

Commonwealth Sports Awards for Peter and Ross Douglas

Club stalwarts Peter and Ross Douglas have received Commonwealth Sports Awards for their efforts in helping to make UTS Northern Suburbs the largest senior athletics club in NSW and the most successful in Australia. Peter and Ross received their awards from Federal Government Minister Joe Hockey at a ceremony at North Sydney Leagues Club.

The Artarmon brothers have been members of UTS Norths for the past 28 years. A key feature of Peter's service has been his record 24 years as club treasurer.

Peter and Ross joined UTS Norths (or Norths as it was then) in the 1970-71 season as sub-junior sprinters. They made an immediate impression with Peter winning the sub-junior interclub points score at ES Marks Field with Ross runner-up. In the 1972-73 season Peter was awarded the Treloar Trophy as the most improved under 20 male.

Peter and Ross still compete today as Masters athletes, however injuries restrict them to throwing events. Ross has excelled in this regard, particularly in the hammer throw for which he holds the club record of 33.88m for athletes 40 years and over, a record he set in the 1999/2000 season. Although a masters athlete Ross was good enough to be a member of the open men's four-member hammer throw team which won the bronze medal for UTS Norths at the NSW State Relays Championships in 2003. That team still holds the club record of 120.77m.

But it is off the track and field that Peter and Ross have really made their mark. They were voted onto the club committee in 1974 and have been members ever since. The following year they were elected joint vice-presidents, a position they held until 1978. In 1982 Peter was elected treasurer, a position he held for a record 24 years when he decided to step down. However, Peter was not lost to the club's executive as he was elected secretary at the club's 2006 annual general meeting. In 1979 Ross was elected club captain, a position he held until he was elected secretary in 1985. Ross was secretary until 1988 when he was appointed club registrar and inter-club manager, positions he still holds today.

Over the years Peter and Ross have made an invaluable contribution to UTS Norths, helping to arrange special events, organising officials for the City to Surf, selecting teams for the NSW State Relays Championships and NSW Cross Country Championships, pushing the club's cause at meetings with Athletics NSW and preparing submissions to the University of Technology, Sydney, for club funding. From 1997 to 2004 they played an integral role in the Wattle Series, a competition for school-age athletes which UTS Norths conducted at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre.

In 1981-82 UTS Norths recognised Peter's commitment to the club by awarding him the inaugural Mike Poirrier Trophy for Best Clubperson. In 1988 Peter and Ross shared the award. In 1992 they were made life members of UTS Norths and in 2002 Athletics NSW honoured their long and distinguished service to the sport by giving them Merit Awards.

More than 300 people attended the awards ceremony included Ross and Peter's mother Audrey and their sister Helen, UTS Norths committee member Angus Stewart, State MPs Gladys Berejiklian and Jillian Skinner, Lane Cove Mayor Ian Longbottom, North Sydney councilor Trent Zimmerman and Willoughby Council General Manager John Owen.



Ross Douglas



Peter Douglas