

CITY CRICKET CLUB LEGENDS

Craig Miller Presland ('Pres')

Success on the sporting field is one thing. Translating it off the field and into the boardroom is another. Few people achieve success in both fields. Craig Miller Presland is one of the few. Dual success has many common attributes: honesty, preparation, attention to detail, competitiveness, loyalty and hard work. This is Craig's mantra.

On the field for City, Pres dominated in rare fashion as he made his way to first class cricket. 'First class' means just that and it is how Pres conducts himself.

Off the field he continued to make us proud, as he reached the highest levels of cricket administration in New Zealand, leaving it better than when he found it. To this day he remains one of the club's family; giving back in whatever way he can.

Pres is one of the best home-grown players that City Cricket Club has ever produced. A stroke-playing middle-order batsman, Pres had the ability to 'take the game away' from the opposition when at the crease. With his deceptively sharp swing bowling he was often able to extract extra pace and bounce from seemingly flat wickets to make a much-needed breakthrough. A natural athlete and an effortless, versatile fielder, he was regularly stationed at gully. An all-rounder in every sense.

His parents, Bryan and Joyce, must have had a premonition of things to come by giving him the middle name of 'Miller', after the great Australian all-rounder Keith Miller. Craig often cut a dashing figure as he emulated his namesake's all-round abilities.

Playing for City from 1970-1997, Pres started as an age-group level off-spinner, but he could always bat and field. His first century for City was at age 15 vs Whangarei Boys HS. The Duncan Fearnley bat that did the damage is on display here.

Those 'offies' made way as Pres found natural pace in his bowling having reinvented himself whilst playing League and County Cricket for North Middlesex CC in London, Saints CC in Northampton, Bedfordshire, and Northants Second XI, progressing from Whangarei Colts, Northland Colts, and Northern Districts Under 20 and Under 23 rep teams. This culminated in 1978, when after representing Northern Districts at the Brabin Tournament, he was selected in the New Zealand Brabin team.

During this time the 18-year-old Pres won the Northern Advocate quick-fire single wicket contest at Cobham Oval involving 16 of the best players in Northland. Pres didn't just win but showed his calm by beating the colossus of Northland cricket Brian Dunning, in a dramatic final, where he smote Dunning's last delivery of the match to square leg for four, to win.

Over the ensuing years, Pres would be a major contributor for City, winning several championships which included being part of one of the club's most successful premier seasons winning the 'Triple Crown' which included One and Two-Day championships, along with the Dargaville Shield and part of what he describes as a "wonderful team and club spirit". Inspired throughout his career by people like Brian Dunning and Denis Lloyd.

Some of his achievements:

- Record highest Club score: 197 v Onerahi Central CC at Cobham Oval (1991).
- Winning the Wilson Platter in 1990/91 with a record 1,710 points for runs, wickets and catches which still stands. 1245 runs scored at a Bradman like average of 95.77.

Northland representation was not far away with a debut at 18 (1978/79). He would go on to play 76 games for Northland and complete the 1,000 runs and 100 wickets double. His achievements included:

- Making Northland's highest individual score, 223 vs Counties (1986) which still stands. Coming in at 14 for 4 after being inserted, he laid into Counties over 287 minutes, 257 balls, hitting five sixes and 24 fours. The extent to which he dominated the innings is that the 2nd highest score was 26, made by his fellow City club team mate Scott Wilson.
- Being in Northland teams that won the Hawke Cup four times from 1983 to 1991, against Nelson (1983), Hawkes Bay (1985), Taranaki (1989) and Southland (1991).

Success at Club and particularly Hawke Cup level were great foundations for Pres's entry into first class cricket when he debuted for Northern Districts vs Auckland in the 1982-83 season, scoring 60 not out in the second innings to help save the match.

Picked primarily as a bowler to begin, Pres enjoyed success in 1983 with both his highest first class score of 97* vs Central Districts at Cobham Oval and career best bowling of 5-49 vs Canterbury at Lancaster Park.

Pres played two seasons for Northern Districts in a career curtailed in part due to injuries. That was still good enough for 503 runs at 26.47 and 32 wickets at 31.50 in First-Class cricket, and 11 wickets at 28.90 in one-day (list A) cricket. There was no doubt that he could 'play' at that level.

For all of Pres's successes on the field, he met and exceeded them as a cricket administrator as well as in business. Possibly leaving the game a little too early so that he could focus on his business career, Pres has led a range of companies and organisations in the following industries since 1995: Co-operatives, Sport, Education, Travel, Public Health, Freight Forwarding, Building and Construction, and Dairy.

From early beginnings as Club Treasurer he went all the way to the top of New Zealand Cricket, becoming its Chief Operating Officer from 2012 to 2014. Today, Parnell Cricket Club in Auckland, is the beneficiary of a remarkable combination of on-field cricketering ability, and off-field administrative excellence, where he has coached junior cricket teams for 13 years (2006 to 2018) and been Club Chairman since 2015.

