

THE ANCHOR



**Williamstown High School
Ex-Students & Staff Association
Inc A0041347A**

JUNE 2023

President's Report

Welcome to the June 2023 edition of the ANCHOR.

We will have our Annual General Meeting on **Saturday 19th August 2023**.

As usual all committee positions are declared vacant and new nominations for all positions will be called for.

It would be great to have some new members on the committee. It is not that onerous a job. We meet roughly monthly through the year.

Our committee is currently made up of :-
Fred Cumming – President
Iris Whitehurst – Vice President
Ray Price – Secretary
Geoff King – Treasurer
Barbara Muster – Committee

We have been working together for some years now and a few people are looking for

a rest. If you would like to join the committee we always have vacancies.

Our history book "***Holding Fast - Williamstown High School 1867-2014***" is still available for purchase. We have a couple of boxes left. If you would like to purchase a copy please get in touch with Iris Whitehurst. You can ring her on the phone number below or email WHSESSA@gmail.com. She would be very glad to move a few more copies out of her spare room.

As we at the end of June the subscriptions for the 2023-24 financial year are now due. You will find the subscription notice on page 5. The subscription rate is still only \$15.

I have organised this Anchor so that the forms relating to the AGM and the subscription renewal are all together on the last page. You can just fill in the relevant bits and send that page back to us.

Please let us know if you're coming to the AGM so that we can cater for afternoon tea. You can email to WHSESSA@gmail.com or sealbook@inet.net.au or ring Iris Whitehurst on the number below.

I hope to see lots of you at the AGM in August.

Hold Fast
Fred Cumming

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

**The Committee of Management
WHSESSA
PO Box 81
WILLIAMSTOWN VIC 3016**

Articles or comments for the newsletter can be sent to the above address or email to WHSESSA@gmail.com

**Enquiries
Fred Cumming 0425 778 131
Iris Whitehurst (03) 9397-7695**
Williamstown High School web site :-
<https://www.willhigh.vic.edu.au>

WHSESSA inc. web site :-
<https://www.willhigh.vic.edu.au/about/ex-students-and-staff-association>

WHS School Games – Were these unique to WHS?

There were two games played in the “boys” yard at WHS that may have been unique to WHS:-

Downball



Photo : Geoff Van Wyngaarden

This is the site of the favoured corner for downball. The photo was taken recently (2023). In the 1970s the surface here was asphalt with none of the vegetation (agapanthus, yuccas and eucalypts) and mulch that are there now. You can see the bevelled brick course at the base of the wall that formed the lower limit of the wall for a fair shot.

The game was played with two or more players and involved taking it in turn hitting a ball against a bit of wall. If you failed to make your shot you were “out”. The other players continued playing until there was only one person left.

The ball that was used varied. Often it was a beaten up old tennis ball. Sometimes so old that all of the fluff was worn off! In the 1970s there was a type of soft rubber ball that became widely available. It wasn't as hard wearing as the tennis ball but it was certainly softer on your hand. It could also be made to spin prodigiously so could be used to make your opponent work extra hard.

The prime location was a corner of brickwork on the northwest part of the old school building. This had a bevelled course of bricks about 30 cm above ground level that acted as a minimum height level. Your shot had to hit this level or higher. If you hit below it you were out!

The boys toilets were also very close to this and were made of brickwork as well. They were therefore in play especially when you were using the soft rubber balls. They travelled a long way. The ground between them was all asphalt so the game was an all-weather sport.

Geoff Van Wyngaarden remembers : “This is the former legendary DOWNBALL corner where singles and doubles World Titles were held in the 1970's...This happened over many years. Sadly this corner is now a vegetation area. A group of up to 12 boys would play and chalk marks written on the asphalt was where the scoring was done. First boy out received one point, the next boy out 2 points etc. The ball had to go above a certain brick mark to stay in the competition. In doubles each player took turns in order to try and eliminate the next player etc....Players who were good would hit the ball towards the side of the wall either hard or soft to try and catch the next person in the worst possible position so that they would probably be eliminated.

