

FABER EST

THE FORTIANS UNION

BULLETIN

Produced for former students of:

- ❖ Fort Street Girls' High School
- ❖ Fort Street Boys' High School
- ❖ Fort Street High School



NUMBER 91

May 2018



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Annual Dinner



The Annual Dinner will be held this year on **Friday 19 October** at **Club York**, York Street, Sydney. Our Guest Speaker will be **Professor Maria Skyllas-Kazacos** (1969).

We are looking forward to hearing about her pioneering work in energy storage, a very topical issue at the moment. Maria pioneered the Vanadium Redox Flow Battery that is currently being commercially manufactured by several companies in Japan, USA, China, UK and Germany and is widely regarded as the most appropriate technology for large-scale energy storage in a wide range of applications.

Thanks to a generous donation to cover room hire fee for a larger venue, from Woodland Productions, an on-line TV production company – **Jan Wood** (Janine Murphy 1969), there are no restrictions on numbers this year. Organise your year groups now, there is a booking form for the Dinner included with this newsletter. **Bookings must close Friday 5 October.**

Annual General Meeting

As has been our recent practice, the AGM was held at the end of the Annual Dinner, on Friday 20 October, 2017. The following were elected to the **Committee**:

President- **Gordon Hill** (1962); Vice-President, (Male) **Sigi Cerveny** (1968); Vice-President, (Female) **Denice Smith** (1969); Secretary **Don Newby** (1967); Treasurer **Rob Vine**, (1969) Committee Members **Karen Charles** (1973); **George Jaksic** (1971); **Colin Long** (1965) and **Glenn Maddock** (1977).

It is with great sadness that we note the recent passing of **George Jaksic (Fortian 1971)**. George was a great supporter of the Fort Street school community through his extensive involvement with the Fortians Union, where



he was a committee member from 1990, also serving as President, for a number of years, and with the Fort Street Foundation, where he was a director, from its incorporation in 1997. George ran a publishing business, and many will recall his collaboration with Ron Horan on our school histories and their Song and Spelling books. His other publications include works on Dame Joan Sutherland and St Mary MacKillop, and a beautiful book depicting Orthodox Church icons. He was planning on a new edition of Ron Horan's *Fort Street*, bringing the detailed 1989 history of the school up to recent years. George was always keen to put in a word for Fort Street whenever selective schools came up in media discussion, and his was a familiar name in the Herald's Column 8 and Letters pages.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Kristen and daughter Eloise.



As printing and postage costs continue to rise please consider receiving your *Faber Est* by email. Requests to don.newby@bigpond.com

FORT FEST Fort Fest 2018 - Sunday 17 June

FortFest is here again!



The Fort Street Festival has a rich and long tradition. Originally known as the 'Fort Street School Bazaar', it was started by students in 1897 to raise funds for the school. The SRC (Student Representative Council) and students still maintain a vital role in the organising of this bi-annual event.

Fort Fest is our **MAJOR COMMUNITY and FUNDRAISING EVENT** and we welcome all families to get involved. The day is non-stop FUN with Student Stalls, A Talent Quest, Fest Stalls – second hand books, plants, trash and treasure, International food to thrill your taste buds and musical entertainment from our talented IMP and visiting bands.

Support the School by attending Fort Fest on 17 June

Speech Day

2018 Speech Day was held on **Friday, 16 February**, at the Sydney Town Hall. This year Speech Day recognised **Ros**



Moxham's outstanding contribution to the school as Principal, over the past 17 years.

2018 Speech Day Photos are courtesy of NSW Education



The two guest speakers were **Michael Kirby** (Fortian 1955) who rose to become a Justice of the High Court, and **Murat Dizdar** (dux 1990) who rose rapidly through the teaching ranks to become principal of

Punchbowl Boys' High at a young age; his career has seen him be Director of the largest public schools region in NSW and he is now the Education Department's Deputy Secretary of School Operations and Performance.

