

WA's triple gold medal winners







LYN VENTRIS

- 5000m race walk
- 10km road walk*
- 20km road walk
 - * World record

BYRONY GLASS

- Weight throw
- Hammer
- Throws pentathlon

DAVID CARR

- 800m
- 1500m
- 2000m steeplechase

AUSSI'E SUCCESS

By GRAEME DAHL

This edition of TFNL highlights several performances at the WMA World Championships in Malaga. A number of athletes share their championship experiences with "My Worlds" stories.

While this edition only touches on selected athletes, it does give an insight into their championships. These stories shows the tenacity of masters fighting back from injuries.

One, in particular, is opening ceremony flag bearer, Dawn Hartigan who won gold in the pole vault. Following the high of carrying the flag, that night Dawn lost her eyesight for a few days prior to her pole vault competition. (Story page 30)

With such a large event as Malaga2018, it was impossible to cover all events held on four tracks.

Despite accreditation, photographing the world championships proved challenging, especially for the first few days, when access to the main stadium was off limits. Thankfully this was resolved, but not before the steeplechase was held. This is one of my favourite events to photograph. Usually without track access at any other venue, you can shoot from over the fence, but not at the main stadium in Malaga.

The Aussie team proved they punch above their weight, placing fifth on the medal table with 32 gold, 36 silver, and 37 bronze medals. Of the 32 gold medals, women won 23 and men only nine.

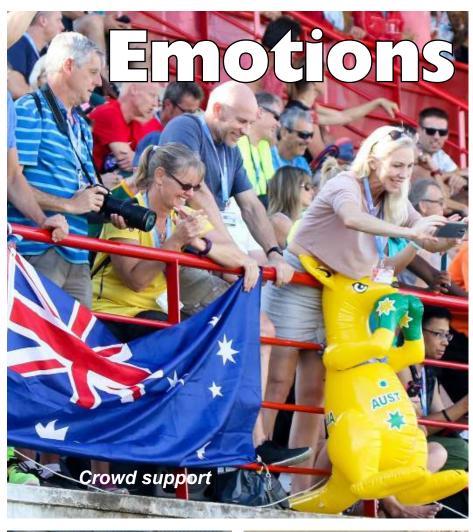
Western Australian athletes won 12 gold medals of the 32 gold and three athletes won nine.

MAWA MEDAL TABLE

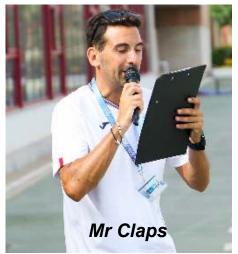
Individual medals				Team medals			
	G	S	В		G	S	В
David Carr	3	1		Mandy Mason	1	1	
Lyn Ventris	3			Gillian Young	1		
Byrony Glass	3			Giovanni Puglisi	1		
Melissa Foster	1	-	1	Campbell Till	1		
Gillian Young	1			Barrie Kernaghan	-	1	-
Morland Smith	1			Colin Smith	-	-	2
Sharon Davis	-	2	1	Bob Schickert	-	-	1
Chris Tittel	-	1	2	Sharon Davis	-	-	1
Margaret Saunders	-	1	-	Carol Bowman	-	-	1
Lynne Schickert	-	1	-	Margaret Saunders	-	-	1

Records

World	World Records							
W60	10k Walk	Lynette Ventris	WA	53:26	96.9%	10-9-18	Malaga	
Austi	Australian Records							
*W45 *W35 *W40 W45 W80 W55 W40 W30 W65 M55	20k Walk H Weight Pent Half Marathon Half Marathon	Michelle Thompson Michelle Thompson Claire Tallent Tracy Feiner Kelly Ruddick Margaret Beaumont Jayne Hardy Sinead Diver Rochelle Rodgers Carol Davis Luke de Biasi Michele Hossack	Vic Vic SA Vic Vic Vic ACT Vic WA QId Vic Vic	5:13:14 5:33:10 4:09:33 2:54:21 2:37:36 3:17.34 4260pts 69:22 77:30.93 25.51m 61.42s 49.49s	82.6% 80.8% 99.2% 80.8% 93.6% 78.8% - 97.2% 84.1% 71.8% 95.7% 102.4%	11-9-11 13-9-15 5-5-18 29-7-18 29-7-18 5-8-18 12-8-18 19-8-18 26-8-18 7-9-18	Middle Park Middle Park Taicang China Middle Park Middle Park Adelaide Turner ACT Canberra Perth Gold Coast Malaga Malaga	
W75 M70 M55 W60 W50	2k Steeple Decathlon Long Jump Pole Vault 4x100m Relay	Anne Lang Geoff Shaw Luke de Biasi Dawn Hartigan Stephanie Noon	SA Vic Vic Vic SA	12:48.54 7165pts 6.03m 2.40m 51.89s	83.9% - 90.4% 83.3%	7-9-18 7-9-18 9-9-18 9-9-18 16-9-18	Malaga Malaga Malaga Malaga Malaga	
M45	4x400m Relay	Julie Brims Jackie Bezuidenhout Mandy Mason Mark Giglio Nathan Crowley Shane Ezard	Qld NSW WA Vic Vic Vic	3:30.42s		16-9-18	Malaga	
M50	4x400m Relay	Andrew Wilcox Rob Italia Craig Sanford Paul Hughes	Vic Vic Vic	3:37.78		16-9-18	Malaga	
M60	4x400m Relay	Gary Parkinson Rob Mayston Andrew Watts Campbell Till Trevor Young	Qld Vic Vic WA NSW	3:57.37		16-9-18	Malaga	
W50	4x400m Relay	Jackie Bezuidenhout Mandy Mason Stephanie Noon Julie Brims		4:20.07s		16-9-18	Malaga	
W75 M50 * Non i	One Hour Run 100lb Throw members	Lavinia Petrie Todd Davey (Clyde Riddoch, AMA Records	Vic Tas s Officer)	12,218m 4.81m		24-9-18 29-9-18	Doncaster Wollongong	
WA F	Records							
M90 M90 M90 M90	100lb Weight Hammer Weight Heavy Wt Pent Hammer HW throw Shot put Discus	Geoffrey Gee Geoffrey Gee Geoffrey Gee Geoffrey Gee Chris Tittel Chris Tittel Chris Tittel Chris Tittel		2.74m 37.50m 17.05m 4095pts 13.31m 7.04m 5.13m 13.40m		29/9/18 29/9/18 30/9/18 1/10/18 6/9/18 10/9/18 12/9/18 12/9/18	Wollongong Wollongong Wollongong Wollongong Malaga Malaga Malaga Malaga	
M90 W45 W60 W75 W40 W60 W45	Throws pent 1500m 2000m steeple 2000m steeple Triple jump 20km roadwalk 400m	Chris Tittel Sharon Davis Margaret Saunders Lynne Schickert Melissa Foster Lyn Ventris Sharon Davis		2175pts 4:49.56 9:10.19 16:00.36 11.52m 1:58:27 60.30		12/9/18 16/9/18 7/9/18 7/9/18 12/9/18 14/9/18	Malaga Malaga Malaga Malaga Malaga Malaga Malaga	







