

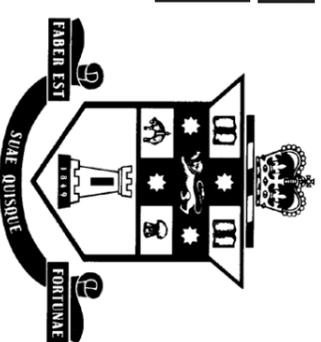
FABER EST

THE FORTIANS UNION

BULLETIN

NUMBER 73

February 2006



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

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SURFACE MAIL

THE FORTIANS UNION
BULLETIN
No.73 February 2006
PO Box N1
PETERSHAM NORTH NSW 2049

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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
 - \$150 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 _____

Speech Day

Date: Thursday, February 16
Time: 9.45am
Venue: Sydney Town Hall

Guest speaker will be **Alison Peters** (Fortian 1980), deputy assistant secretary (community affairs) of Unions NSW, and a non-executive director of Sydney Water. Alison represents the Labor Council on the Premier's Council for Women, and has worked on committees and boards concerning Co-operatives, Privacy, Sydney University Work and Organisational Studies, migrant skills, the seafood industry and many others.



Alison Peters

Alison was already using her skills at industrial relations at school. She still likes to recall the time she joined fellow students in a strike over the heady fumes from the then Millers Brewery next door - something that was the bane of students at Tavener's Hill for decades.

Alison is another of a Fort Street "family": her husband, **Joe Valek**, was in the same year; her sister **Lorna** (81) is on the psychology staff at Macquarie University.

All Fortians are welcome at Speech Day, and encouraged to attend. It's also a good chance to meet other Fortians, staff and students over some morning tea provided in the Town Hall foyer.

And those with a little more time can join other Fortians Union members at an informal lunch afterwards at the nearby Bowlers Club; details Jennifer Summers 9665 0228.

Reunion church service

The Annual Church Service will be held on **Sunday, 12 March**, at 10am, at St Philip's Church, York St, in the city. All Fortians would be welcome, and encouraged to attend. Morning tea is provided afterwards by the parish.

Annual general meeting

The Union's Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 14**, 2006 at 7pm in the Fortians Room, at the school. At this meeting, members will be asked to amend the Constitution, referring to a quorum, by removing the word and numbers "fifteen (15)" from Section 6(b), and

replacing them with "nine (9)". We believe nine is a more feasible number these days. The motion was to be put to a special meeting as part of the annual dinner last October, but it turned out this could not be done. All members are invited to attend the AGM, and have their say in the running of the union.

Annual membership fees due

Those who have chosen to be annual members are required to pay a fee from 1 January each year; these are now due. A reminder to the 2004 Leavers that this will be their last free bulletin. Now is the time to join the Union, so we can all keep in touch. The current fees are: Free: first year out of School. Annual membership: \$25 per annum, or \$15 for students and pensioners. Life membership: a one-off payment of \$150. A membership form is on the last page of this newsletter.

Maintaining the rage

It's a rare thing for a report in Faber Est to refer to Fortians in less than complimentary terms, but that's only to be expected after a visit to the school recently by former prime minister Gough Whitlam. Year 12 student **Owen Nanlohy** invited Mr Whitlam to the school to address the students and perhaps give them a first-hand account of one of the most significant events in Australia's recent history. Mr Whitlam did not disappoint, recalling with tongue slightly in cheek the events of the Dismissal in 1975, describing how he was politically "murdered" by "those bastards", referring to then Governor-General Sir John Kerr and Chief Justice Sir Garfield Barwick, Fortians both. Mr Whitlam engaged the students in a debate on the benefits of the two-party parliamentary system, and tested their knowledge of European history by quizzing them about the role of the Curzon Line (which even had the teachers checking their textbooks).

This year's dinner date

This year's date will be Friday, October 20. It's not too early to start organising your year group. More details in the next Faber Est.

Those who attended last year's dinner in October were enthralled by the guest speaker, **Ray Edmondson**, who spoke with passion about his work with the National Film and Sound Archive. He illustrated his talk with some visual examples, including some famous Fortians: **Douglas Mawson** in Antarctica, **Michael Pate** in an early film clip, and so on. Ray noted how difficult it was to obtain and preserve items of cultural and historic importance. He told how in his early years

FABER EST



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The newsletter will continue to be posted to those who prefer it.

with the archive he took a caravan trip around the country, looking for material hidden away in attics and sheds, and found many small treasures. He also discovered that many cans of newsreel and documentary film had already ended up as road fill when the Warringah Expressway was being built.

Later in the evening Ray became an entertaining auctioneer for a specially framed print of a limited edition drawing, generously donated by **Norman Hetherington** ('38) depicting Mr Squiggle on the Moon. The auction raised several hundred dollars for the union; top bidder was **Olive Coutts** ('49).

