

# FABER EST

THE FORTIANS UNION

## BULLETIN



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NUMBER 66

SEPTEMBER 2003

Produced for former students of:

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

## Annual Dinner

Date: **Friday October 17**

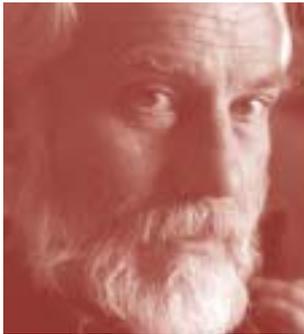
Cost: \$55. Time: 7pm

Venue: All Seasons Menzies Hotel, Wynyard

Guest speaker is **HELMUT BAKAITIS ('61)**, respected actor and theatre director, who has played a wide variety of roles from The Architect in the latest Matix film to King Lear (pictured) and is Head of Directing at NIDA.

Don't miss out on this great chance to hear a fascinating speaker.

Funds raised at the dinner will go to re-establish an **annual Speech Day prize** in the Fortians Union's name. For many years



such a prize was given, but somewhere along the line this lapsed. The school's prize coordinator, Lyn Trevini, agrees that reviving it will strengthen links between the union and students. Principal Ros Moxham will announce the names of the buildings, a ceremony is planned at the School in May.

**BOOKINGS CLOSE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10**

Phone Denice Smith on 9667 2142 or 0409 652 942



**Speech Day 2004:** Friday morning, February 20 at Sydney Town Hall

**Fortians Union annual general meeting**  
Wednesday March 17, 2004

**Annual dinner:** Friday October 15, 2004.



As we compile this issue of Faber Est, we learn that the School Foundation's Gala Fundraiser in September was called off because it didn't look like making the numbers. The Foundation passes on its thanks to those who supported the venture. We will let you know via Faber Est what's planned for the future.

## School history display at Observatory Hill

Two display panels featuring highlights of Fortian history now hang in the entrance lobby of the National Trust headquarters - thanks to the efforts of the **Class of '61**.

At their 40th anniversary two years ago, the former students of Fort Street Girls' High School proposed setting up a photographic montage tracing the building and the school's history. The montage would serve as a visual reminder for visitors to the building on Observatory Hill that for nearly 130 years it was the site of Fort Street School and a centre of learning not only for male and female Fortians but for teachers training in public education.

National Trust director Elsa Atkin approved the project with enthusiasm, suggesting expansion of the idea into areas of recording oral history from former pupils and possible guided tours on specific days.

The Class of '61 provided the funds for the montage, with a small group undertaking painstaking pictorial and historical research, aided by the Fortians Union and the excellent books by Ron Horan and Clarice Morris as a major resource. The Trust designed and reproduced the two panels which now hang in the Trust entrance lobby.

The Trust also offered to display a collection of memorabilia in a cabinet in the lobby and at a ceremony before the Class of '61 annual lunch on September 13, Conservation director Jacqui Goddard formally presented the panels.

"The National Trust believes that the recent past has just as important a part to play in our understanding of place and of ourselves as the more distant," said Jacqui.



**REUNIONS:** Special get-togethers at the annual dinner on October 17 will include the **girls of '73**; call **Michele Sowden** 9799 2428, or email

michelecb@bigpond.com and **Bruce Moxon** is arranging the **class of '79**: contact him on [Brucemoxon@aol.com](mailto:Brucemoxon@aol.com)

**Cathy Williamson** (nee Bishop, '79-'81) is interested to contact Fortians of those years for a reunion. [cathykw@ozemail.com.au](mailto:cathykw@ozemail.com.au) or phone (02) 9564 3142.

Calling **Melbourne Fortians**: **Jennifer Welzel** (nee Avery, '60) writes: "I live in Melbourne and would be interested to know of any other female Fortians here, for contact re functions and perhaps travel to Sydney together." Contact [welzel@ozemail.com.au](mailto:welzel@ozemail.com.au)

From England, **Teddy Gray** ('53) has written: "I was interested to read in the latest Faber Est about the reunion of 1953 on September 22. Although I cannot attend, I send greetings to all those I haven't seen for half a century." School friends can contact Edwina (Teddy) Gray at 5 East Northdown Close, Margate Kent UK CT9 3YA, email [Ted@blinkybill.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Ted@blinkybill.fsnet.co.uk)

**50th Anniversary Reunion**: Valma Steward invites the girls of 1950-'54 to a reunion planned for August-September 2004. If interested contact Valma by phone 9386 5281 or email: [vsteward@bigpond.com](mailto:vsteward@bigpond.com) or write to 12 Leichhardt St, Waverley NSW 2024.