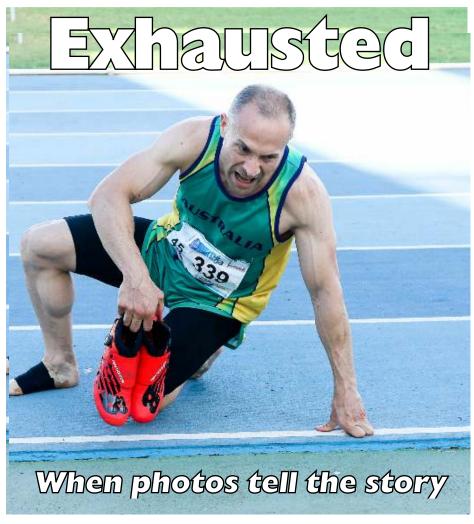


























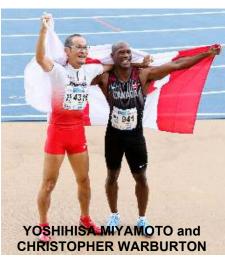












Lynne gains vice-president post



The new WMA council for 2018-2020 (from left to right) Back row: Kurt Kaschke (regional representative Europe); Pierre Weisse (IAAF Representative); Richard Amigo (regional representative South America); Guillermo Guzman (regional representative North & Central America and the Caribbean);

Front row: Leonie Etong (regional representative Africa); Maria Alfaro (Secretary); Lynne Schickert (Executive Vice-President); Jean Thomas (Treasurer); Margit Jungmann (President): Brian Keaveney (Vice-President Competition); Sivapragasam Sivasambo (regional representative Asia).

Photo: LUTWIN JÚNGMANN

In Malaga, former vice-president of World Masters, Margit Jungmann, was elected to president of the body. Her elevation to the top position follows Stan Perkins stepping down from the position that he was first elected to at the World Masters Championships at Lahti in 2009.

Stepping into the Executive Vice-President's position is MAWA's Lynne Schickert who is also the Oceania representative on the WMA Council and President of the Oceania Masters Athletics.

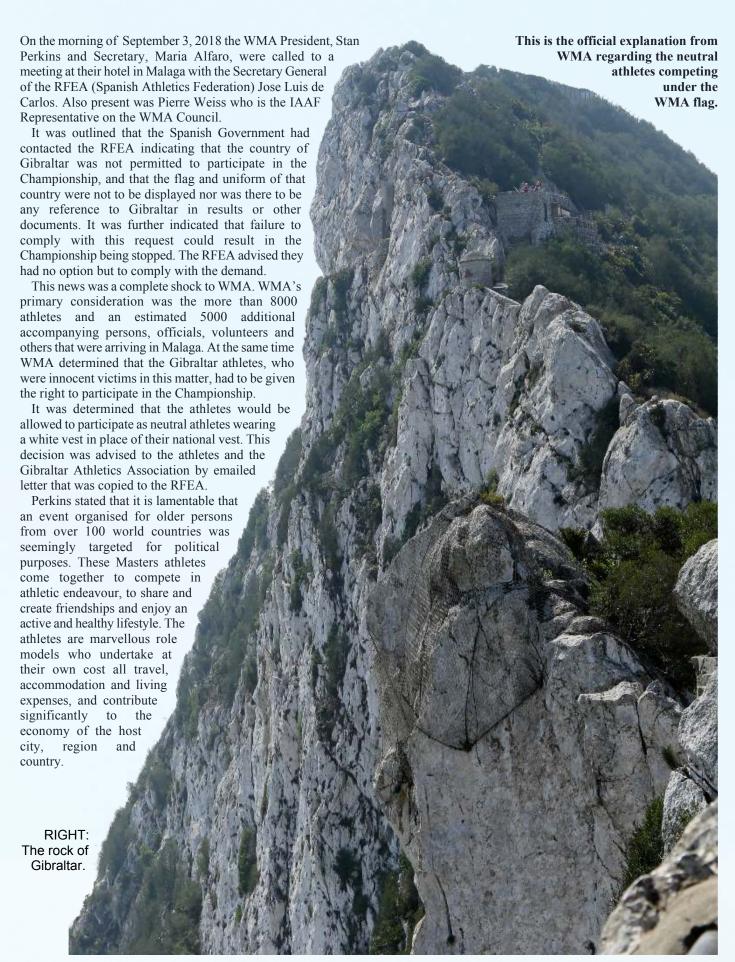


All eyes on Toronto2020



Spanish officials hand the WMA flag to Doug Smith (Toronto2020 chairman) and Paul Osland (vice chairman).