There was a sad side to the dinner for Olive and her many Fortian friends, as her husband Bryan had passed away a few weeks before. Although not a Fortian, Bryan had a long association with the school by his marriage to Olive and two of their children who are also Fortians. He later served as a keen union committee member, having been made an honorary Fortian.

Home for a library

Harold Stewart ('34) became a household name in the 1940s when he and classmate James McAuley concocted the famous Ern Malley poetry hoax. Stewart became one of Australia's leading poets and amassed an extensive library. His nephew has inherited Stewart's collection of some 2500 books and is trying to find a suitable home for them so they can be kept together. Universities, museums and other institutions have shown interest but no commitment. The collection has been offered to the school, which would love to have it, but there is simply no space. Is there a Fortian who could help find a place for this valuable collection? Call Rob Kennedy, (02) 9283 0118.



Madge's 100 years

On March 9, **Madge Jane Hoy (nee Currow)** will turn 100. Mrs Hoy, originally from Ennawville, NSW, attended Fort Street for several years in the early 1920s. She became a teacher in the Walcha area, at a small school at Round Swamp. There she met and married the late Clarrie Hoy, a farmer. Her brother Bert later attended Fort Street on a scholarship. He also became a teacher and later a headmaster at various schools in NSW. He passed away last year. Mrs Hoy is now in a nursing home and keeping reasonable health, says her daughter, Judy Greer. "She often mentions her time at Fort Street and would be delighted to receive a greeting from her old school." The Union is sending a special message.



Award for Hall

Among the recent Walkley Awards for journalism was one to **Hall Greenland** ('61) for best three headings by a subeditor. Hall has been a senior journalist with The Bulletin since 1999, after several decades as a freelance. He was previously nominated for an award for social equity journalism, for a special report he wrote on the crisis in mental health services. Hall was a prominent Leichhardt councillor for several years.



Reunions

The **boys of '65** made quite a week of it for their 40-year reunion in November, starting with a visit by 55 old boys and 10 of their teachers to the school where they took part in an assembly, followed by morning tea and a tour of the school. Then came lunch at a restaurant in Haberfield, enjoying an

afternoon of cricket from the SCG Trust box courtesy of **Rodney Cavalier**, with a formal dinner for 83 old boys and 15 teachers in the Members Pavilion dining room. Saturday brought a DVD slide show of scenes from 1965, then the races at Randwick, and viewing a match at the football Stadium. Sunday saw an escorted tour of the Holocaust Museum in Darlinghurst. Old boys and teachers came from every state, the ACT, one from New Zealand and another from Papua New Guinea.

Peter Phelps reports on the class of 1985 reunion at the Vanilla Bar in Norton St, Leichhardt on November 27:

"About 60 attended including one who turned up at the bar the night before; so much for being Dux of the school, Roberto!

The organising committee of **Zoe Batsakis, Heather Hall, Anna Odfeldt, Martin Laxis** and **Sylvia Piedade** set up a website for those who could not make it on the day, and to remind everyone of the great fashions of the '80s [cough, cough] - it's <http://fortst1985.keirema.net/>

Memories mingled with nostalgia and occasional bouts of embarrassment - "I did what! Ohmygod, I'd forgotten about that whole thing..." Add a big-screen TV blasting out great sounds of the era - B52s, Adam Ant, Spandau Ballet, Dead or Alive, Flock of Seagulls, Nina, The Clash (ah, real music, not like today...;) and we were warped back to the time of big hair, big shoulders, white socks and string ties. (Ah, real fashion, not like today.)

It was amazing to see how we had all changed, and yet in many ways our school friends were still the people we knew and loved. There had even been two intra-year marriages! Sure, there were cliques and groups at school, but by now we all know what they were worth. Footy players and arty types, fan of the Triffids and of Cold Chisel, handball players and too-cool-for-you strutters - we all know what we were, and we can all laugh at the youthful seriousness of it all.

The Class of '85 was a great year, and the success of its members after leaving is a tribute to the fine training ground that is Fort Street. We cross every area of achievement in working life and carry with us the pride and self-confidence of having done it under our own steam. We'll do it all again, bigger and better, in five years for our silver anniversary!"



A one-man baby boom

Fredrick Hinde (Fortian '49) who passed away in October, after some months of suffering from pancreatic cancer. His life was marked by brilliant academic achievement, and a meritorious career as obstetrician and gynaecologist.

Entering Fort Street following his three brothers Esmond ('39) and twins Ron and Len ('41), Fred matriculated in 1949 as Dux with a University Exhibition in Medicine and Honours and Best Subject passes in English and mathematics, as well as the Killeen, the John Hunter, the Vercro, the Charles H Harrison, the Baxendale and Evatt memorial prizes. He was a prefect and won a chess blue.

