



Smoke signals



Figure 1 The tour Party

Day 3

Early start into Heartland New Zealand. Magical Mystery tour to Waipukurau and a team activity into the wet and stoney river.

There was a moment of sadness amongst the boys as we past the brewery at Mangatainoka and not a Tui girl in sight.

We all became "Red Indians including the coaches, managers, and SNZ staff team adoptee Libby.

Interesting gluggy mess was made by the best glug makers in the business which contained a secret ingredient. The raft was up in double quick time and floated our "volunteer" (draftee) easily down the river. No one came out without a different colour hair, skin or clothes and all including the big chief and his assistants were very wet.



Dick of the day claimed at this point. Aaryn wanted to make a boomerang for our glug weapon." Yeah right"

A very welcome shower and dry clothes awaited the return of the 3rd place team (no matter no points) and we had to give those Smurfs and Smurfettes a chance to win something. Shame it was no contact as then we could really have taken them out.

The spit lamb and accompanying salads, rolls and fruit were much appreciated by all.

A later than scheduled departure saw the teams leave relaxed and replete for the trip to Taupo.

Quick check in, off to the pool. A good work out for an hour and a half got all of the stiff legs and arms working again. Right all we needed was to refill the tanks in preparation for the tough battle tomorrow.

So off we all went to the Golf club where the great staff had put on a fantastic meal of beef, chicken vegetables and a variety of different salads. To finish off there was carrot cake and fruit salad. Now we were ready to face the battle tomorrow.

It was as we were finishing the meal that the Team Manager decided to give us all a pep talk on the days activities and what was coming up. The more he talked the more we all yelled and screamed. This carried on for a little while with him becoming more animated. It was about then that we pointed out that we were not yelling about his speech but rather the lightning strikes in the skies behind him,

The lightning seemed to go on and on and went completely across the skies. Spectacular.

So then it was time to go back to our rooms in time for lights out.

After the hectic day we were now off to bed ready to take on those opposition teams tomorrow in the pool.

Great day enjoyed by one and all.