



# MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School

May 2015 Term 2

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## Dear Parents, Carers and Fortians

Welcome back to the second term of 2015. Firstly, I would like to thank Karen Di Stefano for her leadership throughout Term 1. I would also like to thank Evelyn Manson in her role as Relieving Deputy Principal throughout Term 1 and Catriona Arcamone for her leadership of the Language faculty on top of her work with the English faculty.



My great thanks also are extended to the staff who took the IMP group to Europe during the holidays: Ros Moxham, Matthew Manchester, Rebecca Cameron, John Ockwell and Alex Pringle. When you read the article in this edition of Mercurius you will hopefully gain some insight into the enormous impact this tour has had on the students. For many it was their first trip overseas; many have returned inspired and all have returned with a greater passion for their music. I would like to acknowledge the great commitment of Matthew Manchester and Rebecca Cameron during the period of preparation for this tour. Finally I would like to acknowledge and thank the students for being outstanding ambassadors for the school.

The first week back included our ANZAC Day assembly. The assembly was organised by Tom Hoekstra, Relieving Head Teacher History. Tom spoke beautifully about the sacrifice of many in times of war and he was able to develop a sense of connection to the students in the audience. Tom lead the school reciting the Ode from Laurence Binyon's poem "For The Fallen",

Samuel Alexander-Prideaux, Year 10, played the Last Post after which the school settled into a contemplative silence. Samuel then played the Rouse and the Reveille.

The school acknowledged the Great War honour board in the Memorial Hall that honours Fortians who sacrificed their lives during the many campaigns. I would like to give some examples of the sacrifices made. Fortian Harry Lansbury Urquhart Reid was killed in action on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1915 and is commemorated in the Lone Pine Memorial. Private Reid served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, AIF and was killed in Shrapnel Gully after his party moved up the gully ahead of support, only to find the Turkish forces stronger than they anticipated.

I would also like to acknowledge two other Fortians who served in Gallipoli. Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Marks, who landed on the shores of Gallipoli on the second day, survived the action and went on to fight in a number of other theatres. He was acknowledged for his leadership throughout the war. The book titled "The Boy Colonel" that celebrated his life was introduced to the students last year. The last Fortian who I would like to acknowledge is Arthur Waring who served in Gallipoli, having survived a torpedo attack on the troopship that was taking him to this battle. He was taken to Lemnos before continuing to Gallipoli. The stories of these three young men help us to reflect on sacrifice and commitment that is part of a continuum that reaches into the lives of the students at the school today.



We were fortunate enough to host a group of Fortians from 1963 at the assembly. David Gillett,

Captain of Fort Street Boys High, 1963, has been working with Ros Moxham to have a memorial plaque made that commemorates and honours Fortians in all areas and nature of service since World War II. The plaque was presented to the school by the Fort Street Boys High School class of 1959-1963 and is dedicated to "All Fortians who served, and to the memory of those who died." Graham Easton, Vice Captain of Fort Street Boys High School, 1963, spoke briefly to the school about why the Fortians from 1959-1963 thought it was so important to recognise the service of Fortians. Graham then introduced Bernie McGloughlin, Fortian 1963, who served in Vietnam and then enlisted for a further 20 years. His commitment to our country was acknowledged by the school which he accepted with humility and grace. Bernie unveiled the plaque to the respectful applause of the school.



With limited time back in school there is only one outstanding achievement to recognise this month. **Bolwen Fu's** Extension 2 English work has been shortlisted for HSC Young Writers Showcase - this is added to the previous nominations for Janek Drevikovsky and Ruby Hillsmith.

Having just returned from leave I am keen to catch up on some initiatives from last year. The Bring Your Own Device program in particular is an area that I am keen to review. I have been asking the staff how it has been working so far this year. The main concern coming from the staff is the inconsistency of students bringing their device to school. Throughout this term I will be working with the staff, students and parents to get this worthwhile initiative implemented efficiently.

During this last week I asked the Executive to come out of school for a day and a half to finalise the school plan and develop the milestones by which we are going to measure our success. The school plan is now on the website and I will be discussing it at the next P&C meeting. Please attend so you can give me some feedback on our planned initiatives.

