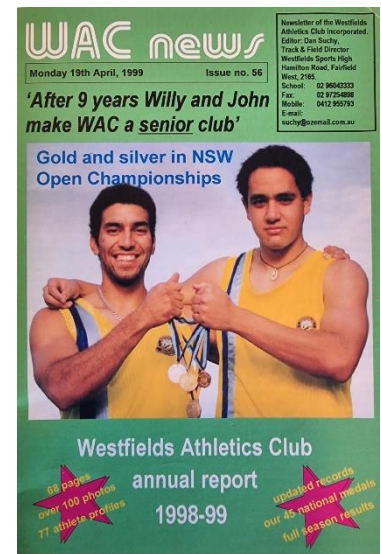


WAC TRIVIA

WAC's first ever Quinella at NSW OPEN

In 1999, Life member and foundation athlete John Fanella and training Partner Willy Wicks won Gold and Silver in the NSW Open 110m hurdles. This was the first and only time the Westfields Athletics Club had ever achieved this in an Open event. (Even though Fabrice Lapierre and Kurt Jenner have won Gold and Silver at the 2013 Australian Open in Long Jump). John was awarded life membership after 10 years of loyal service to WAC. He and best friend Douglas Temmo were instrumental in getting WAC off the ground as a club in 1992. Every Friday night WAC athletes would compete at Central Zone, Wyatt Park Auburn. Willy Wicks (direct decedent of the first male child, Wicks, born in Australia after the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788) was WAC's first International Athlete when he won the 1998 Australian Junior Championships and competed at the World Juniors in Annecy France that year. Willy retired from the sport after his return from The World's. He still holds the WAC U20 110m hurdles record at 14.47m – the U20's had to use the Senior specs -107cm, not 99cm as it is today.



17 Lansdowne Zone titles in a row

Before Westfields High School became Australia's 1st Sports School it was part of the Lansdowne Zone. Westfields High School won 17 Zone Championships as top point scoring school between 1976 and 1993. In 1994 I approached Sydney South West Region (then called Liverpool Region) and proposed we form our own Zone. The primary reason was it wasn't fair for the 7 other schools in Lansdowne Zone being almost impossible to progress from Zone to Region with Westfields Sports students taking up about 90% of the team. It was granted and Westfields became the 8th Zone in SSW Region.

Origins of the SSW logo

Until the new millennium (2000's) Sydney South West Region had different names. Prior to the 90's it was called Liverpool Region. During the 90's it changed its name to Sydney South West Area, then finally Sydney South West Region. This gives rise to the origin of the three birds in the Logo. They are Liver birds indigenous to Liverpool in England.



National Champions before WAC was formed

Westfields High School had two National champions in Athletics prior to the founding of WAC in 1991. In 1986 Scott Winters won the Australian Under 16 (juvenile) 100 metres hurdles Gold medal in Australian U16 record time of 13.76 (99.1cm). David Lavender won the Australian Under 18 3000m Gold medal. Because WAC had not yet been formed Scott ran for Randwick Botany and David Lavender for Fairfield City.

Australian All Schools 2000 & 2001

The 2000/2001 season and 2001/2002 seasons were probably WAC's most successful. At the 2000 Australian All Schools in Adelaide we won 30 medals, 6 National records and three World Junior Qualifiers. In 2001 at the Australian All Schools in Melbourne we won 29 medals, with 2 National records, 2 World Junior Qualifiers and 3 NSW Records. Westfields Sports had over 40 athletes at each of these tournaments.

National Junior Statistician

David Tarbotton was the National Junior Statistician for AA throughout the 90's and 00's. In 2006 Dan Suchy joined David because Athletics Australia had a few years earlier introduced an U14 National age group. Previously the AA Nationals were for Open, U20, U18 and U16 only. Then AA introduced the U23 and U14. At the Same time the Australian All Schools was for U20, U18, U17, U16 and U15. I was assigned the U16 and U14 Rankings to take the load off David while he continued with the U20 and U18. What was interesting about our tasks was the Internet was in its infancy and there were no active websites. I would have to ring up each State organisation and ask them to fax their results from each weekend. For the most part because the results hadn't yet been summarised, they would fax original result sheets. David used to carry around a backpack that was filled with reams of faxed results. He would also carry his trusty laptop and when time allowed, he would sit down and process results into the rankings. I had a similar ritual and that's how the rankings were processed. Some States were slack and wouldn't fax their results or delayed them, so many times obvious performances didn't make the lists until a concerned parent or athlete rang us in person and we would then add them after verification. In 2001, David handed the whole lot over to me that year and I did the entire job myself. David came back on board after two years and I continued for several more years on U16 & U14 results. Times certainly have changed and now with live results available on our mobile phones we get results within minutes of the event and the job is easier.

