

THE ANCHOR



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

SEPTEMBER 2020

President's Report

Welcome to the September 2020 edition of the ANCHOR.

In the March edition of The Anchor we were hopeful that the COVID-19 epidemic would be relatively short lived and that we would be back to somewhat normal life by now. It was wishful thinking.

As a result of the lockdowns in Melbourne the committee has been unable to meet for the last few months. We have been doing some skeleton crew work to keep the organisation ticking along but we are

not in a position to do any more at this stage.

Given the relative age of our membership and the consequent risks of our members catching COVID and having very bad outcomes we have decided to **CANCEL the AGM** which was scheduled for **17 October**.

We have also cancelled our usual 'end of year' reunion scheduled for **Wednesday 2nd December**.

We will be rescheduling these events to early 2021.

We will be delighted to see you all at WHS when it's safe for us to do so.

In the meantime I hope you are all safe and well. Keep smiling. We will be back to some sort of normal soon!

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

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Williamstown High School web site :-

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

WHSESSA inc. web site :-

<http://tinyurl.com/whsessa>

From the WHS Newsletter...

WHS has received the second grant that was promised year or so ago from the State government. This is part of the State Government Building Blitz program.

WILLIAMSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FUNDING

I was excited to see that the State Government recently announced a funding boost of \$1.23 million for Williamstown High School. The package will see the school receive over a million dollars to upgrade their year 12 study centre and to complete the theatre complex. This is following an investment of \$137,000 received in 2019-20 under the local funding boost for the theatre planning works.

This is part of the State Government's Building Blitz, a \$2.7 billion funding package aimed at getting Victorians back to work. By funding local shovel-ready projects like Williamstown High School's building works, the State Government is providing long term investment in arts education for all Williamstown students while also helping to get the economy back on track.



Principal Report – Mr Gino Catalano

Dear Williamstown High School Families,

Term 3 2020, is coming to an end as the pandemic continues to challenge us all in ways never experienced before.

I am so very proud of the resilience shown by all members of our school community and I am looking forward to the next stage of the gradual easing of restrictions which will eventually return us to the preferred face to face learning. As I am sure you are all aware, the decision to return onsite will be at the direction of the health authorities and we will continue to provide timely updates as changes are put in place.

We are mindful of some student, staff and parent apprehensions relating to our onsite return as well as concerns or perceptions with potential gaps in learning. Please be reassured that we are planning, preparing and resetting our Term 4 curriculum programs to ensure growth for all and that we prepare students well for the following year, including opportunities to reconnect with peers and celebrate the end of year.

In this edition of the W Files, we have asked staff and students to capture some of the remote learning experiences that celebrate the many achievements of our students across this year and in turn reassure our community that even though things have been different, learning and individual growth has continued.

Remote interviews, Information and Pathway Counselling Sessions

On behalf of the teaching staff I would like to acknowledge the families who participated in our recent online Parent-Teacher Interviews as well as various parent year level information and transition sessions. We greatly value the partnership we have with families and the role these events play in improving the learning and pathways for our students. I also received a number of personal email correspondence from families praising staff involved in leading these events. These emails were passed on to the relevant staff who greatly appreciated the acknowledgement.



Well done!

Well done to Nick Frisby and Ryan King, volunteer lifesavers and two of our wonderful students. Nick and Ryan recently received high praise for their spontaneous actions in coming to the aid of three young boys being swept out on their stand up paddle board during strong winds. Below is an account of the Williamstown rescue.

Ryan and I had been for a swim and had just got out of the water to warm up on the rocks, as we got out of the water we saw 3 kids aged 10-14 on stand up paddle boards enter the water. There was a strong northerly wind blowing so they got blown out from the beach pretty quickly. We could see that they weren't going to be able to get themselves back so we ran to the Life Saving Club (which was closed) and found a surf board and an old life saving board to take out and get them. As we got into the water 2 of them were slowly making their way in but there was one about 300m offshore. I paddled out to him while Ryan took the other two kids to shore. By the time we got in they were very tired and so were we after paddling in really hard conditions. The police and

ambulance had been called, so the ambulance officers took care of them and we explained to the police what happened before going home for a shower.

From the High Tide archives...

The 1970s was a period of social upheaval in Australia. Big changes were happening socially and educationally as well. In his "Principals Page" in the 1970 High Tide Mr Fred Howe commented on both the mundane and the global impacts of these changes as they applied to Williamstown High School.

PRINCIPAL'S PAGE

The first days of the 1970 school year were most promising and certainly the best from the viewpoint of accommodation that students had enjoyed in many years.

The fire, which devastated so much of the older section of the school, caused considerable loss to many members of staff and great inconvenience and hardship generally. It is fitting that tribute should be paid to teachers and pupils who have not allowed difficulties, caused by the fire, to lessen their enthusiasm or to impede their efficiency.

On the credit side we rejoice to see work begin on the multi-purpose assembly hall. This has been made possible by the tremendous effort of the Parent Bodies. The school's deep appreciation should be paid to the Parents and Citizens' Association, Ladies Auxiliary, Fete Committee and the Advisory Council for dedicated services to the development of the school.

There is, however, an urgent need for many more parents to become actively involved in the work of the Parent Bodies. The burden of work has fallen too heavily on the shoulders of too few willing parents. Indeed, of the six hundred families with children attending the school, a mere thirty-five to forty parents are regularly active in projects to provide facilities which are enjoyed by all. This bald fact needs no further elaboration.

I should like to direct a few words to senior students, particularly to those who are leaving school. It is obvious to all that the question of authority is one which looms large in the minds of young people. It is important that we have due regard for the processes of law and order and are vigilant in safe-guarding democratic procedures. Unless we safeguard these

basic principles we may have to live in a society shattered by turmoil and civil strife. If we subjugate reason to mass hysteria and attend only to the aggressively vocal, we shall certainly live to see mob violence become part of the pattern of life.

Finally, I desire to express my gratitude to members of staff for their loyalty and co-operation. I should like to thank particularly Mr. B.A. Halloran, Mr. H.W. Forecast, Mr. D. Paul and Mr. R.E. Vivian who have carried heavier responsibilities since the appointment of our highly-qualified and able Deputy Principal, Mr. A.M. Badcock, to the Board of Secondary Inspectors. Likewise, I place on record my appreciation of Miss M.E. Lynch's services during the absence of the Senior Mistress, Miss M.M. Charnock, on her well-merited long service leave.

May you all have a joyous Christmas and best of good fortune in 1971.



All those people who read "The Age" and watched Ron Tandberg's cartoons with their quirky stick figure people may have wondered where he honed his cartooning craft.

Ron was one of the Art teachers at WHS during the early 1970s before he went of to be a newspaper cartoonist and social / political commentator.

In 1970 Ron designed the front cover of "High Tide". I'm nor sure if the imagery would pass the appropriateness test in todays world but this was 50 years ago...



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PO Box 81
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