

# LIFE MEMBERS - DWAC

Many dedicated people were pivotal to the formation, development and rise of the DWAC, especially in the early years. To honour and reward contributions to the club eight life memberships were awarded in the 22 years of DWAC's existence

## **JOAN MAHONY (1983)**

Joan was the very deserving recipient of the first Life Membership awarded by DWAC in 1983. From 1974 to 1981 Joan led the club through some pivotal years which included the development of the George Street track, Interclub at Doncaster and competing with the Men.

Ann Fraser said of Joan in the 1976/77 Annual Report:

“The Doncaster Women's Club have been fortunate that they have a leader like you.”

Joan's love of the sport, desire to promote athletics and develop young women in the local area were obvious. Her President's Reports each year always showed her enthusiasm and comments such as: “Let us do our part to give them the opportunity to continue with their chosen sport, by our whole-hearted support” (from the 1975/76 report) demonstrate her dedication to the cause.

Joan's last season as President was 1980/81, but she continued as a delegate after that date. In recognition of Joan's outstanding achievements at the Club, *The Joan Mahony Perpetual Trophy* was first awarded at the end of the 1980/81 season to Athlete of the Year (now known as the Joan Mahony Female Athlete of the Year).

## **JUDITH BANKS (1984)**

Judith Banks held the post of Treasurer from 1977 to 1981. In her 1978/79 report, Joan Mahony thanked Judith for being the Secretary and said “Judith Banks has been quietly efficient in her role as Secretary and her calm logic has made her a valued member of the Committee. She has supported me admirably.” Other words used to describe Judith were “tower of strength”.

## **DEBRA TOMSETT (NEE COOPER) (1986)**

Debra joined the club in 1972 as a 14 year old. Debra was Club Captain from 1974-78 then 1984-93. According to Joan Mahony “Debbie Cooper filled her position as Club Captain with her usual quiet competence and friendliness. She was always there to help others, especially newcomers learning the ropes.” (Annual Report 1977/78)

Her first official off-track role was as Publicity Officer in 1975/76. Debra held the position of President in 1982/83, but resigned at the end in the build up to the 1984 Olympic Games to give herself “every opportunity to achieve the qualifying standard and to have a hope for selection” (Annual Report, 1983/84)

Other roles held in the DWAC were Treasurer (1986/87–1988/89), President (1982/83 then 1989/90 to 1992/93), VWAAA/VAA Delegate (1977-1993) and 17 years on the Committee. Following amalgamation in 1993 Debra was Treasurer (1993-2000), State League Manager (1993-1998) and AV Club Delegate (1993 –2000).

The above record shows her longevity and continued support in administrative roles, it is made all the more amazing when you take into consideration her athletic performances over that time;

Six State Championship Titles (over 100m H, 400m H and 400m): Two silver and three bronze at National Championships (400m H); Six gold in 4x400m relays at National Championships: Many minor medals at State Championships; Australian representation in 1985 at the Pacific Conference Games, California.

A truly superb record and a club member of continued value.

### **ELLEN PERRY (1986)**

Ellen, like most of our life members, has done a multitude of tasks in her time at DWAC. From her first year on the Committee (1978/79) to her role as Winter Competition Manager and canteen organiser, Ellen has done it all. But of course her most valuable role has been that of Official.

Ellen has volunteered her time and resources on innumerable Saturdays, Thursday nights, Championships and of course the highest accolade, at the Sydney Olympics. We are indebted to Ellen for her dedication to our club.

### **JOHN YARRANTON (1988)**

John was a Team Manager over a number of years, both at Royal Park and at Doncaster, and always gave “steadfast, loyal and true managership” (Debra Tomsett, Presidents Report 1982/83). His enthusiasm and effort in trying to get the best out of his charges is obvious in some of his reports:

“How we might do better is tied to “do we want to do better?” Indeed each Club member must ask herself “do I want to do better?” Your Club will only become stronger if you have the will to make it so; if your answer is “I do”, then more attention to detail is necessary, more cooperation is necessary, more dedication is necessary, more Club Loyalty is vital.” (Annual Report 1976/77)

John had other roles in the club including Delegate to Venue meetings (1982/83) and compiling the officials roster (1984/85). However these were only his ‘official’ roles. John was a true club person and was always there to lend a hand. Along with Betty and Terry, the Yarranton family gave an enormous contribution to DWAC over the years.

### **BRIAN PIERSON (1988)**

Brian became involved with the Club through his daughter, Sally. This began a long association with DWAC which included five years as President (1983/84 – 1987/88), a stint as Treasurer (1989/90) and a Committee man for several years.

Brian was also one of our dedicated band of officials and broke new ground to become the first male officiating regularly for the Women’s Association: “He was an accepted member of a Field events team of officials at the Doncaster venue and it was “smooth sailing” all the way”.

### **MICHELLE PAIN (1989)**

The very capable Michelle Pain took the reins as Team Manager from season 1981/82 to 1986/87. Michelle took phone calls from girls, organised relay teams, cajoled, commiserated and saw some very successful seasons at Doncaster. Along with her other roles with the newsletter, registrations and as a Committee member, Michelle certainly had her hands full and the club was indebted to her over that period and beyond. It seems however that Michelle, just like all other Life Members and contributors to the club also got something in return:

“I first joined the club because I loved to hurdle. What I got out of participating at this club was just invaluable – fitness, discipline and responsibility (as a team mate as well as a team manager in my later years with the club); a great environment in which to grow up; a terrific bunch of friends. That was the hardest thing leaving the club in the early 1990s – it wasn’t that I was the greatest runner leaving behind an important running career, it was the great friendships I thought (luckily, incorrectly) that I’d lose”.

### **DIANE PAIN (1991)**

Diane first became involved with the DWAC in 19?? As an Official, Diane has spent countless hours in the field, measuring and recording for our athletes on innumerable Saturday afternoons at Interclub, Thursday nights at State League and Championships on weekends. Di was also bestowed the highest accolade for an Official in being selected to officiate at the Sydney Olympics. We are indebted to Di for her dedication to our club.