

## Gary Fisher

Gary was born and raised in Fremantle and surrounding areas in the early 1950's. And after leaving the schooling system Gary was employed as an assistant accountant with Western Milling (Flour milling) Located in of all places Cottesloe, A flour mill in Cott (who would of thought) According to Gary the mill remains today, 19 Athelstan Rd off Curtin Ave area, heritage listed building, but now apartments, I'll certainly take a look! when next passing by, The company also had a mill in Northam which Gary had to frequent during his career and account for as well, remaining with the company 33yrs, before moving on to Dave Roberts accounting firm till retirement (Dave Roberts, Pt Walter race director for MAWA is another story to be told)

Gary began running in his 30's more as a fitness and health venture to keep up with his kids who were by this time getting bigger and more demanding of dads time at the park, Then joining the WAMC in the late 80's to 2000's he concurrently also joined with MAWA in 1992 till current 2024,

Gary describes his MAWA times (especially in the very early years) as Lucky! According to him there was a bunch of people who had a similar mind set and wanted to fulfill a goal of sub 40min 10k runs, Whilst there certainly were some at the club who did this feat rain hail or shine week in week out! there was a pack of 2<sup>nd</sup> tier runners with this goal, many from this pack went onto sub 40min 10k's Gary personally was becoming a regular around 38+ mins and on a few glorious runs was sub 38min, Proudly and rightly so Gary remembers this fondly, But he was also quick to point out that for lesser distances the sprinters and 5k specialist would leave him in there dust, Kent st weir was Gary's favourite and fastest masters run, Like all of us Gary had 2 issues to deal with when running (Body and Mind) the latter, he had been able to control for many years "strong will got me through" Training for Gary was no different to a club run day, run hard rain hail or shine on a regular basis (5 days a week in his case) no special days or styles of training, and if he lapsed in routine it usually meant an instant loss of fitness that had to be regained on the beaten track,

Favourite training location City-Sth Perth river loop (But running was an enjoyment and not a burden, "just to be out there" he said

Running no less than 10 city to surf races in the 90's, at sub-48:00min, 45:23min at 46yo is the special one



Retiring at 64, Gary fills or filled his days by volunteering and or working as Crossing/Lollipop man for Wesley collage, Official for ACCC (Catholic Collages) 60+ schools coming together yearly over 3-week period for inter-school sports carnivals at WAAS, Volunteer (Meet and greet) Old Perth City fire station

Gary took on the MAWA position of Race Director in 1997 for what was then known as the 15k Uni and back run and still till this day (although many changes have evolved) 27years later presides over the event, In the early days of Uni and back! The race began at McCallum pk down riverside drive to UWA 7.5k and returned to McCallum pk, (Beautiful scenic location) The event was disrupted and changed forever by the building of the Bell tower and of course Elizabeth Quay, To nullify the effects of these changes the race start was shifted to Abraham Reserve in Nedlands and the journey is now back towards the city then turning before Elizabeth key and returning to Nedlands, Those who were present at the last run would remember the confusion of direction as there are 5 different events all starting at the same time and going in 2 different directions, But as usual under good management all turned out fine 😊 We all had a giggle on then off we went! (I'm sure Gary will not mind me bringing that up 😊)

Gary has had some memorable occasions with this run over the years,

But none more than when Frank Usher was the volunteer/Marshal at the UWA turnaround point! Franks thoughts in the morning were, if I'm going to be marshal at the turn around, I may as well be comfortable! Taking a very comfy fold up chair and assuming position at his destination he promptly fell asleep, front runners had no idea this sleeping man was the turn and kept going, Gary at the finish line new that these elite athletes should be back by now! But were not in site, later it was described to him that they saw a man asleep in a chair but thought nothing of it and kept going looking for their marshal 😊 😊

One startling statistic from Gary's RD runs:  
15k sub 1hr runners in 1997 8 club members of 100 finishers

15k sub 1 hr runners in 2024 1 club member of 120 finishers

Gary has sciatic nerve and knee issues and been unable to comfortably run for a while now, not running at all over the last 4 years, participation on a Sunday is now a walk and enjoying being out there!

Thanks Gary and thank you The Reader



227  
Gary