Move rocks WMA



Although I was involved in Little Athletics at a state level, at age 14 I left behind athletics to focus on my studies. I did

involved in Little
Athletics at a state level, at age 14 I left behind athletics to focus on my studies. I did however always run, almost daily throughout my life, and running became even more important to me as a stress management tool after my youngest daughter was diagnosed with severe autism in 2006. Having a child with a severe disability is a marathon of its own, but I started to run half and full marathons as a way to build mental strength and endurance to deal with the daily challenge of taking

care and teaching my daughter.
By chance, while working out at the gym in 2017 (aged 49) and training for the Rottnest Marathon, a guy approached me to discuss my running and asked me if I'd ever considered sprinting. I liked the idea of reduced training times which was extremely challenging when training for marathon events

and taking care of my daughter, not to mention the sheer excitement of sprinting and competition. I've always loved weights and being in the gym too, so sprinting held a lot of appeal for me.

I enrolled in WA Masters Athletics and began competing in weekly competition and then joined Block Athletics, where Darren Rogers has been overseeing my training since March 2018 and been a wonderful mentor and support.

My Worlds

by Mandy Mason

Malaga was my first event and it was magical – the Spanish autumn, the first time ever away from my daughter for more than a few days, and after making the semis for the 100 and 200m, was selected for the 4 x 100m and 4 x 400m relays, an incredible honour. Along with Stefanie Noon, Julie Brims and Jackie Bezuidenhout, we took gold and silver in the two events respectively, as well as Australian records in both, and were only 0.4 seconds off the world record in the 4 x 100.

I anchored in the 4 x 100m and got the honour of passing the Americans in the last five metres and crossing the line by 0.4secs ahead and taking the gold medal. Without a doubt, it's the most exciting moment of my life and ignited in me a passion for sprinting and a huge desire to improve.

I made so many amazing friends in Malaga and was inspired by so many people. Having a child with a disability can be the most isolating and lonely experience and for much of the last decade I've been dedicated to my daughter's

progress, but Malaga for me was the first time that I've ever felt part of a community of supportive, positive people committed to health and being the best people they can in competition and beyond. I want to acknowledge John Wall for his counsel, support and encouragement to go to the Pan Pacs on the Gold Coast in November. Bring it on!

400m bronze glistens

What a fantastic part of the world to hold the 2018 World Masters Athletics Championships, Spain! Host city Malaga is such a beautiful place, sitting in the grandstand of the main stadium you have world-class athletes on the track below with spectacular ocean views to the right!!

This Championships competition was spread over four different venues, each one a little different to the other. The main stadium held all 100m heats, semis and finals. The newly laid track, being by the ocean was prone to huge headwinds any time of the day, a little like Perth 2016, until around 6pm when after this time the wind dropped completely. The heats of the 100m were late afternoon where we all endured a massive -4.7m/s headwind. My age group, W50, was so competitive, that going into the final, on paper anyone of the eight finalists could have won so I consider myself fortunate to have crossed the line first in 12.96 secondsl

The 200m was next with the heats held at Carranque Sports Centre. This was a smaller venue but still easy to get to using the Metro.

In my age group, I had the defending W45 200m champion, Emma McGowan of the USA, who had just recently turned 50 years of age to contend with. The final was held at the Malaga University Stadium, that in my mind was the best track to run on. This venue also had an inspiring race commentator, (I didn't catch his name), with his signature cry of "claps, claps, claps"! He certainly knew how to work a crowd and make every athlete in each race feel special! Coming off the bend in the final I had Emma on my inside, going stride for stride into the straight. We had a great contest pushing each other to the line. But I managed to dig deep and hold on to cross in 26.81 seconds with Emma not far behind in 27.30 seconds.

I have to say I was so relieved to have the pressure of this race over, but also elated that I was able to achieve back to

My Worlds

by Julie Brims

back W50 100m and 200m World Titles given the level and intensity of competition in Malaga (heats, semi's and finals)!!

I had entered the 400m individual race on a whim, thinking at the time I still had 12 weeks to do a little training (!!), but my training didn't quite go to plan, being side tracked by other niggling issues that this distance causes and I only managed to run the distance once. So I just thought I'd have a go, rely on my sprint training with my goal being to make it into the semi-final as the W50 age group had some seriously fast 400m runners.

Not competing regularly over the 400m for quite some time, I

wasn't sure how to best attack the heat, now had to run another 400m in the semi-final.

Wilma assured me if I stuck to the plan, I would only have to place second to make the final. Part of the plan did require for me to run "relaxed" which to me means "slow"! I found this hard to do as anyone who knows me, knows I find it difficult to run slow. But I did follow her instructions placing second in my semi by 1/100th (1:03.49) behind American Charmaine Roberts (1:03.50).

On finals day, I have to say the atmosphere was electric! We had "Mr Claps" working the crowd.

It was made even more special as they brought us out 50m before the start line where we were then all introduced separately and had the opportunity to run past and be acknowledged by the packed grandstands! Drawing lane seven in the final there was only

one plan, not being able to see where anyone else was positioned until we came off the bend, my best option was to go out as fast as I could and if I blew up coming home then so be it, I had nothing to lose as I'd already exceeded my expectations.

Coming off the bend everyone in the inside lanes whipped in front and I did start to lose my legs, I think I may have been in sixth position, but it was hearing the Aussie supporters calling my name, willing me on that I found the lift I needed to get myself back into a position to medal. Bronze! Who would of thought. This would have to be the highlight of my championships! I was so excited to medal in an event that I haven't run at a World Champs since 2011!

These World Championships I would have to say would be the best I've been to because of the extremely high level of competition in my age group. I ended up with three Gold, one Silver and one Bronze Medal! It was wonderful to see the Aussie team spirit supporting each other during the Championships! I have to admit I am exhausted from the 11 races in 12 days and am looking forward to taking a break....for a little while! Well done Malaga.

however, good friend Wilma Perkins stepped in to give me a race plan and was on hand with some fellow Aussies to call out encouragement at different stages of the race.

I think the disbelief on my face could be seen by all after crossing the line first in my heat, followed instantly by the shock that I had reached my goal and





















BELOW and RIGHT:

Sharon Davis reacts to being spiked at the start of the second lap of the 800m. Sharon won silver.











