

FROM THE HAND OF STEVE WAUGH

I first met Luke in 1995 whilst he followed the Australian cricket tour of the West Indies as a keen supporter. One year later Luke was in India for the World Cup, and the following year South Africa and England, and his great desire to travel to watch cricket was clearly evident. From there to the present, Luke has been a very proud, vocal and visual supporter in all test nations of the world.

Luke has always shown great determination to be where the team is and although has missed only a handful of matches since 1995, his presence in the terraces has always been welcomed and appreciated by the team especially since Luke has only ever toured off his own bat. Luke has confidently travelled for months at a time, some of the world's most dangerous places and lived close to the edge as a means of getting to Australia's next match.

Luke's enthusiasm for travel and cricket has been noted by many touring media personnel, which has regularly found him interviewed for radio, television and print media as well as being a prime focus for TV cameras broadcasting from each ground. Luke can always be seen waving his Australian flag (and cricket bat!) and hearing his strong voice of support is always a sound encouragement.

Luke's enjoyment of writing (shown by his extensive journals, one of which I lost and found as admitted in my book 'Out Of My Comfort Zone') and photography has developed into a career as he continues to sell his travel stories to various global publications. I have always shown an interest in Luke's travels that led me to ask Luke to write the prelude to my 1999 Tour Diary 'No Regrets' giving a brief insight as to what life has been like in the opposition terraces of the cricket world.

And no matter where the opposition terrace, somehow, and without question, Luke would turn up of his own accord. The team was always grateful for his effort and support, as I'm sure they still are, and of the many that now travel with him.

Though I am no longer in the Australia team, it is pleasing to see Luke develop his touring with 'Waving The Flag', his informal and very affordable tour operation whose focus remains on the spirit of the game, before commercial gain. As Luke continues his dedication to Australian cricket, I wish Luke continued success developing even greater global support of Australian cricket.



Stephen Waugh
Former Australia Cricket Captain
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