

In Focus – Peggy Macliver

Teenage Talent

At 14, Peggy joined a running club, to get out of going to church on Sundays, and discovered her athletic talent. She was allocated to Shirley Strickland's sprinters' training group but when she won a cross country event she was told she was a middle distance runner. After running 2:18 in a junior women's 800m, she was chosen to go to the Melbourne trials for the 1962 Empire Games at the new Perry Lakes Stadium. In her 800 yard race she was pushed and sent flying over the track-side barrier.

This so traumatised her that she didn't run again until her mid-forties when she discovered Veterans and joined the club in 1986. Her husband Rob joined to keep her company and they started out as Sunday runners. Sadly, Rob developed a neurological disease and over the years became very disabled. He passed away at the age of 61, after 39 years of marriage. They had three children and Peggy now has five grandchildren.

World Champion and Record Breaker

Persuaded by Keith Forden, Peggy eventually summoned up courage to try track work again and never looked back. Various championships have taken her to Japan, Europe and around Oceania but the competition that means the most to her was the 1999 WAVA Games at Gateshead. In a strong W55 group Peggy won gold in the 800m and silver in both 400m and 200m. Her W55 relay team broke the world record and won the 2000 Australian Sports Award for Masters Team of the Year. She says "I think that was the peak of my masters running career."



Photo: Vic Waters

At the World Championships in Brisbane in 2001 she first met Graeme, a journalist and runner from Bundaberg. After a long distance relationship, Graeme moved to Perth in 2008 when they both retired. Peggy puts as much effort into field events as she does to running and is a regular winner of the Patron's Trophy. She has served on the club's committee for some time and uses her skills as an ex-medical secretary in her current position as club registrar.

She holds a fistful of records, for 60m to 800m, pentathlon and relays: 1 world, 11 state and 5 national records. Peggy enjoys running but not the highs and lows of competing. She finds winning medals at world level is always a terrific high, as is the feeling of achieving PBs and running to the very best of her ability. But she has also experienced more than her fair share of lows – being injured and finding it hard to get fit again. She has toyed with the idea of giving it all up but says she would "miss the friends I've made and their support when things get tough." And she appreciates the physical benefits of running and the mental challenge of always striving to do better.

CO, November 2009