

# List of the Most International Wickets for New Zealand in a Calendar Year

New Zealand has produced several world-class bowlers who have consistently delivered match-winning performances across formats. Over the years, a few standout names have etched their place in history by recording the **most international wickets for New Zealand in a calendar year**. These exceptional seasons not only showcased individual brilliance but also played a crucial role in elevating the Black Caps on the global stage.

This article takes a detailed look at the bowlers who dominated international cricket for New Zealand in single calendar years.



## Understanding International Wickets in a Calendar Year

International wickets include dismissals across **Tests**, **One Day Internationals (ODIs)**, and **T20 Internationals** within a single year. Achieving a high wicket tally requires fitness,

consistency, and the ability to perform in different conditions against top-quality opposition.

## Richard Hadlee – The Benchmark of Excellence

Sir Richard Hadlee remains the gold standard for New Zealand fast bowling. In his peak years, Hadlee recorded some of the **highest international wicket tallies in a calendar year** for the country. His ability to dominate with swing and seam, combined with relentless accuracy, made him New Zealand's most feared bowler of his era.

## Shane Bond – Pace at Its Peak

Shane Bond's explosive pace and sharp movement helped him enjoy a remarkable wicket-taking year during his prime. Despite injury setbacks throughout his career, Bond's best calendar year featured a heavy haul of wickets across formats, especially in ODIs, where he was nearly unplayable on his day.

## Tim Southee – Consistency Across Formats

Tim Southee has been one of New Zealand's most consistent wicket-takers in modern cricket. His standout calendar year saw him pick up wickets regularly in all three formats. Southee's ability to swing the new ball and deliver crucial breakthroughs made that year one of the most productive by a New Zealand bowler.

Also Read: [Updated WTC Table for 2025-27](#)

## Trent Boult – Swing King's Golden Year

Trent Boult enjoyed a phenomenal calendar year where he ranked among the **top international wicket-takers globally**. His lethal left-arm swing troubled batters in Tests and limited-overs cricket alike. Boult's peak year highlighted his knack for striking early and maintaining pressure throughout spells.

## Daniel Vettori – Spin and Control

While fast bowlers often dominate wicket charts, Daniel Vettori proved that spin can be just as effective. One of his best calendar years featured a significant number of international wickets, driven by his accuracy, flight, and ability to extract bounce from unresponsive pitches.

## Why These Records Matter

The [most international wickets for New Zealand in a calendar year](#) reflect not just individual skill but also endurance and adaptability. These bowlers carried the national side through challenging tours and major tournaments, shaping New Zealand's reputation as a competitive cricketing nation.

## Conclusion

From Richard Hadlee's legendary dominance to Trent Boult's modern-day excellence, New Zealand's bowlers have delivered unforgettable wicket-taking performances in calendar years gone by. These records stand as a testament to the country's rich bowling legacy and continue to inspire future generations of Black Caps.