

FABER EST

THE FORTIANS UNION BULLETIN

Published for former students of:
Fort Street Girls' High School
Fort Street Boys' High School
Fort Street High School



NUMBER 71
JUNE 2005

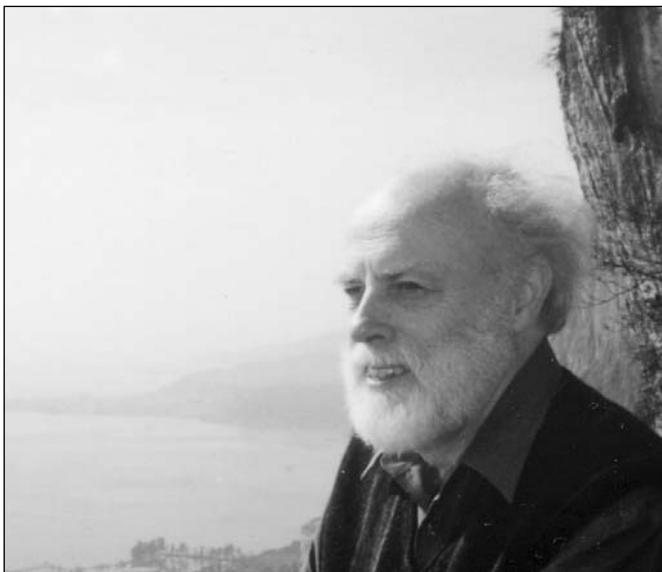
PO BOX N1
PETERSHAM NORTH NSW 2049
DON NEWBY TEL 02 9798 8882 (AH)
Email: newbyd@email.cs.nsw.gov.au

ANNUAL DINNER

Date: Friday, 21 October 2005
Time: 7:00 for 7:30pm
Venue: Menzies Hotel, Sydney

Guest speaker at this year's Annual Dinner will be **Ray Edmondson** OAM (Fortian 1960) who will put us into the picture on keeping Australia's film and spoken history safe and sound.

After taking an Arts degree at the University of NSW, Ray worked at a number of office jobs before his cadetship at the National Library. Not long after, he was offered a post at the film division, which was "right up my alley" as Ray says. His interest in film history and preservation meant he was a key figure in setting up the National Film and Sound Archive, and was Deputy Director until retiring in 2001.



Since then Ray has been a consultant in audio and visual archiving with many groups around the world including UNESCO, and is busy as a writer, speaker and teacher. In 2003 he received the Silver Light Award for career achievement from the Association of Moving Image Archivists. It's not too early to start organising your year group for the Annual Dinner. For booking details, please contact Don Newby, as noted on the masthead.

ABOUT THIS FABER EST

This issue of *Faber Est* contains some extra pages with information about The Fort Street Foundation, its work and its aims. While the Fortians Union and the Foundation

have many parallel aims, they remain as two quite separate organisations.

Both are dedicated to Fort Street: the Union mainly devoted to keeping Fortians in touch with one another and the school down the years, while the Foundation works on fundraising to boost financial support for the School, independent of government funding.

The Fortians Union is represented on The Fort Street Foundation Board by George Jaksic (Fortian 1971), along with representatives from all the other school interest groups.

CHURCH SERVICE

There was a good attendance by Fortians at the Annual Church Service on Sunday, 13 March 2005, at St Philip's Church in the city. Students who read the lessons were **Anna Raines** and **Michael Condie** (whose grandparents attend St Philip's).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Once again the Annual General Meeting had to be abandoned due to the lack of a quorum. The postponed AGM will be held on Tuesday, 19 July 2005, at 6:15pm, in the Fortian Room at the School. The constitution does not require a quorum for this meeting and it will proceed to the election of office holders for 2005/06. Please show your support by attending.

REUNIONS AND OTHER THINGS

Memories of starting at Fort Street 70 years ago were the talking point when the girls of 1939 held a reunion on 3 May 2005 at the Menzies Hotel in Sydney. **Ruth Sullivan** says 28 of the 83 girls who had started in 1935 were able to attend; two of them, **Josie Crouch** and **Joyce Pye**, travelled from Melbourne. There was also a telephone call from one of their group who now lives in America and said she would have loved to come.

