

Profiles from prominent past UWAAC athletes

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Gary Aitken (Life Member)

Prepared by Don Young, Gary Aitken and Eric Isaachsen February 2008

Born 26 January 1942, East Perth

Gary, generally known as GA, was educated at North Inglewood Primary School and Governor Stirling Senior High School.

He showed a lot of athletic promise as a secondary schoolboy. He recalls as a teenager training after school at the Bayswater soccer ground. In year 12 he set 440 and 880 yards records at an interschool carnival at Subiaco Oval, resulting in a article by athletics writer Geoff Worner in the following Saturday sports edition of The Daily News.

Gary commenced track and field athletics with the Eastern Districts club in the inter club competition at Leederville Oval in 1958. In 1959 – 1962 he also played A1 Grade hockey for Old Modernians, a period when WA dominated the national competition.

In 1960 he transferred to the UWA Athletics Club, initially competing as a middle distance runner in track and field. From 1963 onwards he regularly competed in cross country and road events in which he took a special interest for many years. His Sunday morning hills runs were legendary with Vesty Stack, Sam Barry and Mal Robinson as sometime participants. Perth to Pinjarra relays were a feature of UWA organisation, or not, depending on the attendance and the car drivers.

Gary's long record of service to the UWA Athletics Club as a competitor, administrator and coach was outstanding. He was one of the driving forces in lifting the club from the doldrums of the 1950's to the peak of its activity in the 1960's and 1970's.

He was club Secretary in 1960, Secretary/Treasurer in 1965, and Cross Country Captain 1964 to 1968. He was awarded a Full Blue for athletics in 1962 and set a club record of 1 m 53.0 secs for the 880 yards on February 25, 1965. He also had a sub 50 secs 440 yards performance to his credit. He was the initial winner of the Keith Allen Trophy awarded to the competitor who achieved the highest aggregate of points in A Grade in the 1960-1961 Inter club season. Gary was also awarded the F W Humphreys Trophy [for service to athletics] in 1966-1967 and 1967-1968. Commencing in 1960 Gary was for a number of years an enthusiastic competitor in Inter Varsity athletics competitions. He took part in seven IV competitions as a competitor, coach or manager. He was a member of teams which set club records in 4x100 m and 4x440 m relays. His versatility was demonstrated by his completing six marathons. After retiring as an active competitor he coached many young athletes to successful careers. In 1978 he donated to the University Club a trophy for the best cross country/road athlete. Gary was responsible for formulating standards and criteria for athletics Blues for cross country and road running.

Between 1976 and 1991 Gary, whilst remaining a competitor, particularly in the winter season, undertook a second stint of coaching and mentoring. The second phase, a full-on, intensive programme focusing on distance running [800m onwards], included UWAAC athletes Clive Hicks, Richard Pestell, Art Briffa, Duncan Sullivan, Eric Isaachsen, Peter Green, Nick Bailey, Gerard O'Neill, Stuart Gee, Mark Bartsch, Terry Stokes, Jussi Varlsta , Mark Altus, Dennis Barton, Simon Elliot, Cliff Hurley and Simon Martin.

He was elected a Life Member of UWAAAC in 1968.

Gary's service to the Western Australian Amateur Athletic Association was equally impressive. During 1966-1969 he was a UWA Club delegate to the WAAAA Council and from 1967 to 1969 Secretary for the Association Cross Country Management Committee. From 1971 to 1975 he was a Vice President of the Association, an executive committee member from 1973/1974, in 1970, 1972 to 1975 a State cross country and road team selector, 1973 to 1975 a State track and field team selector and in 1973 and 1974 a State team manager. In 1974/1975 he was a competition management committee member and 1986/1987 a cross country and road team selector. In 1991 - 1993 he was Chairman of Selectors for cross country, road and track and field events. During his service with WAAAA he was co-author of a report on cross country which gradually brought about significant changes to the conduct of this discipline. In 1971, 1973 and 1974 he was responsible for the season's cross country programmes. Gary was also instrumental in helping to introduce beneficial changes to the track and field programmes during the 1971-1976 years. In 1970 he was one of seven foundation members of the WA Marathon Club. In 1988 he was on the Executive Organising Committee for the Australian Track and Field Championships, which were also Olympic Selection Trials, at Perry Lakes Stadium.

UWA's Mc Gillivray ovals were a second home to Gary. He trained there personally and with his squad on innumerable occasions. He led the initial thrust to get lights installed [and was around for the second] and the erection of the current storeroom. Defence of the territory was a constant vigil – outside groups / non UWA athletes / policing the exclusion of the inner lanes from training / prevention of use by hockey players – all earned equal scorn. The present reputation of the facility owes much to his tenacity.

As an athletics correspondent for The Sunday Independent from 1969-1986 and The West Australian from 1985-1986 Gary's reporting materially assisted the sport of athletics in WA. He enjoyed a lifelong relationship with internationally respected athletics statistician, Bernie Cecins which extended past the athletics arena.

In 1973 Gary and Eric Isaachsen were instrumental in introducing the sport of orienteering into Western Australia. For many years Gary was a successful competitor, mapper, course planner and administrator in the Orienteering Association of Western Australia. From its humble beginnings OAWA has

produced many Australian champions and international representatives. Gary was elected OAWA's first Life Member in 1982 and awarded a Half Blue for the sport in 1980.

Keith Allen

Prepared by Don Young with assistance from the Allen family, June 2000

Keith was born on the 16th of February 1917, in Subiaco. He initially went to St Aloysius Convent, Shenton Park, then to St Patricks (Christian Brothers) secondary school, Wellington St, Perth. Finally he finished his secondary school education at Christian Brothers College (CBC), St Georges Terrace, Perth, where he matriculated in 1934.

Keith entered the University of WA in 1935 and immediately joined the University Athletic Club. Being a big, brawny youngster he was a natural for field events and he initially competed in jumps, the discus, shot put and hammer throw, achieving a very modest distance of around 60 feet in the latter event in the 1935-1936 season. He no doubt learnt a lot about hammer throwing from Dr Les Le Souef, who set a State record of 101'7" in the 1936 State Championship. Keith's first State record of 117'2½" was set in February 1937. Later in the year he was selected in the State team which made the long train trip to Brisbane for the National Championships in December, where he finished in 3rd place in the hammer throw. He was awarded a Full Blue for athletics in 1938 and was elected Vice President and Club Captain in 1938, 1939 and served in those dual roles in the early part of 1940. He set a new State Record for the Hammer Throw in 1939 of 135' and was State Champion that year.

In the pre-war years opportunities for hammer throwers were limited, no doubt due, in part, to the reluctance of ground curators to tolerate the damage caused by the 16 lb missiles thudding into their turf. But Keith persisted with his specialty and was instrumental in considerably lifting the standard of the event in Australia. Keith's younger brother, Lloyd, remembers Keith manufacturing his own hammer by heating lead on the family kitchen stove prior to pouring it into a cylinder. Lloyd also recalls helping Keith to carry his gear from the family home in Subiaco to Leederville Oval on Saturdays for competitions.

Keith joined the Education Department as a monitor in 1938 and two years later was recruited into the 2/7th Field Regiment of the 9th Division of the AIF. His unit left for the Middle East in November 1940, returning to Western Australia in February 1943. After a brief stay, during which he married Gwen, he was posted to New Guinea, notably Lae and Wau. After demobilisation in 1945 he returned to Perth, did a refresher course at Claremont Teachers College, then commenced a teaching career at a number of metropolitan State primary schools.

Keith resumed his athletics career in early 1946, representing NSW at the 1946 State Championships. (He had been registered as an athlete in the east at the time he was demobbed). He won the Hammer Throw with a throw of 134'4" and was 3rd in the Shot. In September of that year, in the State selection trials at James Oval, he increased his State record to 145'6½". Later in the year he improved on that distance twice, with throws of 147'8" and 149'7".

In the National Championships, held in Perth in January 1947, he won the Hammer Throw with an Australian Open record of 156'10³/₄". Coincidentally Keith's good friend, John Winter, likewise set a State High Jump record of 6'3.125" in the same State selection trials and an Australian Open record of 6'6.375" in the 1947 Australian Championships. Keith won later State Hammer Throw Championships in 1947 (143'4"), 1948(149'3¹/₂"), 1950 (148'8¹/₂"), 1951(152'2¹/₂")and 1952(148'8¹/₂"). He was also State Shot Put Champion in 1949. He won further Australian Hammer Throw Championships in 1948(149'3¹/₂") and 1949(149'2¹/₂") and was 2nd in 1950 and 4th in 1953.

Keith was Vice Captain of the Australian Athletics Team which competed in the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Auckland where he finished 8th in the Hammer Throw with a distance of 135'6".