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## On Air

The item in the last Faber Est on two young Fortians now on Sydney radio prompted a note from **Arnold Milton ('55)** to remind us of his brother-in-law, the ABC journalist and broadcaster **Phil Kafcaloudes ('77)**, "a real achiever who recently won a Churchill Foundation Scholarship for research on trauma experienced by journalists."

In a varied career, Phil has been a court and political reporter, a manager (which he didn't like because he "hates ties and shoes") and journalism trainer. He has reported from South Africa, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Pacific. He's working on his third book, a fictionalised account of his grandmother's work as a British spy in Greece in World War II.

At school Phil wanted to be a doctor or a rock drummer. "But one of my first jobs was at 2KY. **John Singleton** had a program then; we got to talking and when he found out I went to Fort Street too he gave me the job as his producer."

Phil's brother **Michael** is also a Fortian ('73). These days Phil lives in Melbourne, and can be heard on the ABC's Newsradio network, presenting brief news rundowns throughout the morning and Artyfacts snippets at 8.58am, 3.40pm and 6.40pm.

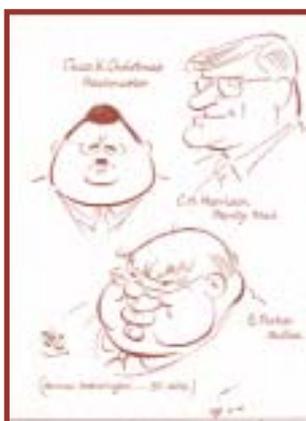
Another Fortian on air is **Pam Hamory**, who writes: "Thought you'd like to know I have my own breakfast show on Mondays with Eurobodalla Radio 107.5

2EARFM (which appeals to my sense of humour). I am still teaching and lecturing (about 37 years) as well as being in private practice (12 years).

"I left Fort Street in 1965 and I think Jeanie Stuart would be pleased I did come out of my shell. She did everything to get me to play Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream. I was too shy and insecure to do something like that, but still have an impish sense of humour, joie de vivre, and love it all. The teachers I had, especially at Fort Street, certainly encouraged and fostered potential I didn't even know I had.

"My program is a mix of lively music, humour, children's interests, relaxation, gardening tips, nutrition, education and natural medicine. Should you be on the South Coast, tune in on Mondays, give me a call and I'll add that into my program. I love the phone-ins and unexpected callers."

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## By Norman's hand

These caricatures of Mr Christmas, Deputy Head CH Harrison and Maths teacher E Parker are signed by the artist "Heth". That's Norman Hetherington, a 3D student in 1936. Reproduced from *Maroon and Silver*. You can still buy a copy; contact George Jaksic, 9568 2444.

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## The thought counts ...

From **Maurine Haling** (nee Deer): "The obituary of Clarice Heyner reminded me of how, when we went for early morning surfs at Manly, we'd see Clarice performing her exercise routine on the beach.

"I was two years behind Clarice; I did my Leaving Certificate in 1930. I was awarded the Ada Partridge Prize. The funds were in the NSW Government Savings Bank, which had failed, so when I went up on stage at the Conservatorium at the 1931 Speech Day I was presented with an empty envelope.

"When the Commonwealth Bank took over the liabilities of the NSW Bank, Miss Cohen arranged for me to receive the actual prize, of about five pounds. I was able to buy three leather-bound volumes of John Galsworthy.

"I often wondered if the prize was still awarded. During a recent trip to Sydney I met a retired principal of Fort Street who assured me it is - and has kept up with inflation."

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## Honour for Margaret

**Margaret Burgess**, nee Menser (Fortian '54) has been made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO). Margaret was girls' school captain in 1954. The award recognises her service to public health in Australia and overseas, particularly through policy advice to government and research into vaccine preventable diseases and the control of infectious diseases, and to paediatrics.