The "40 Years On" gathering of the boys of 1965 is shaping up to be quite an affair. Organiser and year captain **Colin Long** says the group has been in touch with more than 125 students and staff, about the gathering in November. "On Friday 18 November we'll have a tour of the School in the afternoon, with the main dinner that night in the Sydney Cricket Ground members' dining room. On Saturday, a social day has been arranged at the races at Royal Randwick, where a coat and tie are required."

In the evening they are lined up for a soccer match at the Football Stadium, thanks to SCG Trust Member **Rodney Cavalier** (Fortian 1965). For more details, contact Colin Long on 9745 2824 or email: colinglong@optusnet.com.au

Since their 50-year reunion in 2001, the girls of 1951 have met annually at the National Trust Café at the old School on the hill, the first Friday in November. This year they will meet on Friday, 4 November at 11:30am at the Café. For further details, please contact **Margaret Foster** on 9528 7266 or **Nancye McKelvey** (nee Adcock) on 9527 6196.

John MacNaughtan writes from his home in Canberra that the boys of 1956 have begun planning a 50-year reunion in Sydney next year. He may be contacted on (02) 6254 2562.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE JUDGE

One of the current judges for the national prizes in children's literature, the Children's Book Council of Australia's Book of the Year Awards, is **Morag Whitney** (nee Bathe, Fortian 1960). One of eight judges, Morag represented Western Australia at the annual CBCA Judges' Conference in Sydney in April 2005, which preceded the announcement of the Book of the Year short list.



Morag Whitney (Fortian 1960) ... this photo appeared in *Reading Time*, the Journal of the CBCA, last year.

Winners will be announced in time for Children's Book Week in August. On leaving Fort Street, Morag trained as a teacher. She was a primary teacher, a teacher-librarian, an education officer and finished her career as the principal of a small school in the WA goldfields' region. She was senior vice-president of the WA State School Teachers' Union and completed a four-year term in the 1990s.

Morag has lived in WA since 1971 and has now retired to three acres in Beverley, a small town in the wheat belt. She says Fortian "grey nomads" are welcome to call in for a cuppa!

JOSH ON PUNCTURING POMPOSITY

Everyone in Sydney Town Hall was all ears when **Josh Szeps** (Fortian 1995) was guest speaker at the School's Speech Day in February. Josh drew on skills as a comic writer and performer to hark back to his school days and how he has

applied the lessons of life from then in his career. "I wouldn't have had the confidence to puncture authority if I hadn't been at Fort Street," he said.

"But I had good relations with most teachers, even when they must have thought I was a smart-arse." Josh quickly punctured the pomposity of some public figures by giving highly amusing impressions of the likes of Alexander Downer, John Howard, Bob Carr and Alan Jones.

In his words of advice to today's Fortians, customary at Speech Day, Josh said he had invented some new rules: tell your mother you love her; people good at sport are over-rated (this drew applause from the students); if you feel you are the odd one out, join the club; to older girls, stop thinking guys who act cool actually are; and boys, none of your mates have a worry about you, they're only concerned with themselves; don't think you need to live inside parameters the world sets up for you.

He finished to great applause after reciting *Desiderata*, the rules for living that appeared on wall posters in most young peoples' bedrooms in the 1960s and 1970s.

THE YOUNG PROFESSOR

Physicist **John Carver** (Fortian 1942) who died in Canberra aged 78, was Director of the ANU's Research School of Physical Sciences, a job he once described as "the best job in physics in Australia". At school, law interested him, but in the years of World War II physics was an important and glamorous subject so he chose that path. It was no surprise to his grandfather, who had nicknamed the boy "professor".



Prof. John Carver with one of the many awards he received for his work on space research.

After first class honours in physics from the University of Sydney in 1947, he went on to Cambridge to research nuclear physics before returning as a research fellow in the ANU's new department of nuclear physics.

Later, after being appointed Professor of Physics at the University of Adelaide at the young age of 34, he switched fields to atmospheric physics and explored the use of rockets

and satellites to sample the atmosphere. Within a few years his team launched their own satellite with instruments which produced a wealth of information on the absorption of solar ultraviolet radiation in the upper atmosphere.