Malaga 2018 4 x 100m relays



Team tastes success

By JULIE BRIMS The final day of competition featured the relays. It was such a pleasure to race with Jackie Bezuidenhout, Steph Noon and newcomer Mandy Mason. In the 4 x 100m relay the USA, I would say, was favoured to win but I knew if we could get our baton changes just right we could possibly challenge them for the Gold. As captain, the ladies were willing to listen as we

changes just right we could possibly challenge them for the Gold. As captain, the ladies were willing to listen as we practised our baton changes to make them as smooth and precise as could be. Mandy, running the last leg of the relay was so enthusiastic that, instead of receiving the baton and running out 20m, she ran the whole 100m to the finish line! Twice! The practice confirmed to me that we were a good chance. Showing the benefits of

We kept the same team for the 4 x 400m with Jackie B taking us out changing to Mandy

the training session, the relay

Mandy never wavered or took

crossing by 4/100th in front of

the W50 4 x 100m Australian

the Americans... and we broke

came down to the wire, as

her eyes off the finish line

record! So Excited!

Mason who ran out of her skin in her first ever 400m race to change to Steph Noon who had to endure some interesting tactics from the Spanish lady, who delivered a few elbows then tried to force her off the track on the top bend. We were in third position when I took the baton and I managed to overtake the Spaniards but the USA had flown the coop!! Coming into the home straight the Americans were odds-on with such a commanding lead and the Spanish lady found that bit extra as we traded stride for stride coming to the finish line. Then the unthinkable, the American runner had only a few metres to go to win Gold but had pushed so hard she collapsed on the track just short of the finish line spilling the baton out of her reach! Seeing this occur the Spanish runner dug deeper and forged ahead to take Gold while I needed to jump over the American still on the track to claim Silver!! Of course, there was a "silver lining"! We broke the W50 Australian 4 x 400m Relay Record!! Awesome effort Team!



Heartbreak for the United States as Spain takes the gold with Australia the silver in the $4 \times 400 \text{m}$ relay.

Julie Brims. Steph Noon, Jackie Bezuidenhout and Mandy Mason celebrate their success.



Malaga 2018 4 x 100m relays





A gold medal and an Australian record, Rob Mayston, Andrew Watts, Campbell Till and Trevor Young celebrate.

Where do you start...a World Master's Athletics Championships. I had thought about the possibility of competing for many years; wanted to take the opportunity to test myself with the best. Missed the easy Perth chance because of injury, then made a promise to make the next at Malaga. Then to planning, entering and booking, with plans for a European holiday to follow up. All I needed to do was to stay healthy and find genuine fitness.

Eventually, the day came... with a fist full of euros, I arrived at Malaga. What a pleasant surprise; friendly and helpful people and a genuinely historic city (one of Europe's oldest).

Stats tragic that I am, I had done a truckload of research to try and figure out how I might fare. Now to try and focus on my first ever run at this level; plenty of nerves but really wanting to give it a go. I was trying to dismiss every niggle and twinge thinking they would become a traumatic barrier.

Once all the warm-up and call-room theatre was done, I felt calm and ready for a heat run. I had to make the best of it, having only entered the 400m and nominated for one relay.

My Worlds

by Campbell Till

I needed to finish first or second for an automatic qualifier. The gun went, the race went to plan, a little bit in reserve and managed second. Wow, I'd done it; executed the first step. It was really great to actually do it and feel part of the event. Next step semis... my more experienced teammates giving me some sage advice -- this is the serious bit - 'A' game or nothing! Another challenge on another track. The atmosphere in the call-room was intense; trying to stay focussed and make myself smile to relax. It was a fantastic experience to see and meet some of the legends and stars of our sport- incredibly uplifting - now time to translate those good feelings and excitement into a tangible effort.

The gun goes again - execute the run almost on auto-pilot; enjoying the test, dig in for the big finish - had to hit an age PB to make the final. I couldn't quite find that extra gear but finished strong. Missed the final by a couple of places. I was a tad disappointed but

deep down, really satisfied. I'd pushed myself with the best.

The atmosphere was brilliant and energised at the Uni track thanks to the personality of the Spanish announcer. He had very little English but he didn't need it; his enthusiasm lifted everyone.

A few days rest, then the new challenge of the 4 x 400m relay. After running the Nationals in April I realised I was in the company of three other guys running top-level times - a bit of 'dare to dream'? What if we all turned up in Malaga and were all fit? Were we good enough to win? My teammates were of the same mind. The planets were beginning to line up - we all managed to be here and our form was close to our best.

I was absolutely determined to give my best and not mess up under the pressure and adrenaline of a relay arms and legs everywhere!

What a fantastic sight to see our final runner holding on and holding on then crossing the line in first place. We actually did it, we won! Adrenaline overload for the next few hours.

Normality did return..... time to enjoy the remaining time in Malaga. An unforgettable experience.



Malaga 2018 4 x 400m relays



Flying the Aussie flat are Anne Lang, Marg Allison, Lynne Andrews, Irene Davey, Kathy Sims, Lyn Peake, Paula Moorhouse and Wilma Perkins following their 4 x 400m relays. LEFT: Celebrating a bronze



medal in the M55 4 x 400m are Darren Hughes, Allan Cook, Colin Smith and Todd Devery.

> BELOW: It's all smiles from Robyn Suttor, Sarah Chinner, Susan Howell and Michele Hossack following their race.





As I left Perth for Malaga I felt happy, excited and nervous. I didn't know what was ahead of me or how I would run. When I arrived in Madrid it was a very hot and humid day. A bit of a shock to the body after leaving the cold conditions in Perth. Luckily I was only staying overnight in Madrid and it should be cooler in Malaga.

Most people from Perth were staying at the same hotel in Torremolinos. It was much cheaper than staying in Malaga, the downside was you had to travel to the four different tracks. We were given some free transport passes but had to pay for taxis and some trains We had a good system of sharing taxis out to the track than using the trains or free shuttle bus to return to the hotel.

My first event was the cross country, it was the worst and most dangerous I have ever competed in. It was full of rocks, tree stumps and sudden drops. A lot of runners fell or

My Worlds

by Carol Bowman

DNF. My race got delayed because they could not start until the ambulance came back. Also, some runners decided to go for a casual walk. When I started the cross country it was very hot and windy, the sand got into my eyes and made them run. I decided it was better to be safe than sorry and run slow and look down.

