

AMA Merit Award to George White

At the recent Australian Masters Athletics (AMA) AGM, George White was announced as a 2017 recipient of the prestigious AMA Merit Award in recognition of his 'Services to SA Masters Athletics (and beyond)'.

SA Master Athletics nominated George based on his outstanding service to masters athletics at state, national and world levels, both as an administrator and as a competitor over a period exceeding 20 years.

George has participated in Masters (previously Veterans) Athletics as a competitor for three decades, and by the early 2000s had become actively involved in the organisation of the sport. Throughout that time he has been supported in his endeavours by his wonderful wife Gill.



His role in administration started at a grass-roots level, but he subsequently expanded that to encompass national and international aspects, where he has made his mark, particularly as a Board/Council member of AMA, Council member of Oceania Masters Athletics, and as a main organiser (often as Competition Director) of a variety of Master Athletics events, including three AMA Track & Field Championships.

During his time with SAMA, George has held the posts of President (2013-Present), Secretary (2003-2013), Registrar (2001 -2003) and Club Statistician (2003-2007). He received the 2008 SAMA Award for most Outstanding Official/Administrator and that same year went on to win that title at the AMA Awards.

George was made life member of SAMA in 2011, in recognition of exceptional service to the club over at least 10 years.

Of course we all know that George is a fine athlete as well, particularly in race walking. At State level he has held 17 open walk titles, and as a masters athlete, has held over 50 race walk records. He also has been the recipient of the SAMA Award for walks every year since 2006, and in 2015 and 2016 received the SAMA Award for Most Outstanding Male Athlete. As a masters athlete he has had more than 40 national wins and set at least one Australian record, and has won 14 World medals.

Congratulations George! Your AMA Merit Award is well deserved.

David Bates
Vice President, SAMA