

## Vale Jennifer Jaye

In an active life of many facets, Jennifer Jaye is perhaps best remembered for her compassion for and work with people of different abilities. Jennifer, who died earlier this year, was a wife, mother, community worker, athletics official and lawn bowler and coach. The highlight of Jennifer's distinguished 39-year career as an athletics technical official was officiating at the Sydney Paralympics in 2000, as a throws judge and referee. In lawn bowls, she excelled as a coach, enjoying particular success with wheelchair bowlers and newcomers to the sport.

Jennifer (nee Surman) and her sister were born and raised in Cromer. After leaving North Sydney Girls High School Jennifer qualified as an accountant and in her mid-20s travelled to England where she met and married the man who was to become her husband of 49 years, Bev Jaye. Bev and Jennifer had three sons, all born in different countries; the first in England, the second in South Africa (Bev's country of origin), and finally in Australia where they made their home for 34 years. They eventually settled in Belrose, where Jennifer took much pride in both her home and garden.

Jennifer was very much part of school and community life. She first became involved in athletics in 1968, joining the then-Manly-Warringah Club of which she was later to become president. In 1988 the great amalgamation debate took place when it was proposed the three northern Sydney athletics clubs, Ku-ring-gai, Manly-Warringah and Northern Suburbs join together under the banner and sponsorship of the shoe company Reebok. Norths voted to stand alone, while Ku-ring-gai and Manly-Warringah elected to merge, forming the club which is now known as Sydney Pacific. Bev and Jennifer voted with their feet, moving to Northern Suburbs where they were both elected to the committee and were made life members in 2001.

For the past 15 years Jennifer's major contribution to Northern Suburbs athletics has been as a mainstay of the Saturday afternoon Northern Zone competition at Rotary Field. Northern Zone plays an integral role in Sydney athletics, offering social competition to athletes of all abilities, from the youngster who lacks the confidence to compete at Homebush to the not-so-serious veterans who enjoy a run, jump or throw in convivial, non-threatening surroundings.

As an official, Jennifer achieved level 2 throws judge and referee status. She rated her most memorable moment in athletics as Olga Kazenkova's world record in the hammer at the 1998 NSW Championships when she was refereeing the event. Jennifer received the ANSW Officials Services Award in 1988 for her commitment to the sport and also a Athletics NSW Merit Award.

Jennifer was a very competitive lawn bowler with Seaforth playing in the club's No 1 Pennant teams in triples, pairs and minor singles. She was very pro-active in ensuring people with disabilities had the opportunity to participate in the sport, by coaching and officiating at many wheelchair competitions and coaching clinics. She was also the club's treasurer for several years.

In the citation for Jennifer's and Bev's life membership, UTS Norths' then-President David Archbold wrote:

*'Bev and Jennifer were President and Secretary of Manly Warringah Athletics Club before coming to our club 14 years ago where they both served on our committee. They are active officials of Athletics Australia and NSW and together they are Northern Zone's only acting officials and have been so for more than 10 years. It would be true to say, without their support, Northern Zone would not exist. Bev and Jennifer also regularly officiate at school meets, Zone carnivals, Combined Schools and All Schools championships, ANSW competition, paraplegic meets, the list goes on. Our thanks goes to them both.'*

All of us at UTS Norths offer Bev and his family our sincere condolences.

Ron Bendall, Club President