



Masters records tumble at Marrara

Wayne Fielder was one of almost 700 athletes competing in the Masters Athletics Championship in Darwin on the long weekend. INSET: Lyn Peake, Barbara Blurton, Jeanette Flynn and Carol Davis celebrated a world record in the women's 65-69 years 4x400m relay

Main picture: JUSTIN KENNEDY

JOSH SPASARO

LYN Peake momentarily forgot about being exhausted after breaking her own 4x400m relay world record on the final day of the National Masters Athletics Championships at Marrara yesterday.

Peake said she was looking forward to a well-earned break after competing in four world, national and state championships each over the past four years.

But she wasn't too tired to celebrate another memorable achievement, with her team — also including Carol Davis (Queensland), Barbara Blur-

ton (Western Australia) and Jeanette Flynn (Queensland) — running a combined time of 4min52.67sec in the women's 65-69 years 4x400m relay.

Davis and Peake were involved in the team which set a world-record time of 5min6.10sec at the Perth 2016 World Masters.

South Australian Peake credited coach Paul Townley for creating a razor-sharp belief among the "Team Townley" contingent, based out of North Adelaide.

"We had 13 team members all up and we got 25 gold medals, and close to 50 in total," she said.

"There's a great camaraderie in our team — everyone supports each other. One lady was watching on the hill and she remarked 'I could feel the energy from everyone in your group watching on'."

Sydney competitor Lenore Lambert also smashed a national record — which stood for 23 years — in the women's 45-49 years' 400m hurdles, finishing in 1min3.63sec.

It is a remarkable story for the 47-year-old — she's only been a hurdler for two years.

"I've got friends who have been involved in Masters competition for decades, and I've only been involved for 5 ½

years," she said. "They've remarked at how fast my trajectory has been."

"At first I thought 'I could never run the hurdles', but my coach Tony Morphis slowly built up my belief."

Darwin's Darren Peacock took out the men's 40-44 cross country along the Casuarina coast in 27min2sec.

This month's Territory City2Surf winner beat all ages as they ran together.

It was his fourth gold in cross country at national Masters level, after also winning the 5km and 1500m events.

"I'm over the moon. After the City2Surf it wasn't the

ideal preparation. I also ran the 8000m, 1500m and 5km at this tournament," he said. "So I raced every day over the four days and the legs were sore, but I had plenty of massages to help get me through it."

Queenslander Kerri Hodge won the women's 40-44 years' cross country in 31min2sec.

And 2016 Australian Walker Of The Year, Colin Heywood, finished the tournament with wins in the 1500m, 5000m and 10km road race.

Local Organising Committee chair Steve McGugan was thrilled with how Darwin's first ever Masters Athletics Championships was run.