My next event was the 800m, I was still very stiff from the cross country but managed to warm up alright. Although it was my first 800m I have done at the worlds, I was feeling very relaxed. I ran the first 400m faster than normal 1:29, then I got dizzy in the last 200m but managed to finish. I ended up with a seasons best 3:12 I was very happy with that. My next event was the 2000m steeple, I

wanted to run under 11 minutes and ran 10:59 to place fifth. WA did very well in the steeple with gold medals for David Carr, Morland Smith and Gillian Young with silver for Lynn Schickert and Margaret Saunders.

I was very fortunate to be the first reserve for the 4 x 400m relay and able to run it. This is my favourite event. It is so exciting to hear the noise of the crowd cheering you on. We had some excellent athletes in our team. I was the first runner and a little nervous, I ran my best and wasn't last. I handed the baton over to Margaret. It was very exciting in the last 400m, we were in fourth place and a long way from third. The last runner managed to run an incredible race and caught up with the third place runner. They fought it out to the very end, but we managed to pip the other runner on the finish line. We ended up with the bronze medal and that made my day.



Hurdles



Lym's mightmare ends

Unbeknown to me at the time, my worlds Malaga 2018 began back in Lyon in 2015.

It was around 18 months after my major hamstring surgery and surrounding it was a huge doubt as to if I would ever race well again.

I did race well winning gold in all three of my race-walking events.

Yes! I was set – I was back – it was onwards and upwards!

Perth 2016 was going to be a fantastic championship for me turning 60 – so new age group and hometown advantage!

I was chosen as flag bearer for Perth and that was a huge honour and a very exciting time. That was as about as far as the excitement went. Just quietly I was struggling with the training, with motivation, with so many sore spots and imbalances it wasn't funny.

In my head I'm thinking I have to race it's my hometown, I'm the flag bearer all my family was coming to watch, my grand kids were going to see me race for the first time.

First up was the 5000m track walk I was racing the great Barbara Nell. It was horrible, it hurt – a lot. I pulled up so sore medico's and physio's advised me not to race the 10k and 20k. Campaign over! Back to the drawing board lots of physio and doctors' appointments beckoned.

Never to give up I just thought – no its Daegu next – the World Indoors.

Training commenced and honestly, every day was a struggle I hated it until one day 11 weeks into the programme that was it I'd had enough. I came home to John announcing that 'I was done.'

So off I went still keeping fit having a ball doing boot camp. I had just set up my own gym in a new extension at home and was enjoying my workouts. I was feeling alright staying away from the things I knew hurt. Then, I thought I'll just start running a couple of kms to boot camp (a nice way to warm up), that 2km became three and so on...... then I thought I'll just try and race walk 500m of that – that became 2km etc. I was managing it wasn't hurting, admittedly I was slow but who cares! I was doing it!

World Championships started to creep into my mind. After a little while, I decided to get a coach again.



My Worlds

by Lyn Ventris

It was a good 12 months out from the championships. We built up very, very slowly. At the first sign of a niggle, we pulled back. The weeks rolled by and things started to come together nicely.

Training through winter was always going to be hard and some days it was too wet to train – but in the big picture it made no difference – my times were still improving.

There were quite a lot of visits to my sports GP and physio along the way to keep on top of niggles but I have learned that as I age there will always be something sore or achy. It's learning to know when to act on the real problems.

As It got closer to Malaga my coach was confident that my training times were going to give me some good results. World record times were on the cards! However, the humid weather would always be an unknown factor and my 20km would be raced on 5 and 10km training as huge training loads were not working.

It was so exciting being in Malaga. I was ready, ready to race and race hard. I knew I could do it. But you never know until the day.

The 5000m track walk was a tough race and the pressure was on from

the French girl but I kept my head and walked to my first gold medal!

The 10km road walk was a week later. It was at 8am which was a perfect time to race. Everything fell into place, the stars aligned! One of the main things I can remember is my coach calling out 'you are on world record pace you are going to do it!' So it was – a world record and my second gold medal!

The 20km was four days later and it was going to be very hot and humid. It was a hard race, the hardest I have ever done. Another world record was looking good at 10k but the last 6k was slow and I was doing everything in my power to take my mind off the pain. Still – it was my third gold medal!

Malaga was brilliant! Competing in these worlds taught me so much about myself and about the generosity and caring of family, friends, medicos and physios that wanted to see me achieve great things again.

A close race-walking friend told me "I always knew you were capable of better things than just doing boot camp."

I feel very proud of my three gold medals – particularly after reading that there were more than 8000 participants in Malaga and only 1800 medals. So winning a medal of any colour is quite an achievement.



Walks





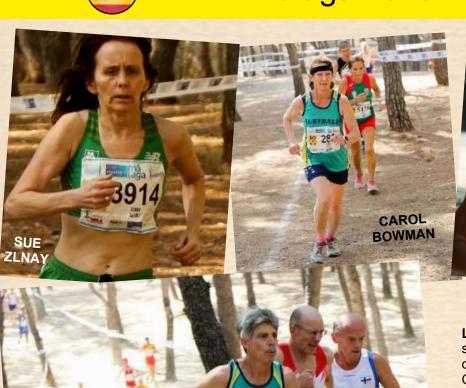






Cross country

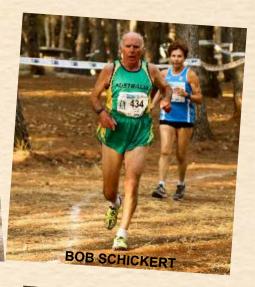






LEFT: Giovanni Puglisi surges up one of the hills of the Torremolinos Cross Country course.

