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# PIA NEWS FORTNIGHTLY

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The official newsletter of Pakistanis In Australia Inc.



Dear all,

Welcome to the first issue of year 2018. This is our eighth year of keeping you informed and what a privilege it is to be part of the community.

Last week of December has ended with a fantastic event at University of Health Sciences, as part of #Mentoringwithoutborders. We already have received a note of thanks from the program coordinator in Lahore and hope to arrange more events like this with your support.

On the other hand, 2018 began with the Ludo Championship in Perth as part of new year celebrations. Rida Ahmed was the ultimate champion in WA beating Arshad Butt who was champion in Male category. She will now compete with the ACT Champion on 27<sup>th</sup> January in Canberra. The venue is Telopea Park which is a great area for family picnics. One of the issues that we face in our last event was that many families thought the entry to event is only for those who want to participate in the championship. Please note that everyone is welcome irrespective of whether one is participating or not.

Bring your picnic blankets and chairs. We have got ludo sets and the cup for ACT champion is ready to be won.

In this issue, we have also included information about another exciting event arranged as part of Fayyaz Sumbul Foundation and we hope to have an active participation at this end. Sergeant Rafiq Ahmed from NSW Police is already on board.

## UPDATE ON GRANTS

We have submitted four grant proposals for various projects. Two have been rejected while outcome is awaited on two projects.

We have also requested an extension to WA Police Crime Prevention Grant as the response from Community Engagement Team is still awaited.

In March, we will acquit the City of Joondalup grant with the final project.

## MENTORING WITHOUT BORDERS

Note of thanks received.

Dear Dr. Zafar,

It was indeed a pleasure to have you with us and talk about this crucially important topic.

The feedback on the lecture has been excellent and the audience found you talk to be very informative along with the practical tips given by you were highly appreciated.

I would like to thank you personally and on behalf of IADSR for taking time out for this academic endeavor.

Ayyaz Ali Khan  
National Coordinator IADSR



## **Pakistan Cricket Tour 2018**

It is with great pleasure that we are now able to update and refine the proposed Pakistan Cricket Tour in March 2018

### **Why Pakistan?**

The sub-continent of India/Pakistan is considered one of the most fascinating if not challenging cricketing tours that ordinary social cricketers can participate in and enjoy. This opportunity presents itself due to the high-level engagement with Pakistan cricket that the organisers have enjoyed over the past five years.

The tour is embraced and supported by the Pakistan Cricket Board, numerous Pakistani cricketing aficionados and former superstars of the game. Since 2010, we continue to commit to the Fayyaz Sumbal Foundation (The Foundation), a registered cricketing charity in both Australia and Pakistan supporting the families of Pakistani police officers killed in the line of duty. Several hundred police are killed in the line of duty every year, many to the horrors of domestic terrorism.

Cricket Australia has supported the aims and objectives of the Foundation having generously supplied clothing to some our original matches. We are hopeful of some level of continued support from them for this tour. The Australian High Commission Islamabad (AHC) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP) have been instrumental in the early support for these matches.

What works well in Pakistan is soft diplomacy and cricket is a unifying force which when combined with the charitable aspects of this tour will bring much needed support to the families of victims. Pakistan and Australian have a similar legal and political histories and share passionately our joint love of sports including cricket, squash, hockey and the Commonwealth Games.

Read and review the aims and objectives of the Foundation that can be found at <http://fayyazsumbalfoundation.org/>

### **When?**

The 2018 Pakistan International Cricket Tour is scheduled to take place in Pakistan between **Friday 16 March and Wednesday 28 March 2018**

The dates have been refined as and participants can opt in or out of the tour as their schedule allows. Expats into Islamabad mostly use Thai Airlines (if travelling via Bangkok). If travelling via the Gulf there are a number of other options such as Emirates, Etihad, Qatar etc. We will circulate our preferred flight schedules in the next update as we are in contact with agents in Islamabad to see if there are better deals to be had through them rather than through on-line bookings.