In 1978 John Carver was back at ANU as Director of the Research School of Physical Sciences, where his work provided insight into the causes of glaciation and led him to challenge those who predicted global warming as a result of the greenhouse effect.

Prof. Carver expanded the research school and created spin-off commercial arms, including Australian Optical Fibre Research. As a memorial to his work, the ANU opened the *John Carver Building* in 1994. He served on numerous boards and committees dealing with space and terrestrial science, and was awarded the *Order of Australia*.

HUMOUR IN HER STORIES

Writer **Melva Thomas** (nee Vincent), who passed away last October, was born in 1912 at Dorrigo on the North Coast, where her father ran the local newspaper. Melva's interest in writing was encouraged at Grafton High School and later at Fort Street. Like many girls of her time in those Depression era years, Melva was unable to continue her education, so after leaving Fort Street she returned home to Dorrigo, where she became a reporter on the paper.

Writing took a back seat when she married and had two children, but she later took up the typewriter again and between 1949 and 1965 she had dozens of stories published in *The Bulletin*, and magazines such as *Meanjin*, usually under the byline of M.G. Vincent. She had a lively sense of humour, shown in a biographical note to a publisher in 1973: "I'm an old duck nudging 60 who loves sailing, walking, going to fitness camps with school kids, exploring and living with mountains, bush and the sea. I also have a typewriter which hops!"

COPPING IT SWEET

Nigel Hubbard (Fortian 1959) writes that many Fortians will remember with affection **Lawrence Henry Copping** (1937), who went on to teaching and had opportunity C classes at Eastwood Public School in the early 1950s at a time when many pupils from that school went on to Fort Street. Nigel included a copy of the sixth class photo of 1954: "Sixteen of the 34 pupils in this class were to become Fortians in the following year," he notes.

After a period as Principal at Melrose Park, Lawrence moved to Canberra and spent the rest of his career there, where he died about two years ago.

SCHOOL DATES 2005

Fortians Union members are welcome to attend school events throughout the year, especially those that display students' performing and visual arts talents. Here are some

of the events that are worthwhile going along to. For more details, contact the School on 8585 1600.

June

17: IMP (Instrumental Music Programme) mid-year Concert
29 & 30: Senior Drama Production

August

19: HSC Drama & Visual Arts Showcase
23 & 24: HSC Music Showcase

September

22: Year 12 Graduation Ceremony

November

23 & 24: Junior Performing Arts Evenings
25 & 26: Schools' Spectacular

December

11: IMP End-of-Year Concert

MAROON AND SILVER

by *Ronald S. Horan*

Published for Fort Street's Sesquicentenary, this book documents the rich archives of the School in pictures and text. Designed as a coffee table volume it covers the principal phases of the School's development since 1849.

A sesquicentenary tribute, *Maroon and Silver* 152pp.

Hardback \$44.00 incl. GST
(postage and handling extra).

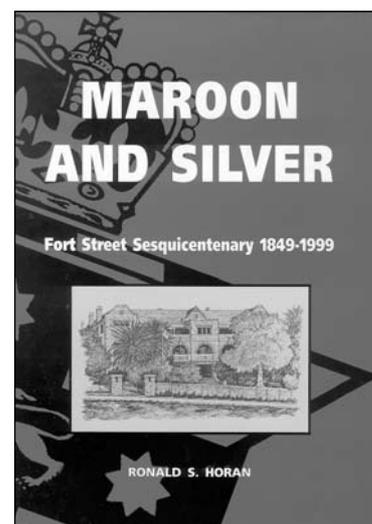
ORDER NOW!

AN IDEAL MEMENTO FOR PAST AND PRESENT FORTIANS.

GeoGraphics Group/Honeysett Press
Tel 02 **9568 2444** Fax 02 9568 2855
Bankcard/MasterCard/Visa welcome.
eMail: team@geographicsgroup.com
internet: www.geographicsgroup.com
(Click onto Honeysett Press for details).

Proceeds assist the Fortians Union.

