



# RACHEL PRIEST

## International Cricket Player



According to my mum I saw Cricket on TV when I was about 4 and told her I wanted to play. I used to play catch with my Grandfather almost daily and would train with my dad in the back yard. My next-door neighbour saw me one day and happened to coach a team and asked if I wanted to join. This team was an all boys team and at the time I didn't realise women's cricket was even a thing. I was very lucky to have the support of my neighbour who made sure I always got as much go as the boys and we would all share the bowling, wicketkeeping and batting. After a while he realised I showed some talent with wicketkeeping and gave me the job permanently for the team. Once I got to High School I played in an all girls team vs boys and also played men's club cricket from the age of 12. The women's world cup was played in NZ in the year 2000 and it was about then that I realised we had an international women's team.

I made my international debut for NZ in 2007 vs Australia. I played 87 ODIs and 75 T20I between 2007 and 2020. I played at 3 ODI world Cups and 6 T20I World cups unfortunately coming 2nd 3 times. In 2014 I was picked to play at the Lord's Cricket ground in London in a rest of the world team vs the MCC which was a huge honour. I toured all around the world visiting India, Bangladesh, South Africa, Australia, England and the Caribbean.

Throughout my career I was lucky enough to be picked to play in several domestic competitions around the world.

I played in NZ between 2003-2013 for Central Districts which was the area I grew up in and then moved to play for Wellington between 2013-2020.

In Australia I played 7 seasons of the WBBL playing for the Melbourne Renegades, Sydney Thunder and Hobart Hurricanes. I captained both the Renegades and Hurricanes for a season each.

I also played in the Kia Super League which was a T20 competition in England, I played for the Western Storm for 4 years winning the title twice, until the competition was discontinued and they created the 100 ball competition of which I played for the Trent Rockets in the inaugural season.

After the 2020 T20 world cup in Australia I decided to retire from International cricket, I was approached by Cricket Tasmania to move there and play for them in the 50 over comp and for the Hurricanes in the WBBL. I played for Tasmania for 2 years winning the national One Day competition with them in my second season.

I was not offered another contract with Tasmania after the first 2 years, so I decided to move home to Queensland where my family have been based for over 20 years. I needed to take a break away from cricket after my professional career finished so I took a job working at Pinata Farms which is a fruit growing, packing and marketing company. I took a complete break from cricket not playing at all and not really watching it in a way I was grieving the end of my professional career. Then one of my teammates from the Hurricanes reached out to me about playing some club cricket for the Sunshine Coast Scorchers. I really missed playing so I decided to get back into it this season.

The head of Cricket at the Scorchers heard about the Operations Manager job that was being advertised by the sports club and mentioned that it might suit me. I wasn't planning on putting myself back in to the Cricket world but after some conversations with Craig Thomas I realised that I did have a desire to be back involved with a sport that had been such a big part of my life for so long and I still had something to offer in that space.