

# THE ANCHOR



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

**JUNE 2021**

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## ***President's Report***

Welcome to the June 2021 edition of the ANCHOR.

I hope you are all well and coping as best you can with the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The committee has been managing to meet for the last few months via face-to-face meeting with social distancing.

As the last year has rolled on we have continually postponed our AGM. Eventually we had to concede that the 2020 AGM has been cancelled and we will move straight to the 2021 AGM on **Saturday 31st July 2021**.

This will be held in the library at the Pasco St campus of WHS as in previous years.

I recognise that many of our members may be loathe to come to the AGM in person. If you can't make it in person I would like you to consider sending in the proxy form attached to the back page of the Anchor.

This will help us to meet our quorum requirements.

Our usual 'end of year' reunion is on again this year. The date is still scheduled for **Wednesday 1st December 2021**. As we get closer to the date we will confirm the details.

We will be delighted to see you all at WHS.

We especially encourage the students from the classes of 1970 (*Form 1 in 1965 to Form 6 in 1970*) and 1971 (*Form 1 in 1966 to Form 6 in 1971*) who will be celebrating 50 years since graduating. Stick it in your diary now.

All ex-students and staff are welcome to attend. We happily entertain any extras you would like to bring especially if it means the difference between coming along and not.

I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible at the AGM and the reunion.

Subs are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July each year. The Annual Subscriptions notice is on page 5.

Unlike petrol prices WHSESSA Subscriptions don't change often. They are still just \$15 per year!

Hold Fast  
Fred Cumming

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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](mailto:WHSESSA@gmail.com)

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Williamstown High School web site :-  
<http://www.willhigh.vic.edu.au/>  
WHSESSA inc. web site :-  
<http://tinyurl.com/whsessa>

# BARRY MICHAEL SWETTENHAM

By, Geoff van Wyngaarden



**Barry Michael Swettenham** better known around the world as former World Champion boxer **Barry Michael** is a proud Williamstown raised boy who went to the famous Williamstown High School.

Barry who was born in Watford, England came to Australia in 1957 at the age of two with his family as one of many “10 pound poms” of that time. The family first lived in Hamilton after arriving in Australia moving to Williamstown two years later. Their first home in Williamstown was in the now demolished Aitken Street Housing Commission flats before the family moved to their first house in Williamstown in Thompson Street in 1968.

“My dad Len did some boxing whilst serving in the British Air Force and had about 20 fights. Australian and World Champion Lionel Rose and “Fammo”, John Famechion , were my idols growing up. I attended Williamstown State School and then Williamstown High School and successfully completed Form 6 in 1972. I started fighting as an amateur when 15 years old. I first trained at a gym in Glenbervie near Essendon and then did some spa training at the commission flats in Aitken Street and at a gym on Williamstown Road with another local Nebusha

Vidakovic.”



“I enjoyed my time at Williamstown High School. I fondly remember teachers such as Rod Cordell and D.J. Nilson amongst many others who were characters and good blokes. After Form 6, I was offered a place at RMIT doing a psychology degree. At this time in my life I was totally obsessed with boxing and keeping fit. I first fought as a 15 year old and had in total 17 Amateur fights and 60 Professional fights in my career. I have fought outside of Australia in Indonesia 5 times and once in the Philippines, Guyana, England, Wales and Hawaii. I even lived and trained in Hawaii for 6 months whilst training for that fight.”

“My dad Len was always my strength and conditioning coach as well as my cut man and mentor. Williamstown man David Elliott was my first boxing coach before I moved to train in Oak Park under trainer Alan Meaker. I turned professional at the age of 18 years and then trained at Jack Rennie’s gym under coach Ray Styles.” “I won the World IBF Title at Festival Hall on the July 12<sup>th</sup> 1985 against Lester Ellis in the Super Featherweight 58.95 pounds division. I had 3 successful title defences against Korean Jing Sic Choi, Mexican-American Mark Fernandez and then the British Champion Najib Daho in Manchester in August 1986. I lost my title to Black American Rocky

Lockridge in Windsor in the UK on August 9<sup>th</sup> 1987. My nose was actually broken in the first round. I announced my retirement in the ring that night at 32 years of age."

Barry who lived on the Gold Coast between 1987 to 1992 is now living back in Williamstown and enjoying life. He has twice promoted fight nights at the Williamstown Town Hall amongst other venues. The great man has worked in Real Estate, Insurance and Advertising as well as commentating and promoting the sport he loves ... boxing!

Barry is a former World champion and Williamstown local role model citizen.

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## Exies Revues – A Review

By Iris Whitehurst

Barbara Muster and I have been sorting Exies Archive material and found some Revue history including the Stage Managers (Jeff Bird) book of "Froth and Bubble". Alex Jurga found the programme for this revue and also the programme for "Half Sent" which was staged in 1965.

Cyril Curtain sent a data disc of the film made of "Jubileevit" (1951) which was fun to watch.

Altogether there were eight revues starting in 1950. A few of our current membership are named in these programmes.

The programmes brought back lots of memories. We obviously had so much fun or were so busy that there is no photographic history.

