



# MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School

May 2014 Term 2

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## Dear Fortians, Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to Term 2 2014.

Last week we commenced term two with a poignant Anzac Ceremony. This year Ms Miniutti used the centenary of the beginning of World War 1 to speak about her great uncle who was killed during the conflict. Rose Cousins expertly and sensitively played the last post and the wind ensemble exquisitely performed music titled *Mannin Veen* by Haydn Wood.

Our school development day on Monday 28 April centred on the differentiated curriculum. Staff shared their work and discussed and shared their teaching practices with staff from other faculties.

Differentiation can be defined in the summary of my opening presentation to staff – see page 2.

Head Teachers led a Year 12 evening outlining some of the issues which impact on students' capacity to maximise their academic performance. Please see page 2 for an outline of my presentation to Year 12. This information was emailed to Year 12 and their parents.



The first week of term 2 ended with an assembly to introduce the school to our new Deputy Principal Ms Karen DiStefano. Ms DiStefano comes to us from Asquith GHS where she has held the position of Deputy Principal for the past 5 years. She will be joining the mathematics faculty and is the DP in charge of Years 8, 10 and 12. We welcome Ms DiStefano to our school.

The Salvation Army Red Shield team spoke and many students signed up to volunteer their services on Sunday May 25 to act as collectors for the annual appeal.

Fort Street High School welcomes all to the fun of -

## FORT FEST



Battle of The Bands  
Food Stalls  
Rides  
Music  
Entertainment

10:30am - 4pm  
Sunday 18 May 2014  
Fort Street High School  
Palace Street  
Petersham

Our bi-annual Fort Street Festival nicknamed *FORT FEST* will take place on Sunday May 18. Please make sure you support the event with donations and by joining in the fun on the day. Lorena Uriarte is the parent co-ordinator in 2014 and she welcomes your assistance.

On Thursday of last week four Year 12 students, Bolwen Fu, Veronica Lin, Hugh Pearce and Pamela Vassil joined me to honour Fortian Neville Wran at his state funeral at the Sydney Town Hall. Our students were fine ambassadors and acted as monitors for the condolence books, which we arranged for guests to complete as they arrived at the Town Hall foyer. There were four giants of speakers giving the eulogy in addition to Jill Wran, They were in order of speaking Paul Keating, Rodney Cavalier (Fortian), Michael Kirby (Fortian) and Bob Carr. Paul Keating described Neville Wran as having a PhD in poetic profanity. Veronica

Lin and Bolwen Fu spoke to the school about the service and the text of their speech is printed on page 5. A history of Neville Wran's life at Fort Street High School can be found on page 6.

At the end of last term I had the pleasure of attending the IMP camp and singing in the camp item. We were fortunate to have the permission of composer John Rutter to use his instrumental arrangement of Parry's 'I Was Glad' as the camp item. As usual the camp was a huge success because of the teamwork of parents, tutors, directors, staff and musicians. I thank staff Mr Manchester, Mr Ockwell, Ms Harper, Mr Niven, Carlo Antonioli, Martin Highland, Alex Pringle, and parents Cheryl Beatty, Rachel Knepper, Bromwyn Kershler, Jenny Curtis, Finola Carey, Anna Kerr, Mary White, Katrina Jenns, Kevin Cousins, Ian Daniel, Andrew Campbell, Ellen Hrebeniuk, Pamela Freeman, Hai Yan Wu, Nerille Baker, Josie van Gerwen, Richard White and Michaela Ferrier.

**Congratulations:**

- IMP camp organisers and student musicians.
- The Madrigal Society for its performance at Marrickville Heritage Society
- Tom Vastani and Sam Alexander who have been selected for the Sydney North Hockey team and will play at the NSWCHSSA State Carnival in May.
- Eilish Salmon who competed at the Australian Age Championships in April. Eilish recorded her best times placing 4<sup>th</sup> in 100m breaststroke, 5<sup>th</sup> in 100m and 200m Individual Medley and 8<sup>th</sup> in 200m backstroke.

I will be on leave from 6 May - 30 May. Mr Osland will relieve as Principal and Mr Dopierala as DP.

I look forward to seeing you in June.

