

## **YVONNE PIPER - AWARDED 1984**

Born on 3/4/1928, Deceased.

Yvonne Piper lived at Coogee and was married to Peter Piper, who along with his brother Bob were very good middle-distance runners, and members of the Randwick Botany Harriers.

Yvonne was not a competitive athlete, but her great contribution to the Vets club was her ability to organise the club's social activities.

Yvonne was present at the inaugural meeting back in October 1971, at which it was resolved to form a NSW Veterans Athletic Club. In 1973, she officially became the club's Social Convenor, a position she held for many years until she chose to retire.

The social side of the club was of tremendous importance and a great reason for the club's success. In the beginning her helpers were her best friend Marie Devlin and Thelma Payne, both wives of competing athletes. Yvonne had the ability to co-opt people, which she did over the years and there were many wives of competing "Vets" who gave of their time to make every function a success. This social interaction was important in forming a club which had no boundaries, attracting ex-athletes, competing athletes, and "new" athletes from Newcastle to Wollongong to the Blue Mountains, and country athletes like Morrie Wild and Kevin Hopkins.

Each year the club held a picnic on Hensley Athletic Field, following the City to Surf; a King of the Mountains run at Mount Ousley; our cross-country championships at Centennial Park; our own marathon championships as well as numerous social events at Kurnell, Minna Murra Falls or wherever. The social committee provided refreshments during the early State and Australian Track and Field Championships. The Annual picnic at Kurnell (with a run of course) was always a highlight of the athletics year. All these events were extremely well run and resulted in many new members.

Yvonne was the Social Convenor the club needed, and she never let them down. A truly great lady.