Champion School at NSW CHS

Westfields Sports won its first ever Champion school point-score in 1992 and held the title until 1996. In 1997 Sports Schools were separated into their own point-score. We have only failed to win the Overall point-score on 4 occasions (2008, 11, 14 & 16 which were won by Hills Sports)

Champion School:

Westfields Sports 92, 93, 94, 95, 96

Champion Sports Schools:

Westfields Sports: 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 09, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, (20 & 21 cancelled due to COVID)

NSWCHS Individual Awards

Interestingly, also at NSWCHS, the Queen Elizabeth Trophy (Outstanding individual performer) has only once been won by a Westfields student. It went to a 13-year-old Kurt Jenner in 2006 when he won Gold in 100, 200, long jump and silver in high jump. Chosen by a panel, this probably would explain why others haven't won. However, the Mumford Cup (winner of 17+ male 100m and Champion Cup (fastest female in 100m) has been won by Westfields Students:

Mumford Cup

2002 John Thornell

2013 Kyle Alexis

2017 Zac Zaineddine

2018 Godwin Opoku Mensah

Champion Trophy

2019 Shola Adeniran



*Mumford Cup winners at Fred O'Connor's memorial
Godwin, Zac, John and Kyle with Alan Jones*

Westfields Schools Challenge

On the 8th October 1992 Westfields held a School Challenge using the school oval. Events were conducted in 13, 15, 17 & 19 years 100m, long jump, discus, and 15 & 19 1500m walk and handicap

high jump. The handicap high jump was our own innovation which we believe has never been done before. Males and females of all ages were competing against each other. Their standing height was measured before the start of the event. The winner became the athlete whose percentage ratio between their best jump and standing height was the best. It was a brilliant concept which rewarded the ability to clear a height in relation to your own stature. The prize was \$100 (in today's money about \$500). Athletes from all over Sydney attended. And yes, the high jump was won by the shortest boy who cleared a height well above his standing height. He was from the Blue Mountains and later enrolled at Westfields. He unfortunately only stayed for one year quoting travelling as too difficult.

Lansdowne Zone Athletics Carnival held at Westfields Sports

In the late 80's the Lansdowne Zone was the largest Zone in NSW with 11 schools. Later in the 90's when Westfields opted out it was reduced to just 8 with two other schools joining other smaller zones. One particular year back in the 80's (I think it was 1989) the Lansdowne Zone Carnival had to be postponed due to weeks of torrential rain. All council grounds had been closed and back then, of course, there were no synthetic tracks. The only school carnivals that were conducted on synthetic were NSWCHS and NSW All Schools. As the Zone Convenor I chose a new date and booked the ground again (Makepeace Oval, Fairfield). We got washed out a second time and it was again cancelled. The Zone held an emergency meeting. We were running out of time before Region and unless we held the Lansdowne Zone carnival within the next week, we would not progress. The problem was we were prepared to hold the carnival in the rain on soggy ground, however, the councils would not open any grounds because of the damage that would occur. There was only one solution. Westfields volunteered to host the Lansdowne Zone Athletics Carnival at Westfields High School. In those days, Westfields held its own school carnival on the oval anyway. So why not go ahead and run the Zone carnival there as well? The track was 5 lanes and one lap was only 300m, so a 400m, for example was one and a third laps. The main disadvantage was the tightness of the curves, particularly in the 200m if you were in lane one. The 100m straight had 8 lanes.