FE.M 5.06



◆ FORTIANS UNION MEETINGS ◆

COMMITTEE MEETS 6:15PM IN THE FORTIAN ROOM, FORT STREET HIGH SCHOOL
TUES 19JUL05 (AGM) · TUES 30AUG05 · PLEASE CALL 02 9798 8882 AH FOR DETAILS

FORT STREET FOUNDATION NEWS

JUNE 2005



THE FORT STREET FOUNDATION

The Fort Street Foundation was established in 1997 as a joint initiative of the School Council and the Boys' Class of 1949. The Foundation provides a framework for raising funds to provide financial support for the School that is independent of government funding.

The Board of the Fort Street Foundation includes staff, the Fortians Union, the Parents and Citizens Association, the School Council and other directors invited for their professional expertise in making the Foundation a successful fundraising body for Fort Street High School.

The Fort Street Foundation Board

The current Directors are:

Tim Hornibrook (President and Members' Director)
George Jaksic (Deputy President and Fortians Union Director)
Louise Redmond (School Council Director)
Mark Lindsay (Public Officer)
Helene Pappas (Director)
Ros Moxham (School Principal and Director)
Penny Starr (School Staff Director)
Deborah O'Mara (P&C Director)

The Directors meet eight times a year and all Fortians and others interested are welcome to attend Fort Street Foundation meetings which are held at 6:00pm in the Fortian Room on a Wednesday evening. The dates for the remainder of the year 2005 are:

15 June
20 July
7 September
19 October
16 November (AGM)

Foundation Structure

The Foundation has three funds:

Building Fund
Library Fund
Education Fund

Fundraising is undertaken with annual appeals, donations and Fortian events which bring people back to their school and reconnect with the spirit of Fort Street. Donations over \$2 to the Building Fund and Library Fund are tax deductible.

Activities

In the last three years the Fort Street Foundation has focused on projects to generate support and assist the School in targeted priority areas. Individual students are supported to attend national and international events such as the United Nations' Youth Assembly and the World Chess Championships, to name just two. The Foundation provides bursaries for some talented students who take part in the renowned Instrumental Music Programme.

Funding is also provided for Faculty education needs and Library facilities.

An annual Building appeal was started in 2003 and this has generated much needed funds to refurbish part of the older school buildings into more useable spaces. In 2004 a ceremony and cocktail function were held to celebrate the naming of the new buildings: the Fanny Cohen Building and the Evelyn Rowe Building.

Year group functions and reunions are ongoing activities that the Foundation along with the Fortians Union are keen to support and facilitate.

How You Can Be Involved

The Fort Street Foundation welcomes input from all members of the School community particularly Fortians who may want to contribute in some way. This support adds to the continued strength of the School and its achievements in educating fine young Australians who excel in so many ways, both nationally and internationally.

You may choose to join the Foundation, attend a Board meeting, contribute your skills and expertise to the Board or be involved with a particular School project by making a donation or being a mentor for Fort Street students by providing career advice in your professional field. Whatever contribution you make will be one of value that will help support the continued success of Fort Street High School.

"Fort Street has shown over the years the value of education given without consideration of the ability of families to pay. Today those many tools that facilitate learning are viewed as a bonus, the icing on the cake. I think that they are very much part of the cake and if governments are not prepared to fund them adequately then I hope that we, the ex-students of the School, would rally behind our alma mater and help it maintain its very proud record of achievement.

Fort Street allowed me to be myself and helped me to reach the levels of learning to which I aspired. It neither made judgement of me nor constrained my spirit but it did provide a climate of concern and an encouragement to do better. If this is what we want to continue, then it is up to us to help the School with buildings and facilities that match the needs of the millennium. Teachers cannot do that alone and unaided.

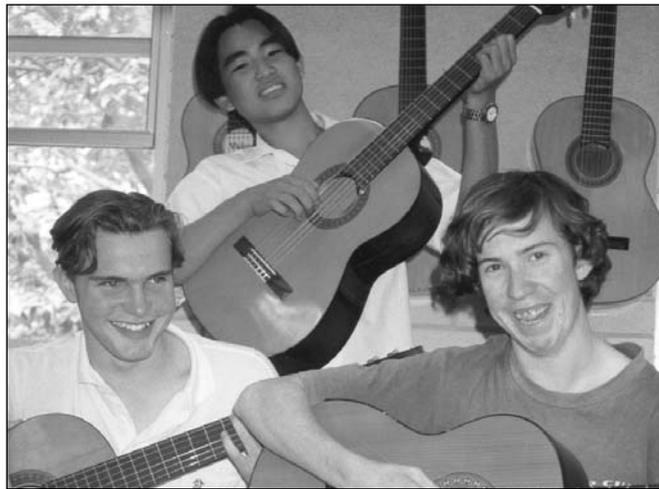
I commend The Fort Street Foundation and its work to you and ask you to help in any way you are able."

