

FRIENDS OF UWA ATHLETICS NEWSLETTER

No.15

June 2013

We apologise for the long interval between the last newsletter (December 2011) although there was extensive communication leading up to the launch of The Fatman's Odyssey last November.

1. Launch of The Fat Man's Odyssey, a history of the UWA Athletic Club

A very successful function took place at the UWA Water Sports Complex on November 2, 2012. 87 Friends and relatives of former club members attended to witness the official launch of the Club's history, by the immediate Past Vice Chancellor of the University of WA, Professor Alan Robson. The chatter and recollections filled the venue for many hours.

The publication was the result of four years painstaking research and writing by former UWAAC member Jim Wieland. The book not only serves as a wonderful record of athletics and athletes at UWA from the Irwin Street days, through its incorporation in 1928 up to 1985, but it also serves as a social history of UWA and Western Australian athletics generally. We were extremely fortunate to have an accomplished historian and former champion athlete in Jim Wieland as the book's author. Many favourable comments have been received from former athletes, for example, one from a former club stalwart of the 1960s who lives interstate, who stated "*having read my accomplishments in the book my family consider me something of a hero*".

145 copies of a print run of 200 had been sold or lodged with archival sources as at the end of May. If you have not obtained a copy please contact Eric Isaachsen on 9387 4357 or elpc@jinet.net.au.

The publication of the book was made possible by a generous grant from the University of WA, combined with funding from the Friends. The costs of publication have now been fully covered and \$1,070 has been remitted to the Club – as will all further sale proceeds.

The Editor of Uniview has reviewed the book and intends to publish an article on the club's history in the forthcoming June issue.

2. Friends of UWA Athletic Club Committee

The committee has met three times since December 2011, in March 2012, September 2012, and in April 2013. The Friends bank balance at 31 March 2013 was \$38,889. Apart from making a substantial contribution to the publication of 'The Fat Man's Odyssey', the committee made a grant towards the cost of UWAAC staging a seminar (for athletes and coaches) on nutrition and physiology, which was held in the second half of last year.

2.

3. 85th Anniversary Dinner

The UWAAC and the Friends committee have made a reservation at a venue to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the club's foundation on Friday, 11 October, 2013. Please put this date in your diary and look forward to receiving further details in the coming months.

Eric Isaachsen and Don Young