

# THE ANCHOR



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

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

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

Welcome to the September 2024 edition of the ANCHOR.

This is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restarted WHSESSA. The original exies ran from 1922 until the early 1960s.

We held our Annual General Meeting on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024**.

The Presidents report to the AGM and the Financial Statement have been reproduced on page 2 for those who missed the AGM.

I would like to thank Ray Price who has been our secretary for the last 8 years. Ray has had to relinquish the role for health reasons. Ray also held the position of Public Officer.

As a result of the election of office bearers we now have a reduced committee comprising :-

Fred Cumming – President & acting minute secretary

Iris Whitehurst – Vice President  
Geoff King – Treasurer & Public Officer  
Barbara Muster – Committee

A quick analysis of our financial members indicates that our numbers are dropping rapidly. We currently only have about 50 financial members. The vast majority of these range between 65 and 90 years of age.

If you have forgotten to renew your membership for this year there is form with the details on page 5. You can also pay via bank transfer if you prefer.

This situation cannot continue for much longer. If we cannot get a new committee willing to take the association forward must consider winding up WHSESSA.

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](mailto:WHSESSA@gmail.com). Iris would be very glad to move a few more copies out of her spare room! The price has been reduced to \$20 but must be picked up from Williamstown.

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)

**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>

# WHSESSA inc. - AGM 2024

## President's Report

Welcome to the AGM for 2024.

I want to thank the Committee of Management for their service over the last year.

The committee of management has continued to meet monthly.

We have maintained the production of *The Anchor* to keep our members up to date with the activities of the association and to provide relevant information about WHS.

We have also continued the presentation of scholarships thanks to donations from our members.

Our membership has continued to decline. We now have around 90 paid up members. Recruiting younger members has remained a major challenge for us. We will be discussing the future of the Association later in the meeting.

Our latest annual reunion in early December 2023 was well attended. Hopefully the coming one will be equally good. Watch the newsletter for the date.

Hold Fast!

Fred Cumming  
President WHSESSA inc.

## Treasurers Report

### **Williamstown High School Ex-Students and Staff Association Inc. [A0041347A]**

Financial Statement for the period starting on 1 July 2023 and ending on 30 June 2024.

#### *Income:*

**Opening balance on 1 July 2023:** **\$6,764.68**

#### *Plus:*

Membership subscriptions	\$1,370.00	
Donations	\$695.00	
Book sales	\$60.00	
Sale of Archive book	\$54.30	
Miscellaneous	\$2.00	
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>\$2,181.30</b>	<b>\$2,181.30</b>

#### *Expenses:*

Printing, stationary & postage	\$854.70	
Donation to Williamstown High School	\$1,500.00	
Post Office Box fee	\$154.00	
Consumer Affairs, Victoria	\$47.70	
Catering	\$107.03	
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$2,663.43</b>	<b>\$2,663.43</b>
<b>Balance on 1 July 2024</b>		<b>\$6,282.55</b>

## WHS Exie with a distinguished Military Career by Bill Hodge

Alan Richard Howes was born in Harrow, England on 14th October 1937. He was a young boy when World War Two began, and in the early 1940's was evacuated to Yorkshire to escape the German Luftwaffe bombing. When the family move back to London in 1944 he attended primary school. During this period he experienced the full impact of the bombing including V1 pilotless bombs (one of which landed a few doors down from their home) and V2 supersonic rockets.



After the war he accompanied his father on a trip to Denmark passing through Germany where the bomb damage was much greater than in Britain.

These experiences were significant factors in his later decision to join the military.

When the Howes family migrated to Australia in March 1949, Alan began school at Williamstown High. His first day was memorable. During recess, one of his class members called him "a Pommy bastard" and knocked him to the ground. To his surprise Joe McCarthy, a tall and strong classmate, came to his aid and knocked the assailant down, and asked, "Anyone else want a fight?" Alan was left alone thereafter. He completed his Leaving certificate in 1953 before entering Duntroon the following year.

Throughout his career Alan took every opportunity to improve his skills and qualifications. During his final year in Duntroon in 1957 he became a fixed wing pilot having been trained at weekends by instructors from Kingsford Smith Flying School. In a post graduate course at the Royal Australian Army Service Corp (RAASC) school at Puckapunyal he was placed first.

Alan served in a range of regimental and staff positions.

One of those appointments was to a National Service Training Company near Perth. During this period he met Arlene Sutton whom he later married in 1962.

In July 1960 Alan returned to the RAASC School in Puckapunyal as an instructor. This included two weeks training at an Army Aviation flying course in Canberra. However, RAAF staff found that he was medically unfit to fly because of hearing defects. Later on this issue impacted his career.

His first overseas posting, from July 1964 to March 1965, was as Australian Liaison Officer to the British Army in Borneo and Brunei during Indonesia's confrontation with Malaysia. Towards the end of this period (January 1965) he was sent to evaluate the transport systems of South Vietnam. Subsequently, in early 1965 he presented a written and illustrated report to Canberra.