Keith had the unique distinction of being an active UWAAAC athlete pre and post the Second World War. He was a member of the UWA teams which won the A Grade summer inter club competitions in 1945-1946 and 1946-1947. Keith continued his service to the UWAAAC after retirement from active competition, acting as Club President 1955 - 1959. He also served as Patron, Vice Patron and Club delegate to the WAAAA. He was Club President when UWA hosted, for the first time, the Intervarsity Athletics championships held at Riley Oval in May, 1959. No one present during the frivolities following the IV wind up dinner could forget Keith successfully taking on Indian arm wrestling challenges from some young bucks from the east! He was a very worthy recipient of Life Membership in 1956, only the second person to be accorded that honour.

Keith's other sporting passion was billiards. He became Secretary of the Amateur Billiards Association of WA and became a close friend of Bob Marshall, who was for many years the World amateur billiards champion. Keith installed a billiard table in a room added on to the family home in Wembley in the 1950's and many a contemporary athlete was entertained at a summer evening barbecue at the Allen residence with a game of billiards or snooker thrown in for good measure. After retirement from teaching he put his billiards expertise to good use by developing a skill in re-surfacing billiard tables thus becoming well known at UWA halls of residence as well as various clubs throughout the state. Keith was also a member of Perth's Celtic Club, a member of the City Beach Surf Lifesaving Club and a keen supporter of the South Fremantle Football Club.

Keith Allen was a genial, laconic fellow, often supremely indifferent to the need for punctuality but always willing to pass on advice to younger athletes and to help out officiating at competitions. He passed away in April 1995 after a short illness, mourned by his wife Gwen and son, Lindsay, and greatly missed by his friends.

Herbert A Craven

Prepared by Don Young with assistance from the Craven family, Robert Holmes, The Hon Justice Geoffrey Miller, Sir Francis Burt, Clive Choate and Godfrey Virtue & Co. January 2001.

Herbert Craven's father Laurence came to WA in 1900 and studied fruit growing in the Donnybrook district. In 1901 he married a local girl and they lived in the home now known as "Mahogany Inn". When fruit growing there proved to be unsuccessful he became an associate lawyer to the then Chief Justice, Sir Henry Parker, The Cravens had two sons, Assheton and Herbert, and a daughter, Mary. Herbert's parents returned to England in 1930 and Herbert's elder brother, Assheton, who had been jackarooing in Australia, later went to England after his father's death in 1933 to take over the family farm in Nottinghamshire. Their mother and Mary returned to live in Perth. Young Herbert was educated at Mundaring Primary School and Guildford Grammar School. He showed aptitude for athletics at Guildford and one year was instrumental in his school winning the Interschool Athletics Carnival by $\frac{3}{4}$ of a point as a result of his finishing in 4th place in the one mile, the last event of the day.

He went on to UWA to study law in 1931. He was a foundation member and senior student of St George's College and enthusiastic member of UWAAAC during his years at UWA, 1931 - 1935. He competed regularly in the winter road and cross country seasons over 1, 3 and 5 miles. He once recalled that the State 3 and 5 mile championships were held at Ascot Racecourse giving competitors the chance to weigh themselves on the jockey scales before and after the events. He claimed that losses of up to one pound avoirdupois per mile were not uncommon but they were soon replenished by a few beers after the events. Herbert was a member of the UWA track and field teams which won the Sandover Cup as a result of being the top team in the 1930 - 1931 and 1931 - 1932 seasons. Herbert was awarded a Full Blue for one mile running in 1934, a member of the committee in 1933, 1934 and 1935 and was Club President in 1936.

Herbert did not complete his law degree at UWA. Instead he was an articled clerk to F. W. Godfrey, a founding partner of Boulton, Godfrey and Virtue, an acceptable alternative then to becoming qualified to practice as a lawyer. He was admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Western Australia on 30 June 1941.

Herbert's full name was Herbert Assheton Craven - Smith - Milnes. The double hyphenated surname came about because a wealthy bachelor relative of Herbert's father in the UK left his considerable estate to the family on the express condition that all members of the family adopt his lengthy surname. Early in the Second World War Herbert and his close friend, Robert Holmes, joined the Royal Australian Air Force. Based at Pearce, Cunderdin and Geraldton airfields they learnt to fly but early in 1941 their CO suggested that Herbert's aptitude for flying had potentially fatal consequences for his crew and himself and he would be better employed as a navigator. Whereupon

Herbert succeeded in getting himself discharged from the RAAF and set about studying to successfully pass the entrance exams to allow him to join the Navy. In the intervening period between leaving one service and joining the other both Herbert and Robert were married [they were each other's best man] and soon after Herbert was posted to Flinders Naval Depot in Victoria. After a brief training period he left the east coast of Australia in August 1941 by ship for Europe via the Panama Canal. Thence followed four continuous year's service on British warships without any home leave whilst his new wife waited patiently at home for his return. Lieutenant Craven, RANR was involved in some serious marine action in the Mediterranean in mid 1942 and was lucky to survive attacks on his ship, HMS Zulu, by German dive bombers whilst on convoy duty. In fact an enemy aircraft dropped a bomb down the ship's funnel and the trauma of that experience is thought to be the reason for Herbert's unusual, and perhaps nervous, laugh. A fortuitous transfer to another ship in August of that year preceded the sinking of HMS Zulu a month later during an ill fated attempt to land commandos behind enemy lines at Tobruk. For the remainder of the war Herbert was involved in the dangerous escort of merchantmen convoys across the Norwegian and Barents Seas to Murmansk, taking critically needed supplies to Russia and troop convoy escort duty in the Indian ocean, relieved by the occasional leave in the UK, as the Allies gradually got the upper hand. One of his assignments was on a ship with the unlikely name of HMS Lurcher. He was in command of HMS Magnolia, based in Trincomalee, Ceylon, when the war finished in August 1945.

On returning to civilian life Herbert rejoined Boulton, Godfrey and Virtue [later Godfrey Virtue & Co], subsequently became a partner until he retired about 1980, practising privately and being a consultant to his old firm. Herbert continued his association with athletics and was for many years a vice patron of UWAAAC and patron in 1970. In 1966-1967 he donated the H.A.Craven Perpetual Trophy for the Best Track Distance runner in interclub events. He acted as an official for the Club for many years and in the 1970's the annual celebration and barbecue at the Craven residence was a highlight of the UWAAAC social calendar. The Club made him a Life Member in 1970. Herbert Craven was a amiable raconteur, able to draw on the rich vein of his life experiences. One of his stories related to having to provide legal assistance to Keith Allen who, when practising hammer throwing on Cottesloe Beach unwisely threw the hammer when people were about and the hammer wire caught a young boy around the throat, fortunately not causing serious injury. He also told the story that a consequence of his lengthy surname was that he was once posted simultaneously during the war to three different ships.

Herbert Craven died on 22 April 1986, sadly missed by his wife, Nancy, son James [Assh], and daughter Dinah and his many friends and colleagues.

John Down

Prepared by Don Young



John has the distinction of being our oldest member. He turned 90 on May 24, 2005.

John was a very capable sprinter at Perth Modern School from 1928 to 1932 and was Open 100 yards champion in his final year.

He commenced interclub athletics with the Perth Modern School team in the 1932/1933 season and transferred to UWAAAC in 1936 when he entered Claremont Teachers College and UWA. He competed in sprints, hurdles, long jump and the hop, step and jump events.

In 1937 and 1938 he was teaching in Albany but returned to Perth in 1939 and renewed his association with the UWAAAC. He was the club's number one sprinter and long jumper and the highlight of his athletics career was winning the State 100 yards championship in 1940, equaling the State record of 10 seconds. He received a Full Blue for this performance.

John was also more than a handy footballer, playing amateur football for UWA in 1936 and 1939 and he received a Full Blue for being selected in the State Amateur side which competed in a carnival in Adelaide.

Those present wished John many happy returns of the day and signed a birthday card for him to keep as a memento of the occasion.

Frank Drew

Prepared by Don Young in 2003 with assistance from Griff Richards and drawing on an obituary in the UWA Athletics 1968-1969 Year Book.

On leaving secondary school Frank Drew successfully applied for a cadetship at The West Australian. He enrolled in a Diploma of Journalism course at UWA in 1930 and soon settled into the specialty of parliamentary reporting. At "The West" he had a long professional association with UWA Athletics Foundation President Griff Richards.

At UWA Frank became an active and enthusiastic member of the athletics club. His size and coordination led him to concentrate on field events. He initially had a tussle with Harry Wilson in his favourite event, the shot put, but soon he established his superiority in this event going on to win numerous club championships and eleven State Championships over a period of fifteen years.

He was also a member of the UWA rugby club.

