



# MERCURIUS

The News Magazine of Fort Street High School

August 2015 Term 3

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## Dear Parents, Carers and Fortians

Another milestone has passed for the students undertaking their HSC this year. The Trial HSC has concluded with reports being written by the teaching staff. The Year 12 End of Course reports will be distributed on Monday 31 August. Language students have already undertaken their oral examinations. English Extension 2 works have been submitted and Visual Arts students have submitted their work with a successful pop up exhibition held in the library. Drama practicals have taken place with examiners in the school last week and the external examiners for Music will be in the school on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Parents of Year 12 students please keep an eye out for a letter that contains details of the last week of school for your sons and daughters. The graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September beginning at 7:00pm in the Memorial Hall.

There will be a breakfast for Year 12 and staff on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00am and concluding at 10:30am. On this day traditionally students in other years do not attend school for the first two periods. A letter outlining the organisation for the day will be sent home during the week beginning 31<sup>st</sup> August. The school will also hold a formal farewell to Year 12 during Periods 3&4 on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

Two of our Titration teams have been advised that they have made it to the National finals on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September at UNSW. The members of Team 1 are **Matthew Lihou**, **Lindsay Small** and **Aidan Kemp**. Team 2 members are **Tina Dang**, **Caroline Yang** and **Christine Yang**.

Our best wishes go to these two teams and we look forward to hearing from your great supporter Mr Leondios with the results.

We have had success again in the NSW Geography competition – congratulations to

**Henry Lee** and **Rowan Lembit** who placed equal first in the competition for 2015.



I spoke at the last School Council meeting regarding some growing concerns from the staff after a parent raised their voice during parent teacher interviews and in another more concerning incident a parent slapped their palm on the table that separated the teacher and parent. These two incidents breach our understanding of acceptable behaviour on school grounds. Everyone who walks through the gates is expected to carry out their business in an amicable fashion and follow our charter of dignity and respect. If this type of behaviour were to continue I would use the Inclosed Lands Protection Act to prevent aggressive parents from coming onto the school grounds.

On a happier note I would like to wish the competitors participating in the Junior RoboCup all the best for their competition later this week. I would like to thank Mr Grant for his ongoing support of this co-curricula program.

The school will be celebrating Wear It Purple Day on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August. Some members of the Diversity group recently attended the

National Safe Schools Symposium in preparation for this day. The group have identified the use of homophobic and transphobic language as the theme not only for the day but would like to raise awareness and stop the use of this type of language permanently within the school. It is my hope that we remove this type of language from our culture and the school becomes an even safer and supportive environment for students who identify as LGBTQ. Wear It Purple Day will raise awareness of the issue with the phrases “that’s so gay” and “don’t be a faggot” being targeted in an ongoing campaign across the school.

**David Osland**  
**Relieving Principal**

### **SRC Report**

During term 2, the SRC hosted the Ultimate Frisbee competition, where teams battled it out on the field for their chance at winning the Ultimate Frisbee Cup. Coming out on top were ‘Game of Throws’ in the senior division, and the junior ‘Team Solo Mid’.

The teachers surprised everyone by winning second place in the SRC’s pop culture and movie-themed Trivia Night. The night itself was a huge success and widely enjoyed by everyone who came!



Drawing on student feedback, the SRC has reviewed how money is spent in fundraising. We asked students about supporting charities and school projects; events we run, such as dances, trivia nights and sport competitions; and finally the school environment. This feedback will help inform the direction of the SRC as the new term begins.

The SRC will also be focusing on the school bathrooms in the coming year - we have prepared a survey that will be sent out to students to gain their opinions on the school facilities.

Elections were held in week 5 and we’re pleased

to welcome the new SRC members for 2015-2016! The new members begin in term 4 and will be holding the Christmas dance, as well as a few new events!

### **Year 8 SRC**



### **Secretary for a Day**

I was invited to take part in the annual Secretary for a Day Program to celebrate Education Week. I was absolutely thrilled to be chosen as one of two lucky students to shadow the Secretary of the NSW Department of Education, Michele Bruniges. Despite the deceptively humble title, Michele is the head of the department for public education across the state, and for one day, I would step into her shoes.

In the jam packed two day program, I spent the first day shadowing Michele and the second day attending a Wellbeing and Student leaders’ forum.

