

OUR PEOPLE IN 2000

Waveney at 90 still trying new things

by Mary Thornton

When Waveney Bolwell's fanciful notion of entering a world masters orienteering championship at age 90 turned into a reality she says it was the thrill of a lifetime to win the gold medal for New Zealand.

During her year's preparation for the event held earlier this year near Wanganui she discovered that orienteering was an activity where, "older folk might take children orienteering (and vice versa)."

Committing yourself to an event she says, "wisely or foolishly, offers a challenge because you cannot back out. I swim on Mondays, the water seems very cold by Sunday yet I've enjoyed standing in the water yarning with other such folk and leave feeling a pleasant glow."

Mrs Bolwell said she was definitely amused when she received a letter from the Hillary Commission recently stating that she is one of 85 women invited to take part in the Commissioner's Winning Women's Role programme which "will not only help you with your future sporting career but...."

"So what do I do next?" she asks. "I like to do whatever is interesting and happens to pop up."

So, people won't be surprised when they see Mrs Bolwell doing Tai Chi among the beautiful trees in Isel Park with a group led by her new Taiwanese neigh-

bours.

While on the subject of trees Mrs Bolwell's involvement in tree planting many sites around Nelson in the last 20 years is legendary.

She honours the many loyal folk especially her late husband David who backed an idea with no thought of any acclaim. But it was she at 70 years of age looking for something worthwhile to do in retirement who approached the Nelson City Council and the Lands and Survey departments looking for land to plant trees. It was she who went door knocking up the Brook Valley choosing homes that had children's clothing on the line to recruit children to plant trees.

Now a member of the Nelson Tree Growers and patron of the umbrella committee Nelson Landscape Forum, Mrs Bolwell still takes a keen interest.

"I can still dig a hole," she says and was allowed to dabble with the 460 baskets to hang in Nelson streets." She currently enjoys her quarter acre hilly garden which she says keeps her motivated and fit. Once a Sunday school and scripture in schools teacher, Mrs Bolwell is a member of St Barnabas Church and still a member of the Tyefoil Guild through her experience as a cub leader. She says, "peace is in the news just now, yet who hears that 35 million scouts and guides form the biggest youth group for peace in the world!"

Reflecting on times past Mrs Bolwell wishes that she had had a mountain bike in 1930 when, in the Christmas holidays, she and her brother of 14, biked to Queenstown from Oamaru via Dansey's Pass and the Crown Range.

With old bikes and one tent and Mrs Bolwell in a new dress her mother made her which shrank when it got wet, they forded the unbridged Cadrona River 16 times and explored Queens-town and Skippers.



Waveney Bolwell discovers a mutual friend in Peter Snell at the world orienteering championships earlier this year. 2802

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