



Australian High Commissioner

Vanuatu

Welcome Event for Australian A-League Team Central Coast Mariners FC

Friday 18 November 2022

First PA blong Minister blong youth and sports, Mr Joe Iautim

Ol senior government officials mo political appointees

President and officials of the Vanuatu Football Federation

Players and Management team of the Central Coast Mariners

- Gud evening lo yumi everiwan
- It's a pleasure to be here with you all tonight.
 - It is always great to have Australian visitors, especially people who are involved in sport.
- Your visit is very special
 - You are the first Australian Football team and notably the first A-League to visit the Vanuatu since the Mathildas in 2019 and the Socceroos in 2005
- As we know, football has a unique ability to bring people together
 - creating a sense of community – of family – around its players, coaches, volunteers, and fans
 - this Friendship Cup is bringing together friends and rivals who have been separated for many years by the COVID-19 pandemic.



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- Sport is a rich part of this relationship: we all share a deep passion for sport and our sporting heroes
 - geography makes us neighbours, but sport brings us together.
- Australia is a huge fan of sport.
 - Australia invests in sport to promote the values of respect, integrity, honesty and discipline.
 - Together, we can continue to promote healthy life-styles and better gender equality and disability inclusiveness.
- Over the next few years, we will see more great athletes grow and succeed in future events in our region
 - including the 2023 Pacific Games in Solomon Islands and the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Regional Victoria.
- I am particularly excited that Australia will host the upcoming 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup with New Zealand
 - which will open up high-performance training opportunities for female football stars across the region.
- Sport plays a fundamental role inspiring young men and women to dream big and dedicate themselves to working hard to achieve their dreams.
 - I'm sure I will see a lot more footballs being kicked around the parks and schools of Vanuatu with more children aspiring to be the next Brian Kaltak
 - Brian, congratulation for your achievement. This is the result of your tireless dedication, tenacity and passion. We wish you well in your journey with the Central Coast Mariners.



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- To all the players and support crew for the Central Coast Mariners, thank you for taking the time to come to Vanuatu.
 - I hope you will make the most of your tour in Vanuatu. This is a very beautiful country with lovely people.
- I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Vanuatu Government, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Development for its step up in supporting sports in Vanuatu.
- I wish the teams the best of luck for the game tomorrow at Korman Stadium and we all hope to see a big crowd.
- To the players, thank you for being such a great motivation and inspiration for boys and girls in Australia and in Vanuatu.
- Tankyu tumas mo gudfala naet long yufala everiwan.