

In Focus – Damien Hanson

(photos – Vic Waters)

At school Damien loved both cricket and athletics. He chose to continue playing the former and is still involved in that sport as a coach, umpire and administrator. The latter, apart from a bit of jogging and some fun runs, went into abeyance until 2001. In that year, a leaflet taken home from the gym promoted the inaugural Fremantle Masters Games and his daughter coerced him into entering. He has been a Masters member ever since. Now he manages the Freo Masters Athletics programme and has been a MAWA committee member since 2003.

He is essentially a thrower, his favourite implements being the javelin and discus. But his silver and bronze pentathlon medals from the 2003 and 2004 National Championships bear witness to his all round talent. He enjoys the camaraderie and social aspect of these events – something he deems “not possible if puffing your way around the track”.

Injury has kept him from serious competition for several years but he thinks he might now, at last, be back on the road to retrieving some of his previous form. His silver medal performance in the recent State Championship pentathlon gives credence to this - 2138 points with a 74.39% achievement in the 200m.



Damien, recognizable by his mop of white hair, is ‘keeper of the throws equipment’. In that role he is often to be seen with a little (but heavy) blue trolley in tow and a long bundle of javelins under his arm. Even when he is not fit enough to participate he is always there on Tuesdays and Thursdays to supervise the throwing events and give encouragement and advice to novices. When the summer programme ceases he organizes the Winter Throwers training group.

Damien is very much the entertainer. Not surprising, since outside athletics he works as a lighting designer and technical manager for stage productions, concerts and events. This often necessarily involves evening commitments but somehow he manages to keep clashes to a minimum and seldom misses MAWA track and field evenings.

His dream of someday completing a decathlon may be the stuff of fantasy but his ambition to attend a national championship in every state and territory is surely achievable.

Meantime he just feels it is a privilege to be allowed to compete each week with the club and share in the companionship of other athletes.