



TTQ MEMBER PROFILE

| Personal Information | |
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| Name | Andrea McDonnell |
| Preferred Name | Andrea |
| Nickname | Ducky |
| Date of Birth | 17th July 1960 |
| Place of Birth | Ayr, Queensland |
| Place of Residence | Ayr, Queensland |
| Current Occupation | Currently Retired (made redundant in Dec 2019) |
| Previous Occupations | Financial Planner |
| Primary School | East Ayr State School |
| Secondary School | Ayr State High School |
| University | Studied On-Line |
| Education | Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning |



| Table Tennis Information | |
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| First Table Tennis Club | Lower Burdekin Table Tennis Association |
| Current Table Tennis Club | Townsville Table Tennis Association |
| Current Involvement | Member and Player |
| Age First Started Playing | I think about 9 years old |
| How You First Started Playing | Used to go to watch Mum and Dad play when I was little |
| Why Did You Get Involved | I couldn't wait to play as it looked like so much fun but no one wants to hit with you when you can't get the ball on the table. Luckily my Dad persevered with me but he did say he just about gave up on me getting the ball over the net. |
| Why Do You Keep Playing | I have had such an amazing and exciting time playing for over 50 years. I have travelled all throughout Australia as a junior, senior and veteran player and in more recent years, travelled overseas with the Australian Para Team. There are so many great memories to cherish. Table Tennis also keeps me active, considering my now limited movement and hope to keep playing for as long as I can. |
| Plays (Right or Left Handed) | Right Handed |
| Style of Play | I would love to say I'm a fierce attacking player with a big forehand and backhand loop but that never eventuated. I guess I am more a defensive, blocking player and have had to adapt more to staying up close to the table due to my limited movement. |
| Type of Grip | Shake hand grip |

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| Coaches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Alois Rosario (National Para Coach) ✓ George Logothetis (Local Townsville Coach) ✓ I must also give a mention to Gary Walmsley, who was my first real coach when he visited Ayr weekly when I was young. He was the one who corrected my grip and taught me shake-hand style ✓ I previously played with one side of the bat. If it wasn't for him I would probably still be in C Grade ✓ Mr Chen and Peter Andersen were also instrumental in improving my game considerably |
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| Coaching Information | |
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| Accreditation Types | Coaching Accreditation |
| Accreditation Level | Was previously a Level 1 Coach |
| Year of Your First Accreditation | In the 1990's |
| Club Teams You Have Coached | Lower Burdekin Junior Teams |
| QLD Teams You Have Coached | Queensland Under 14 Team |
| Coaching Successes | I coached my two nieces, Sandy and Michelle and they went on to be National Junior Singles Champions. I also coached Anita, another Ayr junior who was also Number 1 in Australia Under 15. |
| Coaching Highlights | Watching the many Ayr juniors I coached represent Queensland |
| Coaching Philosophy | Try your best but most importantly, have fun |
| Coaching Development Ideas | Several coaching accreditation courses held in the North by the local coach if they have reached the appropriate level |

| Playing Information | |
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| Current Rankings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ World Class 10 Women's Para Ranking 19 ✓ Australian Over 50 Women's Order of Merit Ranking 3 ✓ Queensland Senior Women's Ranking 4 ✓ Queensland Veteran Women's Over 50 Ranking 3 |
| Career Highlights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There are so many over my 50 years of playing but I can't go past representing Australia at the 2016 Rio Paralympics and placing forth in the Women's Class 9-10 Teams with the amazing Melissa Tapper ✓ Winning Bronze in the Women's Class 6-10 singles at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in front of a home crowd was also very special ✓ Previous to competing in Para events, I played able bodied events winning the Australian Ladies Doubles with dear friend, the late Joyce Tregga, winning the Australian Under 14 girls singles, winning the Australian Over 40 Women's singles, winning the Queensland Ladies singles on more than 10 occasions ✓ Winning Gold in the National Veteran Teams events on several occasions, including last year, was also amazing to share with my team mates |
| Career Ambitions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To one day renew my coaching accreditation and coach again, whether it be coaching disabled children and adults or just helping out at the local club |
| Career Debuts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ First representation for Queensland in the Junior events in 1974 ✓ First representation for Queensland in the Senior Team in 1979 ✓ First representation for Queensland in the Veteran events in 2000 ✓ First representation for Australia at the Oceania Para Titles Canberra in 2014 |

