

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

**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.



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# FABER EST

THE FORTIANS UNION

## BULLETIN

NUMBER 70

FEBRUARY 2005

Produced for former students of:

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



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### Speech Day

Date: **Thursday, February 17** (not the usual Friday)  
Time: 9.40am  
Venue: **Sydney Town Hall**

Guest speaker will be award-winning comedy writer and performer **Josh Szeps ('95)**. All Fortians are welcome, and are encouraged to attend. It's also a good chance to meet Fortians, staff and students over some morning tea provided in the Town Hall foyer afterwards.



**Josh Szeps**

"Fort Street was an amazing place to go to school," Josh says. "Its unique appeal wasn't to be found in manicured gardens or lavishly equipped sports teams, but in the everyday things: in the friendly smile of a teacher in the classroom; or the calcified drips of the stalactites in the gym. It was a place where pomp and status were less important than decent values and intellectual rigour.

"I loved it for its staff, for its students, for its achievements, for its ideals. Oh, and don't forget the canteen's vegetable samosas. Mmm-mm. I sure as heck loved it for them."

For more than two years, Josh has written satirical sketches and impersonations for radio network, Southern Cross Broadcasting. He's a medallist in successive seasons of Australia's biggest "improv comedy" event, the Cranston Cup, and wrote and performed sketches for the national telecast of the most-watched rugby event in Australian history, the Rugby World Cup. He has performed comedy sketches on ABC-TV's BackBerner, SBS's Pizza, Life Support, thecomedychannel's Campaign with Mikey Robins, Seven's Rugby Clubhouse and Nine's A Current Affair, as well as hosting several network television pilots.

He recently moved to New York for three months, where he performed comedy on 42nd St with colleagues from Saturday Night Live and Da Ali G Show at a charity night for the Middle East. He intends to return to New York after doing this year's live show at the Melbourne Comedy Festival. In 2003 Josh won radio's highest accolade, an Australian Commercial Radio

Award, for his work on the Mike Carlton Breakfast Show on 2UE.



### The Church Service

The Annual Church Service will be held on **Sunday, 13 March**, at 10am, at St Philip's Church, York St, in the city. The preacher will be the Reverend David Mansfield. All Fortians would be welcome, and are encouraged to attend. Morning tea is provided by the parish, after the service.



### Annual General Meeting

The Union's Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 15**, 2005 at 7pm in the Fortian Room at the school. All members are invited to attend. Everyone is encouraged to have their say, but no-one will be coerced into taking on a committee position. The constitution requires a quorum of 15 members before the meeting can proceed on that night.



### Annual Dinner

This year's date will be **Friday, October 21**. It's not too early to start organising your year group. More details in the next Faber Est, or contact Don Newby, as above.



### Reunions and other things

The Boys of 1955 are proposing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation with a number of events.

On **Wednesday, 24 August**, current students will conduct a guided tour of the school campus after which lunch on the school oval will be served under a marquee.

On **Thursday, 25 August** an afternoon of golf is planned at a leading Sydney golf club, followed by a barbecue dinner in the evening.

On **Friday, 26 August** there will be a formal dinner at a city venue. All 1951-55 boys are invited to attend as many events as possible and urged to set aside the dates in their diaries. Details from **Graham Southwell** at 6 Stuart St, Manly 2095, phone (02) 9976 2399, fax (02) 9977 5591, e-mail [gsou2157@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gsou2157@bigpond.net.au)

Are the **Girls of '55** doing anything to mark the year, wonders **Lola de Mar (Keller)**. She can be contacted on (02) 6646 4124 or by email on [henrydemar@bigpond.com](mailto:henrydemar@bigpond.com)



Calling all classmates from Year 11 in 1974 and/or HSC Year 12 in 1975. These were groundbreaking, first co-educational classes at Petersham. A 30-year reunion will be in Sydney on Saturday, August 27. **Marina Constanti** got things going for this, but making arrangements from where she is, near Noosa in Queensland, proved rather difficult, so a contact closer to home has been set up with **Garth Cooley**. For details, and to put your name on a regular mail-out list, contact Garth on 0422 027 102, or email on [Garth.Cooley@defence.gov.au](mailto:Garth.Cooley@defence.gov.au)

At the annual dinner last October, the table with 1974 leavers had plenty to talk about, 30 years on. **Peter Dixon** and his wife **Karen ('75)** agreed with **Graham Nisbet** and **Doug Stewart** to put their heads together for an even bigger roll-up at this year's dinner.

