

Message body

**From:** [jimweatherill@hotmail.com](mailto:jimweatherill@hotmail.com) (JIM WEATHERILL was Sunbury Community Health's 1st CEO)  
**To:** [annieadams@hotmail.com](mailto:annieadams@hotmail.com)  
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Here are some of Jim's recollections of the early years.

I can remember our Community Health Nurse producing a football from the boot of her car and enjoying a kick of the footy in the car park at the rear of the temporary build at the end of the day. Only problem, Frances was a better kick than her CEO – probably comes from having a brother who played for the Essendon Football Club (Jim Carstairs).

I remember the queue of people up along Gap Road wanting to register when we advertised Kath Hawkins' (volunteer) exercise classes as "Get In Shape for Summer" and we had so many participants that we had to move it to the Memorial Hall.

I can remember our ante-natal classes taking over practically all of the old centre building, and I can also remember when one afternoon a rather dishevelled gentleman opened the door to register at the CES desk, just inside the door. The CES had finished in the morning & ante-natal was in the afternoon – but this poor chap walked straight into a roomful of ladles spread out all over the floor.

I can remember the wonderful support we all received – especially me – from our Committee of Management, for the Centre's first six and a half years, and I am sure on-going after I left.

In particular, one message Winn Williamson taught me – "You don't wait till you are patting someone on the chest with a shovel to tell them how good they are – do it now."

The wonderful support we received from the local newspaper: editors Bill Morrison & Ian Fry were very generous in their tangible support for the Centre. Once Bill even offer to run a headline in RED Ink when the Centre had a funding problem with the Department. When the Department learned what the paper was thinking, the funding crisis suddenly disappeared!

The fun we used to have running the SCHC Cabarets and the wonderful support we had from the Daly & Przewlocki families and others. Even the time Bob Nixon agreed to fill in when our musicians were without a drummer. And he was darn good.

I seem to remember a young social worker donning fishnet tights to parade down the main streets with Hector the Cat for "Sunbury Safety Town" (the said social worker thinks this was at one of the Sunbury Fair parades...). Goodness, I should have got better photos - they might be worth something now. I could try them on Facebook, i.e. if I knew how Facebook works!

The way the Community Health Nurse and the Social Worker trained the CEO: that regularly it was his turn to make the coffee or tea, and that being a male did not have any privileges and certainly not when it came to kitchen duties (despite whatever had happened in his previous employment). It was a team effort.

Annie – I have so many wonderful memories. I look back on those years very fondly. I hope those that were there at the time do so too. I know one staff member has told me I was very forceful, and wanted my own way all the time. She still speaks to me (occasionally) – so I hope she at least understood where I was coming from.

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In writing this I should thank you and Frances for "belting" me into shape, and making me an acceptable Community Health CEO and a better person.

Warmest regards

Jim