At Sydney University he graduated with first class honours in medicine and a diploma in obstetrics & gynaecology. After a period in King George and Royal Prince Alfred hospitals, where he met Mary Taylor who became his wife, he set up practice in Five Dock where he remained for 35 years until retirement. In a newspaper article then under the headline "End of a One-Man Baby Boom", he was pictured with some of the 10,000 children and children's children he had delivered during his career. He also found time to collect fellowships in Colleges of Surgery and O&G in the UK and Sydney, to hold positions on



Pigs at the pageant

Remember the photo (inset) of the 2A French class of '49 in costume for their Trois Cochons part in the centenary pageant? Well, four of that group met up again at the 2005 reunion of the Girls of '52. They are, from left, Beverley Hammond (second pig), Jenny Shaw (McLachlan) who was third pig, Joan Wilcox (Big Bad Wolf) and Eleanor Reichel (nee Roberts) the first pig.

the NSW Medical Board and the NSW Health Complaints Commission, and to lecture and set exams. He was president of the RACOG.

He travelled extensively, collected Persian rugs, served for some years as Captain (M.O.) in the Army Reserve and indulged in his love of music and ballet. He and Mary hosted chamber concerts in their restored Hunters Hill sandstone home, many involving aspiring musicians as rehearsals for their final exams.

Fred had originally chosen a medical career over law; on retirement he became a medico-legal consultant and found satisfaction from combining both.



Leader in tax law

Justice Graham Hill (Fortian '53) who died in August 2005, was the University of Sydney's longest-serving law school lecturer. He gained a maximum pass at the Leaving Certificate. His university graduation year included Murray Gleeson, later Chief Justice of Australia, and Michael Kirby, but it was Graham Hill who won the University Medal for Law. After study at Harvard and London, he served as a partner of Parish Patience & McIntyre and Dawson Waldron before being admitted to the NSW bar in 1976. He took silk in the very short time of eight years. From 1989 Graham Hill QC was a judge of the Federal Court; he wrote many of the leading judgments in tax cases, and was author of leading texts on the subject.



The practical man

As a child in the small town of Culcairn, north of Albury, **Phil Naismith** wanted to be a farmer, but as he was of small build and an excellent scholar he was sent to Sydney to Fort Street. He trained as a teacher and worked at schools in Deniliquin, Narrandera, Yanco and other Riverina towns.

Ever a practical man, Phil recruited fathers at one school and they built a swimming pool themselves and he taught every pupil to swim. After retirement, at the age of 80 Phil built a new house, doing everything but plumbing and electrical, by himself. He painted the house on scaffolding when he was 90. He had a great love of travel and cars, and only a few years ago restored the beloved Mini Minor he had driven around Australia three times.

Phil died last year at 92; one of the many devoted students at the service said: "He taught us we could do whatever we wanted to do in life with hard work and persistence." Fort Street's motto, in other words.



Where are they now?

Barbara Jones is looking for two students who started at Fort Street Girls' in 1955. They are Bronwyn Jones, who left in 1957 to work in a bank, and Lurline Hetherington, who finished in 1959 and trained as a primary school teacher. If you have any information, perhaps a married name, please contact the Secretary, by one of the usual methods.



Order of Australia honours board

An initial list of 53 names has been compiled, and the board is being made up. The school hopes to have an unveiling ceremony in May; all those listed will be invited to attend.



Noeline's dramatic year

Actor Noeline Brown put many noses out of joint in the satirical TV show The Naked Vicar and many stage revues. Noeline, now retired from performing, showed early talent as an entertainer, which came to the fore in a brief but hectic time as a student at Fort Street.

In her new memoirs, Noeline tells how she started high school at Fort Street in 1951, and was soon in all sorts of strife. She looked older than her classmates, and often mixed with the older girls and managed to dodge a few classes. "Once we even drank some alcohol in our lunch hour: a lethal concoction of Advocaat and cherry brandy."

Noeline was keen on drama but it was not permitted then for the younger girls, only the two senior classes. "Instead, we were encouraged to join the famous school choir, which I found incredibly boring. They determined I was a bass and there wasn't much singing for me to do. My beloved art was a half-subject only. I had to spend a lot of time in the hall for an offence known as 'dumb insolence'. I was convinced there was not a lot of fun to be had at high school. After 12 months of misery I was informed I would have to repeat the year. I didn't think so." Noeline then went to Stanmore Girls' School, where she was eventually elected school captain.



Student **Emma Neurath**, principal clarinetist with the school's symphony orchestra, has been named Young Artist of the Year in Ashfield Municipality.

