

# HELEN SEARLE

## Australian Masters Athletics Hall of Fame



“A tough character with a heart of gold”

Helen represented Australia at the Olympic Games (Rome 1960 & Tokyo 1964) and the Commonwealth Games 1958, 1962 and 1966 medaling in the High Jump and Long Jump. She also competed in the Australian Open Championships from 1958 to 1966. In 1987 Helen, as a NSW Masters athlete, was invited to compete in the inaugural ladies Hammer at the Open Australian Championships.

Helen was an outstanding athlete who progressed from jump events to throwing events as she moved into the masters age groups. Helen joined NSWVAC for the 1975-6 season winning the W35 Shot Put in her first State Championships. She went on to compete in 25 NSWMA Championships where she won a multitude of medals. Moving to Queensland in 2002 Helen went on to compete for 17 years and over 9 QLD Championships winning 37 gold medals, never losing an event.

Competing in Australian Masters Athletics Championships since 1978, Helen had podium finishes in all but three events over 30 championships. Helen was the recipient of the Royce Foley Award for best Throws Pentathlon performance on four occasions and Female Thrower of the Meet at the AMA Winter Throws competition, also on four occasions.

A successful multi event athlete, Helen participated in ten World Masters Athletics Championships and two World Masters Games across all age groups from W35 to W80. Competing in a wide variety of events—long, high & triple jumps; short hurdles, hammer, discus, shot put and the field and throws pentathlons, Helen set numerous World and Australian records.

She has been dedicated to the sport of athletics, in particular to the throwing events and athletes with a disability where she has coached three disabled athletes to International competition standard.

Helen has been honored with an Order of Australia Medal in 1999 for service to athletics as a coach, administrator and athlete along with Life Membership of Athletics NSW.

Inducted 2024  
AMA HOF 20



*John Clark*  
AMA President