Gutterball

This game was made possible by the construction of drainage gutters that ran across various parts of the school grounds. These were needed because the vast majority of the school yard was asphalt in the 1970s and controlling the rainfall runoff was essential.

The type of gutter installed was a Public Works Department standard profile that was common across many schools. It was certainly present at Williamstown Primary School #1183 at the time. This game was played at that school as well.

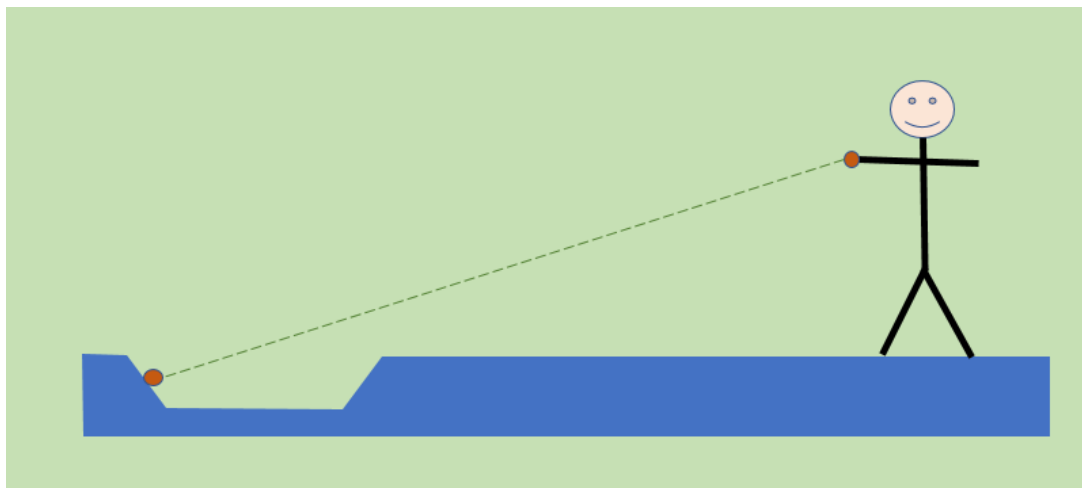
It was usually played by two players standing on opposite sides of the gutter. The objective was to throw your ball so that it struck the sloping side of the gutter. The ball then bounced back and you caught it. You continued your turn until you missed. If your throw missed the gutter slope or you failed to catch it on return - then the ball went to the other player who then had a go.

There were various ways of scoring.

You could set a target, say 10 in a row, then the first person to get a streak of 10 in a row would be the winner.

You could set a cumulative total, say 50, then keep your score as you took turns to see who could get to the total soonest.

You could take the changing distance approach. You started one pace away from the gutter. After you get 10 in a row you then went back another pace and took all your throws from there. It got much harder the further away from the gutter you got. The winner was the person who was furthest away when the game stopped- usually when the bell went!



Geoff Van Wyngaarden remembers : GUTTERBALL is also now extinct because the very long concrete gutter has been totally removed. Each boy would stand an equal distance either side of the gutter and throw the ball towards the gutter and catch the rebound.

=====

Williamstown Primary School 1183 – 150th Anniversary Celebrations

The Williamstown Primary School is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. There are a number of activities planned including an **Open Day** on **Saturday 19th August** from **11:00am till 2:00pm**.

Many of our exies came from this primary school.

For more information see the Willy Primary website at :- <https://www.williamstownps.vic.edu.au/>

This is the same day as our AGM so why not make a day of it and have a look at Willy Primary then come along to our AGM at 2:00pm!

Internet / Phone SCAMS

It has come to my attention that an email was being circulated using my name asking for people to purchase stored value cards (such as Apple Store cards). The email address attached to the scam looks like mine if you don't look too carefully. This is all part of the scam. The scammers want you to send them the ID number off the card. At this point they get your money.

