

# FABER EST

THE FORTIANS UNION

## BULLETIN

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FEBRUARY 2004

Produced for former students of:

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

## Key Dates

### FORT STREET SPEECH DAY

Actor **Joy Smithers** (Fortian 1982), will be guest speaker at the School's Speech Day on Friday, February 20. Joy has played a wide variety of roles on stage and small and large screen, including Mandy in Bangkok Hilton and



perhaps better known as Rose Stevens in All Saints, and is a very interesting public speaker.

Fortians of all years who have gone along to speech days say it is an entertaining morning and say today's students continue to make them proud of the school. Proceedings start at 9:45am in Sydney Town Hall and finish by lunch time.



**Annual church service:** Sunday 14 March, at 10am, St Philip's Church, York Street Sydney. For the Fortians Union's annual service, the church always arranges an interesting guest preacher, who may not necessarily be a Fortian, but will have an background in education. Join other Fortians at the service and the morning tea afterwards.



**Fortians Union annual general meeting** Wednesday March 17, 2004 in the Fortians Room at the school, commencing at 7pm. All interested Fortians are encouraged to attend.



**Annual dinner:** Pencil in Friday October 15, 2004. Start organising your tables now. More details in the next Faber Est.



## REUNIONS:

The **1969** school leavers will celebrate their 35 year anniversary at the Fortian dinner in October; contact Denice Smith on 02 9667 2142 or at [paulasmith@ozemail.com.au](mailto:paulasmith@ozemail.com.au)

The girls of **1960** are planning well ahead, by arranging for their 45th anniversary get-together at the 2005 annual Fortians dinner. If you are interested contact **Jennifer Welzel**, nee Avery, at [welzel@ozemail.com.au](mailto:welzel@ozemail.com.au) Jennifer now lives in Melbourne.

Those at the 2003 Fortians Union dinner may still be wondering about the noisy group over in one corner. The class of **1979** had descended and judging by some of the girths, were planning serious destruction of the buffet. It's their 25th anniversary in 2004 and this was the first of several warm-up events, according to **Bruce Moxon**. "I don't know how, exactly, but we seem to have attracted some of the rowdier folks," said Bruce, self-confessed class clown and one of the ringleaders. "I sent a few emails and used the list at [www.schoolfriends.com.au](http://www.schoolfriends.com.au) to generate some excitement. It's amazing how noisy 20 or so people can be!" Others at the table included **David De Santis**, **Yalcin Kaya**, **Boris Pionic** and **Roland Tellzen**. Anyone interested in the reunion activities can contact Bruce at [brucemoxon@aol.com](mailto:brucemoxon@aol.com) or on 9636 6664 (AH).

## What are they doing now?

**Bruce Moxon** says he was oft-criticised at Fort Street for leaving his teachers in doubt as to his ability to write. About a year after leaving, this hidden ability started to emerge. "I started by doing race reports for a car club to which I belonged at the time. This led to program notes for a State championship event, to live course commentary and my first magazine article, published in November 1981.

"I love to read and what I love to read most is what I've written. Pretty sad, but I'm making it work for me!"

Bruce has since been a freelance contributor to some of Australia's top motor sport publications, including Auto Action, Motorsport News and Motor Racing Australia. He has been a key contributor since 1999 to the annual Great Race book series on the Bathurst 1000 race. Bruce has recently started to do some work in radio, contributing to a weekly program on a community station at Richmond.

He has also competed in motor sport, in various forms. "I rallied for a while but it was too expensive - especially when you crash a lot, like I did. I've found my level in an event called the motorkhana - sort of like a horse gymkhana, only we use our cars. I've won my class a few times. Those who remember me from my school days will know that motor racing was my great passion. If they'd made it an HSC subject, I might have passed!"



Among those in the Australia Day honours list is **Rodney Cavalier** (Fortian '65) made an officer in the general division of the Order of Australia (AO) for service to the community as a contributor to a range of cultural, literary and sporting organisations, to education and training, and to the NSW Parliament. Rod was Education Minister in the Wran government; these days he spends much of his time as a cricket historian. He lives at Bowral - handy to the Don Bradman Oval and Museum!



From **Gwen Hackett** (nee Saul, class of '53): "I have recently met a very senior Fortian, **Elizabeth Harker**, born in 1908. She is the mother of a friend of ours and is living at Mona Vale. Elizabeth's short-term memory is not what it was, but she keenly discusses her schooldays at Observatory Hill, with clarity. Do you know of any other pupils from that

era? Although the boys would have moved to Petersham by Elizabeth's time at Fort Street, she probably was aware of Myer Rosenblum, so I will be passing on the news of him in Faber Est numbers 58 and 62. Her son could read it to her, as her own eyesight is now very poor. If you do locate any others of her vintage, please let me know".



Dinner speaker **Helmut Bakaitis** made everyone sit up and take notice when he began his entertaining talk by laying claim to being the only Fort Street Boys' High student to get the Leaving Certificate at Fort Street Girls' High! Helmut explained he finished his years at the boys' high with less than satisfactory results and went to work in the city. But after a while he realised he wanted to finish the Leaving Certificate and the nearest place he could study at night was the Evening College at Fort Street Girls' on Observatory Hill.

