

High achiever



Geoff Brayshaw and Maxine, his wife of 43 years, have three grown-up children and four grandchildren. His family had farmed near Narembreen since 1924 and Geoff spent his first 12 years on the farm and at the local Mt Walker district school. At five, he won the pre-school dash down the ninth hole of the local golf course. There was some dispute as he was so small he ran under the finishing tape. He went on to win the local Eastern District school championship in each of his last four years at Mt Walker.



In focus

With Christine Oldfield

For secondary education he boarded in Northam whilst attending Northam High School. He peaked in athletics at about 13 and after that won few events, mostly limited to long and triple jump. After failing first year engineering at UWA he took up a career in accounting. He worked for Coopers and Lybrand for 14

years then BDO Chartered Accountants until he retired from practice in 2005. He retired as managing partner, having also been National President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 2002. He was awarded the Order of Australia in 2007 for services to the accounting profession.

He is still active in that profession, including being a director of Fortescue Metals Group from 2007 to 2013 and of Poseidon Nickel Limited to this day.

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HE has also chaired an Aboriginal Corporation called Gumala, centred in the Pilbara. Geoff is MAWA's treasurer and he is currently also a director and treasurer of the LOC for the 2016 World Masters Athletics Championships in Perth. What better person to hold the purse strings for such a prestigious event?

Geoff played tennis and started baseball at 40 when his shoulder could not handle tennis any more. But athletics played no part in his life until he turned 45. Then, probably because he wanted to see if he could still do what he had done as a schoolboy, he made the occasional foray into masters athletics. He remembers entering a few events at Coker park and winning something. He heard about the Australian Masters Games and, in 1995, went to Melbourne and surprised himself by coming second in the M45 triple jump. Two years later he went to the Games in Canberra where he thinks he might have won a bronze in the sparsely contested pentathlon. But he remembers the silver medal in Melbourne as his best result ever.

Geoff was always pretty busy and work took priority. So it was really only after he retired that he found time to think seriously about his sporting life. He felt *"a little long in the tooth"* to play baseball but nevertheless has been to the USA three times in the last five years to play at an end of year seniors baseball series in Phoenix. And he started going a bit more often to the masters athletics sessions. This time he joined in at McGillivray Oval and, more recently, at WAAS. He does

horizontal jumps and long throws and is a handy sprinter – perfect for the pentathlon, if only the 1500m wasn't part of it. He describes his athletic career as *"pretty ordinary"* but he won a bronze medal in the javelin at the Perth 2010 nationals, features in five events in MAWA's 2013/14 Club Tops and at the 2014 State Championships he took four gold and

four silver medals, including one in the pentathlon.

But Geoff thinks his career and the travelling he has done is *"way more interesting"* than his athletic career. His adventures with Maxine include a family visit to Eastern Europe in 1989 just before the wall came down, a week in North Korea at the invitation of the Ministry of Finance, a tour of Syria just before the current conflict started, a 2012 trip to Myanmar (formerly Burma) to attend the world wide launch of the Anti Slavery organisation known as Walk Free and two weeks in 2013 helping to build a church school in Nairobi.

Closer to home, he'll be going to the 2014 Pan Pacific Games on the Gold Coast early in November as part of a baseball team, but has also entered the javelin competition. He'll have just turned 65 so is keen to see how he does in his new age group as he competes in the coming season and at the 2015 state championships. He says he gets *"very bored just running for health and fitness"* so enjoys the fun he gets out of the jumps and throws and participating with others. He has few aspirations other than keeping up with his own shadow or *"at least not losing too much over the years."*

