



Fort Street High School

# MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School  
July 2011 Term 3

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## Dear Parents, Caregivers and Fortians,

We welcomed term three with an inspirational address from Li Cunxin, author of *Mao's Last Dancer*.

Our staff joined the staffs from Newton High School of the Performing Arts and Newton Primary School to listen to Li talk about his journey and achieving his dreams. Li's finished his extraordinary dancing career as a principal dancer with the Australian Ballet. He is now a successfully stockbroker, businessman and motivational speaker.

In sharing his journey from abject poverty in China to world dancing sensation Li shared the elements of his success. He summarised his success as resulting from determination, discipline, dedication and hard work framed within a goal to make life better for his parents. Li was born the sixth of seven sons in a very poor Chinese family.

His journey to become a dancer came by chance when he had not had any knowledge or experience of ballet. He acknowledged three special teachers who nurtured him. When asked what skills he took from dance into the business world he said discipline, dedication and hard work, these were more important than talent.

We can never underestimate the value of dedication and perseverance. Focused consistent hard work will make the difference. Fortians - you are bright and fortunate young men and women who will only achieve your best through sheer hard work and determination.

Congratulations to :

- **Kim Ngoc Nguyen, John Shi and Rebecca Dawkins** of Year 11 who attended the 36<sup>th</sup> Professor Henry Messel International Science School during the July holidays: Fifty international students and 93 Australian students attended this prestigious event.
- **Rebecca Dawkins** has also been invited to attend the National Youth Science Forum to be held from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2012 in Canberra.



- NSW Band Festival - of four entries our musicians won 4 gold awards. Congratulations to Ms Scott and members of the Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Concert Band !

- **Carlo Pane of Year 7** will be representing the Sydney North Region at the State Cross Country championships in the 12 year old age group.
- **Emily White** - Fortian 2010 was awarded the Australian Vocational Student prize with a \$2,000 cash prize. She is our second accountancy student to win this prize.

Mr Canty received the following email from Emily:

Hi Mr Canty, just emailing today to tell you that I just received the Australian Vocational Student Prize and \$2000!!! (in case you didn't know already).

Anyway, I wanted to say thank you so much for organising all of the applications for prizes that I put in through Year 12, I know that I probably would not have made time for it if all the work was up to me. If you would like for me to come in and talk to any students, I would be more than happy to give a speech as I genuinely miss Fort Street High very much.

Thank you again – Emily White



- **Harriet Scandol and Michael Nguyen** will be attending the SRC State Conference from 2-5 August 2011.



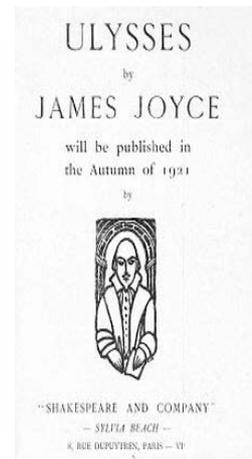
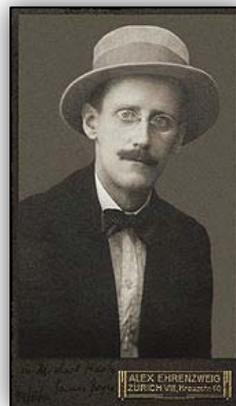
## Aircraft Noise Abatement Program

Work completed during the holidays included the re roofing of the Rowe building and the most invasive of the work in the Kilgour building. Classrooms will continue to be disrupted this term while the Kilgour building rooms are air-conditioned.

I thank staff and Fortians for their continued patience and understanding during the disruption.

I thank Mr Osland once more for relieving as Principal for the last three weeks of term 2 while I was on long service leave. I had the privilege to attend Bloomsday celebrations in Dublin. Bloomsday activities celebrate the James Joyce novel Ulysses.

I also saw some amazing archaeological ruins on the Orkney Islands including Scara Brae, the Ring of Brogda and the Medhowe Cairn, all of which are about 3500 years old.