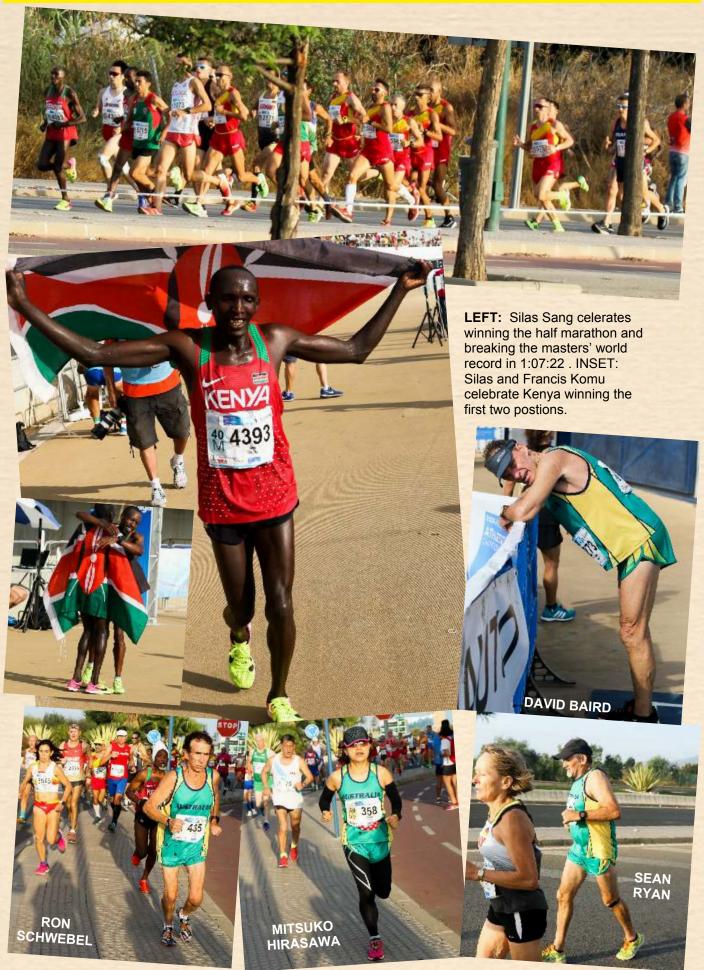








Half marathon



To hell and back

It has been a roller-coaster journey for 2016 me since the World Championships in Perth. Three weeks before Perth I injured my arm. I knew the long-head of the Biceps had been torn off, however, the damage to my Supraspinatus (rotator cuff muscle), I thought was just a muscle tear. So being the determined person that I am, I planned to compete in Perth if I could take off. It was only in the last week before the competition that I was able to jump off the ground at all. My sports doctor rang me the night before I flew to Perth letting me know the tear was significant but didn't say it was a tendon tear, so I said: "thanks, I'll be fine and my Physio will tape me up to compete."

I jumped in the competition in Perth off a soft pole. Jumping technically well I managed to clear up to 2.90 meters. Unfortunately for me, I needed to jump on a stiffer pole. When I attempted this, my arm was unable to push the pole away. I finished in equal second position with a lady from Japan (Machiko Yamasaki). Bridget Van de Kamp from the Netherlands won with a 3.00m jump.

After the competition I flew home and prepared myself for surgery. I knew there was a six-week window to have my arm repaired and four weeks had gone by already. I thought the surgeon would re-attach my long head of Biceps. Instead, he indicated that the tendon of my Supraspinatus must be repaired, however, it was in a bad state so he couldn't promise success. He didn't want to touch the long head of Biceps as he said re-attachment would be more trouble than it was worth. With no time to get a second opinion, I put my faith in this surgeon. Everything did go to plan and I didn't rush back into training and took 12 months off.

Once I did return, however, I was super keen to get back jumping to the level I normally compete at. To my annoyance, my left Achilles started causing me major problems, competing only twice before my Physiotherapist stepped in and said I will need the rest of the season off. My goal then became to rehabilitate my Achilles so that I could compete in Malaga for the 2018 World Athletic Championships.



My Worlds

by Dawn Hartigan

I smile now because I am here at Malaga, reflecting on my pole vault competition and what has been thrown at me. A test of my resilience I think.

My airline refused to take my personal pole vaulting poles because they are over three meters in length. I have taken my poles all over the world and this is the first time that I have had this problem. Their cargo wouldn't take them and I tried for two months to get then freighted to Malaga. One company eventually said "yes" but at a price of \$4000. I declined. On the evening of the opening ceremony, in the middle of the night when I was fast asleep, my eyelid ripped off the corneal surface of my eye. I injured my eye several years ago and if my eye is very dry when I am asleep, this sometimes occurs. It is called corneal erosion eye syndrome and I wouldn't wish it upon anyone. I couldn't see out of my eyes for three days because both eyes work together so if I tried to open my good eye, there was intense pain, both eyes would water and my nose would run. It took a further two days before I could see out of both eyes. Fortunately, I was able to see for my competition. I had already decided if I could see out of one eye, I would jump.

Prior to the competition I had tried to see and try some poles from Malaga. The officials would not allow this even though it was a safety concern to use unknown and possibly unsuitable poles. The poles that I organised to be at the competition did not arrive and a pole that I attempted to use in the warm-up was heavy and unbalanced and I was unable to take off the ground. I noticed Rita from the USA had changed to a different pole. I asked her where she found it and she indicated it was one of Carla's poles. Carla is in the age group below us and she allowed me to use the pole. I had one practise jump before the competition started. It wasn't ideal but at least I took off the ground. I managed to get in a few clearances and am so grateful to Carla for lending me her pole.

The final result was

Gold Dawn Hartigan Aus 2.40m Silver Rita Hanscom USA 2.20m Bronze Anne Numi Fin 2.00m

In other circumstances, I would have unhappy with my result. But now, I only feel enormously grateful. Grateful to Carla, to the athletes around me that made me laugh, even when I couldn't see. And now I feel re-inspired to continue my journey, to compete in Toronto in 2020, mix with inspiring older athletes and strive for self-improvement. I love what I do and want to be the best that I can be.



Jumps







Jumps







LEFT: W70 triple and long jump gold medal winner Margaret Taylor with Terhi Kokkonen (FIN) (left) and Margaet Crooke (NZ).



Javelin



Matt's Spanish fling

We arrived in Spain a couple of days early to have a little Barcelona adventure, and also to acclimatise a bit, before getting to the main event. Holidaying will never be the same again thanks to young Master Staunton.

