

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



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at the conclusion of the Dinner on Friday 18 October 2019. The following were elected to your Committee, thanks to the previous Committee Members for their support.

President: Denice SMITH (69)
VP Male: Glenn MADDOCK (77)
VP Female: Karen CHARLES (73)
Secretary: Rob VINE (69)
Treasurer: Don NEWBY (67)
Committee Members: Liz ALDERSON (69),
Jan WOOD (69)

School Council: Don NEWBY

Foundation: Karen CHARLES

Patrons: The Hon. Michael KIRBY, Maria SKYLLAS-KAZACOS, Olive COUTTS and The Hon. Ian COHEN

Our Guest Speaker, **Ian COHEN** (69) was introduced by Fortian Committee member, **Liz ALDERSON** (ALLARD 69). "Ian and I met at a Fort Street Boys High School dance. Remember those? How many romances started in that hall? You would probably remember spending more time in other parts of the school being caught by the Ron Horan's torch light. After all, we were the class of '69. I was Ian's surfer girl – most of our dates were spent driving to some remote location where I sat on the beach watching him surf. And eating my mother's fresh tomato sandwiches.

After school I went on to lead my brilliant life while Ian entered a life of crime through his activist antics".

Here is a man who

- Tied himself to a bulldozer deep in the rainforests
- Had confrontations with loggers
- Played a leading role in the Franklin River Campaign and the Daintree in Queensland
- Protested against the World Bank because they were encouraging third world countries to cut down their rainforests.

He gained world-wide notoriety in 1986 from the picture of him surfing the bow of a US nuclear armed warship.

The picture went global before the concept of viral was even thought of, making the front page of *The New York Times* and *The Guardian*. It gained him an international profile as an environmental activist.

In 1995 he became the first Green member to the NSW Parliament; he was a member of Parliament for 16 years. His first political action was to organize an international campaign which successfully stopped the French testing in the South Pacific.

Ian has written a book called *Green Fire* which give his personal account of the Australian environmental protest movement. He has also written and collaborated in many publications and regularly contributes to mainstream media on environmental and social justice issues, including disabled surfing and the clean seas coalition. Ian is also actively involved in sustainable fishing and marine conservation. After surviving the tsunami in Sri Lanka, he stayed to help in the reconstruction.

Our school motto translates to "Each man is the maker of his own fortune". I won't even attempt to say it in its original Latin. In a speech from a former student in the 1969 Fort Street Boys magazine it was noted that fortune in this case does not mean "fortune" or 'success' in the hollow social or financial sense. Instead it is the achievement of something that is purposeful, the attainment of a position where you can give back to Society. Ian has done this in spades. Always fighting for the environment and social justice".

Ian then spoke about his time as a student of Fort Street Boys' High and his 'career' in activism then his later career as a politician.

NOT JUST A SCHOOL: A HOME

Thanks to Committee member **Gordon HILL** (62) for the following: *At each annual dinner, The Fortians Union invites two senior students to speak. This year we heard from Aimeira Sant and Bridget Gard, the President and Vice-President of the Student Representative Council for 2018-19. Here is a summary of Aimeira's address.*

Fort Street to me is a family; a family of eccentric, strong-minded and talented young people who preach acceptance

and treasure each other, irrespective of any characteristic. *The Fort* is the only place I've ever felt I truly fit in. For my first 10 years I lived in England, so I've been to several schools and part of various communities. But until I arrived at Fort Street, I never felt like I actually belonged. Thus, the pride I have for this school is unsurpassable, and has been ever since my first day in Year 7.

The list of extracurriculars Fort Street has to offer was one of the school's main attractions for me -- debating, public speaking, mock trial, playing violin in the Instrumental Music Program. I've rarely had much free time.

Although Fort Street is known for its academics, sport has always been a passion for me. I've represented the school in cross-country athletics and water polo at Regional levels, and Captained the girls touch footy, soccer and indoor soccer teams, where we've won countless games, gold medals and played at state competitions. Feel free to ask any current Fort Street boys about their sporting achievements, but they won't admit the girls are dominating.

