

CITY CRICKET CLUB LEGENDS

Bryan Andrew Young ('Youngy')

Ian Chappell summed it up when he said "there's something about Bryan Young" – **and there sure was!**

From the suburban grounds of Whangarei with City Cricket Club, to the gritty contests found in minor-association cricket for Northland, onto first class cricket for Northern Districts and then as Black Cap No186, Bryan Andrew Young did it the 'old-fashioned' way.

It all began with Bryan carrying on the family tradition of playing and keeping wicket for City. His father John and brother Murray both played for the club, with John representing Northland. For good measure his grandfather 'Corka' was a Patron of the club.

No matter where he played throughout his career, Bryan was never far away from the club, since his senior debut in 1978.

In 1986/87 Bryan was part of one of the club's most successful premier seasons winning the 'Triple Crown' which included the Whangarei One and Two-Day championships, along with the Dargaville Shield. One of his notable highlights and significant performances for the club was in 1991, when he scored a match-winning 165 in the One-Day final against Onerahi Central at Cobham Oval.

Bryan quickly graduated to the Northland representative team as a teenager, going on to play over 70 times.

Hawke Cup cricket is not for the faint of heart - as former City Club professional Glenn Turner once said it was second only to test cricket when it came to tension and competitiveness, with 'young Turks' battling with 'grizzly veterans'. Yet Youngy thrived, and still holds Northland records for most runs, hundreds and wicketkeeping dismissals.

He made his First Class debut for Northern Districts in 1983, going on to play 93 times. He scored 3,853 runs, including 5 hundreds, whilst also taking 210 catches and 11 stumpings.

The grounds of Whangarei and NZ would not be the only ones where he would show his talents as he received international selection for NZ in 1990. From the familiar confines of Cobham Oval, he would soon be scoring international runs at grounds all around the world including the MCG, Cape Town, the Indian subcontinent and the home of cricket - Lord's. His first 'taster' was in his familiar role as a wicketkeeper/batsman in the Australian Tri-Series of 1990, debuting at the MCG with 26 not out against Australia.

Notable Achievements

(Representative cricket)

- Highest score for a New Zealand opener in Test cricket: 267* vs Sri Lanka, Dunedin 1996/97.
- One of only seven players to record 50 or more catches in the field for NZ (7th on the all-time list with 54).
- An average .931 catches per innings, trailing only Bob Simpson (Australia .940) in Test history (for players taking 50 catches or more).
- In the top 10 all-time list for Most Dismissals for One Province (ND) - 93 matches, 179 caught, 11 stumped, 190 total.
- Most wicketkeeping dismissals (7) in an innings for ND (vs Canterbury 1986/87).
- Most catches (4) in an innings (fielding) for ND vs Wellington in Wellington 1995/96.
- Most catches (6) in a match (fielding) vs Wellington in Wellington 1995/96.
- Second equal for most number of catches (6) in a match by a New Zealand fielder in Test cricket (vs Pakistan at Auckland 1993/94).
- Most Runs in a season for Northland: 615 @ 61.50 1988/89.
- One of 3 players with 1,000 runs and 100 dismissals for Northland (2,535 runs including 7 hundreds / 136 catches and 16 stumpings).
- Most runs (765), hundreds (4), dismissals (24 catches and 2 stumpings) for Northland in Hawke Cup Cricket.
- Highest equal score (132) with Brian Dunning for Northland in Hawke Cup Cricket (vs South Canterbury 1982/83).
- "Northland Supreme Sportsman" of the Year Award (1994).
- 25th inductee of the "Northland Legends of Sport" (2014).

(City Cricket Club - Honours Board)

- Most Improved Player - 1980/81.
- Catches Cup (3 consecutive years) 1980/81, 1981/82, 1982/83.
- Highest Batting Score (twice) 1984/85 (144), 1989/90 (136).
- Best Batting Average (twice) 1984/85 (71), 1990/91 (111).
- Selected in the City Cricket Club 50th Jubilee All Time XI (1996).
- Horses Arse (Balls-up of the Day) Telephone Book Fundraiser 1998/99.

It was his decision though to 'reinvent' himself from a wicketkeeper/batsman to an opener that really saw his international career blossom. With assistance from fellow City Club teammate Robert 'Jumbo' Anderson, his back-foot play rose to another level. Consistent runs for ND at the top of the order saw him return to Australia in 1993 for his Test debut at the Brisbane Cricket Ground (Gabba) - where he scored 38 and 53.

Bryan would play Test cricket for the next seven years, cementing himself as a reliable opener and outstanding specialist 'slipper'- famous for depositing the ball into his trouser pocket whenever he 'pouched another one' at second slip.

His debut Test century was in the remarkable run chase and dramatic third Test against Pakistan in 1994. Chasing down 324 to win at Lancaster Park, Christchurch, he anchored the innings with 120, sharing in a 154-run fifth wicket partnership with his Northern Districts teammate Shane Thomson. They took on and mastered the great pace pairing of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis to win the Test.

His most significant innings though was his Test-best of 267 not out at Dunedin on the 7th of March 1997, in an innings victory over Sri Lanka. This remains the fifth highest score in Test cricket by a New Zealand player.

When the final curtain was drawn with his last Test against South Africa in 1999, his First Class career totalling 163 matches, 276 innings, 7,489 runs, including 10 centuries, 37 half centuries, 297 catches and 11 stumpings, concluded.

For New Zealand, his 35 Tests saw 2,034 runs with a highest score of 267 not out, backed up with 12 fifties. He picked up 54 catches in the field - including 6 in one match. He played 74 ODIs - totalling 1,668 runs with another 22 catches.

His achievements and contributions to cricket as a proud Northlander were recognised in 2014 as he became just the 25th person inducted into the 'Northland Legends of Sport' - Northland's version of a Sports Hall of Fame.

In the case of our own homegrown cricketer who went from City, Whangarei, to Northland, to Northern Districts to some of the most exotic cricket arenas in the world having made it on the international stage, and along the way taking the plunge to reinvent himself as an opening batsman, it has been some journey. One would have to say - not too bad for a career that kicked off as a teenager with the City Cricket Club and at the home of Northland Cricket, Cobham Oval.

Youngy has shown us all what is possible when talent and hard work are combined. He is, proudly, one of us - who made it all the way.

And in so doing, Bryan Andrew Young became a *City Cricket Club Legend*.



BRYAN YOUNG

New Zealand (Black Caps)									
Batting & Fielding									
	Matches	Innings	N.O.	Runs	Ave.	Best	100s	50s	Ct / St
Tests	35	68	4	2,034	31.78	267*	2	12	54 / 0
ODIs	74	73	5	1,668	24.52	74	-	9	28 / 0

First Class Cricket (Northern Districts & Auckland)									
Batting & Fielding									
	M	Inns.	N.O.	Runs	Ave.	Best	100s	50s	Ct / St
First Class	163	276	43	7,489	32.14	267*	10	37	297 / 11
List A One Day	172	169	14	4,452	28.72	108*	2	27	84 / 12

Northland									
Batting & Fielding									
	M	Innings	N.O.	Runs	Ave.	Best	100s	50s	Ct / St
Two Day	68	78	10	2,535	37.28	132	7	15	136 / 16
One Day	5	4	1	179	59.70	56	-	2	9 / 0



Bryan Young