In January 1968 he was posted to 25 Transport Company at Puckapunyal which, with other units, was preparing for service in South Vietnam later that year. A pre-embarkation medical found that he had an ear perforation again, despite the earlier defect being repaired. An elderly ENT doctor had accidentally lanced the repaired tympanic membrane. He was downgraded medically to "Home Only – Repairable", which meant no Vietnam service. Alan viewed that as a setback to his career.

He bounced back with characteristic energy and enthusiasm when he was selected to attend a 15-month course at the British Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, near Oxford, that qualified him as a Technical Staff Officer. There he studied future vehicle needs. On returning to Australia his findings on the need to purchase a 4

tonne, 8 tonne and 20 tonne Australian vehicle fleet were the basis of a major equipment submission, and all were accepted by Defence and the Australian Government.

In 1972 he passed the Australian Staff College one-year course at Queenscliff and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in Logistics Branch, Canberra. Later that year he was the first armed services member to be awarded a Churchill fellowship. This enabled him to travel overseas to research trends in transport education and management. His report titled '*Improving Transport Management*' was published in 1974.

Two years later in 1976 he returned to the Australian Staff College, Queenscliff to lead instruction in '*Command and Leadership*' and '*Counter-Terrorism*'. In his own words "This responsibility sparked an abiding interest in me, to more closely link the subject of '*Ethics*' with the study and practice '*Leadership*', by men and women of all ranks". This interest he pursued vigorously notwithstanding his other duties.

Early in 1983 he accompanied an Australian Antarctic Expedition to evaluate the need for a RAN or civilian ice-breaker ship, an ice runway and jet assisted Hercules aircraft to airlift scientists, freight to Antarctica or to bring back casualties.

In the same year he was a Defence Fellow for 12 months at ANU to report on improvements needed to better coordinate civil and military transport resources in times of crisis. He studied worldwide and presented his report to a Defence Infrastructure Conference at ANU in November 1983.

Subsequently, in 1987 when Alan began studying for a graduate Diploma in Defence Studies, he took as a sub-thesis the subject '*Teaching Ethics to cadets at the Australian Defence Force Academy*'.

In the latter part of his career he consulted leading civilian and military experts in Australia and overseas on Ethics, travelling worldwide to conferences and to meet individuals. Two in particular were General Sir John Hackett in England and Professor Mal Wakin (formerly Brigadier General in the USAF). Hackett's *The Profession of Arms* booklet of three lectures given in 1962 at Cambridge University and other writings strongly influenced Alan. Wakin is an internationally recognised authority on military ethics.

Alan was a highly talented person who made important contributions to his chosen profession.

He is survived by his wife Arlene, his brothers John and Michael, four sons and their respective families.

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## Form 5 girls 1952 ... thanks to Wilma Roberts



Back: Wilma Bock, Anita Bridge, Judith Stone, Lenice Trask, Mable Patterson, Hilda Taylor  
Front: Margaret Wegener, Jeanette Brown, Pat Burgess, Brenda Corstorphine

**Annual Reunion is on again...**

Don't forget the annual reunion is on again this year. We will be meeting in the library at Pasco St from 10:00am on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December**. We are especially celebrating the Class of 1974 so if you know any-one from this era please invite them along!

There will be morning tea and a tour of the school available as well as a chance to catch up with your old school friends and have a look through our collection of old photos and memorabilia.

**We remember some old friends ...**

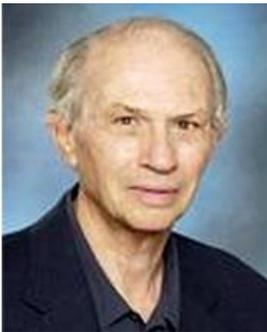
**Irene Wescott**



Irene Wescott (Burkitt) passed away at the age of 99 in July this year. She was our oldest member. Irene was at WHS in the 1940s. At that time it was rare for girls to go on to matriculation. Irene was one of the early girls breaking the mould! At that time WHS didn't have a matriculation class so they had to go to Melbourne High School to sit the Matriculation exams.

Irene went on to be a school teacher and later a principal at Footscray Girls College. She was also principal at Point Gellibrand Girls High School before it was amalgamated with WHS. Irene was an enthusiastic and staunch member of WHSESSA and served as Vice-President for one year. She loved golf and tennis and was a well known identity in the Williamstown community. She was also a 70 year Bulldog supporter!!

**Cyril Curtain**

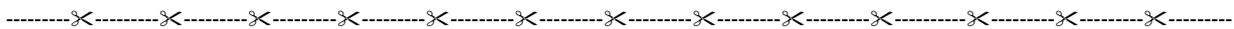


Cyril was one of our keeest members. He was a Life Member of WHSESSA.

Cyril was a bio-chemist who worked variously at Melbourne University, Oxford University, the Baker Medical Research Institute (Melbourne), CSIRO and Monash University.

His concerns for foreshore planning and conservation around Williamstown were recognised by the naming of the section of the foreshore park opposite his residence '**The Cyril Curtain Reserve**'.

Cyril passed away on September 8<sup>th</sup> 2024.



**Annual Subscriptions 2024-25 - WHSESSA inc. A0041347A**

Subscriptions are due on the **1<sup>st</sup> July 2024**. Subscription rate for 2024-25 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

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Williamstown VIC 3016**

**Anchor – Newsletter**

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