It has been a privilege to be part of the Student Representative Council, made up of eight student leaders selected from each grade as well as eight "executives" from Year 11 -- which has been us for the past year.

The SRC has allowed Bridget and me to be drivers of change within the Fort. We've implemented an impressive list, such as new futsal courts, water-bottle refilling stations, better toilet paper -- the list goes on.

We've attended multiple leadership days, seminars and conferences including the International Women's Day Breakfast, my favourite event for this year. In all honesty, I don't know where I'd be without the SRC and who I'd be without Fort Street. My experience at the school has been more than just a student; it has been my home.



It is with great sadness we note the passing of Gary John **WHALE** Fortian 1955 -- 1960 on 25 September 2019. The Clarence Valley in Northern New South Wales lost a well-known educator and community member with the death of Gary Whale.

Whatever Gary did, he did well, and after moving to Kyogle then Casino High, he moved to Maclean High

School in 1987 to become the head of the English/History Department and was known by staff and his pupils as a teacher of excellence.

With Rotary Women, he founded the Inner Wheel public speaking competition for students at Maclean High and was a strong supporter of the Teachers' Federation.

He was well-known for his involvement in social justice causes such as the peace movement and reconciliation with indigenous Australians. He wrote the Wave Hill strike into the high school history syllabus and recently ordered copies of *Dark Emu* by Bruce Pascoe for the local library.

Gary will be keenly missed by his community, but especially by his close family, Barbara, his wife, Jonathan and Caitlin, and his grandchildren.

Thanks to **Anne Schaeffer** (nee Cheeseman), Fortian 1968 for sending this notice to the Committee.

Faber est will become an E-Bulletin from 1 July 2020

Recently a number of Fortians have changed from the paper bulletin, and are now receiving *Faber est* electronically. Due to increased postage and printing costs, currently over \$1,000 for each bulletin, your Committee has sadly had to make the decision that after June next year, **ALL copies of the bulletin will be emailed**. If you have an email address, and have received this bulletin through the post, please tell us your email address.

If you do not have a personal email, please give us that of a friend or relative who could print it out for you. We will also ask the school to upload each issue on the Fortians Union page on the school's website:

<https://www.fortstreet.nsw.edu.au/community/fortians-union/>

Or you can view it through our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Fortians-Union-265200806826696/>

If your email address changes with your connection to the NBN, or because you have changed your provider, please send us your new details -- don.newby@bigpond.com

Also, if you have moved, please let us know your new address.



A request from the School Principal, Juliette McMurray...

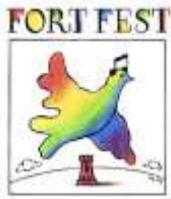
"As a valued member of our alumni community, we'd like to offer the opportunity

for you to return to your school to mentor a current young student. Raise Foundation is a registered Australian charity who offer one-on-one mentoring to 10-16 students in high schools. Any new community mentors must be 21 years of age or older and complete a training course, a Working with Children Check, National Crime Check and telephone interview. Current students are invited to attend the mentoring program by teachers who feel the student might benefit from having a positive neutral role model in their lives. If you feel you would like to give back to your school by helping to mentor the next generation of young people and have a couple of hours to spare across Terms 2 and 3 of the school year, please apply via this link:

<https://raise.org.au/volunteer/> "

WHAT'S COMING UP

Fort Street Speech Day 2020 – Friday 21 February. from 10:00 at the **Sydney Town Hall**. All Fortians are invited to attend. Seats are reserved at the front of the hall, right side, if you arrive by 9:40. If you arrive after 10:00, seats will be available at the rear of the hall, or in the galleries



Fort Fest 2020 – is Fort Street High School's major biennial community building and fundraising event. With a myriad of stalls, entertainment, fabulous IMP (musical) performances and fun and games. Keep **Sunday 30th August** free.