I personally, or any-one as a representative of the Williamstown High School Ex-Students and Staff Association inc, will NEVER solicit this type of transaction.

If you see one of these emails delete it immediately.

Fred Cumming

President WHSESSA inc.

Annual Reunion – Late November / Early December 2023

We will be continuing our annual reunion series again this year.

ALL ex-students and staff are welcome to attend. The exact date will be in the next newsletter.

We will be celebrating the "Class of 1973". These are those students who would have been in Form 1 in 1968 to Form 6 in 1973.

The school records from this period are non-existent so it's very difficult for us to contact these ex-students directly. If you know any-one (yourself, children, grandchildren?) who attended in this period please let them know it will be on.

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2023 - WHSESSA inc. A 0041347A

The 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on **Saturday 19th August 2023 at 2pm** at the WHS Pasco St Library.

Nomination forms and Proxy voting forms are attached.

PROXY Voting

We have attached a PROXY form for those people who would like to have a vote but cannot or don't want to attend. You can give your proxy to any financial member of the association who is attending in person. You can also give your proxy to the President (Fred Cumming), the Vice President (Iris Whitehurst), the Secretary (Ray Price), Treasurer (Geoff King) or committee member (Barbara Muster).

Proxy votes count for the purposes of a quorum so it would be appreciated if you could return your Proxy forms if you cannot be in attendance.

Ray Price Secretary & Public Officer. WHSESSA Inc. A0041347A.

Committee Nomination Form - WHSESSA inc. A 0041347A

Nomination for Election at AGM 2023 for WHSESSA Committee. All positions are vacant.
(Forms will be available at the AGM on Saturday 19th August 2023.)

Please print & sign name in all areas.

I,, wish to nominate
for the position of on the WHSESSA Inc, Committee for July 2023-June 2024.
I, seconded this nomination.
I, as Nominee, accept this nomination.....

Post to:- WHSESSA Inc. PO Box 81 Williamstown, Vic 3016 or hand to Secretary Ray Price, by 2pm,
Saturday 19th August 2023

-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----

Proxy Vote - AGM 19th August 2023 - WHSESSA inc.A0041347A

Any financial Member, who is unable to attend the AGM on the 19th August 2023, may complete this
Proxy vote. (Print & sign name in all areas required.)

I,, delegate my proxy vote to (enter name)
on any matters (if required) at the AGM on Sat 19th August 2023

Post to:- WHSESSA, . PO Box 81. Williamstown, Vic, 3016. **Email:-** Ray Price, sealbook@iinet.net.au

-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----

Acceptances only - WHSESSA Inc. AGM Sat 19th August 2023 @ 2pm- Pasco St W'town

I, will be attending the AGM.

Post to:- WHSESSA Inc., PO Box 81 .Williamstown, Vic.3016 or
Email to: sealbook@iinet.net.au or text only, no calls, to 0405692217 (include your name please)

-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----X-----

Annual Subscriptions 2023-24 - WHSESSA inc. A0041347A

Subscriptions are due on the **1st July 2023**. Subscription rate for 2023-24 is **\$15**

Name:.....

Postal:.....Postcode.....

Email:.....

(Tick if your details have changed) ()

Donation (optional but always appreciated & acknowledged.) \$...... + (subs) \$15 = Total \$......

Payments can be made by :-

cheque mailed to WHSESSA Inc. PO Box 81 Williamstown, Victoria, 3016, or

direct deposit to **BSB 633 000** Account No. **119563336** (include your name!)

NB: If you wish to pay for more than one year, you can pay pro rata at the current subscription rate of - \$15 per year

Ray Price, Secretary & Public Officer, WHSESSA inc A0041347A

**If undelivered return to
Williamstown High School
Ex Students and Staff Association inc.
PO Box 81
Williamstown VIC 3016**

Anchor – Newsletter

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**