I also have one reminder for all students and parents that Terms 2 and 3 sees the introduction of our winter uniform. This includes the wearing of a tie each day and in cooler weather our school jumper. The school also has a scarf that can be purchased from the uniform shop.

**David Osland**  
Relieving Principal

## IMP Tour

I write this on the plane trip home from the IMP tour of Austria and Italy.

What an incredible adventure. Sixty six students and five staff travelled and learned to work as a well oiled team of flexible and reliable and inspiring musicians.

Gifted education is all about giving opportunities for talented students to extend themselves and to excel. The Instrumental Music Program (IMP) inaugural tour to Europe and in particular to Vienna, Graz, Bled, Venice, Florence and Rome was a huge undertaking. The mere thought of organising sixty six Fortians for two weeks was daunting. It was also a huge success, evidenced by the large numbers of audience in attendance at each of our concerts and the wonderful reception each of the groups received for their performances consistently throughout the tour.

I had the privilege of singing with both the chamber choir and vocal ensemble during the tour as well as conducting the vocal ensemble.

We performed in the Minaret Church in Vienna on Easter Sunday evening, and at Schonbrun Palace, Vienna, in both sun and snow. It was so cold that strings snapped and students could hardly move the keys on wind instruments. Professional performers these Fortians, the audiences were none the wiser and were appreciative of the wonderful music presented to them.

Impromptu performances of *Ave Verum* around the grave of Mozart and *Locus Iste* next to the stone marking the death of Bruckner in Vienna were highly emotional and filled the soul. In Graz we sang a cappella in the cathedral. The cardinal and other clerics from Munich happened to hear us sing and were inspired and full of congratulations and blessings.

After a boat ride across Lake Bled in Slovenia we sang in the gorgeous Church of the Assumption.



In Venice we performed in San Marco for 30 minutes. The joy of singing in the glorious surroundings of this 11th century Byzantium building cannot be quantified.

Our concert in a church on the main canal drew a large audience in part due to fantastic impromptu performances in one of the many squares in Venice. People from all around the world were entranced by our performances.



An impromptu performance of *locus Iste* in the square in Florence outside the Uffizi gallery and opposite Michaelangelo's David prepared us well for our next concert. Our visit to the wonderful Uffizi and duomo helped to maintain our performance levels despite some of our number succumbing to flu symptoms and nausea.

Our final destination was Roma. What an introduction to the city- a visit to the Colosseum and the Roman Forum. The day of our performance at mass in the magnificent San Pietro commenced with a workshop in the grounds of Santa Maria Angelica the seat of the catholic state. So impressed was the maestro and the director of music for the church we were invited again to give an impromptu performance for five minutes in the church. Wow what preparation for the acoustic of St Peter's Basilica.

I cannot express how wonderful it was to sing in the acoustic of the Basilica and that was after the tour of the Sistine chapel. Performing in a jazz club after mass took us full circle. On our last day we gave an impromptu performance of *Locus Iste* in the Pantheon under the dome. This was expertly conducted by Sefa Laga'aia.

I know that all sixty six students grew as musicians and as team members on the tour and really appreciate what a unique opportunity they have been given. My sincere thanks and appreciation to Matthew Manchester (Tour and Music Director), John Ockwell (Orchestra Director



and Taxes Director), Alex Pringle ( Choral Director) and Rebecca Cameron (Welfare and Dispenser of Medication Director) who were wonderful role models, colleagues and supervisors of the group.

I thank all sixty six Fortians for their good humour, team work, co-operation, fabulous musicianship and generosity. As a result of the taxes collected we presented a very heavy Pringles container full of taxes to the Emirates Airlines staff for their foundation to support children in need across the world.

**Ms Roslynn Moxham**  
**Principal**

Important Dates	
<b>May</b>	
6	School Council meeting
11	IMP Committee meeting
12-14	NAPLAN
13	Year 12 Information Evening
13	P&C meeting
15	NAPLAN make up day
19	ICAS Computer Skills competition
20-22	Big Science
20	Zone Cross Country
20	Open Morning
21	School Athletics Carnival
27	Australian History Competition
28	Senior performing Arts
29	Recognition Assembly Year 10-12

## Year 7 Study Skills -It's All About Attitude

When students start secondary school, they are usually very positive and optimistic about school. Then things can start to get harder, a bit more challenging, maybe they get a bad mark and become discouraged, or maybe their friends start to influence their attitude. Some students are able to overcome these challenges, while others let it affect their attitude and application to school.