Ros Moxham  
Principal

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**IMP Camp 2014**



## School Development Day - Differentiation in the Curriculum

The purpose of differentiating the curriculum is **to provide appropriate learning opportunities** for gifted and talented students. Three important characteristics of gifted students that underscore curriculum differentiation (Van Tassel-Baska, 1988) are their capacity to:

- **learn at faster rates**
  - **find, solve and act on problems more readily**
  - **manipulate abstract ideas and make connections to an advanced degree.**
- Gifted students need the opportunity to work through the curriculum at a faster pace and need less time on basics and revision.**

A differentiated curriculum is a program of activities that offers a variety of entry points for students who differ in abilities, knowledge and skills. In a differentiated curriculum teachers offer different approaches to *what students learn* (content), *how students learn* (process) and *how students demonstrate what they have learned* (product).

### Year 12 Evening April 30 2014

#### **Persistence**

*Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence, talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb; education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination are omnipotent.*

Calvin Coolidge

#### **Lessons to share from making a wedding dress- Ms Kemp**

- Doing the work to meet her daughter's expectations
- Starting with end date and event in mind
- Planning and re-planning and refocusing and
- Doing something each day (avoid the panic/fear and unnecessary mistakes)
- Team work – seeking assistance
- Researching, reviewing, reworking and redirecting
- Listening to and meeting the expectations
- Being creative and changing direction
- Beating the deadline and being really satisfied

- Taking the time to walk away when things get tough

#### **What do we know that will assist you in your HSC preparations?**

- HSC is a long distance race, a marathon that requires:
  - Balance
  - Strategic and persistent work
  - Reflection
  - Review
  - Redirection
- That each of you can succeed
- It is not too late
- Your teachers have more experience of the HSC than you and your tutors
- Working together you will achieve

#### **What do we as teachers see?**

- A focus on marks and ranks
- Lack of attention to detail
- Panic especially leading up to assessment tasks
- Lack of determination to turn challenges into triumphs
- Arrogance and self-delusion regarding your capacity to succeed when you don't put in the work- a sense that because you are a Fortian you will do well no matter what!
- Inability/ unwillingness to read, unpack and answer the question/s asked
- Determination to go into tasks with pre-prepared answers
- Failure to understand and work within the rules of the HSC race (ie what the examiners are looking for and how to manage your time and exam expectations)

#### **Some information and a plea from Ms Salisbury**

- **Please read your emails**
- Put applications in two weeks prior to due date
- Check with careers adviser for assistance concerning applications for any position/ scholarship
- 10 universities are now doing applications online (not U Sydney or UNSW)
- Check all university requirements **and** the fine print
- Come to Thursday lunchtime careers meetings/talks
- Read and check applications before you submit- **don't submit at 3 am**
- Keep pin numbers securely in a number of places
- Employers and universities want drive, passion, communication, teamwork and problem solving even before good marks.

## Anzac Ceremony Address

This year I wanted to speak to you for a little longer than usual as it is the last year I will make this address. Usually I try to highlight an aspect of the historical context of ANZAC Day because I find it too difficult to talk about it in a more personal way. But this year I am going to try and I hope you'll forgive me if I tear up.

My very emotional connection with ANZAC Day and all that it represents began in 1990 when I visited the Gallipoli Peninsula. Overlooking Anzac Cove is the Ataturk Memorial which is inscribed with the following words:

*Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives. You are now living in the soil of a friendly country therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.*

I found these words so moving and their significance became even more apparent as I walked through Lone Pine Cemetery and read the inscriptions on the headstones. I eventually came upon one that was for a 19-year-old soldier that simply said: *For my only brother.* And I stood there and sobbed, not only for the young man who had died, but also for the young man or woman who had lost someone so dear; the 'gap' that would be in their life forever.

My family also suffered loss during the First World War and the person I want to focus on is my great



uncle George Korn. I always felt a connection with him as, when I was at university, my grandmother showed me his diary which had been sent back to Australia and eventually came to my grandfather. He has few people left who can keep his memory alive and so I would like to share with you what

I know of him from the research I have been able to do and the visit I made to his grave when I went to France last year.

