

Roy Foley

I knew Roy Foley from around 1990 until his death in 2005.

My first involvement with Roy was as a member of the Caulfield Veterans Throwers group. Roy was the throwing coach and the technical manager of the Victorian Veterans Athletic Club (VVAC). Roy maintained all the vets throwing equipment – he repaired, cleaned and checked specifications of all throwing gear and measuring equipment. Roy also oversaw the maintenance of the throwing areas and negotiated with the Glen Eira Council for improvements where necessary.

As I became more involved in throwing I also had a keen interest in learning more about the specifications and maintenance of equipment. Roy was a great mentor in this regard and embraced my interest. He also acquainted me with Ken Priestley a thrower and manufacturer of hammers etcetera.

Roy was passionate about his throwing group and would always campaign to ensure the best possible provision of facilities for the throwers. For example he was strongly against soccer using the athletic field at *Duncan Mackinnon* and this is still the case. An all year round hammer field exists although some runners resent throwers using the field even though tracks are for running. Throwers can be very thankful for Roy's achievements in this regard.

I always found Roy to be honest and forthright when dealing with people as he was with me. When Roy's eyesight and health were deteriorating I was able (with Roy's approval) take over the management of the Throwers group and have Roy as the Patron who could focus on his coaching.

Roy' integrity, helpfulness and honesty was reflected in the large number of former athletes who attended his funeral and remembered how much he had helped their sporting careers.

Graeme Rose

VMA Throwers Group

VMA Technical Manager