Hitting Malaga on the third we navigated our way to the unsignposted TIC... eventually, and got registered for competition that started the next day. It was a foreshadowing of what was to follow. Welcome to Spain.

My first event was Hammer at Torremolinos, the circle looked like a moonscape and was surrounded by a well-watered mud field... we soldiered on and I managed a season's best 43.53m to finish 10th behind Spaniard Ignacio Calderon Aguado who won with the penultimate throw of the day of 58.07m to best Venezuelan Aldo Bello Morillo, who had led from the first round and finished with 57.57m.

My second comp was at Main Stadium; Shot put. Over the back straight and out of view from the stadium, with no access for spectators, on a circle which was fine...except for the large crater where most throwers land their right foot in the middle of the circle. After much arguing and a hint that we may actually get shifted to the unused shot circle on the infield, the decision was made to leave us there since nobody got hurt warming up. At least it was dry, dusty and windy... only managed 11.98m for seventh behind German giant Andy Dittmar with 17.72m. What a beast! Petros Mitsides who won the M35 Throws Pent in Perth hit 14.65m for second.

My third event was Discus, again at main stadium. The discus circle looked fine and the eventual winning throw 0f 50.66m from American James Dennis coming from the first round, as well as a number of 47m plus throws...then it started to sprinkle and the circle turned into an ice rink. I managed 35.60m for 11th. Old mate Petros came fourth with his first throw of 47.98m.

My fourth warm-up event was Weight throw back at Torremolinos, where they'd decided to paint over the moonscape, but had done nothing about the mud... another ding-dong battle between Ignacio



My Worlds

by Matt Staunton

and Aldo saw the Spaniard take the lead in round 3 with 16.33m then losing it on Aldos final throw of 16.42m before winning again on his final throw with 16.73m. I managed 12.95m for sixth... and it was all leading up to the real reason we were there. To defend the M40 Throws Pentathlon World Championship from Perth 2016.

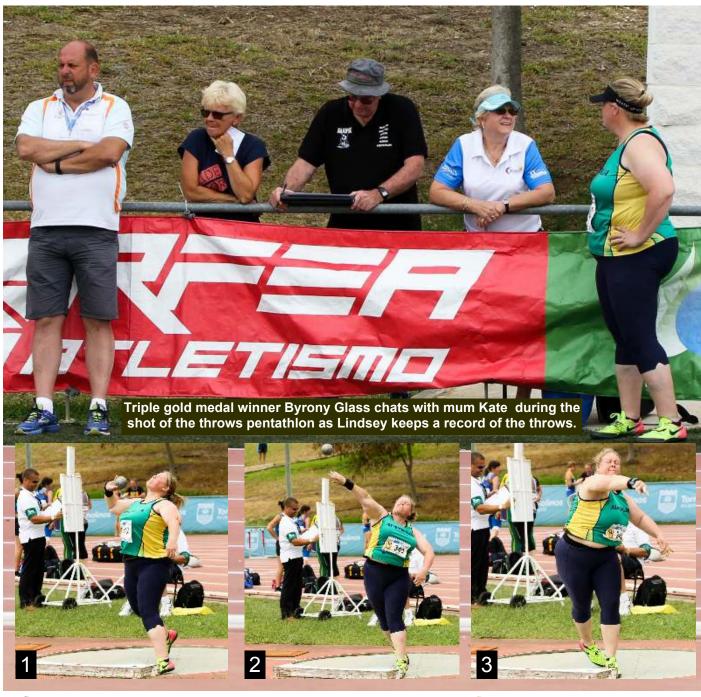
The Main Event! Throws Pentathlon day. Where the best throwers in the world (who could make it to Spain) put it all on the line over a seven-hour work day of blood sweat and tears (mostly just sweat) to see who has the goods. The competition included Ignacio C Aguado the dual Hammer and Weight World Champion, German Thorsten Simon who had finished just out of the medals in hammer and weight, Frenchman Gwenael Vandeville who just missed medals in the Hammer on day 1 then disappeared, Spaniard Miguel A Cuervo who pipped me by one spot in discus and weight and Petros Mitsides who backed up his 2016 M35 win in Perth to take out the M40 Gold in a real guts it out, get everything you can out of your aging, ailing body type of performance. Personally, it was an up and down

kind of day starting with an absolute stuff-up with the hammer that put me behind the pack from the get-go. After a season's best in the individual event, my Hammer of 40.06 was the only throw I didn't improve on... 1cm in the shot put counts. I managed another season best with the discus with 37.73m before confirming that the shoulder pain I've had for the last month is definitely javelin related and only managed 39.18m. I dug deep and hit 13.18m with the 35lb weight after fouling my first attempt. Nothing like adding a bit of unnecessary pressure. I scored 3157pts for fifth behind Petros, Gwenael, sneaky Spanish Javelin tyro Miguel A Cuervo and Thorsten. Then finished the day off swapping shirts with M40 World champ Ignacio Calderon Aguado who I beat into sixth.

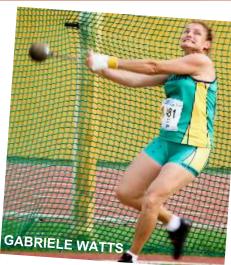
Finally, thanks to my wonderful wife Shanell for toughing out another marathon event, this time with the apple of our eye, and biggest challenge yet, Xander demanding all the attention. Thanks to Lindsay, Kate and Byrony Glass (and Kiwi Brenda) for going above and beyond the call of duty to come and support me and Shanell ... your blood is worth bottling!!

Overall, we loved Spain and continued on to Lisbon, Portugal then back to Madrid to fly home. It was a great adventure and we look forward to Canada in 2020.