Appointed a Director of Northern Districts Cricket in 2011, Pres was then 'shoulder tapped' to become Chief Operating Officer of New Zealand Cricket in 2012 heading the restructure and relocation of all support services to Auckland and leading the administration of New Zealand Cricket's governance review in 2012 and 2013. Suffice to say he left New Zealand Cricket in a better place than when he arrived.

While we celebrate the successes Pres made from his City Cricket Club roots, his story would not be complete if we did not recognise his other favourite club in Northland, Kamo Rugby Football Club.

Pres was equally loyal to the Kamo Rugby Club as he was to City CC. In the days when summer meant cricket and winter meant rugby, Pres played many seasons for Kamo in their glamour backline. He represented North Auckland (as the Taniwha were known back then) including a match against the touring English team in 1985. The previous season he also played for Northern Districts against England (scoring 58 and taking 2 wickets) which makes Pres a 'dual international' of sorts!

If you were to ask Pres whether his cricket would have prospered had he not played rugby, he might have to reluctantly agree. But the price of not playing for Kamo would have been too much – his loyalty to both Clubs was, and still is, unshakeable.

Runs, wickets, catches for the City Cricket Club, Northland and Northern Districts, Provincial Rugby representative, senior cricket administrator. Followed by a distinguished career in the boardroom to playing a leading role within New Zealand Cricket, Pres has 'been there and done that'. All the time honouring his virtues of honesty, loyalty, hard work with professionalism.

It is for these reasons, that Craig Miller Presland, is a **City Cricket Club Legend**.

Notable Achievements

(Representative cricket)

- Represented Northern Districts U-20 (Brabin), and U-23 (Rothmans), at 5 national tournaments.
- Selected in the New Zealand Minor Associations team to play Sri Lanka in NZ (New Plymouth and Whanganui), 1983.
- Highest score for Northern Districts: 97 not out v Central Districts at Cobham Oval, Dec 1983.
- Best bowling for Northern Districts: 5 for 49 v. Canterbury at Lancaster Park, March 1983.
- Scored a half century (58) for Northern Districts vs the touring England team at Seddon Park (1984).
- 1982: North Middlesex CC, London, most runs in season.
- 1984: Saints CC in Northampton, Bedfordshire, and Northants Second XI.
- One of eight players in the "1,000 runs/100 wickets" club for Northland, with 1,570/106.
- Northland has won the Hawke Cup 4 times from 1983 to 1991, wins against Nelson (1983), Hawkes Bay (1985), Taranaki (1989), Southland (1991). Craig played in all these victories.
- NZ Brabin (U-20) team, 1978.
- Highest score for Northland, 223, v Counties 1986.

(City Cricket Club - Honours Board)

- First century for City CC at age of 15 v WBHS, Duncan Fearnley (bat provided and part of the display).
- Record highest score for City CC, March 1991: 197 v Onerahi Central CC at Cobham Oval.
- Most runs in season for City CC, 1990/91: 1,245 runs at an average of 95.7
- Named in the 50th Jubilee Book - City Cricket Club all-time best selection XI (Test Match side - 1972-1997).
- Wiseman Trophy - Best Bowling Average 1985/86 (9.27).
- Peter Jenyns Cup - Best Fieldsman 1986/87, 1988/89.
- Highest Batting Score - 1990/91 (197).
- Wilson Platter - 1989/90, 1990/91 (1,710 points for most runs (1245), wickets (45) and catches (3). This remains the record points to this day.
- Member of the Winning City Cricket Club Premier championships: 1982/83, 1983/84, 1986/87, 1991/92, and 1995/96.

(Cricket Administration)

- Treasurer City CC: 1987 to 1994.
- Chief Operating Officer, NZ Cricket, May 2012 to October 2014.
- Chairman Parnell CC, June 2015 to present day (November 2018).

(Rugby)

- Played for Kamo 1970 to 1992, senior rugby 1983 to 1992.
- Played for Auckland University 1978 to 1981.
- Played for Auckland U-20 rep team 1980 and 1981.
- Played for NZ Universities U-21 1980.
- Played for North Auckland 1985 (2 matches).



craig presland



Craig Presland

First Class Cricket (Northern Districts)									
Batting & Fielding									
	M	Inns.	N.O.	Runs	Ave.	Best	100s	50s	Ct
First Class	14	25	6	503	26.47	97*	-	4	8
List A One Day	9	8	2	90	15.00	24	-	-	3

Bowling										
	M	Balls	Wkts.	Runs	Ave.	Best	Eco.	SR	5w	10w
First Class	14	1785	32	1,008	31.50	5-49	3.39	55.78	1	-
List A One Day	9	354	11	318	28.90	3-28	5.39	32.18	-	-

Northland									
Batting & Fielding									
	M	Innings	N.O.	Runs	Ave.	Best	100s	50s	Ct
Two Day	76	79	15	1,570	24.53	223	3	6	43

Bowling									
	M	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts.	Ave.	Best	5w	10w
Two Day	76	851	209	2,290	106	21.60	5-23	1	-