**James Augustine Aloysius Joyce**  
(2 February 1882 – 13 January 1941)

**Roslynne Moxham**  
Principal

Fort Street High School Exit  
Profile

**(Ratified September 2007  
School Council Meeting)**

*Our aim is that on completion of Year 12  
Fortians will have:*

- *achieved their full academic potential.*
- *developed individual skills and talents.*
- *developed learning strategies to equip  
them to be independent self motivated  
lifelong learners.*
- *developed emotional resilience, self  
reliance and leadership potential.*
- *recognise their responsibility to the  
wider community.*
- *developed a strong sense of social  
justice as well as commitment to  
fairness and equity.*

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Important Dates

**Aug:**

- 3 Year 11 Subject Selection Interviews  
School Council Meeting
- 4 Australian Maths Competition
- 8 Year 12 Picnic
- 9 ACL Certificate 1
- 10 ACL Certificate 2  
P&C Meeting
- 11 ACL Certificate 3  
Year 8 Subject Selection Interview
- 16 ICS Maths Competition  
HSC Drama Showcase
- 17 HSC Drama Showcase

**This month's  
LEADING comment...**

Leaders create an environment in which everyone has the opportunity to do work that matches his potential capability and for which an equitable differential reward is provided.

Canadian organisational psychologist -  
**Elliott Jaques**

## A Message From Peta Harper To Year 12 Students

I just wanted to wish you the best of luck for your Trial HSC exams. I know you will do yourselves, Mr Hoekstra, Mr Ockwell and all of your teachers proud.

At the 100% risk of being self-indulgent I just wanted to share some of my student experiences from this year with you. It's been a healthy reminder of how tiring it is to be a student....I'd forgotten how exhausting it is to fill your brain each day, then go home to fill it some more and stir it around a bit. I take my hat off to you as I'm sure you're coping with your stress well via friends and family. I know I certainly needed mine! I was again able to rely on more people than just myself for learning, revision, etc. which helped me feel like I didn't have to cope on my own (thank goodness!).

Again, I've been reminded of the student life which has definitely influenced the way I will approach my teaching in the future (of course, still within the framework in which we're required to work).

I've also had the immense privilege of working with world-class teachers who have officially retired but keep coming back for more! Lucky us! To have teachers of 70 and 71 years old who still have the spirit of a child and can move with so much grace and flexibility certainly puts things in perspective for me. I've attached some pictures of one in particular who was such an inspiration....her name is Dr. Ulrike Jungmair and is amazing.

At 70 years old she still competes competitively in slalom skiing, plays and sings professionally, is learning the cello, teaching and presenting around the world and still doing research (mainly in the field of neuroscience and how we learn with and through our bodies). She's made me realise how learning is a marathon, it's not a sprint race. Therefore, if something doesn't go right the first time (e.g. Trial HSC exams), assess it, work out why and do what you can about it. There is always an alternative route even if it doesn't seem like it initially.

Keep an open mind. Like I said, Uli is an incredible lady who has really opened up my eyes and mind.

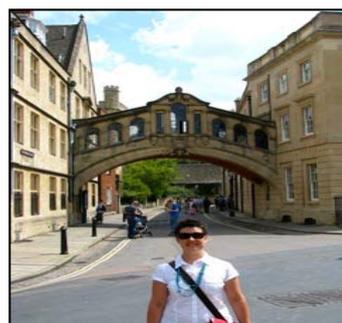


Last month we went on a few excursions and one of them was to Carl Orff's house. His wife, Frau Orff, was a wonderful hostess who invited us into his study (which has been maintained as he left it.....so it feels like he's just popped out to the shop), telling us many stories, inviting us to look at his books and scores and letting us play his piano and other instruments. It was such a treat. Again, I've attached a couple of photos to prove it! :-)

My husband and I are now travelling before we start back at school (I'll be back in time for your breakfast) and are currently staying in a cottage on the south-west coast of Wales where I am reading over my notes and trying to absorb some of what I've learnt over the past year. If you know the show 'Doc Martin', it's as if we're living in that area. It's so peaceful (but cold). On our way through from London to Wales we stayed in Oxford, so I'm sending you the academic vibes to help you through your exams.



Anyway, best of luck for everything and continue to make the most of all you have at hand, be it friends, teachers or something else. You are always in my thoughts.



Love from,  
**Frau Harper**  
Xxx

## Year 10 Food Technology



As part of the Year 10 Food Technology course students study Food for Special needs.

