

Tammi Doyle

In Focus
with
Carmel Meyer



I was born in Brisbane and raised in a remote community in south west Queensland. I left home at seventeen, as we did in those days, and did a one year Youth Exchange in the USA in 1990. I came home to study Geology in Brisbane and then Honours in Hobart. It was there I met my husband Mark, who was doing his PhD in Volcanology. Mark followed me to Perth where I was offered my first job with BHP. Some many years and jobs later, we are both still working in the mining industry, having never made moves to return to our home states. Our children, Hannah and Cameron, were both born here and I think this will always be their home base.

I was not an athlete's elbow as a young person! My sister was very athletic, so I left sport up to her, and chose books instead. Fate determined I would get into sport eventually by delivering me sporty children. They did Little Athletics and the scientist in me began to find the human movement aspect of athletics fascinating, so I learnt coaching skills and after many up-skilling courses and about twelve years, I'm a Head Coach at Inglewood Athletics. It secretly sparked a desire to have a go myself.

About five years ago, I saw two 'mature women' do the State Heptathlon, and I was so impressed with not only their skill and defiance of age, but just how much fun they appeared to be having. Those two ladies I met later – Sue Coate and Jenn Parker. They inspired me, and I hatched a plan to compete the Hep. the following year with my daughter, who was coincidentally competing in her last ever Heptathlon. It was a very special memory for me to compete with her. There were a lot of very surprised friends when I stripped off to my Masters crop top and bib! It was the start of my association with MAWA.



I don't have any particular aspirations in sport because I get so much more than the competition out of it. I come for the people and the connections. That said, I would love to stay healthy, finally jump 4m in long jump, and hit 3 steps between each hurdle! I admire masters athletes who will have a go - you never know what you are capable of until you stop caring what other people think.

I have had some sprint and jumps coaching with Dave Wyatt, who is very generous with his time. His sessions are very enjoyable, especially the cup of tea afterwards. I attempted one of Barbara Blurton's sprint enduro sessions. Nearly puked. But mostly I just come on Thursdays and hope for the best. I love doing all the events and am a master of none, but I would absolutely love to try Pole Vault! Who wouldn't, really.

Currently I am injury-free, but every winter I seem to break the same pinky toe playing hockey (the other sport I thought I'd try after turning 50).





Club Patron Bob Schickert presents Tammi with the Patron's Trophy 2023

I have been on the Inglewood Athletic Centre committee for about eleven years, variously as Secretary, Coaching Coordinator and Senior Coordinator. I've coached for ten of those years and I was a Key Official /Ref on throws and high jump at club level. I've done a few State Champs as a long or triple jump Chief Judge. And once as a shot put Chief Judge; never again! Way too cerebral.

My daughter is one of my greatest motivators. Her commitment is astounding for one so young. At barely nineteen, she won her first Open State Title in the 1500m. Six months after that, she was recruited to *OI' Miss* in Mississippi to pursue her athletic dreams under the US Collegiate system. Also inspirational is my mum, who was active her whole life, had one dream and that was to drive around Australia by herself in a bus. She made it halfway before the early effects of Alzheimer's made her turn around. She never completed her dream. I don't want to have any regrets. I plan to give everything a go, while I can.

I love sport and love trying new things. I didn't really have a sport as a young person, so I'm making up for lost time, with triathlon, CrossFit, road and mountain bike riding, and hiking, added to track and field and hockey. In the event my body claps out, I'll join a choir. I was in a choir in my teens and did stage productions. Just like in sport, I wasn't very good at it, but I loved it just the same.