The table with **boys of '69** had such a great time they've organised a follow-up reunion dinner, for Saturday, 19 March. The venue is yet to be confirmed, but could be the historic Hero of Waterloo Hotel in Lower Fort St, The Rocks, says organiser **John Young**. "Back in '69 the Hero was something of a traditional place for 18-year-olds like us to have their first official drink," says John.

At last October's annual dinner, three at the '69 table were enjoying their first significant contact with fellow Fortians since leaving school. **Barry Peak** moved to Melbourne in the late '70s; he has produced and directed numerous films in partnership with **Chris Kieley**, and the two have run the Valhalla cinemas in Sydney and Melbourne. **Tony Conomos**, who left school before the Leaving, became a Qantas steward. **Nick Nedachin** has his own financial planning practice in Sydney, but had seldom come across other Fortians until attending the dinner.

Others in the '69 group were NSW Greens MLC **Ian Cohen**, making a return to the dinner after being our guest speaker a few years ago, **Bruce Boes**, **Bob Erwin**, **Arthur Gerozisis**, **Peter Johnson (formerly Kerr)**, **Martin Sima** and **Rob Vine**. **Garry Gibbs** would have been there but was still in Rome with a group of his high school language students. Garry, a protégé of Ron Horan who inspired him to take up foreign language teaching, arrived back in Sydney next day.

Garry has joined Nick, Barry and John Young in organising the March dinner, and to set up a more regular contact circle for all Fortians of 1969. For details, contact John Young on [john.young@yindi.net](mailto:john.young@yindi.net) or 0407 940 943.



## Sixty years on

More than **30 girls of '44** attended their 60th anniversary reunion in November, says **Judith Grunwald (nee King)**. The group keeps in touch thanks to a newsletter from **Barbara Reville (nee Gibb)**. Among those at the dinner were two who travelled from Queensland: **Lenore Andrews (nee Bate)** from the Gold Coast, and **Shirley Miklenda (nee Parkes)** who came down from Noosa.

The group still keeps in touch with **Jill Day (nee Stokes)** who lives in Surrey in the UK. Jill was evacuated to Sydney from Hong Kong when it was attacked in the war, and came to Fort Street in 1942. She went back to the UK after the Leaving in 1944



## Order of Australia honours board

In the last edition, we asked you to identify Fortians who have received an Order of Australia, at any level, so that their names could be recorded on a special Order of Australia Honour Board, to be presented to the School. So far, 30 Fortians are on the list; there's still

time to add more names.

Please send the following details: full name, level of award, and final year at Fort Street, to the Secretary, by post or email (see top of page 1). Include contact details so we can get back to you.



## Vale

**Delys Swain (nee Warren, '50)** writes: "Many of the girls of my era will be sorry to learn of the recent deaths of **Christina Rose (nee Borland, '50)** and **June Ferguson (nee Maston, '46)**. Chrissie attended at Observatory Hill from 1946 to 1950 and went on to study Science at university. June was in fifth year when we were in first year."

June was one of three Maston sisters at Fort Street; **Gwen ('47)** and **Ruth ('50)** followed her. June's athletic talent was encouraged at school, and she went on to study at Sydney Teachers College as a PE teacher. She went to the London Olympics in 1948 with the relay team that won the silver medal, and also competed in the long jump, along with Fortian **Judy Canty**. Olive Coutts, who describes June as "a beautiful smiler", recalls that they were presented with travelling rugs at a special school assembly.

As a teacher, June recognised the talent of schoolgirl sprinter Betty Cuthbert, and coached her to four Olympic gold medals at Melbourne and Tokyo; she also coached hurdler Maureen Caird to gold at Mexico. Later, June was a reporter on ABC Radio's Women in Sport, and for the Daily Mirror. June married '48 Olympic water



**June Ferguson pictured soon after leaving school**



**June Ferguson and Betty Cuthbert**

polo player Jack Ferguson; they had five children.

Gwen Maston also married a top sportsman, rugby player Keith McLellan; they lived for some years in England where Keith played for Leeds and captained the team to victory at Wembley. They now live in Melbourne.

**Dr Bill Webb ('55)** passed away recently. He was also well-known in sporting circles, particularly rowing, for which he often provided

his services as a doctor, including several Olympic Games. He was also the medic for the Sydney Kings basketball team, and a director of the State Sports Medical Centre.



## HSC results

The class of 2004 performed very well in the exams. The top all-rounders are Flynn Murphy, Charlene Ko, Aditya Bhagwat, Angela Choi, Kristina Erzikov, Angela Zhou and Stephen Wong. Each receives the Premier's Award for gaining band six in 10 or more units.

