

My Field of Dreams

by Keith Redpath - a Masters club member and an athletics coach

FOR those who don't know, the "*Field of Dreams*" is a film written and directed by Phil Alden Robinson and starring Kevin Costner about a farmer who hears and sees mysterious messages. Despite everyone telling him he is mad the farmer interprets these messages as a request to build a baseball diamond on his land which leads to mystical, magical and spiritual experiences that transcends human understanding.

My background

I am 67 years old, I started running when I was ten and I am still competing on a regular basis. I have been coaching athletics for over 50 years and am still developing my skills. I lived in Scotland for 65 years before retiring and emigrating with my wife, Tricia, to Byford, Western Australia, two years ago to be with the rest of our family.

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I was inspired by the Field of Dreams film when a voice whispers to the Kevin Costner character "If you build it, they will come."

So I went about building a 300 metre running track at the local Kalimna Oval in Byford with 60 metre straights and 90 metre bends.

Well, I did build it and they did come. I now have over 90 members of my *Run and Become* Athletic Club. My club is a non-profit, volunteer organisation seeking to inspire, educate, and promote running throughout the local community.

I have created a vibrant, safe and progressive group which caters for athletes of all abilities and from all backgrounds. There are no coaching fees, and anyone can join. Ages range from four to 67.

Our current membership ranges from State Champions to people who just want to become fit and healthy. Over 50 percent of my athletes come from the same local church. The club provides the local community with a valuable service of promoting health and well-being. My Field of Dreams offers a base where I can carry out my duty of care to my athletes by controlling and supervising all their training activities in a professional manner.

In the film Field of Dreams, baseball stars from the distant past (ghosts) start to appear and ask the farmer if they can practice on his field. This is also a dream of mine if I could train and compete again with the numerous friends I have made over the years (too many to mention, but you know who you are.)

There is a profound joy in running that cannot be expressed in words and cannot be understood by non-athletes.

One of the baseball players in the film believed that the baseball diamond created by Kevin Costner was in fact heaven. I would like to think I have created a little piece of heaven here in Western Australia.

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