In an interesting and amusing insight into the acting profession, Helmut said that his role in the Matrix films was a real eye-opener. He virtually had to "unlearn" all the acting techniques he had learned over the years for these action movies. "Keanu Reeves took me aside and explained that the directors could sort out the acting afterwards".

Many of Helmut's TV roles have seen him struck down with one fatal disease or another "but I am still here, as you can see".

Speaking of Helmut Bakaitis, **Richard Blair** ('62) came across an old LP record acquired 'many moons ago' with music by George Dreyfus and Peter Schultorpe and two pieces by **Ian Cugley** whom others in the Class of '62 will remember as a talented composer. One of his pieces on the record of modern classical music carries the title "Pan, the Lake", a name according to the sleeve notes "borrowed from a poem by Helmut Bakaitis evoking a drowsy nocturnal idyll".



## Putting up the panels

*Fortians from the **Class of 1961** with National Trust conservation director Jacqui Goddard, in the Annie Wyatt Room at the Girls' School on Observatory Hill, with the display panels featuring highlights of Fort Street history. The panels now hang in the entrance lobby of the building, now the Trust's headquarters. The '61 Fortians provided funds and research.*



*The entrance to the new Fanny Cohen Building, named after the much loved principal of the Girls' School for several decades from 1929. Miss Cohen (above) in the portrait by William Dargie.*

## New buildings to be named

The multi-million dollar building extensions at Petersham are finished and the School is in the throws of moving in as this goes to print. We are sure all Fortians will be pleased to see that the words "**The Fanny Cohen Building**" greet visitors to the new office and science block facing the Fort Street gates. **The Evelyn Rowe Building**, named after the last principal of FSGHS and first principal of the combined school on the Parramatta Rd corner provides first class music and drama facilities and a staff study. The buildings are in a modern style which nevertheless fit nicely with the original buildings now named after William Wilkins - certainly a great improvement on the unloved 1970s extensions. A naming ceremony will be held on Friday May 14, afternoon and evening, and all Fortians are welcome.

## The 2003 HSC

Keep an eye on **Enoch Lau**, who has been dux of his year for each of his six years at Fort Street, who gained a UAI of 99.95 at the HSC and has won a science/law scholarship at UNSW. Second place was **Shinuo Liu** also with a UAI of 99.95. From published results, at least 90 Fort Street students gained a UAI of more than 90, and 20 of them were between 99 and 99.95. Fourteen students will receive the Premier's Award for Outstanding HSC Achievement. **Katherine Ngo** had a UAI of over 99 and was named Ashfield Young Citizen of the Year as part of Australia Day celebrations.



**Lorraine Brown (Lowe)** was tragically killed in a road accident in Canberra in November, had been actively involved in the Old Girls' Union since leaving school in the '60s and was a foundation member of the executive of the Fortians Union at amalgamation in the 70s. After stints in Sydney, Brisbane and

Adelaide with husband Bruce's Defence Department jobs, they had lived in Canberra for some years. As a teacher, Lorraine took particular interest in children with special needs. Colleagues say she was "one of those very competent people who could fill in any job at the drop of a hat".

Australia's success in world swimming is due largely to Fortian **William Berge Phillips**, who died on October 20, 2003 age 90. **Max Phillips** (1938) said that Bill was a solicitor and established the law firm of Herbert Smith & W B Phillips, but had many interests outside his profession including breeding and judging Dalmatian dogs. But he is best remembered for his contribution to aquatic sports. He was a water polo player until he was 40 and was manager and coach of the 1948 Olympic swimming team and he 'ran' the swimming at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics as arena manager when Australians won 8 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze medals from 15 events. Bill became known as the "father of modern swimming success". At age 87 he helped present medals for the men's 1500 metres at the Sydney Olympics. He helped form the Lions Club of Sydney in 1953 and served on the Board of Lions International. Bill was awarded the OBE in 1976.

**Ena Noel**, OAM, who died on December 7, 2003, at 93, was FSGHS school librarian and Australian representative for the International Board on Books for Young People. She shared her love for books with many Fortians. Ena arranged for Australian children's book illustrations to be among those exhibited at the Biennale d'illustrations de Bratislava beginning with Annette Macarthur-Onslow in 1971 and followed by Desmond Digby in 1973. In 1984 The Library Association of Australia gave her a special award for her services to children's literature.

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## FORTIANS UNION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete this form and mail it with your payment to:  
Fortians Union, PO Box N1, PETERSHAM NORTH  
NSW 2049

### SUBSCRIPTION FEES:

- Free (first year after leaving school)
- \$15 Pensioner / Students (annual)
- \$25 Annual Membership
- \$100 Life Membership
  
- I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in addition to my membership subscription of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- I enclose my cheque or money order made payable to the Fortians Union for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**New**    **Renewal**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Awards: \_\_\_\_\_ Year awarded: \_\_\_\_\_

Years at school: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

### NOTE: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS DUE 1 JANUARY

I agree to my personal information being given to other members of the Fort Street Community eg School, P&C and Foundation, Yes / No.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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