



Jean Stonell

Jean Stonell was a prominent figure in New Zealand sports, excelling in both cricket and basketball. After attending Northland Primary, she began her education at Wellington Technical College in 1942 as a commerce student. A talented athlete, she quickly rose to the top of the college's girls' First XI hockey and cricket teams. After leaving in 1944, her passion for sports continued, and within three years, the almost 1.8m tall woman was representing Wellington in both basketball and cricket.

Her commitment to cricket paid off, and after years of hard work, she established herself in the Wellington team during the 1956-57 season. Her two half-centuries at the top of the batting order earned her a spot on the New Zealand side for a month-long tour of Australia. In Basketball, her other chosen sport, Jean represented New Zealand in one basketball fixture in 1953. In the 1958-59 cricket season, Jean captained the Wellington women's team to their first Hallyburton-Johnstone Shield in four years. The following season, her consistent batting led to her Test debut, and she also scored a remarkable 114 not out for her club side, Technical College Old Girls.

Over the next five years, Jean continued to captain Wellington, achieving a personal milestone with a representative century—an unbeaten 107 against Otago. She was selected for the second-ever New Zealand women's cricket tour of England in 1966. She played her last Wellington tournament in the 1966-67 season, twenty years after her debut. In April 1968, Jean retired from cricket in style by scoring a century before ending her final match.

Beyond her playing career, Jean was a dedicated administrator. She served on the New Zealand Women's Cricket Council from 1955 to 1965, holding the role of secretary for several years. She was later made a life member of the Wellington Women's Cricket Association and became an honorary Vice President of Cricket Wellington when the associations merged. She was elected President of the Silver Ferns Club for former New Zealand women's representatives in 1994, a position she held until her death in 2008.