help some of our players get round the bases. Nothing like a good laugh and our team is out to have fun, fun fun...." **Selena Lennon, Easy Riders.**

At the Carnival they fielded a Ladies Fast Pitch team and a mixed (co-ed) Slow Pitch Team. With plenty of people on the roster they were generally able to field both without too much cross-over.

It was a great effort from a large and very affable group who made friends on and off the Fast and Slow Pitch Diamonds in Rotorua-something just a bit unique.



..Random Comments

"We enjoyed the tournament and the great interaction between the teams as always. We ran into Julie & Rainer from the USA team walking back along the track from the Fox Glacier (in the South Island) a few days later and had a good chat! Small world." **Graeme Young, Hard Backs from Victoria.**

"Everyone in our Team had a great time in Rotorua" **Jenny Nangles, Perth Cats**

"It sure was a fun week with lots of good memories" **Julee Bryce (Public Missiles)**

"We would love to go to Hawaii..that will certainly take some planning. We have settled back into our Winter Season in Rockhampton..... Our players still talk about the great time we had and getting lots more interest, so soon will probably have to have selection trialsamazing." **Selena Lennon Easy Riders Masters Softball**



Hawaii 2009 Start Planning



Everyone agreed that the Vintage Softball Carnival style was something a bit different to the usual highly competitive Masters and quickly adopted the Vintage spirit. As the week wound on and the parties continued, a regular question was when are we going to do this

again and more importantly, where?

Dean Dormer (Softball Manager), Leon Leach (Umpires Organisation), Dianne McDermott (Carnival Organiser) and a number of the team managers had informal discussions and came up with the decision that the 2nd Vintage Softball Carnival will be played in Oahu, Hawaii in April 2009.

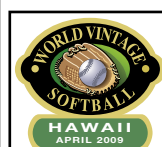
A philosophy of Vintage Softball is that the participants get the chance to select their Carnival venues. Hawaii was greeted with real enthusiasm by many of the team managers and team members who discussed the future of the Carnival.

Dean, Leon and Dianne are working right now to put together a first-class Carnival and softball experience on beautiful Oahu, Hawaii.

The local Hawaiians are showing real enthusiasm and have a desire to welcome teams from all parts of the softball world.

Details are to be circulated very soon and will appear on www.softball.com in the near future.

Sun, surf and softball in an island paradise-Vintage Softball Carnival 2009 is something to anticipate. Start planning now.



VINTAGE SOFTBALL

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