Special needs arise for a variety of reasons including age, health, lifestyle choices, cultural influences and other circumstances. One of the stages in the human life cycle is Adolescence. This is a time of rapid growth and development which requires specific nutrients for optimum performance.

Thai beef salad is a suitable recipe for this stage in the life cycle and my Year 10 Food Technology class recently enjoyed preparing this recipe. Advantage was taken of the fine weather and students enjoyed barbequing outdoors.



**Miss Woodley**  
**Technological and Applied Studies**

## Year 9 History Excursion To The Rocks

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July, Year 9 History students accompanied by Ms Kemp, Dr Strauss, Mr de Bres, Mr Hoekstra, Mr Popovic and Ms Leotta enjoyed an excursion to the Rocks.



The students visited The Big Dig, an archaeological site in Cumberland Street, the Museum of Sydney and The Justice and Police Museum. At The Big Dig, students participated in an archaeological workshop and studied artefacts found around The Rocks area.



At the Museum of Sydney students learnt about the history of this important historical site and visited an exhibition about the challenging experiences of German Australians in Australia during World War One.



At the Justice and Police Museum, students learnt all about the history of law enforcement in NSW since colonisation.

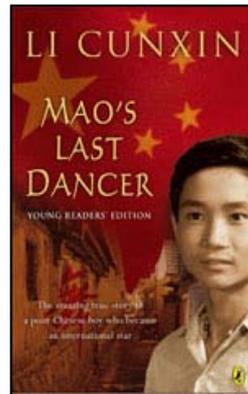


Thankfully the weather was kind to us and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about the fascinating history of the city we live in.



**John de Bres**  
**History Faculty**

## MAO'S LAST DANCER - LI CUNXIN



On the 18<sup>th</sup> of July, a group of Drama and Music students from Year 10 accompanied the teachers of Fort Street to a talk held by Li Cunxin, author of Mao's Last Dancer.

Mr Cunxin discussed his inspirational life and the people that had helped him achieve his goals along the way. We heard the sad story of his childhood in a poverty-stricken town, and we were moved by Mr Cunxin's experiences of inspirational teachers – something which we could all relate to!

He told us about his primary school teacher, who inexplicably chose him out of all the students in his class to be taught ballet in Beijing, and about the ballet instructor who finally allowed him to truly enjoy dance and music. Of course, his amazing transformation from young child to internationally renowned ballet dancer to stockbroker captivated both the teachers and the students in the audience.

The talk left us all with a lot to reflect on our lucky lifestyle and the opportunities and education available to us. Overall, it was an honour to hear Mr Cunxin's story and we gained an incalculable amount from the experience.

**Hannah Harmelin**  
**Year 10**



## Year 11 Hospitality Class at Ric's Cafe

As part of our hospitality course the Year 11 Hospitality class have made a some visits to Ric's cafe, opposite the school on Parramatta Rd.

On our trips to Ric's we made Pizzas and Veal Parmigiana. We went to Ric's cafe to use their pizza ovens. We also went there to fulfil requirement of the Hospitality course.

The kitchen at Ric's is quite different to the school's kitchen. The space is very narrow so even though there were only eight of us it was quite cramped and we had to be careful not to bump into each other.

The other main difference was the washing up system. Unlike the school kitchen the washing up area is kept separate from where the food is prepared and rather than a tap the sink has an overhead hose to wash equipment down before it is put in the dishwasher. Our class is planning to return to Ric's cafe twice more over the next two weeks.

### **Atticus Tooth**

## Year 7 Technology - Designing And Working With Timber

Year 7 Technology students studying within the Timber Technologies focus area recently completed a second design challenge - creating tea-light candle holders.

Students produced high-quality solutions to the given brief.

**Mr Dopierala**  
**Head Teacher : Technological and Applied  
Studies**





## IMP Report

Term 3 has started off to a very busy start for the Wind Bands with the annual NSW School Band Festival held at the University of NSW on Saturday 23 July.

We came away with our best result ever – winning 4 Gold awards out of a possible 4 (Training Band, Concert Band, Wind Orchestra and Wind Ensemble). In addition, Wind Ensemble was awarded the ABODA (Australian Band and Orchestra Director's Association) Musical Director's award for the most challenging, well presented and entertaining program.