Frank set State shot put records of 32'10" (10.01 m) in 1932, 41' 11 ³/₄" (12.80 m) in 1934, 43'6" (13.26 m) in 1935 and 45' 4 ¹/₂" (13.83 m) in 1935. Frank competed in the Australian Championships in Hobart in 1936. One week later, in the Australian National Games in Adelaide he was 3rd in the shot with a distance of 42' 1" (12.83 m). In 1937, after a long and tiring train journey from Perth, he finished 3rd in the Australian Championships in Brisbane and subsequently was selected in the Australian team for the 1938 British Empire Games. Thus Frank, together with Harry Wilson, resident in Victoria, another former UWA field event competitor, became the first Western Australian born male athlete to represent Australia at athletics.

In the Sydney BEG he finished 3rd behind L Fouche, South Africa and E Coy, Canada, in the shot with a best throw of 45' 3 ¹/₂" (13.80 m) . Soon after, back in WA, in an international athletics meeting, he raised his own State record to 45' 10 ¹/₄" (13.98 m) , a distance which would have gained him 2nd place in the BEG. This record stood for over a decade.

After the second world war, representing the Cottesloe Athletic Club, Frank retained his State shot put titles in 1946, 1947 and 1948. He was selected in the Australian team which competed in the Australian Championships in Perth in 1947.

Following the war Frank became a sub-editor at "The West " and was appointed to the new position of deputy news editor, where part of his job was to monitor the radio news. One evening in 1966 the lead item on the radio was about a young man who had died whilst diving in the ocean west of Rottnest. It was the first Frank knew of the death of his son, Tony, Mr and Mrs Drew's only child. It was a terrible tragedy for both of them and one from which Frank had not fully recovered at the time of his death on June 24, 1968.

In his memory Frank's widow donated the Frank Drew trophy in 1970, for the highest points scorer in field events (shot, discus, javelin and hammer) in interclub competition.

Griff Richards summed up Frank Drew : “ as in everything else, he was a modest hero, uncommonly gentle, without an ounce of malice in him, liked and respected by everyone.”

Lindsay P Gray

Prepared by Don Young



Born in Perth on the 31st of December 1915, Lindsay Gray attended Hale School, Perth, between 1924 and 1933 and in his final year was both School Captain and Dux. He was an outstanding athlete at Hale.

He attended UWA in 1934 for the first year of a medical degree and went on to Melbourne University where he graduated MB BS in 1939. At UWA he took a keen interest in the Athletics Club and was elected as a Fresher representative on the 1934 committee. He was awarded Half Blues for athletics and swimming in 1935. He won the 1934 State Junior 880 yards Championship in a record time of 2 min 7.2 secs.

He represented Melbourne University at athletics, being 2nd in the 440 yards hurdles at IV Melbourne, 1937; 2nd in the 880 yards at IV Sydney, 1938 and 2nd in the 880 yards at IV Brisbane, 1939. He was awarded Full Blues for athletics and hockey. He was also selected in a Combined Universities Hockey Team.

Like his father before him, Lindsay Gray was an Otorhinolaryngologist (Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist) of repute. He was held in high regard by patients and colleagues alike and his work at Princess Margaret Hospital made him something of a legend, particularly in his specialty of correcting nasal deformities in new born babies. In 1977 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons.

Lindsay served overseas in the Middle East in 1941 with the 2/7th Field Ambulance and later became a Company Commander with the rank of Major in the 2/8th Field Ambulance, serving in Borneo in 1945. Returning to Australia he became 2 IC then C.O., of the 109 Convalescent Depot until his discharge in 1946. Many ex POW's, particularly those who had suffered at the hands of the Japanese in Changi, Thailand, Japan and Manchuria, remember Lindsay's care with gratitude.

He continued his army interests after demobilisation and finally became Commander of the 7/13th Field Ambulance in 1952 with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Lindsay's service to medical units was recognised when he was appointed Honorary Colonel to the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, Western Command, from 1974 to 1980.

Lindsay continued his interest in athletics after the war and was Chief timekeeper for the WAAAA for many years. He acted as a timekeeper at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games and was Chief timekeeper at the 1962 Perth Commonwealth Games. He was at various times Patron and Vice Patron of the UWAAAC and was made a Life Member in 1976. He enlivened many an Annual Dinner with his wit and humour during post-prandial speeches. Lindsay was a foundation member of the Western Australian branch of the Australian Sports Medicine Foundation.

Lindsay joined Perth Legacy in 1950 and gave 35 years service to that body, serving on its Medical and Welfare Committees. He also found the time to be a member of the Hale School Board for ten years, from 1961 to 1970, at a time when the School was growing and consolidating at Wembley Downs.

Lindsay Gray will long be remembered for his whimsical sense of humour, sincerity, industry and devotion to his profession. He endeared himself to all who had the privilege to know him. He died on 30 December, 1986, after a short illness, greatly missed by his wife, Pat, and their family of three sons and a daughter.

Dr Charles Richard Green

Prepared by Don Young in September 2001



Born in Albany, WA on August 15th 1921, Charlie was educated at Forrest Hill Primary School, near Mt Barker (1926 - 1933). His secondary education was at The Grammar School, Katanning (1934 - 1935) and Hale School, Perth (1936 - 1940). He matriculated in law but in 1941 studied physics and mathematics A at Perth Technical College to enable him to begin a science course at UWA. He completed 1st year science at UWA in 1942 and completed a M.B.B.S (Honours) at Melbourne University (Ormond College) 1943 - 1947.

Charlie Green's athletics hurdling ability first became noticeable when he won the Interschool Open 120 yards hurdles in 1939, representing Hale School. In 1940 he won the State Junior 120 yards hurdles championship in 16.1 secs and in the same season set State junior hurdles records of 15.8 secs (120 yards) and 62.9 secs (440 yards). In 1941 he won the State senior 120 yards and 440 yards hurdles titles in 16.1 secs and 57.4 secs respectively. State championships were suspended 1942 - 1945 due to the war. He was awarded a Full Blue for athletics by UWA in 1943.

While studying medicine at Melbourne University Charlie competed for St Stephen's Harriers. He represented Melbourne University at the 1946 Interschool competition in Hobart, winning the 120 H in 15.8 secs and the 440 H in 57.0 secs. The following year, in Melbourne, he won the 120 H IV in 14.9 secs and was second in the 440 H.

Charlie won the 1947 WA State Championship 120 H in 15.3 secs and the 440 H in 56.6 secs and then, representing Western Australia, at Leederville Oval, he went on to win the 1947 Australian 120 H championship in 14.6 secs (equalling the Australian record) and the 440 H in 54.1 secs, a State record. On 31 January 1948 he set a new Australian record of 14.5 secs for the 120 H at Olympic Park in Melbourne. Later in the year he, again representing WA, he finished 4th in the Australian 120 H championship held in Melbourne. He was later selected to represent Australia in the 110 H at the 1948 Olympic Games in London and was appointed Captain of the athletics team. He finished 4th in a heat of the 110 H in a time of 15.4 secs. In warm up meetings before the Olympics he finished 3rd in the British 110 H and was 3rd in the 110 H at two other international meetings in London and Dublin. He retired from active athletics competition after the Olympics to begin a long a distinguished medical career.

Charlie initially held Junior and Senior Medical Officer positions at Royal Melbourne Hospital 1949 - 1950 before specialising in pathology, with appointments to Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital from 1951 until 1981. He was a Lecturer and Reader in pathology at the University of Melbourne 1955 - 1981, a Visiting Investigator in Embryopathy at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, USA, (1962-1963) whilst on sabbatical leave; a Lecturer and Demonstrator in Pathology at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Melbourne 1964 - 1968, to name but a few of his achievements in his chosen field. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia in 1957, was awarded a Ph.D by the University of Melbourne in 1961 and made a Member of the Royal College of Pathologists, London, in 1963. Charlie moved to Queensland in 1981 and commenced a solo general practice in which he was still active in 2001.

Charlie Green was a tall, stylish hurdler, at his best the leading hurdler in Australia. He shares with Shirley De La Hunty and John Winter the honour of being the first Western Australian athlete chosen to represent Australia at the Olympic Games.

Fred Humphreys

Prepared by Don Young with assistance from Alex George, Dennis Barton and Fred Napier, February 2001.



Born in Kalgoorlie on the 11th of November 1907, Fred was in the early 1930's a member of the Cottesloe and later the UWA Athletic Clubs. He was a member of the UWA team which won the Fremantle to Perth relay in 1932, running a 1¼ mile leg. Fred was a member of the club committee in 1933. He was State 440 and 880 yards champion in 1933 [setting a State record of 2m 2.4s in the 880] and State 880 yards champion in 1934. He was awarded a Full Blue for athletics in 1934.

After graduating from UWA with a Diploma in Commerce in 1934 he began a career in the Commonwealth Public Service departments of Immigration and Social Services. His employment took him initially to Melbourne but he returned to WA in 1947 and became the State Director of Social Services. At the time of his death the Social Services Department was located in the building which bore his name, Humphreys House.