George enlisted on 27/10/1914 – not right at the outbreak of the war but very close to the beginning of it. He arrived on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 15 May, 1915 as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> reinforcement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion. Records say he was admitted to Mustapha Base in August – the month in which the attack on Lone Pine occurred. They do not say whether he was wounded or ill but I assumed he was wounded in this attack as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion played a central role. The soldiers began to suffer the freezing conditions of winter and he was evacuated to Alexandria in November with pneumonia which recurred over the next few months. George eventually embarked for France in March 1916, arriving in Marseilles and then on to the battlefields. On May 15, 1916 – one year to the day after arriving at Gallipoli – he was shot through the spine by a sniper while on fatigue duty.

Uncle George is buried in Merville Community Cemetery. It is quite some way from the battlefields that most of us are familiar with and, as the title suggests, it is a community cemetery with a section dedicated to war graves. Although, like all war graves, these are immaculately tended I felt a little sad that my uncle had been laid to rest with so few of his countrymen and so far from the places that most Australians visit; I felt he was a bit 'forgotten' and it made my visit to his grave seem even more important. I had brought a piece of rosemary with me from my garden and as I placed it on his grave the words of the Ode were very much on my mind: *They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.* It rang so true – my great uncle was only 25 when he died and I, well, I had grown much older than that. To my knowledge I am the only member of my family to have visited his grave and I am so glad that I did and that could share the experience of the visit with my sister and cousins.

ANZAC Day as an expression of nationalism does not resonate with me; for me it is about love and remembrance. One of the great writers of the twentieth century G.K. Chesterton wrote, "The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him." Whether or not it is true, that's how I like to think of my great uncle.

Debbie Miniutti  
History Faculty

## Neville Wran

Yesterday, I along with Pamela Vassil, Veronica Lin, Hugh Pearce and Ms Moxham attended the state funeral of the Former Premier and Fortian 1945, Neville Wran.

After manning the condolence books and greeting many prestigious guests without really knowing who they were, and overhearing Labour Ministers complaining that "The Liberals are taking our seats" amidst the seating mix-up, we headed into the fabled Town hall where our annual speech days are normally held. There, we beheld the face of a devilishly handsome man on two long banners, the face of the late Mr Neville Wran.

Neville Kenneth Wran was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1926 in the inner Sydney working-class suburb of Balmain. Born in a family of eight children, Neville was lucky to be able to pursue an education due to the sacrifices made by his parents and older siblings, especially living under the pressures of the Great Depression. First attending Nicholson Street and Balmain public schools, Neville Wran proceeded to this illustrious hall in which we now sit. He graduated from Fort Street in 1945, and although he had a particular affinity for theatre and Shakespeare, Mr Wran proceeded to study a Bachelor of Laws at Sydney University. After practising as a solicitor and as a barrister, Mr Wran entered politics in the New South Wales Government upper house. Neville, or as he was more commonly known as, 'Nifty' then went on to become the Labor Premier of New South Wales from 1976 until 1986.

The hall was brimming with luminaries from both sides of politics, including Federal Opposition leader Bill Shorten, new NSW Liberal Premier Mike Baird and former Premiers Morris Iemma, Nathan Rees, Kristina Keneally and the recently departed Barry O'Farrell as well as former prime ministers Bob Hawke and Paul Keating. Mr Keating spoke light heartedly about Mr Wran, making comical remarks on his 'champion swearing' claiming that anyone who know Neville would know that he had a 'PhD in poetic profanity'. Among those who spoke on the day was The Honourable Michael Kirby, who described Mr Wran as an enigma. Mr Kirby who studied under the tutelage of Mr Wran as a junior barrister said that he 'was no one else's man/ No one else controlled him: No faction, no person...And that was the way he wanted it to be. He was different from most successful politicians in our country. He was a leopard that walked virtually alone'. Outside of his

family, he was described as only having a very close-knit circle of confidants. But perhaps borne out of this secrecy was his secret to success.

He was also a man of incredible wit and an iron nerve. Known as the master of silence, he could use the pause to his great advantage. During question time, when a parliament member of the opposition was speaking out of hand, Neville simply stopped midsentence. Quickly, the entire room followed suit. After a few more moments of silence, he turned to the host and said, "If this man speaks again, I will divulge to the entire room every incriminating thing this man has done over the past two weeks." The man then went deathly pale and did not open his mouth again. When Mr Keating asked Neville what information he had on the man, Neville simply said "I had nothing."

