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Black Caps make cricket history **February 17, 2007**

New Zealand's national cricket team, the "Black Caps", made One Day International Cricket history yesterday when they inflicted a ten wicket defeat on an under-strength Australian side, at Wellington. It is the first time in O.D.I. Cricket history that Australia has suffered a ten wicket loss.

It is also the first time in over a year that New Zealand have beaten Australia. This lends credibility to the view that the current New Zealand side has a culture of mediocrity, as they have not beaten a top-level side at full-strength for a long time.

New Zealand won the toss and elected to field first. Australia were already in trouble, when by the fourth over they had lost two wickets for a mere 16 runs, the damage coming from New Zealand's pace bowler, Shane Bond, who finished the day with a five wicket haul including a spectacular caught-and-bowled off Australia's Cameron White.

With Australia bowled out for an unimpressive 148, New Zealand took up the bat and reached the target in only 27 overs. The partnership between Lou Vincent and Stephen Fleming was unbreakable, despite several close shaves.

A few key members of the Australian side were conspicuously absent, notably Ricky Ponting, Adam Gilchrist

and Brett Lee. However, Australia (currently world no.1) has lost four of its last five One Day International matches only two months before the International Cricket World Cup.

If Australia lose either of their next two matches against New Zealand, they will slip to no.2 position, with South Africa occupying first place on the ICC's one-day rankings.

Poll: opposition leader advancing on New Zealand PM, Helen Clark **February 18, 2007**

John Key, leader of New Zealand's political opposition party, National party, is advancing as the preferred Prime Minister (PM), and is very close to the same percentage of Helen Clark, current PM of New Zealand, according to a recent ONE News Colmar Brunton Poll.

Mr Key is 27%, and Ms Clark is on 32%.

Mr Key's party, National, is currently beating the main party in New Zealand, Labour by 7%. National is on 46%, and Labour is on 39%. And, following the trend of the 3 News TNS poll, the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand is also gaining support, and is on seven percent, which would enable them to control who the government would be. The rise in support is suggested to be because of global warming.

However the same 3 News TNS poll

which showed an increase in support for the Greens, had Labour in the lead, with National trailing.

The other political parties do not cover the required threshold of five percent to enter parliament, unless they win an electorate. The Māori Party is on three percent; New Zealand First on two percent; ACT New Zealand on one percent; and United Future New Zealand also on one percent.

Winston Peters is on three percent for preferred PM.

The ONE News Colmar Brunton Poll, with a 3.1% margin of error, polled 1,000 eligible voters.

New Zealand post shop closed due to "fart bomb" **February 21, 2007**

An Albany, North Shore, Auckland, New Zealand Post shop and the surrounding roads were closed today due to an Internet magazine giving away free promotional "fart bombs" which went off during postal sorting.

After the "fart bomb" exploded due to other mail items being placed on top of the magazines, worried postal workers called the firefighters' hazardous substance unit to the post office. The arrival of the firefighters resulted in the post shop and the surrounding roads closure at around 8.00 a.m. (NZDT). Mike McEnaney, acting deputy chief fire officer of the North Shore, said that the postal workers had no choice but to call the fire brigade

when they noticed the smell. "Until you can identify what the substance is you have got the potential there for a hazardous chemical incident."

Douglas Lyell, fire service officer, said that the postal workers described the smell as sulphur like. Mr. McEnaney said that after the smell was identified, both firefighters and the postal workers kept a good distance. "It was definitely a smell of sulphur."

Mr. Lyell said that when the firefighters and the hazardous substance unit were able to trace the smell back to the burst "fart bomb" the post shop and surrounding roads were reopened.

Mr. Lyell now asks the magazine to consider changing their packaging.

Telecom New Zealand reviews itself, finds fault February 22, 2007

New Zealand's monopoly ISP, Xtra, owned by Telecom New Zealand, is going to credit 60,000 customers after completing an internal review of itself last week and finding that there was an error with its traffic management policy on their Go Large plan.

The 60,000 customers, less than 10% of Telecom's subscribers, who subscribed to Go Large, which boasts full speeds and no data cap, since December 8, 2006 till late February, 2007 will receive up to NZ\$160 in credit. Telecom has temporarily stopped either new or existing customers from signing up to the new plan, and will also ask existing customers in the next couple of weeks if they wish to change plans, stay on the same plan with a changed traffic management policy, or cancel their service.

The credit, automatically applied to the affected customers monthly bill, will cost Telecom itself around \$7.5-

\$8.5 million.

Kevin Bowler, general manager of Telecom's consumer marketing, said that the traffic management policy process was found to be not what they had originally intended it to do. The fault applied to all forms of Internet use, instead of certain applications, like large music, or movie downloading. "Clearly it is not an ideal situation and therefore we are crediting Go Large customers for plan charges incurred during this period."