His return to his home State was also the beginning of a long and distinguished association with the WAAA as an official and administrator. He filled, at various times, the roles of Association Arena Manager, Chief Field Referee, State Selector, Chairman of Council and WA Conference Delegate to the Amateur Athletic Union of Australia. Fred was the Chief Throwing Referee at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games, Arena Manager for the Perth

1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games and Manager of the Australian Athletics Team which competed in the 1966 Commonwealth Games in Jamaica. In the mid 1960's he was a member of the AAU of Australia Executive Committee and an Australian Selector. He was awarded an MBE in 1966 and made a Life Member of the WAAAA in 1963.

Fred continued his association with the UWAAAC post war. He was a good friend of his old club, Patron in 1958 to 1966 inclusive. He was instrumental in keeping the University Club in the WAAAA in 1965 and 1966 when the move to district clubs was at its height. It was his mature judgement and wise leadership as Chairman of the Association Council that allowed non district clubs to weather the storm. He was made a Life Member of UWAAAC in 1965. In recognition of his contribution to athletics the F.W.Humphreys Perpetual Trophy was initiated in the 1966-1967 season to be awarded to a UWA athlete "for service to athletics (Club and WAAAA) through both competition and administration".

In addition to athletics Fred's other passion was the photography of WA's unique wildflowers, developed in parallel with that of his wife, Evelyn, who delighted particularly in using them in ikebana. Both were active in the Western Australian Wildflower Society.

Fred thought nothing of making a long day or weekend trip to the country to photograph a rare banksia or other wildflower. In March 1967 he became the first to collect flowers of a rare new species of Banksia from the Stirling Range. A collection of his 35 mm slides (mostly taken in the late 1950's and 60's) was donated to the Western Australian Herbarium, and another set to the Australian National Botanical Gardens in Canberra. Many have been reproduced in various publications.

The definitive book on banksias, The Banksia Book, written and first published by Alex George in 1984, had its original concept with Fred, who would have been a joint author with the then Government Botanist, Charles Gardner, had they both lived.

A triggerplant from the Great Victoria Desert was named *Stylidium humphreysii* in his honour by an American botanist, Sherwin Carlquist, in 1969.

Fred Humphreys was in every way a gentleman, always putting the good of the sport he loved before any club interest. He was always fair, selfless and loyal to his friends, colleagues and acquaintances. He died suddenly on 3 September 1967 sadly missed by his wife, Evelyn, and all who knew him.

If any reader has additional information about Fred Humphreys to add to the above would they please contact Don Young on email donyoung@inet.net.au

Jeremiah (Jerry) Thomas Haire

Prepared by Don Young and Mary Haire in 2003



Jerry Haire was born on November 1st 1907 at Bulong, , a defunct gold town near Kalgoorlie, and grew up on his family's dairy farm at Scotsdale, near Denmark. At Albany High School he was Dux, School Captain and Champion Athlete. His 1926 high jump record was still intact when he visited the school for its 1975 Golden Jubilee.

Jerry attended Claremont Teachers College and the University of WA where he was a keen rower and tennis player and in 1928 a founding member of the University Athletics Club. He was Club Secretary in 1930 and Vice President and Captain in 1932. Jerry was an enthusiastic club member, successfully competing in running, hurdling, long jump, hop, step and jump, shot put, pole vault and high jump events, the latter being his speciality. He was awarded a Full Blue for athletics in 1928, was University Champion Athlete in 1931, State high jump champion in 1928, 1930, 1935 and 1938, second on a countback in 1937 and State hop, step and jump champion in 1932. His article on the early years of the UWA Athletics club is on the website.

In August 1932 Jerry slipped whilst training for hurdles and tore an Achilles tendon. The injury was not treated correctly and increased to such an extent that doctors recommended amputation at the knee. Jerry refused but was forced to accept that his athletics career was over.

Fortunately Perth surgeon Dr Les Le Souef, UWAAAC's first Life Member, approached Jerry in 1934 and offered to attempt treatment. Le Souef shortened the injured tendon, which meant one calf muscle was now slightly thinner than the other. Jerry began rehabilitation and decided to experiment with the new American style of high jumping, the Western Roll. In the 1934-1935 season he set State records of 5'10 ½" (1.79m) and 5'11" (1.80m) and is credited with introducing the Western Roll into Australia.

When World War 2 broke out Jerry, now teaching at Perth Modern School, volunteered for the RAAF. He failed the medical examination based on his Achilles history, but in mid 1941 was invited to join the 2/2, an elite group of commandos where ironically, fitness was of the utmost priority. At almost thirty-four, Jerry was one of the unit's oldest members. In late 1941 the 2/2 landed on Portuguese (now East) Timor, but due to the arrival of the Japanese in early 1942 was stranded there for a year.

For six months the commandos were completely cut off from Australia and believed dead or captured. Contact was eventually made, but the numbers of Japanese on the island – more than three thousand to just over three hundred of the 2/2 – saw the evacuation of the unit at the end of 1942. Jerry and his companions survived with few losses and were lauded by the Japanese as the only group of soldiers who did not surrender to them.

Jerry received a MID (Mentioned in Dispatches), and having reached the age of thirty-five, was invited to work in Intelligence in Melbourne where he was promoted to Lieutenant. He was later transferred to Brisbane and took part in General MacArthur's island hopping campaign, seeing out the war in Manila. In 1944 Jerry married the love of his life, Norine Wall. They had met at Claremont Teachers College.

Back at "Mod" Jerry devoted himself to coaching promising young athletes. One of those was Scotch College graduate John Winter. In 1948 at the London Olympics – the first post war Olympics – Winter won the high jump. To this day he remains the only Australian man or woman to win Olympic Gold in that event.

Jerry continued to coach athletics, at Perth Modern School, and at Claremont Teachers College to where he transferred.

In 1956 Jerry took his family to Europe and was befriended by Harold Abrahams, the 1924 Olympic 100 metre champion, whose story is told in the film "Chariots of Fire". Abrahams organised coaching work for Jerry in the UK. One of his assignments was a day with the male members of the Royal Ballet. During the 1960's Jerry was Superintendent of English for the Education Department of WA, then lectured at Secondary Teachers College, Nedlands.

He played tennis and rode his pushbike until his late seventies, and walked and practiced yoga until his death from cancer in 1990.

As a teacher and coach Jerry was passionate about passing on his skills to up and coming talent. He was particularly enthusiastic about indigenous athletes, and would have been thrilled to witness Cathy Freeman's victory at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Jerry's only child Mary was not gifted athletically. However, inspired by her father she plays tennis, swims, walks and rides her pushbike around the hills of her Sydney suburb.

Elsie Hight (nee Tolerton)

Prepared by Don Young



Elsie was born in the wheatbelt town of Kellerberrin in 1911 and attended the local primary school until age 12 when she won a scholarship to Perth Modern School, where she completed her secondary school education.

She took an active part in various sports at PMS, including athletics. In her fourth year, in 1927, she was champion athlete at the combined girls interschool sports. In 1928, her final year, she dead heated with Jean Fitch for first place in the inaugural State Open Women's 75 yard sprint championship at Subiaco Oval.

Elsie was Head Girl at PMS in her final year and received a General Exhibition, based on her Leaving Certificate results, to attend the University of WA. Whilst at UWA she continued her sporting activities playing tennis and hockey and competing in athletics.

Griff Richards has supplied the following account of Elsie's athletics involvement at UWA:

"A notable feature of the 1929 Annual Sports Day was the inclusion of women's events for the first time. I saw the secretary of the Women's Club and we agreed, after consulting our committees, that the women's events would be 50, 100 and 220 yards championships, a 75 yards handicap and an inter-faculty relay race in four legs of 50 yards.

Miss E. Tolerton made a clean sweep of the championships; and then on October 11, 1930, when the broad jump and the hop, step and jump were added to the championships and the handicap was cut out, Miss Tolerton won every event on the programme, with a new or inaugural record in each. She was also in the Arts women's relay team which won in record time.

A photo from the West Australian the next day dubbed her THE MODERN ATLANTA

The UWAAAC Committee recognised Miss Tolerton's remarkable efforts in 1929 by recommending her for a Half Blue, but it could not be more than a gesture because, as was explained in a letter to her, the rules provided that such an award could not be made to anyone who was not a club member. This information brought a predictable reaction from the women, with the men in full sympathy. At the next AGM of the Club, on April 7, 1930, it was decided to admit women to membership, the incoming President remarking rather ungallantly that there would be 'several advantages, chiefly financial'. The constitution was amended in May to pave the way for a committee meeting on June 18 that was attended by women members for the first time -- Misses D. Pearson, E Tolerton and C. Jackson.

The first athletics colour award to a women athlete was a Half Blue to Elsie Tolerton in 1931 after the Club's 1930 Committee had strongly but unsuccessfully recommended her for a Full Blue."