After a long, illustrious life in politics, he resigned as Premier of NSW in 1986 after leading Labour to many a victory. He continued working however as the National President of the Australian Labor Party from 1980-1986 and Chairman of both the Lionel Murphy Foundation and the CSIRO from 1986-1991, before finally retiring. Mr Wran's legacy include introducing the Lotto, rate pegging for councils, random breath testing, the Land and Environment Court and laws allowing homosexual acts between consenting adults. He also triggered the redevelopment of Darling Harbour and built the Sydney Entertainment Centre, but one said his proudest achievement had been creating national parks.

On April 20<sup>th</sup> 2014 Neville Wran died in his struggle against dementia. Despite what we would have liked to hear, his son Hugo Wran tearfully confessed that just before his death, he was unwilling to let go of his life. Neville Wran has left behind a legacy of courage, daring and ambition that every Fortian should strive towards. He was truly a man who embodied the school motto and made his own destiny, rising from a lower class Balmain boy to a Fortian who sat in this very hall, to one of the most powerful men in the history of New South Wales politics.

In respect for Neville Wran, the Fort Street high School SRC will be raising funds next week for charities that help patients suffering from dementia. To show your support, please bring a \$2 donation on Monday so that the SRC can collect your donation during roll call. And just like Mr Kirby said, "His dazzling light will continue on"

Bolwyn Fu and Veronica Lin

**Neville Kenneth Wran AC, QC  
Fortian 1942**

AC, QC (11 October 1926 – 20 April 2014) was the Premier of New South Wales from 1976 until 1986. He was National President of the Australian Labor Party from 1980 to 1986 and Chairman of both the Lionel Murphy Foundation and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) from 1986 to 1991.

Neville was the eighth and last child of Joseph Wran and his wife Lillian (nee Langley). His senior education (forms 4 and 5) was at Fort Street Boys High where he excelled in debating, acting and history. A fine scholar, Neville was awarded the James Baxendale Special Prize for 'Lecture on Modern Author' in the 1941 fourth form examination results. He was also awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place in History.

Neville was the whip for the FSBHS debating team in 1942. This team competed for the Hume Barbour Trophy. The team participated in the final after winning the three debates of their zone. The final was against Sydney Boys High School who won the trophy, but the Fort Street team left a fine impression.

Neville, after being a student at Fort Street for one year, was chosen to be one of the prefects in fifth form. He was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place for Modern History in his Leaving Certificate Examination, in 1942.

Neville Wran was a respected member of the Fortian community. He was the guest speaker at Fort Street's Speech Day in 1978 and returned to the school for a visit in October 1984.

Chris Egan  
Library and School Archives



## FORT FEST



### Fort Fest Update

Only 11 days to go!! The countdown is on to Fort Fest 2014, 18 May! Have you volunteered or made a donation yet?

#### Volunteers:

More volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. Can you do a shift?  
9:00-11:30, 11:15-1:45 or 1:30-4:30?

#### *Here's what's still needed:*

- Saturday Set Up Team -10 people
- IMP Helpers- 2/3 people
- Gelato Cart- 3 or more people
- Café – 6 or more people
- BBQ – 5 more people
- Bookstall - 1 more person
- Kids' Corner – 1 more person
- White Elephant – 4 more + stall coordinator
- Second Hand Clothes – 3 more people
- International Food Court – 6 more people (drink sales)

Please contact Jenny Curtis on 0405 031 781 or [fortfest2014@gmail.com](mailto:fortfest2014@gmail.com)

#### Special Requests

Is someone available to be our **Festival Electrician**? We need advice on electrical safety and help on the day managing different power requirements.

As part of our Risk Management plan we also require **3 First Aid trained officers**. Do we have any Doctors or Nurses that can do a 2.5 hour shift at the First Aid point?

**Roving helpers** to look after recycling and general site tidiness.

Our Second Hand Stall needs **clothes racks and hangers**. Can you help?

Can anybody cook bulk quantities of **Chilli Con Carne** for the Mexican food stall? Please contact Lorena Uriarte on 0414 355 834 or [fortfest2014@gmail.com](mailto:fortfest2014@gmail.com)

**Deliver donations to front desk Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8.30am**

#### Donations

Don't forget to keep bringing in your donations for the food stalls!