From **Michael Kirby's** speech:



Ros Moxham's career as a teacher in public schools has been outstanding. Parents, citizens and community must repeatedly express their thanks for such outstanding teachers. The

impact on the lives of future generations is incomparable. More gratitude and more rewards for these moulders of the values of our nation are definitely in order. For someone who has been a great teacher and also a great leader and principal, special praise is due.

*Academic: She has led the school to the very strong focus on outstanding academic achievements. In recent years Fort Street has quite literally been restored to one of the highest achieving secondary schools of the State and of the nation. In 2014 we celebrated the achievements of **Janek Drevikovsky**, who led the results in coming first in the State in five subjects. In 2016 **Dominic Dwyer** led the result with first in French and also Modern History – the subject in which I came first in 1955. In 2017, Fort Street emerged as “the star performer when it comes to the number of courses it topped, with four students taking first place in six subjects.” Whilst examination results are certainly not the only mark of a school, they do reflect, to some extent, its priorities. High achievement has been a steady goal of the Fort Street staff under Ros Moxham's leadership.*

Ros has also developed mightily the music program of the school, with marvellous orchestral, string, jazz and choral performances.

Infrastructure: A school is more than its buildings and facilities. But they are the environment in which achievements can be pursued. On Ros Moxham's watch, the Fanny Cohen and Evelyn Rowe Buildings were completed to enhance the facilities of the school. This is the kind of mind that Ros Moxham has encouraged at Fort Street. The school has always been, to some degree, different. Proud of its alumni. But not overproud. Constantly questioning. Not living in the past. Regularly criticising. In my day, a student was not obliged to be brilliant in sport or cadets. Drama and debating would do just as well. Fort Street has always been a bit zany. This tradition Ros Moxham has maintained and enhanced by her endorsement of diversity in the school.

In recent years, with Ros Moxham's encouragement, John Singleton AM (Fortian 1958) and I agreed to offer two scholarships to encourage originality and to challenge status quo thinking. We hope and expect that those who win this prize will continue the strong Fortian tradition of pushing the envelope and expanding our human aspirations. My brother David Kirby QC (Fortian 1960) presented the first prizes last year. I will do so for John Singleton and me at this ceremony.

Ros Moxham took Fort Street beyond the conjugation of French verbs; the justification of Boyle's law; the proof that the Earth circles around the sun; and rote learning of Wordsworth's poems. She built on the School's high traditions. She added new creativity. And she never forgot the precious object of teaching at a school like Fort Street: the individual student, with distinctive needs, inherent human dignity and breathtaking potential.

Email copies of Michael Kirby's speech are available from the Fortians Union: denice.smith@bigpond.com

From **Murat Dizdar**: Thank you, Karen Di Stefano, our Acting Principal for allowing me the opportunity to speak at the Fort Street High School 2018 Speech Day and in particular to honour my colleague Ros Moxham's terrific leadership of our great school.

Ros has carefully overseen the education of gifted and talented students at Fort Street High School for 17 years. Research indicates that effective and sustained school improvement and transformation takes at least 6 years of outstanding leadership. Ros has more than met what the research points to.

I would like to acknowledge her outstanding leadership on behalf of the Department of Education and the student and families of Fort Street High School.

Ros has encouraged and celebrated the diversity of her students. Her compassion for, belief in and celebration of student achievement is well recognised in our system. Ros I thank you for promoting excellence and asking that your students approach each day with vigour and determination, always striving to excel and encouraging high expectations. You have made a huge contribution not only to this great school but also to the support and growth of your colleagues through your work with the NSW

Secondary Principals' Council and what was then the Board of Studies. I look forward to working with you in your capacity as Director, Educational Leadership. I know you will continue to serve the students in our schools well through your work supporting principals.