Congratulations to all students involved, and a special thank you to Bryce Bonfield, Lauren White, Yiwei Mao and Lachlan White who performed in 3 of the 4 ensembles on the day!

The CD recordings for the 2011 IMP Ensembles CD are well underway – so far 9 ensembles have recorded with the remaining groups to be scheduled later in the term.

The Stage Band have been selected to perform again at the annual Manly Jazz Carnival – congratulations! They will appear on the youth stage on Monday 3rd October at 11am.

The Vocal Ensemble and Stage Band will perform at the upcoming Sydney Region Expanding Horizons concert at the Sydney Opera House on August 15. Tickets for this gala event can be purchased through the Sydney Opera House box office.

The percussion ensemble and saxophone quartet have been invited to perform as part of the Festival of Instrumental Music, also at the Sydney Opera House. Congratulations to students involved.

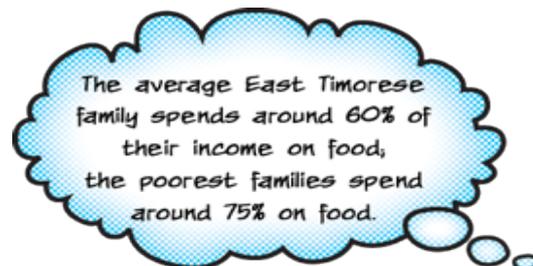
**Liz Scott**  
**IMP Coordinator**

## SRC REPORT

The inaugural SRC Week, held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June, provided an open forum to which students could chat causally with their SRC representatives about problems or ideas for improvement within the school. Each day was allocated to two year groups. Overall, the Week was a great success and provided the SRC with an enhanced understanding of the student's wishes and provided goals we hope to achieve in the following terms.

A project recently completed as a result of SRC Week saw hooks attached to each bathroom cubicle for the purpose of hanging schoolbags and jumpers.

The SRC is hosting the annual World Vision 40Hr Famine; this event supports a worthy cause where participants are sponsored to fast for forty hours. All proceeds go towards World Vision's aid work in East Timor.



This event provides a great opportunity for students to get involved with the international community and make a difference in those living in third-world countries. On 19<sup>th</sup> August (the first day of the Famine), the 40Hr Famine Winter Sleepout is being held in the Fort Street Memorial Hall. The evening promises a night of games, movies and fun with fellow fasters. For more information, see any SRC members and keep an eye out for notes and announcements!



The SRC Indoor Soccer Competition has been brought to a close. With – senior teams and – junior teams, the competition ran for eight weeks throughout Term 2.

The Award Ceremony for the winning teams is to be held on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> August. The winning senior team will play against the infamous teachers' team in the upcoming weeks. Congratulations to both teams and good luck to the seniors!

## **Poppy Bell**

### P&C President's Report

#### **Food and Theatre**

The Senior Drama Performance of Antigone was a huge success. Everyone that I have spoken to or heard from has raved about the performance, and also about the delicious and excellent value food served beforehand.

Sincere thanks have gone out to the many people who assisted. I wish to particularly thank Rod Lander - who coordinated the volunteers and most of the arrangements for both nights. Rod not only spent time cooking a marvellous curry but he also put in a huge amount of time to ensure that everything ran smoothly. The cost for hiring the Bain Mariers was also picked up by Rod.

Tang Grady did a fantastic job coordinating the volunteers and donations for the Asian food. Ling Chen at Chan's Garden Restaurant in Burwood supplied most of the food, with some parents contributing towards the cost. Elaine Ko donated all of the take away food containers.

Other donors and volunteers included Jenny Chen, Wendy Chen, Susan Connor, Lisa Dai, Brendan Edgeworth, Joanne Ferguson, Alison Gould, Sarah Foster, Alison Gibbs, Neil Grady, Thao Huynh, Jamie, Tanya Leach, Lisa Li, Mei Lin, Michelle Lu, Philip Ma, Priya Nair, Jal Pane, Penny Pang, Jane Saphin, Nadia Savige, Lucia Schmoll, Daisy Shrestha, Michelle Stewart, Jenny Suen, Yanfei Sun, Lui Tai, Mary Tran, Monica Tran, Thu Vo, Wendy Wang, Mary White,

Richard White, Catherine Wong, Daisy Xu, Li Jun Yan, Yang, Wendy Yap, Ying Zhang and Jan Zhong.