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| Memorable Moments | Probably the most memorable moment for me was after Melissa Tapper and I lost the Bronze Medal play-off against Brazil in the 2016 Paralympics. We walked off in front of a very large Brazilian crowd and they stood up and cheered for us. I guess it might have been different if we had of won but at the time it bought tears to our eyes. Oh yeh, how can I also go past standing on the dais of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games with Gold Medallist, Melissa Tapper and hearing the Australian National Anthem. |
| Your Future Vision | Encouraging more children and adults with disabilities to take up table tennis |

| Other Information | |
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| Your Hobbies and Interests | Movies and more recently Netflix Since Corona put a standstill to practically everything, really enjoy zoom fitness sessions twice weekly with the National Para Table Tennis squad Spending time with family and friends |
| Your Favourite Books | Any good romance novel |
| Your Favourite Movies | Shawshank Redemption, Dirty Dancing, Braveheart, 12 years a Slave, Last of the Mohicans and an oldie but goodie, The Sound of Music |
| Your Favourite Songs | Perfect by Ed Sheehan Radio Gaga by Queen Take it to the limit by the Eagles Always remember you this way by Lady Gaga |
| Your Favourite Music Artists | Ed Sheehan, Coldplay, Eagles, Queen, Lady Gaga |
| Your Favourite Foods | Lasagne, Stir Fry, Prawns, Chicken and Chocolate |
| Your Sporting Heroes | Loved Pat Rafter and Michael Jordan way back. Now I would say all the athletes who compete with such severe disabilities. It really opened my eyes in Rio that no matter what the disability, you can conquer the world if you put your mind to it. |
| Your Personal Heroes | Mum and Dad. They went without to provide for 7 children. Not to mention all the money it cost to let us all play sport. |
| Your Influences | Mum and Dad again. They were the best parents and always encouraged me to play sport, have fun doing it but most importantly, to be a good sport no matter what I played. |
| Other Influences | The National Para Table Tennis coaches and staff. Definitely made me more motivated to achieve my best. |
| Interesting Facts | I was recently made redundant from the NAB after 36 long years and never even had a resume before or had to attend a job interview in the last 36 years. Very strange territory to be in. |
| Something We Don't Know | That I have collected old Australian paper note currency and coins over the past 36 years. Needless to say, I have a lot. |
| Some Table Tennis History | The late Joyce Tregoea was 40 years old when she won the Australian Ladies Singles in 1977 beating Australian Representatives along the way with her incredible defensive game. This was certainly an amazing feat by a Veteran player. |
| Anything Else You Want to Share | Not my words but so true "Disability is a matter of perception, if you can do just one thing well, you're needed by someone" |



Gold Medal against Queensland B, Over 50 National Women's Teams in 2019



World Veteran Tour in Townsville in 2019



Gold Medal Japan Para Open Teams in 2019



The Commonwealth Games Queens Baton Relay in 2018



In Action at the Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast in 2018



The Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast in 2018



Medal Presentations at the Commonwealth Games in 2018



Gold and Bronze to Australia, Women's Class 10 Singles at the Commonwealth Games in 2018



My most treasured medal, Commonwealth Games in 2018



Queensland Para Team at the Australian Para Championships Canberra in 2018



Playing teams matches with Melissa Tapper at the Rio Paralympics in 2016



Ready for closing ceremony at the Rio Paralympics in 2016



Visiting a school for disabled, Thailand in 2016



My first International Medal, Thailand Para Open in 2016