2020 Fortians Union Dinner will be on **Friday 16 October** at the Sir Stamford Hotel, Macquarie St Sydney. Please start organising your year groups now as space is limited. **Suggestions for a female Fortian Guest Speaker are welcome.** ✉ denice.smith@bigpond.com



1949 IC and 1951 LC "old girls" have gathered again this year for our annual reunion at the cafe at the old school. The school stairs are our favourite place to take our photo. We all have memories of being there at various times. Young members of the National Trust wanted to take a photo too and were impressed

that we had been together at school so long ago. Angela Balding and myself Nancye McKelvey started kindergarten at Russell Lea Infants in January 1940. PHOTO CAPTION: From left to right, **Nancye McKelvey** [Adcock] **Jeanette Barrie** [Parkin] Ellen Morton [Carr] **Faye Clark**, **Norma Geribo** [Smith] **Yvonne Lowe** [Brunker] Angela Baling [Hooper] **Judith Trewin** [Lucas] **Merriel Treseder** [Begg] **Pamela Peterson** [Mills] Margaret Parady [Simon]. Thank you Nancye for this article.

SUMMER TIME IN AUSTRALIA is synonymous with bushfires and cricket! Fortians have been out there in spades with **Josh SZEPS** (95) reporting on the ABC and **Janek DREVIKOVSKY** (2014) reporting on many aspects of the horrendous bushfires for the *Sydney Morning Herald*. See link: <https://www.smh.com.au/by/janek-drevikovskyy-p4yvp4>

Now to the cricket – thanks to **Colin LONG** (65) and **Rodney CAVALIER** (65) for sharing the following Fortian cricket trivia.



IMAGE: COURTESY OF THE SCG MUSEUM

Thanks to Anthony O'Carroll. Behold, the Turner Stand. (Search along roof line, right of middle of the image, painted in white scroll 'Turner Stand'). Image scanned from Sydney Sports Ground (SSG) Press Clippings Book, year 1919. Item held in SSG archives.

Who was Turner? Shown right is **JW Turner** and Sir George Knibbs (far left). John William Turner (1849-1913). In 1889, he became head of Fort Street Model School and master of method at the Fort Street Training School. His role was extended in 1893 when the two institutions were amalgamated



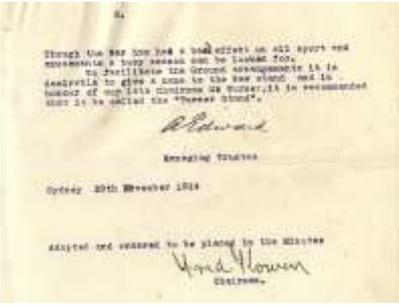
under the one head. He supervised the introduction of secondary education to the school, was commanding officer of the cadet corps and found time to produce an operetta or cantata each year. A strict disciplinarian, he was affectionately known by his pupils as 'The Boss'.

In 1902 Turner and (Sir) George Knibbs were appointed by the government to investigate overseas developments in primary, secondary, technical and other branches of education.

Appointed assistant under-secretary to Board in the Department of Public Instruction on 8 February 1905, Turner succeeded Knibbs as superintendent of technical education in June 1906. An efficient administrator, he did his best in the post, but realized that Board gave priority to improving primary and secondary education. Turner fought to obtain appropriate facilities, encouraged staff involvement in decision-making and fostered technical education in country regions.

A keen sportsman, he was a trustee of the Athletic Sports Ground at Moore Park and encouraged the teaching of swimming. He was a Freemason, a foundation member (president 1900-02) of the Public Service Association of New South Wales, and sometime vice-president of the Boys' Brigade and the short-lived Child Study Association. Source: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/turner-john-william-8889>

Mr Turner was not only a founding Trustee of the Sports Ground, he was the first Chairman. When it came to naming the grandstand, the Trustees resolved to name it after Mr Turner. See extract from *Sports Ground Minutes below*. Does any other Fort Street Principal have a grandstand named after him? In 1951 the NSW Parliament passed legislation amalgamating the Sydney Cricket Ground and the Sydney Sports Ground. The SCG spent its capital on extensive ground improvements and a major refurbishing of the Turner Stand.



