



Going for trifecta: Gwen aims for table tennis title

IT'S the good competition and catching up with old friends that has Gwen Rapley going back for another crack at a title at her third Australian Deaf Games.

Gwen, of Hallett Cove, is a two-time women's singles table tennis champion at the Games.

She has played the sport for 60 years and represented both sides of the Tasman in other deaf competitions including three World Deaf Games and two Trans-Tasman Games, for New Zealand, and the Asia Pacific Deaf Games, for Australia.

A highlight of her international career was winning a silver medal for Australia in the women's singles test match

against New Zealand.

For the past five years she has been a member of the South Australian team competing at the National Veterans Table Tennis Championships – a mainstream sporting competition.

She has also represented New Zealand province Taranaki in mainstream competitions including table tennis, hockey and track and field.

Outside of sport, Gwen's interests include gardening, crafts and catching up with friends for walks and lunch.

MORE than 1000 competitors are expected to line up for the 17th Australian Deaf Games in Adelaide from January 9-16.

Fifteen sports will be contested, including cricket, netball, rugby sevens and basketball.

Held every four years, the Games has attracted deaf and hard-of-hearing competitors from across Australia as well as New Zealand, Fiji and Samoa.

A team of more than 130 volunteers have registered to help during the event.

■ www.austdeafgames.org.au



RETURN SERVE – Gwen Rapley is ready to do her best at the Australian Deaf Games.