### **Islamabad - Accommodation TBA, looking at Islamabad Club**

Friday 16 March – Arrive Islamabad on Thai Airlines from Bangkok

Saturday 17 March  
Sunday 18 March  
Monday 19 March  
Tuesday 20 March

Islamabad is a secure diplomatic city with the beautiful Margallah Hills as the backdrop and the nearby Murree Hills a former British Hill Station.

Two (2) matches will be played in Islamabad, probably an All-stars match organised by the Pakistan Cricket Board with hopefully some senior female test cricket representation and another match against the All-Abilities team (and they are good believe me).

As added interest we also hope to have time for a training hit-out in support of the Pakistan AFL team the Shaheens/Markhors v's the Gujranwala Giants or the Rawalpindi Blues, or will it be the Punjab Tigers. This is good fun and for those interested can purchase an AFL Pakistan Guernsey, a keepsake if ever there is one.

The Australian High Commission will hopefully put on a function for us at the Australian Coolabah Club in the diplomatic Enclave on Saturday night. Other Islamabad sporting options include the several nearby Golf courses, Squash at the famous Jehingar Khan Championship Court at the Islamabad Club, a great bunch of guys, a Murree Brewery Tour in Rawalpindi or a hike in the nearby Margallah Hills. Dinner at Saidpur Village is a culinary highlight. No shortage of activities.

So we would be off to a great start to our tour, and then it gets better as we are off to Lahore.....

### **Travel to Lahore –**

Tuesday 20 March

(Coach/bus to Lahore – 5 hr road trip, fantastic motorway and great to see the bread basket of the Punjab. We will arrange for a few 'travellers' for the journey. Stay at the Pearl Continental Hotel, Room Number 242 is a fully operational bar in case the journey generates a thirst.

Wednesday 21 March

Thursday 22 March

Friday 23 March – Pakistan Day – Public Holiday

Saturday 24 March – Fayyaz Sumbal Cup

Some of the features of our stay in Lahore will include its history, Lahore's wonderful Gymkhana Cricket Ground within the fabulous Jinnah Botanic Gardens (est 1880). This is the home ground of the famous Khan's and was the scene of an unofficial test between Ryders XI and an Indian XI in 1935.

Run or walk the 'tan' track around these botanic gardens in the early morning, sense test your taste buds in wonderful Food Street, visit the famous Wagah Border closing, Pakistan Cricket Board Museum and their Centre of Excellence Cricketing Academy, Gaddafi Stadium, the Abdul Qadir Spin Academy. A bonus will be meeting many former and current cricketing personalities. We will consider a Sportsman Night in Lahore however this will be discussed

further.

We are also aware and hopeful of VIP entrance to one of the Pakistan Super League Finals (20/20) being played on Wednesday and Thursday in Lahore. Shoaib Akhtar is a coach of one of the Super League teams and hopefully they will make the semi-finals and we get to meet him in Lahore. Note most of the league 20/20 matches (except the semi-finals and final) will be played in the Gulf so our schedule has been refined to include one of these matches in Lahore, the passion of the fans is amazing.

We are planning for two games in Lahore with the signature Fayyaz Sumbal Foundation Match on Saturday 24. We play for the Fayyaz Sumbal Cup and there is a museum at the ground. We look forward to renewing the challenge and retaining the Cup won at our last encounter. Also having played at this club has included former 6,000 plus test runs in Saleem Malik.

The other match will be on one of the other days depending on the Super League match we attend and Pakistan Day.

And then we're off to the Pearl of the Arabian Sea (Karachi)

### **Karachi – Accommodation Sindh Club or Gymkhana Club**

Sunday 25 March – Travel Day

Monday 26 March - Match

Tuesday 27 March – Match/Golf

Wednesday 28 March – Match/Rest/return to Australia (flight leaves near midnight)

Karachi is a bustling heaving Metropolis of some 20 million people where once John F Kennedy and Jaqueline Kennedy danced the night away at the Metropole club and travelled in open motorcades.