Fort Street High School has a long-standing history of providing an outstanding education for its cohort of students. Fort Street High School established in 1849 is our oldest academically selective school in NSW. Fort Street High School has a unique place in history in education in this country, having educated and nurtured some of the most prominent and influential citizens in Australia including Australia's first Prime Minister, Sir **Edmund Barton** and the great **Michael Kirby**.

I stand before you today as a former Fort Street High School student. I remember my time at Fort Street High fondly with my teachers challenging and extending my learning, helping to shape the person I am today. Robert Baker, Warren Griffiths, Marie Johanson, Anne Draper and Hart Sturm Teacher quality is the greatest in school influence on student engagement and outcomes followed by the influence of the school principal.

I owe my teachers and Fort Street High School for the great education platform that propelled a working-class housing commission young boy in Glebe to a position of enormous privilege and in one which I take great delight in influencing and shaping the equity values of public education in NSW. Who I am, Who I have become can be traced back to Summer Hill PS and Fort Street HS. I am just one example of the outcome of the public education system in NSW that we should always look to strengthen.



Is Vera our oldest Fortian?

Now aged 102, Vera is probably our oldest Fort Street graduate. Vera Howard, nee **Pausey**, (born 27 August 1915) with her daughter Katrina. The photo was taken by Greg Reading on 29 January 2017 while Vera was in Sydney visiting her daughter Katrina. Vera still makes the

trip up and back from Melbourne by herself on the overnight train. Thanks to Fortian Greg Reading (1959).

Graffiti for a greater good

Billy Snow (**Fortian 1955**) was one of the founders of BUGA UP (Billboard Utilising Graffitists Against Unhealthy Promotions), a movement that used witty and subversive graffiti to expose the glossy falsehoods of powerful corporations.

As a civic-minded graffitist and anti-smoking radical, Snow made a colourful and unique contribution to the banning of tobacco advertising in Australia and the realisation of a smoke-free society.



Many people unknowingly have treasured mementos of Billy in their home or office: for years he printed all Sydney University degrees on his 19th century printing press. He risked his job when he refused to print an honorary degree for a tobacco industry luminary. But it was a shift to modern printing technology that made him redundant in the early

1990s – this confirmed his growing dislike of digital technology, which he felt was taking over people's lives. After Fort Street, where he excelled at debating, he began work as a printer's mechanic and rebelled against his strict Salvation Army upbringing by immersing himself in the early rock'n'roll scene.

After national service he took off for a decade-long adventure of sailing and backpacking around the world, and worked as a printer in Japan, London and San Francisco. Back in Sydney, he supported a legal action against a bus driver for assault with tobacco smoke. This led to Billy and others forming the Non-Smokers Rights Movement in 1978. Snow was an avid campaigner for peace and the environment. In the 1980s he put his sailing skills to use with the Sydney Peace Squadron to protest against nuclear armed ships in Sydney Harbour.

He supported Indigenous issues and funded Burnum Burnum's trip to England in 1988, Australia's "bicentenary" year. Snow stood on the beach at Dover on January 26 as Burnum Burnum planted the Aboriginal flag and claimed Britain on behalf of the Aboriginal people. (*Adapted from the SMH*)

A writer of great elegance



Sylvia Lawson (1949) was an intellectual and writer of great elegance who helped revive the Australian film industry in the 1960s and establish the Sydney Film Festival.

Sylvia, who died last November at the age of 85,

devoted her life to exploring and interrogating politics and culture through her witty, acerbic and beautifully crafted writing.

At Sydney University she became involved in the causes that would preoccupy her for the rest of her life: film aesthetics and film culture.

As a cadet journalist at the *Sydney Morning Herald* she was frustrated, as many female journalists were then, at being confined to "women's issues". In 1958 she began to write for the fortnightly magazine *Nation*. Here her campaigning for Australian cinema began, notably in a scathing review of *The Sundowners*, writing: "It's horrifying that we should

have to be so touchingly grateful to Warners Brothers for giving this continent a pat on the head, for throwing a few pink galahs on to the screen.”