If you or your family members have any photos or memorabilia of the Revues we would love to see them. Copies can be sent to WHESSA, PO Box 87, Williamstown 3016 or emailed to [audronic@tpg.com.au](mailto:audronic@tpg.com.au).

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From the 1965 High Tide

### A REVIEW OF REVUES OUR "EXIES" BOAST

The ragged chorus sang: "*Come along let's make a revue, There'll be something there for everyone*"

It was a bleak July night in 1952, and the first rehearsal of the "Exies" third revue, "Sackcloth and Ashes," was under way on the bare stage of the Williamstown Mechanics' Institute. "There'll be something there for everyone" by then had become the Ex-students' motto.

Coming from the rather restricted activities imposed by World War II, the immediate post-war committees turned their attention to building up membership and moneymaking. The Association's first large function was the Williamstown Industrial Exhibition, held in the Williamstown Town Hall in March 1947. This raised £90. The Association then held a number of Cup Eve and New Year's Eve balls at the Williamstown Town Hall, and these, too, were money spinners until the end of petrol rationing made it easier for the crowds to attend such functions in the City. Improving post-war conditions were also widening the interests of young people, and it became evident that the "Exies" could not retain their members by running monthly dances and the odd picnic, so a move was made to widen the Association's activities. A football team was entered in the Footscray District League, "The Anchor" appeared, and a film society was started. Then came the 1950-53 revues—"Cutting the Paw Paw," produced by P. M. Weate; "Jubileevit," produced by G. Weate; "Sackcloth and Ashes" produced by D. Witt, and "Pie-are-squared." produced by E. Seppings. These revues tapped the enthusiasm and talents of up to 50 young people. Scripts, songs, and to an increasing extent the music, were original. The emphasis was on satire and parody. Many of the songs were published in a

songbook and sung at picnics and hikes, and with appropriate changes to suit different occasions, almost attained the status of folk songs. Some of this activity was recorded by the Film Society, which made a film of the production of the revue "Jubileevit," and a film on the smuggling of banned books into Australia.

All of these activities provided good fellowship, raised funds for the school, and in a world increasingly swamped with ready-made entertainment and Ideas, showed that young people could get a great that of fun thinking and doing things for themselves. —Dr. C. CURTAIN.

## EX-STUDENTS ON STAGE

The first revue of the present vintage of "Exies" played was "Froth 'n Bubble," in 1959; a suitably effervescent entry to the affairs of old boys. We were Fifth Formers at that stage, and most impressed by the new guise our producer Ian Moore presented when the frenzy of fast-minute rehearsals played havoc with the measured tones he accustomed us to during Maths. The real "Exies," who led and really stole the show were those whose eyebrows disdainfully assessed the stature of their First Form crop at our first school assembly. Darbie Munroe, Keith Smith (then President), Jan Petherick, Marg Woodward, Marion Becroft and Sandra Shaw gambolled through each sketch to the constant delight of full houses at the old Mechanics.

T.V. had only been going for three years, Graham Kennedy was at his best, and it was rather an achievement to play to a capacity house in those days. We decided that the public's digestion should not be troubled with such marvellous wit for some time, so the next show (Intriguingly called "?") was not until 1962. Ian Moore the producer again. By then many of the old brigade had left to be replaced by Graham Bird (President), John Colquhoun, Brian Hoath, Yvonne Bolowski, Iris Webb, Jim Lawson, Raymonda Malakunus and Michael Long. On the inside cover of the programme, under the "?," was printed : "Questions are never indiscreet, answers sometimes are." So much for introduction. The show sparkled, we thought, without inflaming too many ears. And it was another financial success.

Rehearsals were always casual affairs, whether they were in private homes or the naval drill hall. At the hall those not huddled around the radiator reciting, kept busy at volley-ball, basketball, football, any ball moving fast enough to keep warm. Some-how things fell together in time for the big night! The last week saw many learning new lines to make a sketch more topical. The fill-ins of course—those slapstick front of curtain gags that distract the audience from the bang and clang of backstage men tumbling over props—were rehearsed on the first night, and polished by the final performance. Part of the fun of revues is to forget one's lines anyway! "Half Sent" was this year's show.

We were very conscious of having 50 years behind us. The beef that went into certain items, especially those on School Assembly and Conscriptio (is there a relationship?) showed just how pressing some matters were. Originality was the keynote: At least three-quarters of the scripts were our own work; sheer inspiration, especially on the part of Alec Jurga, David Schultz and Michael Long. Theatre critics can be very unkind, but In our case, the three shows were greeted with gratifying acclaim; The Mail, The Advertiser, Listener In graced their columns with reviews of our stage manner. We certainly considered that the fact that its author may have been an old associate of the school had nothing to do with the matter! The cast this year, under a new producer, Gillian Wadds, was the old one with a few new faces. For many, though, this was their swan song since work, study or marriage will take them from the "Exie" scene next year.

Missing in this year's show were younger members. They will be vitally needed in the next year or so if tradition is to carry on. No doubt they will come, as did our audiences, in twos and threes, expectant, and certain of a rewarding experience. --BARRY HILL, President.



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Williamstown VIC 3016**

**Anchor – Newsletter**

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