Throws



Results for WA athletes

100m	heat	semi	final	medal record	W60 Carol Bowman		85.76	
W35 Melissa Foster	13.43 (q)	13.34			Margaret Saunders		76.27	
W50 Mandy Mason	14.38 (q)	13.86			M75 David Baird Barrie Kernaghan		79.77 76.64(q)	79.98
M50 Gregory Brennan	13.42				M85 David Carr	1:3	5.72(Q)	86.69 Silver
M55 Colin Smith	13.07 (q)	12.75			800m			O.I.VO.
M75 Barrie Kernaghan	15.21 (q)	15.59			W45 Sharon Davis	2:24.89(Q)	2:21.41	Silver
200m	10.21 (4)	10.00			M60 Neil Morfitt	2:27.15 (q)	2:24.58	
W50 Mandy Mason	29.09 (q)	28.58			W60 Carol Bowman Margaret Saunders		3:12.31 2:52.26(q)	2:50.23
M50 Gregory Brennan	26.54				M70 Roy Hart		3:26.59	
M55 Colin Smith	25.69 (Q)	26.03			M75 David Baird		3:13.01	
1	22 11	260	8	Attion when the				



			-	M70 Roy Hart
				W70 Gillian Yo
M75			100	M75 David Ba
Barrie Kernaghan	32.49 (q)	31.57 (q)	30.96	Bob Schi
400m				M80 Morland
W45 Sharon Davis	61.78(Q)	61.06(Q)	60.30 Bronze SR	M85 David Ca
M55 Colin Smith	58.30(Q)	57.89		5000m
M60 Neil Morfitt	63.56			M65 Giovanni
Campbell Till Desmond Walsh	60.54(Q) 68.89	60.39		M70 Roy Hart
			,	

	David Baird		3.13.01	
	M85 David Carr			3:33.03 Gold
	1500m			Gold
	W45 Sharon Davis	5:03.77(Q)	Silv	4:49.56 ver SR
	M65 Giovanni Puglisi M70	5:35.60	OII	ver on
	Roy Hart	6:41.88		
	W70 Gillian Young			6:43.43
	M75 David Baird Bob Schickert	6:25.21(q) 8:23.94		
	M80 Morland Smith			7:34.05
	M85 David Carr			7:19.89 Gold
	5000m			Gold
	M65 Giovanni Puglisi			19:52.26
	M70 Roy Hart			27:02.94
37	7			

Results for WA athletes

W70 Gillian Young	25:00.38	W50 Kate Ingram	33:11	
M75		W55		
Bob Schickert	32:45.21	Sue Zlnay	36:37	
M80		W60 Carol Bowman	45:38	
Morland Smith	29:23.93	Carol Bowillan	40.00	VS SECUENT
2000m steeplechase		45		
W55		THE LAND		
Sue Zlnay	8:57.07		gurda.	
W60				
Carol Bowman Margaret Saunders	10:59.03 9:10.19 Silver SR			
W70 Gillian Young	10:25.65 Gold		1	
W75 Lynne Schickert	16:00.36 Silver SR	M65	ME	
M65		Giovanni Puglisi	33:19	
Giovanni Puglisi	8:29.44	10km road race		
M80		M65	E7:40	
Morland Smith	12:13.02 Gold	Clive Choate Terry Humphrey	57:10 1:09:46	
M85 David Carr	11:24.55 Gold	W65 Barbara Humphrey	1:24:34	
5000m walk		W70	E2:42	
W50		Gillian Young	53:12	
Cheryl-Lee Dean	DQ	Half Marathon M65		
W60 Lynette Ventris	26:15.58 Gold	Terry Humphrey M75	2:31:38	
•	20.10.00 3010	David Baird	2:06:33	
W75 Lynne Schickert	39:49.87	10km walk		
6km cross country		M50		
W70-		Andrew Duncan W50	50:13	
Jackie Halberg	47:26	Cheryl-Lee Dean	1:11:19	
Gillian Young M75	33:06	W60		
Bob Schickert	40:42	Lynette Ventris	53:26 Gold	SR AR WR
M80 Morland Smith	42:16	W75 Lynne Schickert	1:24:12	
8km cross country		20km walk		
M50		M50		
Greg Hogan	33:20	Andrew Duncan	1:45:57	

Results for WA athletes

W60 Lynette Ventris	1:58:27 1	Gold	SR	W40 Byrony Glass	46.76m	Gold
W75 Lynne Schickert	2:57.20			W65 Kathryn Glass	21.11m	
Pole Vault				M90		
M65				Chris Tittel	13.31m	Bronze SR
Geoff Brayshaw	2.50m			Throws Pentathlon		
Long Jump				M40 Matthew Staunton	3157	
W35 Melissa Foster	5.46m (-0.5)	Gold		W40		
	5.4011 (-0.5)	Golu		Byrony Glass	3690	Gold
Triple Jump				W65		
W35 Melissa Foster	11.52m (-3.0)	Bronze	W40 SR	Kathryn Glass	2542	
	11.52111 (-5.0)	DIONZO	, W-10 OIX	M90		
M65 Geoff Brayshaw	7.92m			Chris Tittel	2175	Bronze SR
Shot				Relays		
				W50 4 x 100m		
M40 Matthew Staunton	11.98m			Mandy Mason	Gold pend	ling AR
M90	5.13m SR within Throws Pent			M55 4 x 100m		
Chris Tittel				Colin Smith	Bronze	
Weight				M75 4 x 400m		
M40	40.05				O:l	
Matthew Staunton	12.95m			Barrie Kernaghan	Silver	
W40 Byrony Glass	15.42m	Gold		M60 4 x 400m		
W65		Colu		Campbell Till	Gold per	nding AR
Kathryn Glass	9.14m			M55 4 x 400m Colin Smith	Bronze	
M90 Chris Tittel	7.04m Si	lver SR		W50 4 x 400m		
Discus	7.04111 31	IVEI SIX		Mandy Mason	Silver per	nding AR
M40 Matthew Staunton	35.60m			W60 4 x 400m		
M55	00.00111			Margaret Saunders Carol Bowman	Bronze	
Kon Kozak	24.65m			Teams Cross Coun	try	
M90				W70	•	
	40.40	3 ! 4 ! - !		Gillian Young	Gold	
Chris Tittel		SR within Throws Pent		M65		
Hammer				Giovanni Puglisi	Gold	
M40 Matthew Staunton	43.53m			M75 Bob Schickert	Bronze	