The times set by Elsie in 1929 and 1930 are no longer identifiable but the Programme of events at the 1934 UWA Annual Athletic Meeting held on University Oval (James Oval) on 20 October shows that Elsie held, or jointly held, at that time, UWA records for the 50 yards: 6.6 secs, 75 yards: 9.7 secs, 100 yards: 12.4 secs, 220 yards: 28.0 secs, Broad Jump : 16 feet and one half inch. She was University Open Champion in 1929, 1930 and 1931. On completing her university education in 1932 (BA. Dip. Ed) Elsie pursued her teaching career for three years in various WA country towns before returning to the metropolitan area.

At the beginning of World War 2 Elsie received a National Fitness Scholarship to complete a two year Physical Education course at Melbourne University, where she gained a Dip. Phys.Ed. On returning to Perth she was asked to join the Women's Army as an Instructor in Physical Education. On promotion to an officer she was transferred to the Amenities section of the Army for the duration of the war.

Elsie married towards the end of the war and spent several years in Northern Queensland, returning to Perth in 1949, where she settled with her husband and two young children.

Until very recently Elsie was an all year round early morning swimmer at Cottesloe Beach quite close to her home.

Ralph Honner



The second President, in 1930, of the UWAAAC, was Ralph Honner. Not many people know that he was one of Australia's great World War 2 battalion commanders.

He was born in Fremantle in 1904. His father was a policeman who was stationed in the country when young Ralph commenced his secondary education. He was sent to board in Perth and studied at Perth Boys School and Modern School.

In 1923 he entered Claremont Teachers College, completed a BA degree at UWA in 1925 and taught in the state school system for 4 years before becoming a house master at Hale School. This enabled him to study for a law degree part time. He graduated in 1929.

He was very active in sport at UWA, in addition to athletics he represented UWA in Australian Rules and rugby.

He played league football for Claremont from 1926 to 1932 and amateur football for UWA from 1933 to 1939, being selected in the State Amateur teams in 1934 and 1935.

When war broke out in 1939 he was one of the first to join the army. He was a member of the 11th Battalion Alf. His dog tag number was WX 15.

As a junior officer he served with great distinction in the Western Desert, Greece and Crete, being one of the last Australians to be evacuated by submarine after the fall of that island.

On return to Australia he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and sent to New Guinea where in August 1942 he took charge of the 39th Australian Infantry battalion which was involved in heroic battles successfully stemming the Japanese advance on the Kokoda Trail and subsequently defeating the Japanese at the beachhead of Gona. For his gallantry he was awarded the Military Cross and Distinguished Service Order. He was severely wounded in action in New Guinea in October 1943 and repatriated to Australia.

After the war Ralph moved with his family to Sydney where from 1944 to 1968 he was Chairman of the War Pensions Assessment Appeal Tribunal.

From 1968 to 1972 he was Australian Ambassador to Ireland. He died in Sydney in 1994, aged 89.

A biography of Ralph Honner has been written by Adelaide author Peter Brune, called "We Band of Brothers"*. It is available in the state library system.

** Title taken from Shakespeare's Henry V, being part of King Henry's address to his troops before the battle of Agincourt.*

William Russell [Bill] Hudson

Compiled by Russell Hudson in April 2003



Bill Hudson winning a 440 yards event at University

Bill Hudson attended Boulder General School for his primary education between 1914 and 1921, winning an Education Department Bursary in 1921. His education continued at Eastern Goldfields High School, Kalgoorlie, from whence he matriculated in 1926. He was awarded a Special Government University Exhibition for Science Teachers, valued at £50 per annum, supporting his attendance at UWA for a period of four years, studying science. He graduated with a BSc [majoring in Physics and Mathematics] in 1930, completed a Diploma of Education through Claremont Teachers College in 1930 and, while teaching part-time, finished a Bachelor of Arts degree at UWA in 1931. The latter degree was conferred on 15 April, 1932, at the graduation ceremony held as part of the official opening of Winthrop Hall.

Bill had an outstanding all-round sports record while at EGHS. In his final year he was Captain of the School's first teams in football and athletics and a member of the first teams in cricket and tennis. He continued his fine sporting record at UWA. In 1927 he was awarded Colours for football, played Pennant tennis for University and was placed in the sprint events at the University Athletics Championships. In 1928, he was awarded Colours for Rifle Shooting and was a member of the Intervarsity Rifle Team which contested the Venour

Nathan Match in Melbourne. He also received Colours for Athletics and was placed in the University Sprint Championships. In 1929, he was awarded a Full Blue for Rifle Shooting, and, as a member of the Intervarsity Rifle Team in the Venour Nathan Match in Sydney, achieved top score for WA, and equalled the Australian Intervarsity Rifle record for aggregate over 700, 800 and 900 yards ranges. He achieved fourth place in the British Empire in the Imperial Intervarsity Match and was a member of the WA team in the Albert Shield. In the 1930 State Athletics Championships he established a new State record of 23.0 seconds in winning the 220 yards. He was Champion athlete at Claremont Teachers College, winning the 100, 220, 440 and 880 yards events and was a member of the Claremont Teachers College Athletics team which competed in Melbourne. In addition he was a member of College first teams in Football and Cricket and was awarded Honour Pockets for Athletics and Football. He was a committee member of the University Rifle Club and opening marksman of the WA Intervarsity Rifle team which competed in Adelaide.

In 1931 Bill was State Champion and record holder over 220 yards. He won the 100, 220 and 440 yards events at the University Championships, the 100 yards in record time. In 1932 he was UWAAAC Club President and was awarded a Full Blue for athletics and at Perth Boys School he coached athletics teams which remained undefeated throughout the year. In the same year he held the State records for 220 and 440 yards, held the UWA records for 100, 220 and 440 yards and was UWA 220 and 440 yards Champion.

Newspaper articles contained favourable reports on Bill's performances, stating (in 1931):

'on recent form it is expected that Hudson will win both the 100 and 220 yards (in the State Championships). He has been running wonderfully well lately. Hudson won the 220 yards last year. The titleholder is in excellent form, his best time in the interclub contests having been 22.4 sec'

In 1932 he was described as the 'most outstanding athlete of the season'. His best performance for the 1932 season was probably his 10.00 sec for 100 yards on a rain-affected track at the University ground. This was the first "even time hundred" by an amateur athlete in Western Australia, and although subsequently equalled by fellow UWA athletes Gordon Appleton and Laurie Jupp, the record was still standing at the end of the 1936 season when Bill retired from the State athletic scene.

Bill was appointed in 1934 to the position of Assistant Science Master at his old school, EGHS, some 600 km east of Perth, making regular athletics competition at Perth interclub meetings and State championships difficult. Nevertheless he continued to train and compete for UWA when possible. In 1933 his time of 51.2 secs for 440 yards was ratified as a State record, and newspapers continued to include him in their athletics reports.

For example, in 1934:

'W. Hudson, one the strongest sprinters in the State, also came to Perth this weekend. With Appleton and Jupp, Hudson jointly holds the State 100 yards

record. His State records for 220 and 440 yards were recently lowered by Jupp and Cameron. Possessing a long stride, Hudson has the facility of being able to put in a whirlwind finish, which has been responsible for most of his successes.'

In 1936 Bill was selected in a small group of athletes to represent WA in the national titles in Hobart. The newspaper report read as follows:

'It is now certain that four athletes from this State will be competitors at the Australian Amateur Athletic Association meetings at Hobart on January 15 and 18 next. They will be G. Appleton (sprinter), F. Drew (shot putter), J Haire (high jumper) and W Hudson (sprinter). The first four are current State Champions and Hudson is a former State Champion. All will travel at their own expense and will leave Fremantle on the Jervis Bay on December 20. After competing in Hobart the party will go to Adelaide to join up with several other competitors from Western Australia for the Australian National Games. Hudson has not participated in local inter-club matches for two seasons, owing to being stationed at EGHS, but previously was a brilliant runner over 100, 220 and 440 yards. He held more than one State record, and in fact his time of 10.0 secs for the 100 yards has never been beaten in Western Australia, although equalled by Appleton and Jupp. Hudson did six weeks serious training on the Goldfields before leaving for Tasmania and he is still such a good sprinter he demonstrated by running second to Appleton at Hobart ten days ago.'

His final success was at the 1936 State Championship when he won the 100 yards title in a time of 10.2 secs.

Bill was appointed Science Master at Bunbury High School in 1940, Science Master at Northam High School in 1946, and returned again to Bunbury in 1948, where he continued responsibility for courses in chemistry and physics. In 1952 he was transferred to Perth Modern School, where he was responsible for courses in biology, and then to Claremont Teachers College in about 1964. He retired in February 1971.

Bill retained a love of athletics throughout his life, and from 1952 onwards was an official at interclub athletics meetings at Leederville Oval and Perry Lakes Stadium. He took considerable pleasure in following the sporting activities of his three sons, Russell, John and Geoffrey, all of whom represented Scotch College at athletics.