The Javelin and shot put were held where the soccer cage currently exists, although it was then a hockey field and it was 8 metres lower than the League field with a footpath separating the two. The discus was up the back of the school. Where the current car park exists, the discus circle was located at the top of the stairs and was directed towards the current tennis courts. The lay of the land was completely different before the excavation exercise which brought the existing hockey field up 8 metres to be in line with the league field. At the top of the stairs the land containing the current car park actually was level all the way over to the edge of the current tennis courts. In other words the current throws area and tennis courts would have been about 10 metres underground. There were three long jump pits, all with grass run-ups, one located where the current one is, a second at the base of the current stairs to the car park and the third near the current walk bridge. One high jump area was on the halfway line of the league field and the other was on the edge of the hockey field. So, imagine 11 schools bringing their teams to Westfields. An average team is about 130 students making the total number of athletes about 1500 (plus teachers and parents). Spectators sat on the hills at the end of the Football field and along the grass verge at the side fence. The 100m straight was located next to the current runway starting at the goal line and running towards the hill. A 10 metre section up the hill had to be roped off so that athletes could run up the hill when coming to a stop. The carnival ran for two days. I honestly don't know how we pulled it off, but we did and the Zone team was picked and we progressed to Region.

Ansett Airlines Collapse

As previously mentioned Westfields second most successful Australian All Schools was to be held in Melbourne during December of 2001. Westfields had booked and pre-paid all its athletes and

coaches (almost 50 return airfares) with Ansett Australia. The total amount outlaid was well over \$12,000.00. Ansett has been operating as Australia's no. 2 and sometimes no 1. domestic carrier since 1935. Air New Zealand had been covertly buying up most of Ansett's public shares until finally in September of 2001, now in full control, the Ansett company was terminated. Air New Zealand had been reducing the cost of Ansett fares until they were at a point where they were losing profits and going 'into the red'. Air New Zealand had kept the looming demise to themselves and before they were about to shut Ansett down, they started flying all the physical assets (spare jet engines, parts and accessories etc) over to New Zealand. When the Ansett hanger at Sydney Airport was empty, they abruptly announced the company had collapsed. The Australian Government refused to bail them out and our flights were no more. Principal Phil Tucker came to the rescue and paid for mini-buses and vans and we transported our team of almost 50 by road to Victoria stopping overnight at a motel at the halfway point. Undeterred by the inconvenience, it became our 2nd most Successful trip ever when we won 29 medals, with 2 National records, 2 World Junior Qualifiers and 3 NSW Records.

Records

There are a total of 932 records in Westfields Athletics Club Records lists. There are basically four different types:

School records - Can only be achieved by Westfields Sports Students at School based Carnivals, E.G. Westfields Zone, SSW Region, NSWCHS, NSW All Schools, Australian All Schools, Knockouts, or any meeting where athletes are representing the school (not club).

Club records – Can only be achieved by registered members of WAC. These can occur at any official meeting whether it be school based or club based.

State, Australian, or International records – These are listed where a State, National or International record has been achieved and will remain forever (even though they may no longer exist). Examples are NSW, Australian, NSWCHS, NSW All Schools, Australian All Schools, etc.

Wind assisted – Times or jumps that are better than existing records are listed with a 'w'. They are not records, however are better than the current legal record. They were performed with a windmeter reading more than the 2.0 m/s legal limit.

Most number of records (current)

57 records	Dani Stevens (nee Samuels)
39 records	Scott Burriss
37 records	Shannon Hill
30 records	Fabrice Lapierre
28 records	John Thornell
28 records	Aleksandra Stoilova
27 records	Paul Stickler
26 records	Rashid Kabba
22 records	Kurt Jenner
20 records	Corinne Archer
20 records	Kate Connolly (Kernaghan)



Oldest Record

The Oldest record is held by Scott Winters 1986. It is a school record only because WAC wasn't formed until 1991. Scott set an Australian U16 100m hurdles record 13.76 (91cm). It can never be beaten because the current hurdles specification is only 84cm.

State Relays

Westfields were the Champion club in NSW for 6 years in a row 1999-2004. In fact during a 10 year period between 1998 and 2007 only once did we miss out on the top 3 clubs (4th in 2006).

This is an amazing achievement when considering WAC's membership numbers peaked at 110, but averaged during this 10 year period at about 80. This made us one of the smaller clubs in NSW.

During this period, the biggest clubs were UTS Norths (over 300), Bankstown (over 200) and Campbelltown (about 200).

The stats. below are based on most number of overall medals. WAC's placings were:

1998 2nd, 1999 1st, 2000 1st, 2001 1st, 2002, 1st, 2003, 1st, 2004 1st, 2005 2nd, 2006 4th, 2007 2nd.

Check back soon. WAC Trivia is regularly being updated.