"In this instance with the Go Large plan our internal technical review showed we had made an error and we believe that we are doing the right thing by crediting customers," Mr Bowler said.

New Zealand's Commerce Commission has been investigating complaints by customers who say that they are not receiving what Xtra promised since the same time when Xtra initiated its traffic management policy, December. Deborah Battell, fair trading director, said that the Commerce Commission is pleased Telecom is crediting customers for its error. "However, the Commission is concerned that Telecom's actions may not address the full extent of the problems. The Commission will continue its investigation into whether the promotion breached the Fair Trading Act. In particular, the Commission is considering whether Telecom's initial representation that Go Large gave customers unlimited access was misleading, as the company's reasonable use policy in effect placed limits on use."

The reasonable use policy meant subscribers could not download BitTorrents, or use other peer-to-peer services without giving priority Internet access to other subscribers.

Ernie Newman, chief executive of the Telecommunications User Association

of New Zealand (TUANZ), said that it is good that Telecom is to repay its subscribers for their own error, but says that it will diminish their trust in Telecom, and other phone companies. "We applaud their openness. But sadly it is another episode in a chain of events where customers have signed up for broadband services that were advertised as offering attractive speeds or data limits, but in reality have delivered a whole lot less."

"Something in Telecom needs to change. There have been too many disappointments, too much over-promising and under-delivering. This simply adds to the concern of many people that when it comes to the impact of broadband on customers lives and businesses, Telecom has not yet got the message," Mr Newman said.

New Zealand's "Waitangi" holiday to stay February 23, 2007

Peter Dunne's proposition as the leader of the New Zealand political party, United Future, to have Waitangi Day changed back to New Zealand Day failed.

The New Zealand Day bill would have created disharmony within society according to parliamentary select committee, the Justice and Electoral Committee. But they do say that it could be a good idea for a completely new holiday to be created called New Zealand Day.

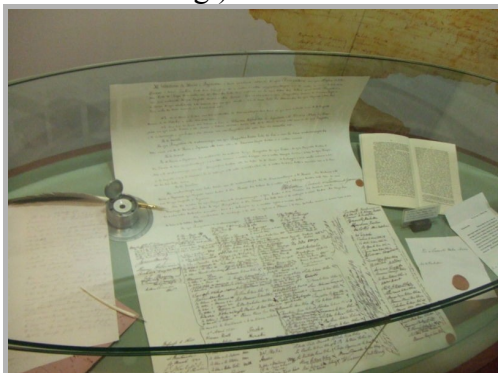
"I welcome the advice from the committee that many of the submitters were in favour of retaining Waitangi Day and having another day set aside for a national day that will celebrate everything that's good about New Zealand and being a New Zealander," said Mr Dunne.

Mr Dunne said the reason for his

proposed change was because since New Zealand is multi-cultural, then New Zealand's national day should be one about everybody and not one about grievance.

Mr Dunne says that he is still backing New Zealand Day in some form despite the rejection, as he is now considering many options, including changing the Queen's Official Birthday holiday to New Zealand Day, and starting Dominion Day back up. He says that he is now considering writing up a new bill to submit it to the New Zealand Parliament.

Waitangi day is on February 6, each year and celebrates the Waitangi signing of New Zealand's founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi).



The Waitangi Treaty of Waitangi in the museum on the Waitangi grounds.

Air New Zealand opens direct route to Canada February 23, 2007

New Zealand's national airline, Air New Zealand has announced that they will be flying direct to Canada.

Flights from Auckland to Vancouver will operate three times a week between November and March, to coincide with the peak travel season between the two destinations, as Canadians escape winter and New Zealand skiers head to the Canadian slopes. 46,000 Canadians visit New Zealand and 16,000 New Zealanders

visit Canada each year, starting at the end of this year.

The reinstatement of the Vancouver link restores a route phased out in the 1990s.

Canadian visitors make up two percent of international visitor arrivals, however they they stay longer and spend more in New Zealand than many other visitors spent an average of 29 days in New Zealand in 2006, and spent almost \$3400 each. In total, they contributed \$136 million to New Zealand's economy.

Tourism New Zealand chief executive, George Hickton has said that the direct flights will make New Zealand look much more appealing to the Canadian market. "This is great news for our tourism industry."

The Tourism Industry Association New Zealand say that the new route has the added benefit of freeing up seats on Air New Zealand's busy routes from San Francisco and Los Angeles.

In 2006, Canadians set a new record with 46,000 travelers visiting New Zealand, which marks an increase of more than 10,000 visitors in just a little more than five years, but even more importantly, according to a survey focused on Canadian travelers in January of 2006, 99 percent returned home satisfied with their vacation to New Zealand and more than 95 percent would recommend the destination to their friends, family and colleagues.

—*Roger Poulton, Air New Zealand Vice President – the Americas*

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