Dux of the year is Flynn Murphy, who achieved very high marks in Ancient History, Biology, Advanced English, Legal Studies, and English Extension 1 and 2.

One of the best in the State in Music Extension was Chris Jessup, a third-generation Fortian, following on from his parents, **Glenda** and **George Jessup**, who met as classmates when the two schools came together in the '70s, and grandfather **Dr Alan Jessup**.

Two students accepted into "On Stage" are Liam Whiting (set design) and Elwin Cross (scriptwriting). Elwin is from another Fort Street family; her older sister **Arwen** and mother, **Loene**, are Fortians.



## Small world, isn't it

A Fortian who decided to be a thrillseeker for a day attended a course in driving a racing car at the Oran Park track recently. The dozen or so taking part were split up into teams of three. It didn't take long for conversation to reveal that our man's team instructor, **Daryl Cullen**, is a Fortian too. And Daryl's brother. Then one of the others chipped in that his father, Alan Barnes, is a Fortian, and his uncle as well.

**Alan Barnes ('65)** now works in information technology and lives in the Blue Mountains; his older brother **Tom** is a sales and management consultant.

Daryl Cullen, who completed Year 10 in 1971, went into the printing trade until a few years ago. Then he turned his love of cars and motor sport into a new career, and now runs his own driving school at his home town of Cessnock. His older brother **Michael** also went into printing and lives in Adelaide now.



**2003 Leavers:** At your farewell, a member of the Committee spoke about the Fortians Union. He urged you to stay in touch with us, so we can keep you in contact with classmates and the school.

Now is the time to act; your free membership expires with this bulletin. To maintain your membership, complete the form on the back page of this bulletin (or copy it), and send it with your payment to our PO box. Membership fees will have to increase after the AGM, so join now.



## Shawn's year at Fort Street

Although **Shawn McCracken** was at Fort Street for only one year, he made many friends. The American exchange student from Falls Village, Connecticut, spent 1978 with his host family, Bryan and Olive Coutts (Fortian '48), and went to the school with their son, Graham, for Year 11. He was an enthusiastic student

and a keen participant in sports, including gymnastics, rugby, soccer and swimming. When he was due to return to the USA at the end of the year, classmate David Herman arranged for his mother, who was Mayoress of Ashfield, to set up a farewell party in the Town Hall.

After finishing his schooling in America, Shawn went on to study art in the US and Sweden before returning to California to work in art education, and to study yoga and massage therapy, which he now teaches.

Since that year at Fort Street, Shawn has been member of the Union and looks forward to each issue of Faber Est.

Just before Christmas, Shawn brought his wife, Elizabeth, and his two young children for a holiday in Australia, and stayed with the Coutts, who gave them a good taste of Aussie wildlife by feeding the wallabies, lorikeets and kookaburras on the back deck at home in St Ives.

Shawn would love to hear news of other students of his year. Email him at [samaid1@comcast.net](mailto:samaid1@comcast.net)



## Latest in the shoosh campaign

Many Fortians lent their weight to the ongoing campaign to have the school insulated against aircraft noise. A blizzard of letters and emails was organised to drop on both major parties in the lead-up to the Federal election late last year.

A commitment to take action came from Labor's Anthony Albanese, who was returned to the local seat of Grayndler, but as it turned out the Liberals won the election. Mr Albanese has promised to carry the fight on.



## A super sort of job

One way to keep in touch with the school and today's students is to work as an exam supervisor.

Supervisors (remember when they used to be called invigilators?) are needed for the HSC, spread over several weeks in October and November, then a few days of the School Certificate to follow. There's also the Selective Schools test on one day earlier in the year. All exams are held in the School Hall. The job is ideal for retired folk, or anyone who has a day or two free during the week, and they particularly need more men.

The task basically involves arriving before the exam to help sort out the papers and so on, then standing by while the students come in and find their seats etc, handing out the exam paper to each desk and collecting them at the end of the exam, and dealing with any small problems that crop up, such as a wobbly desk. In between is an hour or two of quiet observation. And you get paid for it.

You don't need to be a teacher, or have any knowledge of the exam subjects. Indeed, the supervisors are not allowed to give the students any help with answering the set questions.

Most days there are morning and afternoon sessions; you can supervise several, or just one or two exams when it suits. The chief supervisor, Margaret Hagar, needs to make up the rosters well ahead, so if you are interested call her now on 9713 1925 to put your name on the list. For each exam Margaret makes up teams of supervisors, from two or three to half a dozen or more for the bigger exams. The chief supervisor keeps tabs on it all, and has the responsibility for everything.

