

**Biography of the Nominee (including both sporting and personal history)**

**PERSONAL:**

**HEATHER DOHERTY**

Born Heather Isabelle Jean Scott Brisbane 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1933

Married to Allan Doherty Brisbane 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1954

Married 53 years until October 2007 (Husband, deceased)

Three Children: Six Grandchildren: Four Great Grandchildren:

**SPORTING:**

**OPEN ATHLETICS:**

Member of Thompson Estate-Eastern Suburbs Athletic Club for 64 years

Started in 1950 as a 400m/800m runner, but soon changed to the Sprints, Hurdles, Jumps, Throws, and even tried a few Walk Events. Won the Anne Newman Cup for most starts in a Season, 11 times

2000 Received TEES Centenary Celebrations plaque in recognition of 50 years of continuing long and outstanding service to the Club.

Member of Queensland Women's' Athletics/ Queensland Athletics for 64 years

Open Events Competitor for 35 years

Represented Queensland at Australian Championships

Was Queensland Open Champion in Javelin for 15 years, second in the Australian Titles, and held the State Record for Javelin for many years. Also the 100m Hurdles Record for one year.

Queensland Athletics Throws Official for 58 years

Australian Athletics Grade 1 Throws Official for 55 years, officiating at State and Australian Championships, International Meets including the Commonwealth Games and the Goodwill Games

Has coached Open, Masters and Disabled Athletes for Athletics Competition

**VETERANS/MASTERS ATHLETICS:**

Started the Queensland Veterans Athletics Club, Women's' Section, in 1976 as the first Woman Member

Has competed in Queensland, Australian and International Competition, although not able to attend many International Meets. Competed in the first Australian Championship where Ladies were officially allowed to compete, in Sydney, 1979. Queensland had a few Ladies Invitation Events at Easter, 1976

Has officiated at State, Australian and International Veterans/Masters Competitions.

Awards for the City of Brisbane Australia Day Award for Sport in 1983 and 1994, Monthly Awards for the Courier Mail-National Fitness Sportswomen, the Daily Sun-Berkei Monthly Awards, Sport Australia Award – Certificate of Outstanding Performance in 1984 and 1987.

1998 AAVAC Most Outstanding Female Athlete

2004 AMA Throws Award

2009 Administrator/Official of the year for Australian Masters Athletics.

**OTHER SPORTS:**

Competed as a member of Wywummies A Grade Cricket Club for 50 years

Represented Queensland in Interstate Competition Received Trophies for Batting, Fielding and Bowling

Competed as a member of Wywummies Women's' A Grade Cricket Club

Represented Queensland in Interstate Competition from 1950 to 1958

Played for Queensland against the Englishwomen's' Team in 1958 at The Gabba\* and at Toowoomba

\*The first time that women had been allowed to play at The Gabba. Received Trophies for Batting, Bowling and Fielding. Left Cricket as it conflicted with Athletics

1978 Life Member of Queensland Women's' Athletics transferred to Queensland Athletics on Amalgamation

1989 Life Member of Queensland Veterans/Masters Athletics

1963 Life Member of Thompson Estate-Eastern Suburbs Athletic Club

1987 Life Member of Brisbane Cricket Association

Involvement in Masters Athletics Administration (this does not have to be completed for the Athlete Category but may assist the Nominee where their achievements straddle the athlete and administrator categories – A separate form is required for a nominee under the Administrator Category – substantial contribution to the management and development of Masters athletics at the state, national or international level. For a guide to the sorts of issues to be considered see the AMA Hall of Fame paper)

**HEATHER DOHERTY:**

**QUEENSLAND VETERANS ATHLETICS CLUB / QUEENSLAND MASTERS ATHLETICS**

Committee Member from 1978 to 2014

Vice President: 1979 to 1984, 2010

President: 1984 to 1998

Membership Registrar: 1981 to 2014

Records Statistician: QVAC Womens' Recorder: 1978 to 1982

QVAC/QMA Club Statistician: 1982 to 2014

Competition Programmer 1983 to 2014

Suggested a design for a Queensland Uniform in 1980 so that QVAC Members could have a uniform of their own. Previously the Uniform was a version of the Queensland Athletics Association Uniform. Looked after the Uniforms for some years

