



Victoria International Six-A-Side Cricket Festival

VISAS 2008 – Participating Teams

Air New Zealand, Auckland, New Zealand

Paul Baldock is again at the helm along with his trusted sidekick Mike Johns and blast from the past Drew Quigg as perennial fan favourites Air New Zealand return to Victoria for their eighth VISAS competition. Look for this team to show flashes of brilliance on the field and consistent excellence in the tent.

Dallas County Cricket Club, Dallas, Texas

The DCCC is one of the premier cricket clubs in Texas and a regular participant in VISAS festivals. Led by Jags Patel and Suhas Naik, the Dallas side always travels with a large entourage and their approach to the game and the festival has made them many friends over the years. Winners of the Plate in 2006 – will more hardware come their way in 2008?

Dapto Cricket Club, Dapto, New South Wales, Australia

Bones, Gino, Sticky, Roscoe, Marshy, the super WAGs, the tour booklet and undeniable VISAS legend Wayne ‘Dougie’ Walters are all back as the Mighty Canaries of Dapto return to Victoria after their 2006 VISAS debut. Semi-finalists last time out, the Canaries look to claim a trophy in 2008 while continuing to thoroughly entertain the patrons of the BHP refreshment tent.

Islanders, Victoria, British Columbia

Finalists in both 2004 and 2006, Barnabas Clarke and Rush Dalziel have again assembled a squad ready to challenge for the trophy. In an attempt to get over the finals hump the team has adopted even more of an Australian flavour, adding two more of the down under boys to complement stalwart Darren Spier. Meanwhile, the local contingent of Cordle, Ely, Zwicky, Snape and McKenzie have been focusing on an off field training program to be physically and mentally ready for a week under the leadership of Barnabas and Rush.

Isle of Man CC, Isle of Man

VISAS is thrilled to welcome back the Isle of Man team which was last seen winning the championship in an exhilarating final match against Qantas in 1990. Colin Jones has organized a large touring party with strong ties to those glory days of almost two decades ago, and a team that will certainly be among the favourites to capture 2008's grand prize. 1990 finals hero Martin Webb returns in a coaching role, bolstered by his first hand knowledge of how to smash it over the Beacon Hill boundary line.

Local Kitchen CC, Victoria, BC

The Local Kitchen, a popular Wharf street eatery, enters the VISAS fray for the first time. Jeremy Petzing and Peter Robb believe they have the recipe for success with a fusion of local and imported players and will be looking to serve up some tasty victories and memorable experiences throughout the week. No doubt this team will be major players in the social scene.

Milan Cricket Club, Milan, Italy

Ross Gower and his merry band from Milan return to VISAS for the second time looking to build on their 2006 success. Most of that 2006 success was found off the field with interesting uses of undergarments as batting gear and one of the most exciting wins of a "toss" ever recorded. Pundits expect the Milan team to again play to its strength in 2008, although they will be looking to sprinkle in a few wins on the field as well.

Moloney Painting Wanderers, Vancouver, British Columbia

Top notch Victoria business Moloney Painting has assembled an international squad of players to compete under the Moloney banner. Led by VISAS regulars Chip Brambley and Murray Reid, the Wanderers will primarily feature players from the Vancouver league and will look to follow up on 2006's semi-final appearance while still maintaining the approach that sleep is over rated.

Pigeon Mountain CC, Auckland, New Zealand

Pigeon Mountain CC makes its first official appearance in VISAS, although many PMCC members have played in previous VISAS festivals under the Air NZ banner. Jimmy O'Brien has had two full years to recover from the last VISAS so we expect him to be in full flight once again, expertly leading the likes of Cam Alford, Steve Jessup and Martin Wallace into their comfort zone in the refreshment tent. All rounders Blair Boardman and Paul Wilson will look to make every game competitive, while Dave Norrish adds a little style to the proceedings.

Sticky Wicket CC, Victoria, BC

The Sticky Wicket is more than just our host pub; it's the most successful team in the history of VISAS. Daryl Snell resumes his team leader role and the Wicket, remarkable four time winners of the VISAS championship and the defending champions will be looking to end the week on top once again. It's a safe bet that the Sticky Wicket will feature southern hemisphere players and be dangerous on the final day.

Sundowners CC, England

Steve Myers brought teams to the 1986, 1988, and 1990 VISAS festivals and then needed an 18 year break to recover. Fighting fit and ready for another go, Steve has joined with Nick Knight and Mick Tindall to form the Sundowners CC and revisit old friends and familiar haunts in Victoria. There is no question the Sundowners will make the most of their time here and be very popular fixtures around the grounds - and watch out for a few surprises on the field as well.

Texas Cricket Club, Dallas, Texas, USA

Texas CC is the playing name of the second entry from Dallas County and so they will also have a large and friendly entourage cheering them on in every match. Although not confirmed at press time, this squad is rumoured to be the older of the two Dallas entries. If that's true, they will no doubt claim that experience is better than youth... and they might be right.

Trenton Financial, Victoria, British Columbia

Trenton Financial Services is sponsoring a young and talented team of Victoria cricketers who should be in the mix for the VISAS championship at the end of the week. Jigs Patel, Tanzil Rehman and Kiran Swaroop lead a group of dangerous all rounders and dynamic fielders looking to make a big impression on the field and expecting to make some new friends off it.

University CC, Los Angeles, USA

Neil and Mark Lashkari return to Victoria with University CC of Los Angeles for the second straight VISAS. Competitive in every game, LA was unfortunate to lose some close matches last time and they will be looking for a few more wins in 2008. The improved outfielders at Beacon Hill and Windsor Parks will be conducive the Neil's classy stroke play – look for him to make a lot of runs.