On day one, after meeting Michele in her Bridge Street State Office, she invited us to accompany her to Jannali High School for the Launch of Education Week. We were the guests of honour to song and dance performances, short films about local heroes, and speeches from His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley, the Acting Minister Leslie Williams, NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione, Deputy News Director Stu Wallace, and six time Paralympian and gold medallist Liesl Tesch. After getting our photographs taken, we boarded the bus back to Bridge Street. Back at the office, we spoke to Michelle about her role as the Secretary, her day to day job and how she got to where she was. We then went on a tour around the department, looking into meeting rooms, walking through the galleries displaying recent HSC Visual Art works, and popping in to the Education sector of the building. Our day concluded sitting down with Michele and her speech writer; they were busy finalising the

details of her next speech. There was not a dull moment in the day of the Secretary.

The second day, we sat back in big comfy chairs in a meeting room back at Bridge Street State Office, but we had to put our minds hard at work. We started the forum by talking about the *Wellbeing Framework For Schools*. We then went on to speak about the *Tell Them From Me* Survey and got a glimpse of the preliminary results collected. We then had a discussion with Greg Prior, the Deputy Secretary, about wellbeing, mental health, communication, and relationship building between teachers and students. It was a real eye-opener to hear fresh ideas from students around the state.

In two short days, I was extremely grateful to see so much and learn so much. I hope to take these new insights back to school, and help inform and improve how we do things. This may just mean planting the seeds to change.

**Angele Yan**  
Year 11

### **The John Lincoln Youth Community Service Award**

**Yashas Bhatt**, Year 12, has been chosen to receive a John Lincoln Youth Community Service award which will be presented by the Governor, his Excellency General the Honorable David Hurley AC DSC at a ceremony at NSW Government House.

The late Dr John Lincoln AM, on behalf of of the New South Wales Branch of the Order of Australia Association, created a new initiative for young people to be awarded the youth community service awards.

### **2014 HSC English Extension 2 Showcase**

A ceremony, followed by a cocktail party at the State Library of NSW saw three Fortians of 2014, **Janek Drevikovsky** (1<sup>st</sup> in course), **Bolwen Fu** and **Ruby Hillsmith** (9<sup>th</sup> in course), receive awards for their inclusion in 'word express' *Young Writers Showcase 14*. Sixteen of the 1800 talented students who are eligible to sit the English Extension 2 course have had their work showcased in this prestigious volume – their work will also be archived in the State Library. Twelve of this year's students came from a variety of NSW schools, but to have included three students from one school is extraordinary – and a first!

This was attested to by the audience reaction when the second, then third Fort Street student received their award from Tom Alegounarias, President, BOSTES.

Janek's short story, *Translator, traitor*, Bolwen's script, *Pulped Fiction* and Ruby's poetry, *Commentary on a nymphette* are three extraordinary works of a diverse nature, remarkably mature and remarkably clever. Excerpts from these works appeared in *The Fortain*, 2014.

The English Faculty is immensely proud of the students' achievement – their dedication, hard work, creativity, willingness to take risks and to listen to and act on constructive criticism will stand them in good stead no matter what direction they pursue. Congratulations Janek, Bolwen and Ruby.



Mr Alegounarias President of the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) said "The Young Writers Showcase celebrates the creative talent of our HSC students, and the 16 students who have works selected for publication have achieved at the highest level.

"The featured authors, and their schools and teachers, are to be congratulated. I wish the students the best of luck for their future studies and careers, and if creative writing forms part of that, either professionally or by way of personal interest, I look forward to reading their next contributions to our national culture.

**Catriona Arcamone**  
Head Teacher, English

## IMP

Congratulations to the Chamber Choir on making it into the Australian Choral Grand Prix again this year. The event will be held at the Concourse on Sunday 30th August at 2:30pm.

The Chamber Choir will also be performing two professional public concerts in the popular Resonance series. These concerts place the chamber choir alongside some of the finest professional musicians in Australia. Please come along to hear highlights from the choir's award-winning repertoire of the past two years.

Friday 11th Sept 6pm  
Christ Church, Lavender Bay

Sunday 13th Sept 3pm  
Hunter Baillie Church, Annandale

See [www.resonance.net.au](http://www.resonance.net.au) for more details.