In 1986-88 the SCG Trustees demolished the Sports Ground and SCG no.2 to create the Sydney Football Stadium. The Turner Stand disappeared. There is no memorial I know of to Mr Turner at

the grounds.

Daily Telegraph (Sydney, NSW: 1883 - 1930), Saturday 26 July 1913, page 22

AN ADDRESS UNSPOKEN. MR TURNER'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY. At a public meeting held some week ago it was decided to organise testimonial to Mr. J. W. Turner in recognition of his 50 years of service in the education of the State. The manuscript was found on Thursday on his desk, and "The Daily Telegraph" has been privileged to publish it.

FORT-STREET. In 1889 I was promoted to the Model Public School, Fort-street, the "blue ribbon" of the profession, on the recommendation of the late Mr Edwin Johnson, Under-Secretary. It was a proud day for me when I took charge of Fort-street. I felt my responsibilities, but I saw my possibilities. The school had a name famous throughout Australia, and I set out on my task fully determined to maintain all its great traditions, and to build even a greater school than any of my famous predecessors. The attendance increased rapidly to 1000 boys, the limit of seating accommodation, successful examinations including matriculation direct to the University were recorded, and sport was well organised. But the hopes and aspirations of the staff were seriously endangered at the outset of our attempt to introduce secondary education. The trouble was that we had gone beyond the bounds of primary education! For a public school to do this, and set up a High School standard, was contrary to the regulations, it was alleged, and antagonistic to the existing High Schools. An inquiry was instituted before the Chief Inspector, and the case against Fort-street stated by the senior inspector. A second city inspector was strongly opposed to any public school attempting advanced work. The case against us looked very black, and our hopes were down to zero. When the third city inspector, a Glasgow University graduate, spoke in favor of the advanced work at Fort-street from actual experience and said that his opportunity for obtaining a University education was due to the fact that in his native town he had been helped by such a school as Fort-street. This turned the scale in our favor, and in the true history of how Fort-street became a High School. This incident happened nearly 20 years ago, and the young inspector of that day is now the Chief Inspector of Schools in New South Wales. A stirring event in the history of Fort-street was the commemoration of its jubilee in 1899. The occasion was marked by several functions which were carried out on a grand scale. A great sports demonstration was held on the Sydney Cricket Ground, a choir of upwards of 1000 children rendered an ode, specially written, and a banquet under vice-regal patronage was attended by a numerous gathering of representative citizens in the Sydney Town-hall.



Source:
Wheeler Centre

DID YOU KNOW that **PHIL KAFCALOUDS** is a Fortian? He has worked as a journalist and presenter for many years on radio and TV. The following comes from Phil's website: <https://philkafcaloudes.com/about/> For nine years he was the voice of Australia on the ABC's international arm, Radio Australia, hosting a current

affairs/chat style show, interviewing the major minds of our time, along the big names in arts, including most of the Booker Prize winners of the last 20 years, James Bonds, dancers, Shakespeareans and musicians. Before that he was a political reporter for ABC TV News, and arts editor at ABC NewsRadio. In 2013 he was recognised with a Highly Commended in the International Radio Personality category of the Asians Broadcasting Union awards.

His solo show from Guangzhou in China in 2007 was the ABC's first English broadcast from mainland China. He also presented shows from Singapore, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Samoa.

Phil was an originating presenter on the News Breakfast TV program on the national ABC News 24 television network, and has been a guest presenter on *Insiders* with Barrie Cassidy. Phil's third book *Someone Else's War*, a novel based on the life of his Greek spy grandmother, sold out its first edition in three months. The Greek translation went into reprint in Europe in three weeks. As a trainer, he worked in South Africa training SABC journalists in the months after Nelson Mandela came to power. He was also the ABC's National Journalism trainer and worked for UNICEF in Vietnam. For a Churchill Fellowship in 2002, he travelled to the U.S., U.K., Canada, Germany and the Netherlands to study how journalists are trained to deal with trauma



Photos from the 2019 Dinner – the largest group were the **1969 SCHOOL LEAVERS** acknowledging 50 years since they left school! Of course, as one the girls of '69, they thought they had aged better than the boys!