Dr John Yu
(Fortian 1952)
Chancellor, UNSW

To find out more about how you can support the Fort Street Foundation please contact the Executive Officer, **Lisa Cahill** on 0409 228 397 or email fortian@fortstreet-h.schools.nsw.edu.au



Funding is provided by the Fort Street Foundation for Faculty education needs and library facilities.



The Fort Street Foundation provides bursaries for talented students in the Instrumental Music Programme (IMP).



THE FORT STREET FOUNDATION, INC

Reg. No. Y2639015

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SURNAME (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr, Prof.) _____

Given Names _____

Nominee/Organisation (If applicable) _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Tel (Work) _____ (Home) _____
STD STD

Fax _____ E-Mail _____
STD

FORTIAN YES (If yes, final year) _____ NO

Please accept my application for **ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP** of The Fort Street Foundation, Inc with an annual fee of \$100, and I understand that \$10 is for membership of the Foundation and \$90 is a suggested donation to the building/library fund.

I would like to make an additional donation to the Trust/s, as indicated –

\$ _____ The Fort Street Foundation **Building Trust***

\$ _____ The Fort Street Foundation **Library Trust***

\$ _____ The Fort Street Foundation **Educational Trust**

* Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

We are also offering **LIFE MEMBERSHIP** of The Fort Street Foundation at the levels of **FELLOW, COMPANION** or **GOVERNOR**.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP of The Fort Street Foundation may be attained through higher levels of donation. These levels are –

FELLOW	\$ 2,500
COMPANION	\$ 5,000
GOVERNOR	\$10,000

Your donation may be made in a lump sum or spread over a five year period, by making an annual instalment of \$500, \$1,000 or \$2,000 respectively.

PAYMENT DETAILS

Today's Date ___ / ___ / ___

- I enclose a cheque / money order, made payable to **The Fort Street Foundation, Inc.** for \$ _____, or
- Please charge the credit card nominated below for the sum of \$ _____
- I authorise an annual charge of \$100 to be debited from my credit card account, and continue to do so unless this authority is cancelled by me in writing

BANKCARD VISA MASTERCARD

Card Number _____ Expiry Date ___ / ___ / ___

Cardholder Name _____

Signature **X** _____

Please mail this form to: **The Fort Street Foundation, Inc.**
PO Box 36 Westgate NSW 2048

If you would like further information, please call **Lisa Cahill**, Executive Officer on 0409 228 397. Enquiries are welcome.

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

SURFACE
MAIL

ANNUAL REUNION DINNER 2005

INVITE YOUR FORTIAN FRIENDS

The Fort Street Annual Reunion Dinner will be held on Friday 21 October 2005 (7:00 for 7:30pm) at the Menzies Hotel, 14 Carrington Street, Sydney (above Wynyard Railway Station). **We encourage Fortian year groups and individuals to come along and celebrate. We can seat you together at your own table. Numbers are limited, so we are asking subscribers to book NOW to avoid disappointment. Cost is \$55.00 per head (incl. GST). Dress: Lounge wear.**

The number of persons attending in my party is _____.
Others in my party are -

Please tick method of payment and complete name and address details below.

- Cheque
 Money Order

made payable to the **Fortians Union Inc.** for \$ _____

Today's Date ____ / ____ / ____

SURNAME (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr, Prof.) _____

Given Name _____ Alumni Year

Maiden Name (if applicable) _____

Address _____

State _____ Postcode _____

Tel (Home) _____ Tel (Work) _____

**Reply to: Mr Don Newby, Hon. Secretary
The Fortians Union Inc.**

PO Box N1 PETERSHAM NORTH NSW 2049

Note - Receipts will not be posted.
There will be a guest list at the door.

**BOOKINGS CLOSE
6 OCTOBER 2005**

