

LIFE MEMBERS - DAC

Since amalgamation in 1993 seven life memberships have been awarded for continued contributions to DAC.

TOM KELLY (1994)

Season 1979/80 saw Tom Kelly as a new recruit to the Doncaster coaching scene, working with some of our middle and long distance athletes. He was an 'escapee' from the Box Hill club where he had been an athlete and coach for many years.

For over 25 years Tom has given service to DAC for at least two hours, six days a week all year round. The amount of time and effort required, the knowledge and the planning that has gone into programs for athletes from fields as varied as sprinting to hurdles to marathon.

As well as being coach he has served on the Committee for countless years, been team manager for both cross country, Interclub and State League and of course doctor, physiotherapist, adviser, counsellor, taxi driver, consoler and general all-rounder.

Tom was a representative over the marathon distance for both Ireland and Australia – being very successful and winning an international marathon in Korea in 1961 (competing for Box Hill Athletic Club unfortunately!). He was the first athlete at Box Hill to win an international event. The race was run in a heat wave with 80% humidity. Tom's coach at the time Viv Chalwin writes:

“About the 27km mark Tom developed cramp in his left leg and had to fight against this (very courageously I think) to the finish – sheer guts kept him going”. (Box Hill newsletter, 1961)

It is this kind of determination that Tom has tried to instil in his athletes over the years.

SEAN QUILTY (1997)

Sean's competitive record on a state, national and international level is outstanding. His career highlight included a silver medal in the marathon at the Commonwealth Games in 1994 and on a club level, DAC's first A grade cross country premiership when the team went undefeated in season 1993.

Sean's other achievements include State Marathon Champion (1990, 1992 and 2001), National Marathon Champion (1991 and 1993) and National 10km Champion (1999). On the international stage he captained the Australian team in the prestigious Ekiden Relays in Japan, represented Australia at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics (placed 34th), 1994 Commonwealth Games (2nd place), went to three World Championships (1995 Gotemborg – 52nd, 1997 Athens – 23rd, 1999 Seville – 63rd) and two World Cross Country Championships (1995 England – 101st, 1997 Turin – 123rd).

Sean was a Committee member for three years, men's club captain from 1988 to 1993, assisted the club's

social calendar by organising/hosting trivia nights for a number of years and has now moved into the coaching arena.

ADAM ROBERTSON (1999)

Adam first became involved in senior athletics in 1985 due to his two children (Catherine and Stephen) moving up from Little Athletics. In his dedicated fashion, Adam volunteered for the Committee the following year. Before long (1988) he was the club javelin and weight training/conditioning coach and has since coached athletes across all event groups, all age groups and to World Junior, World Uni Games, World Masters, Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games. A fabulous achievement.

Adam's involvement also includes six years of Secretary (1990/91 to 1995/96) through the amalgamation period. Not only has Adam been involved in the club gym since 1988, he has built the facilities and capacity of the gym to cater for growing membership. Adam sourced the equipment or gladly accepted donations from members who showed their gratitude for the great work he has done for them.

For his volunteer work Adam was nominated by DAC and awarded an Australia Day award in 2004 and a Year of the Volunteer award in 2000 for service to the club.

MURRAY HARDING (2000)

Murray was a talented junior hurdler who then became a middle distance athlete under the guidance of John Hirst. Murray has been involved in the DAC Committee for a number of years and is a stalwart of trivia nights and setting up Bundoora Park cross country course.

Murray has been the State League team manager of both the mens and womens team for many years and the men's cross country team manager during the winter. Because of his vast contacts in the sport, Murray has been instrumental in encouraging many talented athletes to join Doncaster. Murray has now turned his hand to coaching and has had success in this form of contribution to the Doncaster Athletic Club also.

SCOTT YOUNG (2002)

Scott first started competing for DAC as an 11 year old. His success in the field has been consistent with his best results being a bronze in Discus at Nationals (Open) and winning an Under 20 Australian Discus title. Internationally Scott has represented Australia on the Under 21 team to tour New Zealand and was a part of the Australian team in an International throws competition in Brisbane.

At a club level, Scott was involved in the Committee for seven years including three years as Secretary. Scott's record at State League as usually the only Doncaster throwing athlete has been outstanding. For example in the 1999/2000 season Scott won 90% of the discus and shot put events he competed in. The men finished out of the finals in fifth position that year; this could almost be attributed to an injury to Scott Young which left no representative in the throwing events.

For Scott, his life in athletics has allowed him to meet "heaps of great people around the club and from other clubs. I wouldn't know what to do without it". Thanks for your contributions on and off the field Scott.

CHARMAINE SMITH (NEE PAYNE) (2003)

Charmaine began life with DWAC as a very talented all rounder. On many occasions it was her versatility and willingness to jump into field and track events alike that has been the difference between a Venue or Association Premiership.

“Charmaine competed in every round of Interclub in at least six events. Like many of our girls Charmaine set personal bests in most of her events and won the State Championship in the Under 18 400m Hurdles.” (Annual Report 1990/91)

On an administrative level Charmaine has devoted many years to the Committee (1996/97 – present) including 5 years as Secretary (1999/2000 – present). She has been Team Manager for Junior and Senior teams over many years and continues to be the backbone of Saturdays at Interclub. Take 1997/98 for example:

“Charmaine sacrificed her B Grade eligibility to compete in State League in all 10 rounds. Along with team managing the women’s Interclub teams on Saturday’s she organised the Cup Competition and Relay Championship teams and was available to help at State League. These undertakings are only the ones that the athletes see, there are many more behind the scenes.” (Debra Tomsett, State League manager, Annual Report 1996/97)

Her organisational skills and enthusiasm to get to know new members and make them feel welcome is second to none.

DEAN PAULIN (2003)

Dean has had a stellar career as a middle distance athlete. In 1984 Dean represented Australia in the World cross country championships and in 1989 his State and National 1500m title led him to be named in the Oceania Cup Team.

Dean also contributed widely to the club being joint DAC Chat editor in the early 1990’s with Nick McKenzie and

Dean continues to run to support the men’s cross country team in particular and is still around the club as his talented daughters are members and they continue a proud athletics tradition that started with Dean’s father Ted.