

Oceania athletes Marie Kay and Peter Crombie win IAAF MASTERS ATHLETE OF YEAR AWARDS

Each year the World Masters Athletics Association invites all regions to nominate a male and female athlete of the year. Strict criteria apply including that the nominees must have competed in a WMA Championship (for 2010 this was the WMA Indoors at Kamloops) or their WMA Regional Championships (Oceania at Tahiti) during the time frame.

Athletes need to have achieved at least one gold medal and to have performed to a very high standard. The WMA Council then have to decide on the best male and female and submit these two names to the IAAF for recognition at the IAAF Gala Awards evening in Monaco in late November.

Each year it is tough deciding who should be nominated. It's indicative of general standards here that two athletes from our region – Jenny Flynn (W50 Qld) in 2004 and Andrew Jamieson (M60 Vic) in 2007 – have been winners.



Marie Kay

Marie is a great supporter and participant in WMA Indoor and Outdoor Championships and at WMA Regional Championships. She is a very well respected athlete, both internationally and within Oceania. Marie's world record performance in the W50 pentathlon at Kamloops was outstanding, as she was facing knee surgery seven weeks later. She broke the world record by the huge margin of 300 points, a record previously held by Christine Mueller (Switzerland) and before that Phil Raschker (USA), both recognised previously as IAAF Best Masters Athletes. Marie won all five of the pentathlon events. She also competed in four other events at these championships and won these as well (long jump, high jump, 200m and 400m). Marie's results from her pentathlon shot put and hurdles were better than the actual winners of these individual events. This was also the third consecutive pentathlon, 200m, 400m and long jump that Marie has won at the WMA Indoor Championships having set 200m and 400m world records in the 2008 championships. Similarly at the WMA Stadia Championships, Marie has won the past five consecutive heptathlons and 400m, including two world records in the heptathlon. One month after Kamloops Marie broke the outdoor long jump world record at her national championships, a record previously held by Phil Raschker. Marie was able to compete at the WMA Regional Oceania Championships twelve weeks later, winning seven gold medals (heptathlon, high jump, 100m, 200m, 400m, long jump, 80m hurdles.) Her performances included three regional records and two national records.

Peter Crombie

Peter won gold medals in the 60m and 200m and a silver medal in the 400m at the WMA Indoor Championships in Kamloops, March 2010. The remarkable aspect of Peter's success at the Kamloops Championships is that he had major knee surgery early 2009 and was informed by his doctor that he had little chance of ever running again, certainly not at national or international level. So Peter's achievements in Kamloops are all the more remarkable, and say much for his 'never tell me never' approach to rehabilitation, and commitment to doing the hard work for success.

In July 2010 Peter competed at the US Championships so that he could challenge a top field of sprinters including Steve Robbins (current world record holder in the 100m and 200m). Peter won the 100m (12.62) and 200m (25.67) in closely fought races, with excellent times that set Australian National.

Peter has always been very competitive in the 100m, 200m and 400m at international level over many years. Peter has served on the Board of his national association as Vice President and as a delegate for his country at the WMA General Assembly and is held in high respect by his peers throughout the world. He has also been a relay selector for the Australian team for the past 17 years.