Also helped out with typing and distributing the Newsletter and still provides Results, Record Book Programmes etc

**AUSTRALIAN VETERANS/MASTERS ASSOCIATION**

President 1987/88

Vice President 1984/85, 1988/89, 1993/94, 1994/95, 1995/96

Assistant Secretary 1989/90

1987 Appointed an Australian Delegate to the World Conference

Queensland Delegate to Australian Annual General Meetings and Council Meetings for many years from 1980

At the 1988 Australian AGM, suggested that it would be nice to have an Australian Record Certificate awarded as something that athletes could keep as a tangible record of their results. Queensland already had a Queensland Record Certificate. This was moved by Queensland and carried. The Australian Secretary and Statistician were to confer on a form for the Certificate which was eventually adopted.

## AUSTRALIAN MASTERS ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME NOMINATION

### HEATHER DOHERTY

#### TESTIMONIAL REGARDING PERSONAL QUALITIES

Heather Doherty is truly an 'icon' when it comes to Masters Athletics in Australia, especially in regard to the active involvement of women in the sport. Her involvement in the sport of Athletics has extended her entire lifetime and her personal achievements that include her involvement as an athlete, an official, coach and administrator, detailed in her nomination, demonstrate the deep love she holds for her chosen sport.

The Queensland Masters Athletics Association (then named Veterans) was established in 1973 but was a male only membership organisation. Heather campaigned vigorously to have the sport opened to women and was successful in 1976 in having women admitted, although at a limited right level. That same year women were allowed to participate by invitation at the Australian Championships. She persisted with her efforts and eventually the sport became open to women without restriction. She was a pioneer in having women's competition officially introduced at the national level in 1978.

This quiet determination has been a feature of Heather's involvement throughout her lifetime. Initially she had been invited to form a Women's Veterans Association in Queensland but declined in the belief that men and women should compete equally together. Eventually in 1984 Heather was elected to the presidency of the Queensland Veteran's Association, a position she held for many years. In fact Heather is still actively involved as a member of the now named Queensland Masters Athletics Management Committee and her contribution continues to be vital to the ongoing success of the organisation. She is a life member of that body and also Thompson Estate Athletics Club where she competed in her early years.

Heather became the first female President of the Australian Veterans Athletic Association and served the organisation with dedication, skill and success. She has also been a long-time representative of her State as a delegate to national meetings. She has pioneered the introduction of a wide range of athletic events into the National program for women, particularly throwing events.

I first met Heather in 1980 and was immediately impressed by her obvious love and knowledge of the sport and the quality of her performances in whatever event she contested was outstanding. Within a short time she had encouraged me to become involved in the administration side of the Association and hence I have worked closely with Heather for many years and to this day I am in awe of the amount of time and effort she devotes to our sport. Her ability to perform duties as an administrator, official and competitor, all within the same competition, is legendary in Queensland.

The one unfortunate part of Heather's involvement in Masters Athletics has been the fact that she has been limited in the number of major competitions that she has been able to compete in, especially the World Championships. Certainly she has broken world records and when the opportunity has arisen she has been extremely competitive at that level, but her family circumstances and her dedication to caring for her family have seen her give her home life priority over international competition.

Heather's contribution to Australian Veteran/Masters Athletics has been very substantial and had major impact in ensuring the equality of men and women within this sport. I am honoured to support her application for admission to the Australian Masters Athletics Hall of Fame.

Stan Parkins

President, World Masters Athletics

Past President, Queensland Masters Athletics

Past President, Australian Masters Athletics

Past Oceania Regional Delegate, World Masters Athletics Council

Life Member, Queensland Masters Athletics

Member, IAAF Masters Commission