## Year 7 Technology



Year 7 students hard at work in their Technology Mandatory studies recording voiceovers for their video projects. Students were asked to develop a short advertisement to sell a fictional product to the rest of the class. In the process, students are learning to manage digital files and use sound and video editing programs to create and refine content to produce a professional result.

## Happy 100th Birthday

**Vera Millicent Howard** nee Pausey  
Fortian 1928-1932



Vera was born on 29th August 1915 and attended Fort Street Girls' High School.

In 1932 Vera was dux of the school in the Leaving Certificate. She gained 1st place in her French exam, Latin exam with 2nd class honours; and 1st place in Greek with 1st class Honours. Her name is mentioned on the school Honour boards for the 'Girls Special Prize' and gaining 'Honours in the Leaving Certificate Examination' for 1st place in her Greek exam.

She also was awarded a 2nd grade diploma for the Alliance Francaise Examination.

Vera studied Classics at Sydney University (Latin, Greek and two years of Psychology); she then completed a Diploma of Education, and went on to teach languages at High School. She was required to resign when she got married, but she was called back to teaching during the Second World War. She had 25 years of teaching both at the primary and secondary levels and was a primary school deputy at the time of her retirement.

She has lived in Melbourne for many years and still lives at home.

Happy birthday Vera!

### In memoriam

**David Francis Gillett (1946-2015)**  
School Captain 1963

**Arthur Brickell Williams (1931-2015)**  
Teacher of English and Modern History at Fort Street Boys' High School in the 1960s

## Important Dates

### September

**2** Open Morning  
**2** School Council & Foundation meeting  
**3** Year 11 Exams begin  
**3-5** CHS Athletics  
**4** Legacy Day

**7** Year 11 Orientation Day  
**9** P&C Meeting  
**10** Gala Day  
**14-15** SRC Camp  
**17** Year 12 Breakfast, Farewell Assembly and Graduation  
**18** End of term

## Lest We Forget



### **Flight Lieutenant Ronald Harold SMALL**

(Fortian 1938). Died aged 22  
He took off in his Spitfire on 23 June 1944 to provide air cover to Allied troops on the beachhead in Normandy and faced combat against FW190's of the Luftwaffe. The Combat Report shows Small's Spitfire, damaged in the fight, broke away and was last sighted believed to be pursuing and shooting down a FW190. He did not return from combat and was posted missing that day.

His body was found in the wreckage and interred in the cemetery in St Samson, Normandy, the only war grave in that churchyard.

## Free HSC Seminars

Marrickville Library and History are running free seminars to help you prepare for upcoming exams. The Library is dedicated to supporting HSC students and encourages you to make the most of our seminars so your school years are finished successfully. More information about these seminars is available on the Marrickville Library website. Bookings are essential. Book online at [www.marrickvillelibrary.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.marrickvillelibrary.eventbrite.com.au) or call 9335 2173.

### **English – Discovery**

This two-hour seminar is centred around the HSC English exam and will equip you with the vital skills necessary to maximise performance. It will focus on the theme of Discovery and how it can be related to chosen texts. Tuesday 1 September 5.30pm-7.30pm Marrickville Library  
**Mathematics – General 2 Course** For this hands-on session, you will need to bring writing material as well as a Board of Studies approved calculator. The two-hour seminar is broken up into the different topics of the General Mathematics 2 Course and will tackle past HSC exam questions as well as providing a course overview. Wednesday 2 September 5.30pm-7.30pm Marrickville Library

### **Ancient History**

Providing an overview of core unit 'Pompeii and Herculaneum', this two-hour session will also cover past HSC questions. You will also have access to valuable resources and learn skills associated to essay writing so you're ready for the HSC Ancient History exam. Thursday 3 September 5.30pm-7.30pm Dulwich Hill Library

**SUMMER HILL CRICKET CLUB** is inviting current and new players to join us and have a go at our national sport.

We have junior teams in the local district Saturday morning competition for BOYS up to 16 yrs of age.

Senior students are invited to join our mens teams, where we focus on mentoring and coaching.

We also have many GIRLS playing with SHCC in a separate girls competition.

Summer Hill C.C. is a community-based, family friendly club, with established mentoring and coaching programs.

We will teach new players how to play cricket, effective teamwork, and how to enjoy their summer sport and recreation time in a friendly way.

Come and join us. Bring a friend and HAVE A GO !

Visit our website at <http://www.summerhillcricketclub.org.au/>  
and call Alan Arthur on 0402 637 615