Margaret is Professor of Paediatrics and Preventive Medicine at the University of Sydney, and a member of the Australian Technical Advisory Committee on Immunisation. She carried out the first trials of rubella vaccination in Australia and has a long-standing clinical and research interest in immunisation, and in vaccine-preventable and congenital infections, especially rubella and varicella.

Margaret recalls having to repeat first year because Miss Cohen thought she was too young. "I'm sure she was right," Margaret said in a piece for Clarice Morris' book, *The School On The Hill*. "Later on I was much more mature, and better able to cope."

Prof Burgess is director of the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases at Westmead. She is also a paediatrician at the New Children's Hospital, Westmead, and professor of paediatrics and preventive medicine, University of Sydney.

The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance was established at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Sydney, by the Commonwealth Department of Health in August 1997, to carry out research and give independent expert advice about all aspects of diseases which can be prevented by vaccination, particularly in children. It provides a national perspective on social and other issues related to immunisation.



## Courage and ingenuity

**Beverley Hammond** ('52) writes: "I was recently given a copy of a book by Fortian **Phyllis Gibb**, nee Scurr (born 1904, died 1987) titled *Classrooms A World Apart*; the story of the Broken Hill School of the Air. Phyllis taught in various NSW schools before going with her family to Broken Hill.

"When the Education Minister, Mr Heffron, asked the Director-General, **Harold Wyndham** (a Fortian contemporary of Phyllis) about setting up a School of the Air, Broken Hill was picked as the best centre. The local inspector was asked to recommend a teacher with the courage and ingenuity to lay the foundations for such a school. Phyllis Gibb was not only an experienced teacher, but she had run a radio Sunday school through the Flying Doctor Service for isolated children. She was the obvious choice. Her final teaching job was first Principal of the School of the Air (1956-64). In the book Phyllis tells wonderful stories of dreams, growth, personalities, challenges and joys."



## Tribute to Betty Yu

**Beverley Bolt** ('49) recalls the life of classmate **Betty Busby** (nee Yu) who died last year after an heroic struggle with cancer. Betty and her brother **John** were born in Nanking but she left at age 4 with her mother for Sydney when the Japanese invaded. Her father, a high-ranking official, stayed with President Chiang Kai-shek and lived in Taiwan. Betty went on from Fort Street to graduate in pharmacy from Sydney University. She continued her career from 1962 in England, where she married musician Colin Busby, who played trombone with London Philharmonic Orchestra. "Throughout her life Betty used every opportunity to help others," Beverley recalls. Beverley writes from Berkeley, California, where she has lived for many years with her husband, a professor of seismology - "a very handy occupation for living there," says **Joy Sivertsen**, who sent in this item.



When Swedish golfer Annika Sorenstam played in a top US professional golf tournament recently she made world headlines. Let's see how our own **Jan Stephenson** (Fortian '69) fares if she takes up an invitation to play in the Champions Tour Turtle Bay Championship in Hawaii in October.



**Margaret Preston's** time as a student - at Fort Street in the late 1800s was featured in an ABC Radio National program in August, titled "Not Just A Flower Painter", which described her life and work. The budding artist, then known as Rose Macpherson, was encouraged to develop her talents at the school.



Margaret Burgess

**FABER EST**



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**FORTIANS UNION ANNUAL DINNER**

**BOOKING FORM.**

**Date: Friday October 17 2003**

**Venue: Menzies Hotel**

Please complete this form and mail it with your payment to:

The Fortians Union  
PO Box N1, PETERSHAM NORTH NSW 2049

Cost per person **\$55**, no. in this booking: \_\_: \$ \_\_\_\_

I enclose my cheque or money order made payable to the Fortians Union for \$ \_\_\_\_ .

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Given name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name at School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to sit with the following year group: \_\_\_\_\_ (ie last year at school)

Others in this booking:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please book no later than Friday 10 October**

**NO TICKETS WILL BE MAILED OUT**

**BOOKINGS WILL BE CHECKED AT THE DOOR.**

Parking on the evening is available at Secure Parking - entry in Wynyard Lane off Margaret Street.

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**No.66 SEPTEMBER 2003**

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