

THE ANCHOR



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

MARCH 2023

President's Report

Welcome to the March 2023 edition of the ANCHOR.

Welcome to 2023. It seems a bit funny saying that in March but this is our first newsletter for the year.

After the joy of having our first in person reunion last year things have been a bit quiet over the Christmas break.

The committee has been pleased to accept a few selected pieces of memorabilia from some of our ex-students.

We now have an album containing the original Class Photos from Form 1 in 1960 through to Form 6 in 1965 from Roslyn Waterman (Robson). They even have all of the names recorded which is an added bonus!

Accompanying this is a collection of newspaper cuttings, Speech Night programs

and other bits and pieces celebrating the Class of 1965. Thanks Roslyn!

Sadly our financial membership numbers are falling. We seem to be losing old members faster than we can replace them with new ones. COVID has to take some of the blame as our reunions are our best recruitment tool and having a few years without any has taken its toll. The lack of a list of names and addresses for ex-students is also an issue. Once we get to the late 1960s the schools record keeping system changed and the cards that we previously used to populate our lists now longer exist.

We will continue to do what we can to encourage more new members to join the association.

The Class of 1974 have always been good at keeping up with each other. They have created a Facebook group to help plan their 50 year reunion in 2024! We wish them all the best as getting people together that long after school can be a challenge.

As always we are looking for articles for ***The Anchor***. If you have anything at all please send it to us!!

Hold Fast

Fred Cumming
President, WHSESSA inc.

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

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Williamstown High School web site :-

<http://www.willhigh.vic.edu.au/>

WHSESSA inc. web site :-

<http://tinyurl.com/whseassa>

TOMMY “GOOCH” McGOWAN

By - Geoff van Wyngaarden

Tom started his secondary school career at Williamstown Technical School before transferring to Williamstown High School. Tom made regular sporting teams at Williamstown High School which he enjoyed thoroughly.

Williamstown Football Club in its long and illustrious history has always had its fair share of local players recruited from within its suburb boundary. Tom Mc Gowan is one such player who grew up around the corner in nearby Thompson Street and played all his underage football with the local Williamstown Juniors Football Club, where he was a multiple Best and Fairest and Premiership player. Young Tom was always destined to play his senior football with ‘The Seagulls’.

“My first experience of the Williamstown Football Club was watching games as an 8 year old. They were great memories. My first contact after playing with Williamstown Juniors Football was in 1985 when the WFC Under 19 coach Bruce Davis spoke to me. After that initiation into the club that year , I just never wanted to leave.”



Tommy was Vice-Captain in the Under 19's (3rds) in 1985 kicking 143 goals in an outstanding debut year with the club and also coming third in the team Best and Fairest award. The following year in 1986, young Tom was a premiership player in both the Under 19's and Reserves teams, when the club won all 3 available premierships. Tom kicked 2 valuable goals in the reserves premiership team.

Tom played senior football with Williamstown between 1988 to 1997 with the exception of 1992 when he played at Casterton.

In total Tom played 83 senior games and kicked 51 goals in the senior side, wearing numbers 2 and 40 at the club.

“There were many great characters at the club and I just never wanted to leave. We would all bag each other, but no one ever got hurt. From 1985 to 1992 , it was just amazing to be involved with the club with its great players and great teams. Willy Football Club always fought the games out to the end. After 1992, I felt a bit of a leader myself.

Saade Ghazi, Julian Shanks and Troy West were the main leaders.”

Tommy remembers them;

Julian Shanks..... “ he was a great player, one of the guys, very skilful, very committed and knew how to party”

Paul ‘Rammer’ Dooley.....”a great man, one of the most dedicated players that I have played with, he always wanted to train longer every night”

Adam Hough.....”a character for sure, just gave his all, even when injured, a great man”

Saade Ghazi.....”his skills were amazing, he was a bit like Paul Dooley with the extra dedication, he led from the front, I bought his pizza’s especially on Mondays as a hangover cure”

Troy Mitchell.....”he pretty much won 3 Best and Fairest awards and a Premiership, he started off slow but kept on getting better, a champion player and personality who rallied the troops and also one of the boys for sure”

“1995, was the last season for the VFA and we lost all 16 games. The feelings amongst the group were all good and there was still great camaraderie. We were proud of the club and hung around the club to help them survive, keep the club alive. It was not easy at times, you sort of knew that the team was not going to win, but you did your best. Guys like Garz, Pas, Troy West.....could have gone to other clubs to get more money but they wanted to hang around to get the club to survive.”

“Round 1 in 1996 when we beat Werribee at Willy was just sensational. Merv Keane was very professional and it was a lot better than the year before. He was a great coach, an eye-opener and things just changed around. Greg Swann as President and Brendan Curry as Administrator did a great job to turn the club around.”

“My time at Williamstown was great. I enjoyed training, playing footy, the after matches functions and the footy trips. Chops and Tags showed us how to play and train and also how to have fun..... just the Willy spirit”



WHS Cricket Team circa 1985



Form 1A

Back Row:

Bruce Anderson, Robin Maloney, Patrick McLeod, Rodney ?, Peter Rodger,
Peter McGowan, David Allen, ? ? , Adrian Richards, ? ?.

2nd Back Row:

Michael Beacom, Faye Manolakakis, Malda Jakobson, Helen Johnstone, Margaret
Lister,
Julia Jurgens, Christine Pedlar, Judith Scates, Dianne Newman, Norman ?

2nd Front Row:

Margaret ?, Judith Roach, Linda Harvey, Lorraine Dingey, Barbara Stokes, Diane
Dunstan,
Mary Brotheridge, Nola Burke, Roslyn Robson.

Front Row:

Helen Spilsbury, Vanessa Jones, Lynette Speakman, Jill McIntosh, Diane Grant,
Tina Smith, Cynthia Kurbanov, Karen Hehir, Milda Malakunas, Dorothy Aldersley,
Rhonda Murdoch, Cherie De Rose.

Form Teacher: Mr Jolly



Form 2B

Back Row:

Helen Downer, Diane Dilks, Gillian Trotter, Heather Knight, Margaret ? Raelene Cartledge,
Marilyn O'Sullivan, Susan White, Helena Pomeneranko, Helen Spilsbury, Maree Mackie,
Roslyn Robson, Heather(Gerda) Tillema, Sandra ?, Diane Newman.

Middle Row:

Diane Fogarty, Cheryl Cochrane, Carol Gall, Sandra Holmes, Helen Johnstone, Terry Turner,
Ann Digby, Rhondda Davis, Anne, Turzinski, Marilyn Nisbit, Lorraine Dingey, Vanessa Jones.

Front Row: Diane Grant, Dianne Morrish, Lyn Cummings, Karen Hehir, Judith Roach,

Mary Brotheridge, Julie Webster, ?, Helen Ironside, Carol ?, Dianne Read, Anne Tregear.

Form Teacher: Miss Dorothy Page.

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Anchor – Newsletter

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