

Judy Farrell – AMA Board Member



It was at Glenroy High School that our sports teacher was looking for someone to represent the school in javelin at the upcoming inter-school sports. My trial went okay. I managed to throw over 80 feet so I got the job. At the time I was a member of the school tennis team and an emergency for the netball team. I needed to decide on a sport so I joined the newly formed Broadmeadows Athletic Club competing in inter-club in javelin, long jump, 200m and relays. After a year or so I was made club captain and a club committee member. I continued with athletics for a while when I started work but personal circumstances changed and I had to move to another area.

My career in banking with the State Bank started as a clerk at the age of 17, working in small suburban branches for two years. Then I was transferred to Head Office where things were to change quite a bit over the next decade. In 1964 the State bank introduced equal pay for women doing the same job as their male counterparts. I was chosen to be one of the first three women in Victoria to be tellers. NSW was the only other State at the time to have a female teller so we were the pioneers for women in Banking as it is known today. As you can imagine this appointment was not readily accepted amongst the staff and the public and we had to prove ourselves. By 1966 when decimal currency was introduced we had proven we could cope. In 1967 I was one of three selected from 100 applicants to travel to New Zealand as a promotional exercise for a Hawkes Bay & Gisborne Bank to help with the decimal currency changeover. I'm on the right in this picture at the airport. In the early 1970s I once again moved to a suburban branch as a teller where I was appointed a Manager of a small agency branch before I retired to have a family. In those days women didn't get maternity leave. That came later.



During the early 80s I played tennis and was elected as Secretary to the Southern District Tennis Association Social and Rules sub committees. These were administrative roles mainly for women's tennis mid week competitions and involved setting up inaugural mid- week competitions with Single/Doubles rubbers format for two person teams which still runs today.

In early 1985 I became aware of Masters athletics so I joined Mentone venue initially with javelin then I joined Betty Newman's race walking group after the WMA Championships Melbourne, 1987. I competed in three World Championships and two Oceania Championships with some success mainly in the 10k Road race walk teams with the highlight being the Team gold in W45 Turku, 1991.



From 1994 I became involved with my family in Sailing Club and State Association Sailing Committees mainly on organising committees for State and National titles race control and social events. I also went back to work in banking initially in business teller positions. Later I moved into administrative roles in National Branch Cash Management teams for Branch and ATM networks throughout Australia for three major Banks before retiring.

In 2014 I joined AMA as the webmaster and in 2015 I was elected to the AMA Board. I have enjoyed being on the AMA Board and the challenges this has brought me. I am now the second longest serving AMA Board member with my four years experience at this level. It took time to establish the current AMA website and to have it operating smoothly. Similarly the AMA Facebook page now with over 1000 members was another of my initiatives as was the introduction of the AMA E-Newsletter. I am proud of these achievements and initiatives.

Masters athletics has provided me with friendships, competitions and allowed me to utilise my administrative skills. My lifestyle allows me the time to commit to serving on the AMA Board.