



DUBBO HIGH SCHOOL & DUBBO COLLEGE EX-STUDENTS BINDYI CLUB

BINDYI CLUB NEWS

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Contact us at BindyiClub@gmail.com

ASTLEY CUP CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS – 2023

The Bindi Club will hold the Annual Lunch in Dubbo next year to coincide with the 100th birthday of the Astley Cup – which we believe is the oldest continuous inter-school sporting competition in Australia.

**THE LUNCH WILL BE HELD ON
SATURDAY 1 JULY 2023,
AT THE DUBBO RSL CLUB AUDITORIUM.**

The final round of the 2023 Cup will take place in Dubbo on 29-30 June, so we hope that people will travel to Dubbo in time to watch some of the action on those two days and stay on for the lunch.

Saturday 1 July is the first day of the NSW School Holidays and Dubbo is a very popular holiday destination, so we recommend that you book your accommodation in plenty of time.

The Western Plains Cultural Centre, on the site of the former school, will hold a small exhibition of Astley Cup memorabilia to coincide with this celebration.

Please contact Jill McCann if you have any items that you think might be worthy of inclusion.





Astley Cup Memories

Over the next year we hope to collate some of your Astley Cup memories for inclusion in the newsletter and in the exhibition. Please send them to Jill (jillymccann@gmail.com)

We love this one from Barry Cant, School Captain 1960.

DUBBO HIGH WINS 1960 ASTLEY CUP

In the 1960s the Astley Cup was more than a sporting contest involving Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo High Schools. It was city against city!

The event generated wider community interest as each city at that time only had one government high school. The Astley Cup rugby league match was broadcast live on radio station 2DU as was the debate for the Mulvey Cup.

I was school captain in 1960. It was expected that I would billet the captain from Orange High during the two days of the cup. I informed the school that I was unable to take a billet as I boarded at the hostel. My friend, the late Bruce Clark's parents, kindly offered for the Orange captain and myself to stay at their home.

We defeated Orange in the first round in both the Astley and Mulvey Cups.

Fifty-five students left by bus for Bathurst for the second round of the competitions.

Inclement weather on the first afternoon resulted in the netball being played indoors.

Bathurst had narrow wins in the first three sports – Netball, Athletics and Hockey giving them a handy lead with only rugby league and perhaps tennis still to be played. (Tennis was in doubt due to wet courts.)

To win the cup the footballers needed a convincing win to overcome the deficit.

Despite the mud, slippery field and a heavy ball our backline swung into action and scored four unanswered tries in the corner giving Dubbo High a 12 – nil lead, (3 points for a try in those days – conversions unlikely due to the heavy ball).

We clung to our 12-point lead until full time despite Bathurst throwing everything at us in the final 15 minutes.

The 12-point victory added considerably to our overall point score, so Dubbo held a narrow lead for the first time. (If Bathurst had scored only one try, they would have regained the lead in the overall point score.)

As light rain continued to fall during the debate (Bathurst won the Mulvey Cup) and dance that evening, the tennis looked most likely to be cancelled. If so, Dubbo High would win the Cup.

However, the rain cleared overnight and the tennis was played. Our strong girls' team and success in the mixed doubles ensured we increased our lead (236 to 214) and the 1960 Astley Cup was won by Dubbo High School.

The Astley Cup was donated by Dubbo businessman Lawrie Astley in 1923 for perpetual competition among Dubbo, Bathurst and Orange High Schools. At the time, these three schools were the only High Schools covering a wide area of Central Western NSW.

They had already had some competition during the previous years, but the presentation of the Astley Cup formalised the arrangement.



35th Annual Bindy Club Lunch and AGM

Our postponed lunch on 27 August was a great success with 60 people present to hear an excellent address from guest speaker, **Michael Willing**.

There were ex-students from the 1940s to the 1970s in attendance. Our oldest guests were **Decima Pickles** (Wheeler), **Janet Arthur** (Carroll), both from 1944-49.

Many of the Class of 72 had a preliminary celebration of their 50 year anniversary. A larger group met the following week in Dubbo.

MC, **John Peacock** read a wonderful letter of apology from **Jim Peters** (Capt 1952) which we will try to include in a future newsletter.

Unfortunately the College Captains were stranded at the Airport in Dubbo but we were happy to see Deputy Principal, **Glen Braithwaite** (Captain, 1994) and to hear his report on events at Dubbo College.

Janet Arthur and Decima Pickles



Michael Willing with Monte and Helen Jones



2022 Dubbo High School 50th Reunion



EQV Foundation Chairman Wally Howe addresses the lunch



Vale: Esse Quam Videri

Chandler, Betty Melba
(nee Bolton)

Died 27 August 2022 aged 95
DHS 1940 - 1944

Wife of Alan and sister of Blondie and Cliff.

Betty was a pharmacist before her marriage to Alan, also an ex-student, and after they married, they moved to a property on the Macquarie River.

Betty and Alan retired to live in Sydney to be closer to their children, Richard, Ewan, Leonie, Alana and Megan.

Betty and Alan attended many of the early Bindi Club lunches. Ruby Riach recalls that she was one of the organisers of a big reunion of ex-students from the 1940s held at the Zoo many years ago.

THE SECOND SATURDAY IN MARCH

This date has been set aside for the Bindi Club's Annual Lunch since the very first meeting, in 1986.

As we are holding our lunch in Dubbo in July, the Committee are planning a MORNING TEA at the Castlereagh Hotel on 11 March, 2023. This will be for all members and is especially designed for those who are unable to travel to Dubbo for the later event.

More details in the next newsletter.



Keith Gordon and Vic Chapman at the Bindi Club lunch of 2011

THE PAPERLESS OFFICE

Our efforts continue to reduce the amount of paper and the cost of postage involved in the printing of the newsletter. If you have an email address to which we can send your copy, please advise Sandra McGuigan – the keeper of the database sanmcg19@gmail.com

Bindyi Club Committee 2021 - 2022

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