Throughout his life Bill was a keen breeder of fowls, winning numerous trophies for his Brown Leghorns, Indian Game and Old English Game breeds at country shows and the Perth Royal Show. His all-to-brief retirement was committed to this hobby, an overseas trip and to his pennant lawn bowls. At home, he and his wife Joyce enjoyed the company of his children and the growing number of grandchildren; at the time of his death numbering six, and eventually totally ten, seven girls and three boys, one to each of his sons.

Bill died at his home on 22 August 1973. He was 64 years old and had suffered heart problems during the last decade of his life. If he had one regret,

it would have been that he missed seeing his grandchildren succeed in the educational and sporting arenas that had been the driving force in his life.

Laurence D Jupp

Prepared by Don Young with assistance from Patricia Blair, St Peter's College, Adelaide, Wendy Hillman, Archivist, Christ Church Grammar School and Mrs R Radford, Archivist of the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide, December 2001



Born in Perth, 1912, Laurie Jupp was educated at Christ Church Grammar School, Claremont, from 1927 - 1931 and UWA 1932 - 1934 where he graduated with a BA in 1935. He subsequently completed a Dip Ed from UWA in 1948.

Laurie was a very successful and enthusiastic participant in school and interschool athletics, swimming, diving, football and cricket competitions during his stay at Christ Church. In 1929 he broke the open high jump record in the annual sports versus Wesley College. He quickly became an established member of the 1st XVIII and 1st XI and was Vice Captain of both teams in his final two years. He gained Royal Life-Saving Society bronze and silver medallions. He was Captain of School in 1931. However he really blossomed as an athlete after his arrival at UWA in early 1932. In March of

that year he gave an outstanding exhibition of all round athletic ability in winning the Open 100 yards, 220 yards, 440 yards and the high jump at the UWA Annual Championships. In October 1933 he was again champion athlete at the championships, winning the 100 yards in 10.0 secs (a record), the hop, step and jump in a record 44'5" (13.54m), the pole vault and finished 2nd in the high jump. A few weeks later, in November, he won the State Open 100 yards championship, equalling the State record of 10.0 secs, jointly held by Gordon Appleton and Bill Hudson, in a heat, and took 0.2 secs off the State Open 220 yards record in winning the championship with a time of 22.8 secs.

At the UWA championships in October 1934 Laurie gave one of the finest all round performances ever seen to that time at an athletics meeting in WA. In retaining the title of champion athlete he set a new State Open record of 22'7 ½ " (6.89m) in winning the long jump, won the 100 yards in 10.2 secs, the 220 yards in 22.8 secs, the pole vault with a height of 9' 7½ " (2.93m), the hop, step and jump with a distance of 42'8½ " (13.02m) , tied for 1st in the high jump and was second in the javelin throw. A few weeks later, in the 1934 - 1935 inter club season he threw the javelin 160'3"(48.85m), easily beating Bob Kilminster's state record of 146'1"(44.53m) and equalling his own State 220 yards record of 22.8 secs.

Laurie was Secretary of UWAAAC in 1933 and Club Captain in 1934. He was awarded a Full Blue for athletics in 1934. He was also a State rugby union representative in 1934 and received a Full Blue for that sport.

A reporter from the West Australian wrote in January 1935 that "he possesses a graceful easy style and, ideally built for sprinting, Jupp usually relies on a fast even pace to secure his victories, although he can put in a strong finish when the occasion demands." Laurie Jupp did not compete in the February 1935 State athletics championships having moved to South Australia to take up ecclesiastical studies for the Church of England ministry at St Barnabas's College, Adelaide. He did compete in the South Australian athletics championships in March 1935, finishing 2nd in the 220 yards and 3rd in the javelin throw. This was his swan song in athletics although he did represent South Australia in rugby union in 1935, being a member of the team which beat WA 22-14, in Adelaide, in the inaugural match between these states. In 1935 Laurie obtained a first class pass in Th.L at St Barnabas and was awarded the Hey Sharp prize in Australia for the examinations of that year. He returned to WA in 1936, was made a deacon that year and became a priest in 1937. He served a two year term at St Luke's, Cottesloe, then volunteered for missionary work with the ABM at the Forest River Mission, being chaplain 1938 - 1939. He married Miss Kathleen Edwards in November 1939, the beginning of a happy marriage which lasted 53 years.

After the outbreak of WW11 Laurie offered his services as a chaplain and was appointed firstly to the AMF and then to the AIF. In 1942 whilst on leave from the army he was persuaded to accept the post of Headmaster of his old school, Christ Church Grammar, where he remained until 1948, leaving to become Rector of St Margaret's, Nedlands. He returned to South Australia in

1954 to become Assistant Chaplain and a master at St Peter's College, Adelaide, where he quickly established himself as a popular teacher of history, geography and english as well as a successful and enthusiastic coach of swimming, life saving and junior football teams. Two years later he was elected Rector of the parish of All Souls', St Peter's and served there for seventeen happy years. In 1973 he became Rector of Balhannah and rural Dean of Strathalbyn in the Diocese of Murray before his retirement in 1978, aged 65. Even in retirement he was not idle, assisting both the Rector of the local church in the parish of Grange and the Chaplain of St Laurence's Home for the Aged.

Laurie Jupp had a remarkable life, a brilliant sporting career curtailed in his early twenties so that he could follow his chosen vocation in which he gave over fifty years selfless service.

He died in 1992, mourned by his widow, Kathleen, daughters Patricia and Catherine and son David.

R.W. (Bob) Kilminster

Prepared March 2001 by Don Young with assistance from Bob Kilminster and Fred Napier



R. Kilminster (UWA), setting a new State record of 125'0"
at Leederville Oval in December 1936.

Born December 6th, 1914, Bob arrived in WA with his family in April/May 1916 and grew up on a farm at Belka (now Korbelka). His primary education was at local one teacher bush schools prior to winning a scholarship to Northam High School for his secondary education 1928-1932. He was awarded a Hackett Bursary to UWA where he studied electrical engineering 1933-1937, graduating with a B.E.(Hons) in 1938. He joined the Electricity and Gas Department of the Perth City Council on graduation and remained with them until 1947, being manpowered during the war years. During 1947 - 1950 he was Town Engineer at Geraldton, was employed by the HEC Tasmania 1951-1956 as an Electrical Engineer on construction work and joined the Electricity Trust of South Australia in Adelaide in 1956 as a Design Engineer, substations and power stations. He retired from ETSA in 1977, aged 63.

Bob was very actively involved in UWAAAC during his undergraduate days, was Fresher representative on the committee in 1933, Vice Captain in 1934, Vice President and Captain in 1935 and 1936 and President in 1937. As one of the UWAAAC's big men he followed in the footsteps of the legendary Harry Wilson, State discus record holder of the early 1930's. When competing he

was 6ft 1½ ins tall and weighed 13 stone 6 lbs (85kgs).His performance record is an imposing one:

His best event was the discus. He won the State title in 1932 (110') when still a student at Northam High School. His Sports Master (former UWA athlete Bill Walker) talked him in to entering and even arranged a lift to Perth for him with people going to the Belmont races. Bob recalls that the discus he trained with had to be stored in a bucket of water because the wooden segments were loose. He was runner up to R. K. Davies (UK) in 1933 with a throw of 117' 6½, a performance which earned him the award of a Full Blue in 1934. He was State Champion again in 1935 (114'2"), 1936 (116'8") and set new State records of 124'9" on 14 November 1936 and 125'0" on 5 December 1936. This latter record was still extant in 1946. He won the State title again in 1937 (118'9¼), 1938 (111'6¼), 1939 (111'2¼), and 1940 (117'3½), the year he retired.

In the javelin throw he set an unofficial State record of 146'1" in November 1934 (which was eclipsed, also unofficially, a month later by Laurie Jupp - 160'3'). He won State championships in 1935 (148' 2"), 1936 (148'9½), recognised as an official State record, and was runner up in 1937, 1938?, 1939? and 1940.

In the shot putt Bob was a consistent runner up to Frank Drew, placing second in the State titles in 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938?, 1939 and 1940. In late March 1938 he was third in the shot behind BECG champion L Fouche (South Africa) and Frank Drew in an international competition at Leederville Oval featuring British, South African and Ceylon athletes returning home after the BECG in Sydney.

Like most UWA athletes of the day he competed in many events other than his specialities in order to gain interclub points. One of these was the hop, step and jump 2. in which discipline he was State champion in 1937 (43'10"), 1938 (44' 10"), 1939 (44'10½) and was third behind Frank Day in 1940. He well remembers the 1938 title event because as he landed from the hop he thought the step would finish in the sand pit but it missed by a few inches. Then he thought the jump was going to clear the other end of the pit but he landed with his heels in the sand. The distance from the take off board to the grass was just 45 feet.

The UWAAAC minutes record that, as at 1 November, 1937, Bob held the records for performances at the Annual University Sports Carnival for the javelin (148'9"), discus (124'8") and the shot putt (37' 9½"). At the AGM in 1938 it was moved B Jessop, seconded Keith Allen, that a letter be sent to Mr Kilminster expressing the Club's appreciation of his untiring efforts over the past five years.

