

In Focus – Lynne Schickert

Enjoying every challenge

Lynne, a W65 all rounder, is the quiet and unassuming half of the dynamic Schickert duo. But she has hidden depths. Apart from being one of only very few women of her age still competing in athletics, she plays an important role in the running of Masters Athletics worldwide.

She joined Vic Vets in the mid 70s and started running, up to half marathon distance and race walking. She particularly enjoyed the “sight seeing aspect” of fun running, especially in spring time.

Over the last thirty years or so she has competed in six WMA and six Oceania Championships, taking her far afield including Europe, Canada and the Cook Islands.

She still race walks but has graduated to shorter runs and horizontal jumps and also “plays around” with throws. She enjoys the challenge of competing in the pentathlon and the 2000m steeplechase. Her most memorable result was in the WMA Non Stadia championships in Auckland. She was a member of the winning W60 20km road walk team which went on to win the 2004 Australian Sports Award for the Masters Team category.



Using her organising and people skills

Lynne is a qualified Athletics Australia official and spends most Saturday afternoons at Perry Lakes Stadium open meetings as a track judge. Since the 80s, and sometimes in tandem with Bob, she has, amongst other things, founded a local club in Melbourne, sat on the organising committee for the AAVAC National Championships in Perth, acted as one of the team managers for the World Veterans Athletics Championships in Brisbane, been organiser and consultant for the athletics component of the Fremantle Masters Games, was the Convener of the Telstra AMA Championships in Perth and team manager for the WMA Championships in Puerto Rico. Since 2004 she has sat on the Council of Oceania Association for Masters Athletics and since 2003 has been AMA’s National President. This latter role has provided her with opportunities for assisting the sport to grow and develop both locally and internationally. One of her visions is to stimulate membership through retention of mature age athletes and transition of senior athletes into masters’ competition by providing programmes that are both competitive and fun. She is currently the Oceania representative on the WMA Women’s Committee where issues such as reduction of technical specifications for older women are being actively pursued - mainly at the instigation of Australia.

Lynne enjoys being fit and active and being part of a sport which caters for all ages and all levels of ability. She aims to compete in the State, National and World Masters Championships in 2009 and says “The friendship and support from other members is important and winning medals [of which she has many! Ed.] is the icing on the cake. I hope to continue to participate actively for many years to come.”

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