### Take the time to determine reasons to put in effort into your schoolwork.

*Think about which of the following reasons might be motivating for you:*

- To achieve the best mark you are capable of at school.
- To give you lots of options for what subjects you can choose in the senior years.
- To give you lots of options of what you can choose to do when you leave school.
- To have a personal sense of satisfaction about doing your best.
- To show your gratitude to your parents for giving you an education.
- To avoid getting in trouble from your teachers.
- To avoid getting in trouble from your parents.
- To avoid getting a detention or other negative consequences from not working.
- To avoid disappointing your parents.
- So you don't feel bad about wasting your parent's time and money giving you an education.

We often talk about 'carrot' and 'stick' people. If you want a donkey to move forward, you can either lead it forward with a carrot (a reward) or whack it with a stick (punishment).

Some students are motivated by working towards rewards, positive consequences of doing the right thing, while others are motivated to avoid negative consequences. Which do you think you are?

Understanding what motivates you and what affects your attitude can make it easier for you to make positive changes.

*Learn more this year about how to motivate yourself and deal with distractions and procrastination by working through the units on*

[www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au). Our school's user name and password have been emailed to your DEC account.

Visit the **THINGS TO PRINT** page to download the latest **HELP** guide: **MASTERING MIDDLE SCHOOL**.

### HSC Timetables

Each Year 12 student's personal HSC exam timetable is now available via their Students Online account. All Year 12 students are urged to check their timetable asap and inform the school if there are any issues with their exam timetables.



**Older volunteers - online survey**

Never Stand Still | Medicine | The Simpson Centre for Health Services Research

Medical researchers at UNSW (University of New South Wales) are seeking volunteers 60+ for an online survey. We need your opinions on preferences for health care at the end of life. This will help us design health service initiatives, education activities and research for future care of the elderly.  
*The survey takes 10-15 minutes to complete.*

Please complete the survey online at:  
**<http://unsw.to/publicpreferences>**

For more information email: [Cristal.Query@unsw.edu.au](mailto:Cristal.Query@unsw.edu.au) or phone: (02) 9385 8699  
*Thanks in advance for your help, UNSW Team*

Cristal Query/Code 000896

## Fortians in Focus

**Remo Bisaro** graduated from Fort Street High School in 1950. He studied Pharmacy at Sydney University and ran a successful pharmacy in Panania for over 50 years. He recently attended his 65<sup>th</sup> Fort Street High School reunion. Remo is pictured here showing this photo of himself in the 1950 3rd grade rugby team.



In 2012, soon after graduating from Fort Street High School, **Kevin Luu** was injured in a serious bicycle accident and suffered a severe brain injury. The SRC and the school community have supported Kevin through the charity Fresh Tracks.

As a representative of Fresh Tracks, Kevin recently ran in the Lindfield Rotary 5km fun run and finished in just 28 minutes. A wonderful result for Kevin.

He is pictured here accepting a cheque on behalf of Fresh Tracks.



## Your Path to Sydney Uni

Sydney University is holding an information evening on Wednesday 20 May from 6pm – 9pm at the Whitlam Room, Revesby Workers' Club. Guest speakers include Professor Tyrone Carlin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Registrar) of the University of Sydney, and Dr Karl Kruszelnicki. It is a great opportunity to find out more about courses available at the University of Sydney.

Students, teachers, and parents can:

- Hear about student life at the University of Sydney;
- Learn about our Access Sydney: Alternative Pathway schemes;
- Learn about the costs associated with going to university;
- Find out more about scholarships and study options; and
- Speak to faculty and support staff.

Places are limited so please register online at [sydney.edu.au/yourpath](http://sydney.edu.au/yourpath)

If you have any queries about the event please do not hesitate to contact Fabi Fugazza, Alternative Pathways Manager on [fabi.fugazza@sydney.edu.au](mailto:fabi.fugazza@sydney.edu.au) or 8627 0123.



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