

Sydney's International Friendship Tournament 2015



A new experience

Yep, that's me I thought when I saw the invitation for the Friendship Tournament application was put out 14th May.

I never expected to get the position, but I never regretted my decision to apply.

It was an experience I recommend to any up and coming Umpire.

My first day **ever** in Sydney I thought it would be sweltering hot, but was I quite surprised, it was much similar to Auckland weather. After meeting the Tournament Umpire in Charge, Richard Dodds, at the terminal we were whisked away to our hotel in Penrith.



On arrival we met a few more umpires who were also brought to the tournament from other states. We headed off to dinner to the Penrith Rugby League Clubrooms, the most amazing clubrooms I've ever seen, but unfortunately the restaurants were all booked out, I have never seen so many people in one place just for dinner, so we had to make do for dinner at the neighboring diner, honestly I only came along for the food.

Before we retired for the night we had our first umpires meetings for the Tournament rules, pretty much standard.

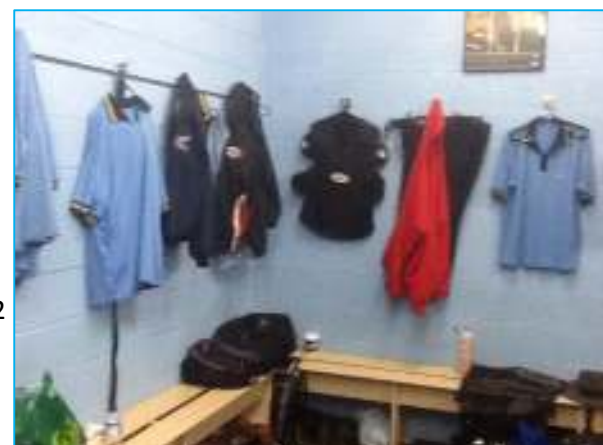


During the Tournament I averaged 3 games a day. I learnt a lot from my Australian counterparts and in return I showed them a few Kiwi traits.

The Tournament had its fair share of ups and downs.



Softball being a summer sport, does not mix too well with winter weather. So as fate would have it we had rain on Tuesday night/Wednesday morning which in turn delayed play on Wednesday. On the plus side when the sun was out it was beautiful basking in the sunlight.



Before too long my 5 days of International Umpiring was over, concluding with the mens final between Australia Green & New Zealand development teams, with me as 1st base umpire.



Result 9 – 2 to Australia.

In all I officiated 14 games, 10 mens & 4 womens

5 as plate umpire

6 as 1st base umpire &

3 as 3rd base umpire

Date	M/W	Team 1	Team 2	Plate	1 st base	3 rd base	Winning team	Result
29/6 10:00	M	Canberra	NSW	Shaun Poata	Thomas Sutomo	Tony Moncaster	Canberra	9-8
29/6 12:00	M	Canberra	Australia Gold	Brett Atkinson	Lucy James	Shaun Poata	Australia Gold	4-Nil
29/6 18:00	W	Cleveland State	Wolves	Georgia Hill	Shaun Poata	Thomas Green	Cleveland State	11-Nil
30/06 10:00	W	NZ Development	Cleveland State	Dylan Murdoch	Shaun Poata		Cleveland State	4-1
30/06 12:00	W	Australia Green	Cleveland State	Shaun Poata	Leith Roberts		Cleveland State	13-4
30/6 16:00	W	NSW	Wolves	Shaun Poata	Georgia Kiel	Brett Atkinson	NSW	
1/7 14:00	M	NSW	Western Civil	Dylan Murdoch	Stuart Tyler	Shaun Poata	Western Civil	7-3
1/7 18:00	M	Western Civil	Canberra	Lucy James	Shaun Poata	Joel Grimes	Western Civil	7-3
1/7 20:00	M	Australia Green	Australia Gold	Shaun Poata	Andrew Compton	Andrew Dickson	Australia Green	1-Nil

Date	M/W	Team 1	Team 2	Plate	1 st base	3 rd base	Winning team	Result
2/7 12:00	M	Canberra	Western Civil	Shaun Poata	Andrew Dickson		Canberra	8-7
2/7 14:00	M	NZ Development	Australia Gold	Dylan Murdoch	Shaun Poata	Stuart Tyler	NZ	
2/7 18:00	M	NSW	Canberra	Rob McIntosh	Andrew Compton	Shaun Poata	Canberra	6-2
3/7 09:00	M	Western Civil	Canberra	Stuart Tyler	Shaun Poata	Brett Atkinson	Western Civil	6-4
Gold Medal Games								
3/7 11:00	W	Australia Green	USA	Lucy James	Brett Atkinson	Stuart Tyler	USA	11-Nil
3/7 13:00	M	NZ Development	Australia Green	Dylan Murdoch	Shaun Poata	Andrew Dickson	Australia Green	9-2

Over all the tournament was a blast I came out with a wealth of knowledge to use on the diamond and met amazing people. I believe I represented New Zealand Softball to the best of my knowledge and left my mark within the Australian Softball Community.

If allowed I would love to do the Tournament again (hint hint).

I would also like to thank New Zealand Softball for allowing me the opportunity to represent them and North Harbour Softball for preparing me for this experience.



Back Row:- Alan Brown, Brett Atkinson, Kim Green, Kevin Tannebring, Lucy James, Jenny McKenny, Harrison Pudner, Thomas Green, Andrew Dickson, Riley Deahm, Dylan Murdoch, Thomas Sutomo

Front Row:- Leith Roberts, Stuart Tyler, Katrina Bulmer, Richard Dodds, Leanne Gearside, Sarah Houston, Melanie Bulmer, Shaun (Bob) Poata