**Year 7 JARS:** Jams, Sauces, Relishes and Pickles for our Gourmet Food Stall

**Year 8 & 9 DRINKS:** Water, Juice and Soft Drinks

**Year 10 & 11 BAKED GOODS:** Cakes and Slices (Cake boxes available next week)

**Year 12 TREATS:** Lollies and Chips

#### **Books, White Elephant, Second Hand Uniform and Clothes**

Do you have any good quality items to donate and recycle? Donations can be brought to the front office on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings only. Other times available by arrangement. Contact Lorena 0414 355 834 or [fortfest2014@gmail.com](mailto:fortfest2014@gmail.com)

#### **Pre Order Wrist Bands for Unlimited Rides Now!**

Order wristbands for carnival rides before Friday 16 May and pay \$20. Wristbands will also be available on the day for \$25 or pay \$5 per ride. Please fill in the form below and return to the office.

#### **Fort Fest T-shirts**

Have you seen our fantastic Matthew Martin designed t-shirts?

Available in a variety of sizes for men and women. Purchase before school in front of the office on Wednesday and Friday mornings or at the Festival.

They are selling very fast, don't miss out. Only \$25 for a collector's item!

If you have any questions or other donations please contact Lorena Uriarte, Festival Coordinator on 0414 355 834 or email: [fortfest2014@gmail.com](mailto:fortfest2014@gmail.com)

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**To the P&C Re: Fort Street Festival Helpers, Donations and Armband Orders**

I am volunteering for: \_\_\_\_\_ shift:

Ordering Wristband (tick here): \_\_\_\_\_ How many @\$20 : \_\_\_\_\_

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Student & class: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**National Schools Constitutional Convention**

Thank you for supporting Janek Drevikovsky's participation in the 19th National Schools Constitutional Convention. Janek was among 120 students from around Australia who travelled to Canberra from 12 to 14 March to participate in the Convention. At the 2014 Convention, Emeritus Professor John Warhurst led a two-day program in which students explored Australian Federalism: States' Rights and National Priorities. After hearing from a panel of experts and considering the issues in working groups Janek and other delegates voted in a mock referendum. Students supported the Commonwealth assuming power over the Murray-Darling River system, but rejected the proposal for the Commonwealth to assume responsibility for health care. These outcomes were included in the Communiqué, which was presented to Senator the Hon John Hogg, President of the Senate and Senator for

Queensland in the final session of the Convention. Other highlights of the Canberra trip included attendance at a Welcome Reception hosted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP on behalf of the Prime Minister at Parliament House, a visit to the National Archives of Australia and a dinner at the High Court of Australia. I hope Janek will have an opportunity to share his experiences at the convention with other Fort Street High School students and staff. Thank you again for supporting Janek and the National Schools Constitutional Convention in 2014 as well as the schools constitutional convention program more broadly.

Christine Reid  
Convention Coordinator

**Fortian 2001**

This is just a short note to pass on my thanks, thirteen years down the road, to the teachers of Fort St, especially the History faculty.

For the past five years I've had an incredible run career-wise, having been for most of the time a senior adviser to a Cabinet minister in the former federal Labor Govt. From working in

Parliament House, to writing speeches for a Prime Minister, to sitting in on cabinet committee meetings where the carbon price was devised -- all of it's been a privilege, but none of it would've been possible without having received the education I did at Fort St.

Guy Ragen  
Fortian 2001

## CO2 Racecars

Last term students in Year 10 Industrial Technology – Engineering were eagerly designing and constructing Co2 race cars. Each student was given a pre-cut piece of Balsa wood and then worked within given design specifications and engineering principles to produce a car they believed would race the fastest on a 20m track. Wheels, other hardware and finishes (paint and decals) were also added to the car as per individual student design. Students safely utilised workshop tools and equipment to produce their cars. Quality and craftsmanship

was highly encouraged and students gained an appreciation for practical experiences which they thoroughly enjoyed. Canisters pressurised with Co2 gas propelled the cars down the track where initial testing clocked some cars racing under 1 second over the 20 metre length – do the maths guys...that's up to 100km/hr. – WOW!!!

Ian Yensch  
TAS Faculty