From her student days she became involved in the Sydney Film Festival. She co-programmed the 1959 Sydney Film Festival and attended and wrote about most of them until the last few years of her life. She championed political, feminist and Indigenous films and filmmakers over four decades.

Her later books reflect some of her great passions, including the history of war-time and post-war France, and the story of the glory and tragedy of the Sydney Opera House.

Congratulations to Jan Stephenson (1969) on being awarded the MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION, in 2018, for her service to golf, and to not-for-profit organisations.

REUNIONS –

From **Morag Napier (Henderson 1953)** the Girls of '53 will be celebrating 65 years since leaving Fort Street at a special luncheon on Friday, 26th October 2018 back at FSGHS (National Trust Building). Contact for this event is **Ruth Johnson (Dixon)** 0451 993 050 or by email – skj1234@bigpond.com or Morag at moragnap@fastmail.fm



From **Jenny Gray** on the Lost Fort Street Facebook page (posted 20 March): *Looking for ex-Fortian girls, 4th Form Class of 1971, 6th Form 1973. There will be a Marrickville Primary School Reunion on Saturday November 17th, 2018. Does anyone have contact details for the following ladies: Karen Faulkner, Lorraine Studdert and Rhonda Elliott. Please contact me Jenny Gray (Whyte) for details of the reunion at: jenny@lincinc.com.au*



Some Fort Street Olympic trivia

The Olympic Games are considered the world's foremost sports competition with more than 200 nations participating. From 241 participants representing 14 nations at the first modern Games in Athens in 1896, the Olympics Games have grown to about 10,500 competitors from 204 nations at the 2012 Summer Olympics. While the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea hosted 2,873 athletes from 88 nations. Some of the past Fortians who have brought great honour by winning medals include **Freddie Lane, Harold Hardwick, Betty McKinnon** and **June Maston**.

Take a look at the list, below, of other Fortians who have participated in the Olympics. It makes you wonder who, amongst the current cohort of Fort Street students, could be Australia's next great Olympian.

- **Marilyn Black** - bronze medal in 200m 1964 Tokyo Olympics
- **Judy Wilson Canty** - long jump 1948 London Olympics. **Harold Hardwick** - gold medal for swimming 1912 Stockholm Olympics.
- **Jon Henricks** – two gold medals for swimming 1956 Melbourne Olympics
- **Freddie Lane** - first Fortian to win a gold medal at the modern Olympics in Paris 1900 for the 200 metres swimming and gold for the 200 metres obstacle swim.
- **Betty McKinnon** and **June Maston** – were two of only nine Australian, female athletes at the 1948 London Olympic Games. In the 4 X 100 metres relay their team finished 2nd. This was Australia's first relay medal in Olympic athletics. Betty also competed in the 100 & 200 metres while June also competed in the long jump in London.
- **Ian McLaughlain** - water polo 1972 Munich Olympics
Marlene Matthews - two bronze medals for 100 metres and 200 metres 1956 Melbourne Olympics
- **Liz Weekes** and **Taryn Woods** - water polo player 2000 Sydney Olympics



From the very talented class of 1977, **Nalini Joshi** was elected a fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in March 2008, and has held a number of positions in the Australian Mathematical Society, including its presidency from December 2008 to September 2010. She was also a

board member of the Australian Mathematics Trust (2010–13) She has been on the National Committee for Mathematical Sciences since January 2010. In 2012, Joshi became a Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellow, which involves the five-year project, *Geometric construction of critical solutions of nonlinear systems*. In 2015, she was the 150th Anniversary Hardy Lecturer, an award by the London Mathematical Society involving an extensive series of lectures throughout the United Kingdom. In June 2016, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia. Thanks to committee member **Glen Maddock** for this information – we will see more of this talented class in future issues of *Faber Est*.



Simply search for **Fortians Union**

We would love to receive articles or photos for inclusion in either the *Faber Est* or on our Facebook page. Please email us: denice.smith@bigpond.com