By modern standards Bob Kilminster's athletic performances are modest. However they were recorded in the depression years when students as well as most of the population suffered severe financial hardships. Training facilities available today were almost non existent and sports science was unheard of. Bob played lacrosse with some success during the winter months

while at UWA and after his athletics career took up croquet where he was very active as a player and administrator in South Australia and nationally. He now plays the game socially and enjoys life in his adopted state.

Les Le Souef

The first honorary life member, appointed in 1931, was the late Dr Les Le Souef.

Les Le Souef was born in Perth in 1900. His great grandfather, William Le Souef, of French (Huguenot) extraction, arrived in Australia and settled in Melbourne in 1838. Les's father, Albert, became the first Director of the Perth Zoo when it was established in 1897.

After matriculating Les entered the University of WA in 1917, its fifth year of existence. After completing first year science he transferred to the medical faculty of the University of Melbourne graduating MBBS with Honours in 1922. A highlight of his university athletics career was his success in the 1921 Australian Intervarsity Shot Putt Championship in Brisbane with a then record distance of 37 feet 4 and one half inches. He was awarded a Full Blue for this performance. He also competed in the Hammer Throw at the IV carnival.

Les returned to Western Australia in 1929 after a period overseas where he obtained his Fellowship (FRCS England). Except for military service he practiced as a surgeon in Perth until his retirement. Griff Richards recalls the great assistance given by Les, and by another ex Melbourne University medical graduate and field events exponent, Hamish McMillan, in coaching, competing and officiating in the early years of UWAAAC in 1929-1931. As a reward for his efforts Les was elected as the club's first Honorary Life Member in 1931. Les continued his involvement in athletics for many years, being State Hammer Throw Champion in 1936, WAAAA Honorary Medical Officer, Vice President and Trustee 1947 - 1961, Patron and Vice Patron of UWAAAC for many years. Les commenced his military interests during his school cadet days and he joined the citizen Australian Medical Corps as a Lieutenant on graduation in 1922. By 1938 he had risen to the command of the 13th Field Ambulance, Western Command and on the outbreak of the 1939 - 1945 war he was commissioned to raise and train the 2 / 7th Australian Field Ambulance for service with the 2nd AIF. Lieutenant Colonel Le Le Souef served in North African, Greece and Crete in 1941 and in June of that year was captured in Crete. He spent the next four years in German prisoner of war camps where his untiring efforts to obtain better treatment of Allied prisoners was recognised post war by the award of a number of decorations by several countries. On his return to peace time Les gave many years of distinguished service to his profession and to the University of Western Australia as a member of the Senate and as Warden of Convocation. He was awarded an Honorary LLD in 1977.

Walley Marshall (Bob) Nunn

Prepared by Don Young based on information provided by Rob Nunn and Griff Richards



Bob Nunn, setting a State Record for the 120 yards Hurdles at UWA

Born in Perth on September the 1st 1908, Bob Nunn was the son of a well known Western Australian surveyor in the early part of the last century, George Marshall Nunn. George Nunn came to WA in 1897 to work with C.Y.O'Connor on the construction of the Fremantle Harbour. In his later life he lectured in surveying at UWA. After his death his widow donated the perpetual G.M.Nunn Prize in Surveying which was, until recently, awarded annually in the Faculty of Engineering.

Bob Nunn was educated at Claremont Primary School and Scotch College from whence he matriculated in 1926. At Scotch he excelled in most sports, winning colours for athletics, swimming, football, gymnastics, rowing and shooting. In 1926 he won the Interschools swimming open 100 yards Freestyle and 50 yards Breaststroke championships and the Interschools athletics 120 yards Hurdles championship.

He entered the UWA Science Faculty in 1927. During this year he rowed Number 6 in the inaugural UWA crew which won the Intersarsity Oxford and Cambridge Cup at the regatta held on the Nepean River, Penrith, NSW. Griff Richards recalls that:

When the conquering heroes returned to Perth, by train, a crowd of students hoisted the rowers into a cab borrowed from the rank of horse-drawn cabs outside the central railway station and, releasing the unenthusiastic horse, drew the cab in a procession along Wellington Street, preceded by four reverent students carrying a coffin-like box carrying the cup. The Editor of the West Australian, Dudley Disraeli Braham, who had played a prominent part in the founding of the UWA Boat Club, was the father of one of the oarsmen and now, unlike the horse, was full of joy. He sent a photographer to perpetuate the epochal scene in a picture in the paper. The 1927 Sports Council decided that the oarsmen should be awarded blues, which would carry the distinction of a blue blazer edged with braid in the UWA colours and bearing the University crest on the pocket. These blues replaced the previous blazer awards which honoured people chosen to represent the University in first teams.

UWA won the Oxford and Cambridge Cup again in 1928, 1930 and 1932 but not again until October 1997.

Bob wanted to go farming and in 1928 he left UWA and worked with his father as a chain man. The Depression of 1929 put paid to his farming aspirations and in 1929 he returned to the University to undertake studies in Agriculture graduating BSc Hons in 1933.

During this second period at UWA Bob was an active member of the Swimming, Athletics and Rugby clubs, winning a further three Full Blues in these sports (1929, 1931 and 1933 respectively). He was UWA's male swimming champion in 1929, 1930 and 1931. He also won the State High Tower Diving Championship in 1930 and 1931.

Bob was a member of UWAAAC from 1929 through to at least 1932 during which time he held University and State records in the High Jump (briefly at 5ft 9 in) and 120 yards hurdles (15.6 secs in 1932). He was Club Captain in 1931 and as President in 1932, he won the title of UWA Champion Athlete. Bob played rugby for the UWA team from 1929 to 1932. He was President of the Club in 1932 and his Full Blue was a result of State selection in 1932. In 1934 Bob took a two year position as a Lecturer at Muresk Agricultural College. In 1936 he joined the WA Forests Department and in 1937 he moved to the Department of Agriculture where worked as a Field Adviser, based initially in Kununoppin and later in Moora. In 1939 he married Nancy Lee, a well known actress with the Perth Repertory Club. In 1942 he was man-powered and seconded to wartime duty with the Commonwealth Food Central Organisation based initially in Canberra and later in Melbourne. He returned to Perth with his family in 1946. As the Head of the newly formed North West Branch (later Division) of the Department of Agriculture Bob oversaw the post war investigations and developments of expanding agricultural activities in the Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley regions until his retirement in 1971. He died in November 1978.

Brian Oliver

Prepared by Don Young



Brian Oliver setting state hop step jump record on 26 November 1949

A photograph was taken of Brian Oliver at Leederville Oval on 26 November 1949 when setting a State Record of 50 ft 2 inches.

Born on the 29th of September 1929, Northam, WA, Brian moved to Southern Cross with his family in 1935 and it was at Southern Cross that he first showed his prowess as an athlete. He won his first athletics trophy becoming junior champion at the Yilgarn Inter School Sports in 1940. That trophy is on display at the Southern Cross Museum together with his five Australian Championship medallions.

Brian completed his secondary school education at Eastern Goldfields High School, Kalgoorlie. In 1946 he became, at age 17, open champion at the Eastern Goldfields annual interschool athletics championships. On leaving EGHS Brian commenced a mining engineering degree at the Kalgoorlie School of Mines in 1947. That year he set a State Junior Hop, Step and Jump record of 43ft 5 inches (13.23m) and was a member of the Western Australian team which won the Australian Junior One Mile Medley Relay Championship.

Brian moved to Perth in 1948 to continue his studies at UWA. He changed to civil engineering and graduated in 1953. Brian competed for UWA Athletic Club in 1948, 1949 and part of 1950 and was awarded a Full Blue in 1948. He also was awarded a Half Blue for baseball in 1948. He was Club Treasurer in 1949 and President in 1950.

Brian's athletics career was interrupted when he had an operation to remove a cartilage from his left knee in 1950 and he did not compete again until 1952. After graduating from UWA he moved to NSW in his employment and continued his athletics career whilst a resident of that state. Subsequently he moved to Darwin, NT. Whilst based in Darwin, without any competition, he won two Australian titles in 1956 and competed in the 1956 Olympics.

Brian was the first of a long list of outstanding Western Australian Hop, Step and Jump and Broad Jump competitors. These events are now known as Triple and Long Jump. He was the first Western Australian to exceed 50 feet in the Hop, Step and Jump when he set a State Open and Residential Record of 50 feet 2 inches (15.29m) at Leederville Oval on 26 November, 1949.

Brian won the WA State Open Hop, Step and Jump Championships in 1950, 1952 and 1953 and the Open Broad Jump Championship in 1949, 1950 and 1953. He also won the NSW Open Hop, Step and Jump and Broad Jump Championships in 1954 and the Malaysian Broad Jump Championship in 1956.

