

In Focus – the McAuleys

Fiona & Duncan McAuley; the tartan exiles

Fiona left Scotland to come to Perth at the age of three, but returned at nineteen to look up relations and seek out her roots. She met and married Duncan and the short trip lasted more than ten years. He had started running with the Victoria Park Harriers in Glasgow, mainly cross country. He also competed in middle distance events in the Ayrshire Championships and the West District Championships, winning the 800m in a hugely impressive 1:52. He also starred in races at Highland Games and enjoyed beating a good local runner in the 400m. (No mention of what, if anything, was under the kilt!)

They returned to Perth in 1982. Desperate for some running, Duncan went to a Perry Lakes meeting and stormed in first in the 800m and 1500m. He was immediately recruited by UWAAC and ran with them regularly until he was about forty when he joined the Vets. He'll always remember running the 1987 City to Surf in 41:30 and winning a half marathon relay in 1996, teamed up with Brian Foley.



Fiona is one of the most dogged runners in the club. No matter what the conditions, on Tuesdays she always runs the long race and never pulls out part way through. She only started running about 12 years ago, spurred on by the need to exercise to keep off the weight she had just lost. She was soon running impressive times – clocking up best times of 23:37 for 5km and 47:17 for 10km. Injuries prevented her maintaining this level of performance and she still has to take care to avoid stress fractures. Both she and Duncan have participated in the Masters 50km event and the Masters Games in Alice Springs where Duncan did every event on offer, including the pentathlon. With their Scottish pedigree, friendly nature and ready willingness to help at all times – Duncan and Fiona are always popular members in the club.

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Note: I don't have a photo of Fiona currently. One will be added as soon as available