I apologise if I have accidently missed anyone but please be assured that your contribution was greatly appreciated.

I also have to thank Mr Hart for his support, Miss Schlamm and Miss Mattick for all of the work they put in with the students preparing the production, the office staff for selling the tickets, Bill the General Assistant for his help and, of course, all of the students who performed so brilliantly, particularly the director, Katie Humphreys, who did a fantastic job.

#### **Upcoming Theatre, Art and Music**

If you enjoyed Antigone, or are sorry that you missed out on a superb production, then kindly make a note of these dates.

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August, the HSC Visual Arts students will be showcasing their work before being assessed. Commencing at 17:30-18:30 the HSC Art exhibition will be open in the Hall. Drama performances will be given from 18:30-21:00 with a short interval.

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August, the HSC music students will be performing their assessment pieces from 18:00-21:00, with a short interval.

The standard of performance at both these evenings is always excellent and very entertaining. The P&C will be there from 1 hour before the performances, with soup and rolls for those who do not have time for dinner, as well as hot and cold drinks, cake and snacks. These will both be great nights out and another opportunity to see some of the incredible talent at Fort St.

#### **Mysteries of the HSC Explained**

The next P&C meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 19:30, there will be a presentation by one of the Deputy Principals explaining the mysteries of the HSC. This will be a very informative night of interest to parents of all students, particularly those in the senior years. The principal or a deputy will also give us a report on what is happening around the school. A light supper will be served after the meeting.

## Calling All Parents

I have not been swamped with enquiries about the role of P&C President for 2012 or for helping to coordinate the Fort St Festival 2012. If you have been waiting for someone else to do it, perhaps you might consider if this is a good time to step forward.

I will offer my full support to those who fill these roles but with a full time job, including a long commute, I will not be able to take on either role next year.

## Meetings

The proposed meetings for the rest of the year are:

- **Wed 7 Sep - Cyber Safety**

With the proliferation of Facebook, Email, Texting, etc Cyber Safety has become a major concern in school and elsewhere. This presentation informs parents about this.

- **Wed 9 Nov - School Plan & AGM**

There will be a presentation of the schools 3 year plan as well as the P&C AGM.

## IMP

I attended the IMP mid-year concert on 24<sup>th</sup> June and was, once again not disappointed! The quality of music played was truly magnificent. If you do not attend the IMP concerts because you do not have a student in the IMP I urge you to consider going along anyway to have a look. The music produced is brilliant not to mention the excellent food and beverages served beforehand. I always find it to be a very uplifting and enjoyable evening.

The end of year concert will be on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> December. They will also have a CD of all of the ensembles for sale at that time, just in time for Christmas.

All 4 of the wind bands did us proud at the NSW Band Festival on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. The Training Band, The Concert Band, The Wind Orchestra and the Wind Ensemble all won gold.

## Spelling Competition

I have started initial discussions with a Fortian (of '71) who is running a national spelling competition next year. In the past the initial qualifying round of these competitions has been run by the schools.

More and more schools are having difficulty finding the staff time and resources to do this. They are now proposing to involve P&Cs. This would mean running a competition evening involving parents and students.

The competition is open to Year 5 - 8 students. I expect that it would be something of interest to Fort St students and parents. I would be interested to hear your thoughts and suggestions on the matter.

## Website

The P&C has information pages on the schoolwebsite:

(<http://www.fortstreet.nsw.edu.au/>) under the **Community** link. There you will find information about the P&C, meetings, the canteen and the uniform shop.

The P&C Meeting Minutes page (<http://www.fortstreet.nsw.edu.au/Community/Parents--Citizens/PC-meeting-minutes/>) has links to presentations made at P&C meetings, including the Study Skills presentation from the June meeting and the 'Helping Students Through High School' and 'Year 8 Subject Selection' presentations from the March meeting.

## Contact Us

If you would like to receive emails notifying you of meetings and other events, please let us know your email address.

If you wish to contact the P&C, email [fortst.pc@gmail.com](mailto:fortst.pc@gmail.com) or feel free to contact me on 0402 188 489.

**Ian Reid**  
**P&C President**

