

Athletics Wellington Loses Prominent Athlete and Official



Photo of Fred Goodall proudly wearing his Oceania Master's Athletics 2006 Uniform

Renowned cricket umpire, champion master athlete and prominent athletic official **Fred Goodall ONZM** of Wellington died on Monday 18 October 2021 aged 83. Fred was known to many in New Zealand for his career as an International Cricket umpire officiating in 24 tests and 15 one-day internationals between 1965 and 1988. Noted in his umpiring career was the contentious the West Indies test series in New Zealand in 1980.

For many Wellingtonians though he is well remembered for his contribution to athletics. His enjoyment of athletics was always evident as a master's athlete and very valued Wellington and National athletics official

Born in Greymouth, Fred moved to Wellington and joined WHAC soon after coming to the city in the late 80's after retiring from being a top-class Cricket umpire. As a WHAC harrier, where he ran and walked in club packs and teams for over 15 years, particularly in the winter months and during summer he was a valued associate member of Kiwi Athletic club. It was here where he was encouraged to do his masters throwing alongside Dave Synott and others. Fred's masters athletics career became competitive in throwing, which was no surprise, as in his school days he would go to the Greymouth AAC mid-week club nights and complimented by his strong arm from cricket ball throwing.

Fred experienced considerable success winning numerous New Zealand age group titles, starting with the M50 javelin throw in 1990. He dominated the javelin winning again in 1991 and then in the next age group won the M55 title on five occasions. Goodall also excelled in the shot put and discus throw winning in the M50 and M55 grades.

He represented New Zealand at the Oceania Masters championships collecting the silver in the M60 javelin throw in Norfolk Island in 2000, silver in the M65 javelin throw in Rarotonga in 2004 and silver in both the M65 javelin and discus throws in Christchurch in 2006. Goodall currently holds the Wellington masters M65 and M70 javelin throw records.

His interest in athletics led him to officiating on a regular basis at Newtown Park and at the New Zealand championships in Wellington in 2014 and 2015 he was a judge at the discus and shot put. His association with the Kiwi club made him a long serving and respected official, where from the inception of the Kiwi Throwers Meetings from their start in the early 1990's he was a regular.

In the 1999 New Year Honours he was appointed an officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to sport. Fred was known to many as a great Kiwi, with a sense of humour, a top memory, and one who enjoyed socialising after a hard day in the sporting arena sport will be missed by many.