His Australian Championship results in the Hop, Step and Jump were 2nd, 1949, 1st, 1953 (50 feet 2 inches - 15.29m), 1st, 1954, 2nd, 1955 (49 feet 10.63 inches - 15.20m) 1st, 1956 (50 feet 5.75 inches - 15.39m) ; in the Broad Jump 1st, 1953 (23 feet 10.75 inches - 7.28m), 1st, 1956 (23 feet 11 inches - 7.29m).

Brian represented Australia at the 1950 (Auckland) and 1954 (Vancouver) British Empire and Commonwealth Games, now known as the Commonwealth Games. He was first in the 1950 Hop, Step and Jump Championship with his personal best distance of 51 feet 2 and one half inches - 15.61m). In Vancouver he won Bronze Medals in the Hop, Step and Jump, 4x110 yards and 4x440 yards Relay events. The 4x440 yards Relay team set an Australian record but it was not recognised because it was made outside Australia, a rule which no longer applies.

Brian represented Australia at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games in the Hop, Step and Jump but did not qualify as one of the eight to go through to the final round. He retired from active competition in 1956. His personal best performances were 15.61m in the Hop, Step and Jump and 7.31m in the Broad Jump.

The listed best Triple Jump performance by a UWA athlete is Jason Wight's 15.96m set in Portugal on 23 July, 1994 so it is probable that Brian's leap of 15.61m at the 1950 BECG stood as a club record for 44 years!

Griff Richards

Prepared by Don Young



UWAAAC Foundation President, Griff Richards, after receiving his Life Membership at the 70th Anniversary Dinner, July 3 1998

Griff Richards was born in Boulder, WA, in 1908. After a year of full time Arts (1926) he accepted an offer of a cadetship with the West Australian and continued as a part-time student for the next five years. The University appointed him a tutor in mathematics in 1927 and he founded the UWA student newspaper, the Pelican, in 1930. Having helped to establish the Diploma in Journalism from 1928 he subsequently became a member of the UWA Board of Journalistic Studies 1935-1941 and a Lecturer in journalism at UWA from 1936 to 1941.

Griff was awarded Blues for cricket and football whilst at UWA. Griff saw war service with the RAAF as a Navigator from 1942 to 1945. On his return to civilian life he rejoined the staff of the West Australian rising to the rank of Editor-in- Chief, a position he held from 1956 until his retirement in 1972.

Griff has the unique distinction of being , in 1928, the first President of the University of WA Amateur Athletic Club. He held that position also in 1929 and was a member of the Committee in 1930 and 1931. Griff was involved, in 1926-1927 in occasional athletics meetings organised by UWA staff and students and held at the WACA ground.

In early 1928 he and several other students staying at St John's Hostel launched the UWAAAC, the foundation meeting being held on April 17, 1928.(St John's Hostel was located at 204 St Georges Terrace, where the partly restored Cloisters building now stands). About 20 people were present at the meeting. Other office bearers elected were, Charles Cook, Vice President and Captain, Johnny Laver, Secretary, Duff Murray, Treasurer, and Mick Driver, Vice Captain. Griff and Charles Cook were appointed delegates to Sports Council and to the newly formed WA Amateur Athletics Association. Griff was awarded Life Membership of the University of Western Australia Amateur Athletics Club on 3 July 1998, on the occasion of the 70th

Anniversary Dinner. The award was presented to Griff by Shirley De La Hunty, UWA's most distinguished athletics graduate.

David White

Prepared by Don Young Revised January 2007

Born on July 3rd 1929, in Corrigin, WA, David attended Corrigin and Wagin State Schools and Perth Boys School before going to Perth Modern school in 1945. Dave White was an outstanding schoolboy athlete at Perth Modern School. In his final year (1946) at the annual school sports he was 2nd in the 100 yards (11.2 secs), 1st in the 220 yards (24.2 secs), 1st in the 440 yards (53.0 secs - a record), 1st in the 880 yards (2min 3 sec - a record) and 1st in the 1 mile (4min 35.4 secs - a record).

At the State Schools Athletics Championships over the period 1944 -1946 he won three 880 yards and two one mile championships.

In State Junior Championships over the period 1945 – 1947 he won three successive 880 yards titles (all records), one mile title, also in record time, and one 5 mile title.

He studied Geology & Physics at UWA 1947 - 1949 graduating with a B.Sc, (Majoring in Geology and Physics) On entering UWA he made an immediate impact on the athletics scene by winning the 880 yards, 1mile and 3 miles at the Combined Metropolitan, University and Freshers' Championships in September 1946. He was Captain of UWAAAC in 1948 and 1949.

David was also an outstanding Australian Rules footballer. In 1948 he was a member of the UWA team which won the 'A' Grade Amateur League Premiership and he was selected in the State Amateur Football Team, as a result of which he was awarded a Full Blue for football. He was awarded a Full Blue for Athletics in the same year.

In January 1947 Dave won the WA State Open 880 yards and 1 mile championships, (the 880 in Australian and State junior record time of 1m 57.3 secs, the mile in State junior record time of 4m 28.6 secs). Two weeks later he lowered his Australian junior record to 1m 56.1 secs in finishing 2nd in the Australian Open 880 yards championship. Later in the year he won the State Junior 5 mile championship.

In January 1948 Dave won the State Junior 880 yards championship in 1m 56.2 secs and the Australian Junior 880 yards championship in Melbourne, in a Victorian junior record of 1m 56.8 secs. The next month he won the State Open 880 yards championship and the Open 1 mile championship in a State junior record time of 4m 23.4 secs.

In January 1949 Dave dead heated for first with Jim Bailey (NSW) in the Australian Open 880 yards championship at the Sydney Cricket Ground in a time of 1m 54.7 secs. Bailey was unfit to take part in a re-run at the end of the day so Dave was awarded the title. Two weeks later Dave was 1st in the 880 yards in an Australia versus New Zealand Test Match at Wellington, NZ.

In January 1950 Dave won the State Open 880 yards in a State residential record time of 1m 56 secs and a week later was second in the Australian 880

yards championship in 1m 55 secs, gaining selection in the Australian team for the Commonwealth Games held the next month in Auckland, NZ. In Auckland he was 3rd in his heat of the 880 yards in 1m 53.2 secs and 4th in the final in a time of 1m 53.7 secs. On his return to Perth he won the State Open 1 mile championship in a new State record time of 4m 21.8 secs. In early 1951 Dave was second in the NSW and Australian 880 yards championships before retiring from top competition at the age of 23 due to the demands of his professional career as a geologist.

His best ever times at 880 yards and 1 mile were 1m 53.2 secs and 4m 19.8 secs (in winning an interclub event at Olympic Park, Melbourne in December, 1951, representing the Sandringham AAC.)

H.B. (Harry) Wilson

Compiled by Don Young in 2003 with assistance from Griff Richards and Paul Jeanes.

Harry Wilson was the first in a long line of champion UWA Athletics Club field events exponents.

His secondary school education was at Perth Modern School, where in addition to his athletics prowess he starred as a ruckman in the football team. A big man, 6 ft and 18 stone in the old language, he initially made his mark at UWA as a rower, being a member of the UWA Boat Club crews which won the intervarsity Oxford and Cambridge Cup in 1927 and 1928. He was awarded a Full Blue for rowing.

After the UWA Athletics Club was founded in 1928 Harry became the UWA and State discus and shot put champion. Amazingly mobile for a big man, he showed remarkable versatility in winning the 1930 UWA 440 yards (54 secs), discus throw (109'8"), shot put (34'11"), tied for first in the 220 yards (23.6 secs) and was second in the long jump (19" 1/2 "). He also put his speed and strength to good use playing rugby union for UWA. Jerry Haire recalled a little ditty about Harry written at the time:

And H .B .Wilson he was there
A mighty man and all
He'd hold the disc between his teeth
while flickering out the ball

In 1931 he set State records of 110'10" (33.79m) and 35'8" (10.87m) in the discus and shot which stood for three years before being beaten by Bob Kilminster and Frank Drew respectively. He was awarded a Full Blue for athletics in 1931.

In June 1931 at a club committee meeting "it was agreed to write to Mr Harry Wilson to congratulate him on breaking his own State discus record in a competition at Northam".

At the same meeting a further resolution was passed to " formally write to Mr Wilson concerning his loss of the club's discus".

Harry Wilson graduated with a B.Sc in 1931 and soon after moved to Victoria where he competed with the now defunct YMCA club for a number of years. He won the shot put at the 1936 Australian Championships in Hobart with a distance of 43'1" (13.15m) and was second in the javelin with a throw of 164'3" (50.07m). He was selected to represent Australia at the 1938 British Empire Games in Sydney where he finished 5th in the shot with a put of 43'3" (13.2m).

Harry Wilson made the trip from Victoria to be present at the UWA Athletics Club 50th Anniversary dinner in 1978