Behind the facade you will enjoy the timeless and regal Sind Club, the Gymkhana Cricket Ground, meet former superstars of the game including former test fast bowler Sikander Bakht and a few great mates that we have met along the journey. The lads are very hospitable in Karachi and we will get to the historic Karachi Boat Club for brunch or dinner, the Arabian Country Club and Golf Resort and many other highlights.

We are working on a nice surprise for the Sindh Police Museum, the of curator of which was a Chief of Police.

Again we will look for two matches in Karachi, (possibly Monday and Wednesday) one of which is against the Gymkhana Club (the home of Sikander Bakht) and another match, probably against our friends at the Tigers Cricket Club or at the Arabian Sea Resort.

The Final of the Pakistan Super League is on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> and Karachi will be glued to the TV's, we will discuss the level of interest in attending this match.

We plan to leave Karachi on the Thai Flight Wednesday night late to Bangkok and this will allow travellers to be home for Easter.

## Who?

The tour is suitable for cricket enthusiasts of all levels and even those who do not wish to actually play cricket. At least five matches will be scheduled and some with current and former members of the Pakistan national cricket team.

We are pleased to announce that Ms Megan Ponsford, a sports historian from Melbourne who is researching the inaugural Australian tour of the subcontinent in 1935/36 will be joining the tour. Megan has a familial and historic links to the inaugural tour and is currently writing a book and will be our chief media advisor. Google Megan Ponsford and listen to an interview she had on ABC radio about how she came to know about the Foundation which with her history and research fits neatly into this Tour.

[https://soundcloud.com/abc\\_grandstand/grandstand-weekender-megan-ponsford](https://soundcloud.com/abc_grandstand/grandstand-weekender-megan-ponsford)

Also supporting the tour is Ian Callen, former Australian and Victorian Test Fast Bowler. Ian and his wife Sue are now proud exporters of willow from Victoria to Pakistan and India that are made into that is fine Callen Cricket Bats. Ian is a master of bat making and have a look at his website "Willow Blue" for further details.

<http://www.callencricket.com.au>

Clancy Rudeforth, currently working for an NGO between Norway and Afghanistan, played for the West Coast Eagles, was previously an intern at the White House and probably has a 'Monika' story to regale us all with. Clancy is very keen to join in and we welcome his athletic abilities.

Other persons interested and will be travelling subject to work commitments include Mr Tom Calder, former Austrade chief in Mumbai for a number of years and the Captain of the Indian expatriate cricket cream The Viceroy's. Tom is currently in the Perth Office of Austrade.

We are also hopeful that Melinda Jones, TV commentator for the Pakistan Super League will be in country and support the Foundation. Melinda was a former Australian Test Cricketer.

Two founding Directors of the Foundation Danny Caruana from the AFP and Marzio Da Re (ret'd) will be on tour having spent a cumulative total of about 8 years in Pakistan forging strong relationships with Pakistan Law Enforcement. In our spare time we utilised any residual sporting abilities we had to initiate the Islamabad Dashers sporting group, the Pakistan Markhors Football Team (The Goats), hiking, cricket matches and of course the Foundation, all designed to raise funds for the families of victims.

There is still room for you to join in however the window of opportunity to commit necessarily needs to be substantially finalised by the end of January 2018. This is to ensure equipment, accommodation and other arrangements are in place a month before we travel.

## Costs?

We have looked very closely at costs and believe that all in including airfares, accommodation, meals, hospitality, and insurance will cost participants approximately \$3,000.

ORGANISED BY

## PAKISTANIS IN AUSTRALIA INC.



# Ludo Championship 2018!

Please join us in celebrating Australia day with Ludo Championship, and many happy returns for the day. Bring the whole family for picnic and meet and greet.!

where:

Telopea Park, Canberra

when:

January 27, 2018 from 5.30 – 8.30 PM

updates:

@piainc

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pakistanisinaustralia/>

<https://www.piaincorporated.com/>

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