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Yes, it has been a while! Planning is underway for our **Annual Dinner on October 15th** at the Sir Stamford Hotel, Circular Quay. More information soon, so please start getting your year groups together. Contact at this stage is via email to denice.smith@bigpond.com



Thanks to the Sir Stamford for the generous donation of an Elegance High Tea for two. Join us at the Dinner for the opportunity to win!



Steven Duckett
Source:
Grattan Institute

During the COVID-19 reporting, there has been one well known Fortian in the news. Many of you would be aware of **Stephen Duckett**, but how many know that Stephen is a Fortian (1967). Stephen is currently the Health and Aged Care Program Director at the Grattan Institute. He has had a distinguished career as a

health economist and think-tanker who has occupied many leadership roles in health services in both Australia and Canada, including as Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing". *Wikipedia*

Thanks to **Denise Quay** (1969) for this information from the State Library International Women's Day 2020 on Fortian **Jean Fleming Arnot MBE** (1903–1995) — librarian, trade unionist and feminist. Jean educated at Fort Street Girls' High School, had a long and distinguished career in librarianship with the Public Library of New South Wales from 1921.



Working variously as Extension Librarian for regional NSW (1944–1948), Head Cataloguer (1950–1968) and Acting Mitchell Librarian (1956–1958). Arnot was awarded the NSW Public Service Association's Gold Medal in 1944. A founding member in 1949 of the Library Association of Australia, Arnot attended the First International Conference on Cataloguing Principles in 1961. Her cataloguing expertise remained much in demand after her retirement in 1968.

An accomplished and popular public speaker, from 1937 Miss Arnot actively campaigned for equal pay for women, later becoming President of the National Council of Women of NSW (1960–1966). Honing her debating skills on a range of issues, in 1959 she was the only female representative at the NSW Premier's Conference on Unemployment.

The Jean Arnot Memorial Award is presented by the State Library each year to a female librarian or student of librarianship for an outstanding paper of no more than 5000 words on any aspect of librarianship. The Fellowship is funded by a generous donation from the National Council of Women of New South Wales and the Australian Federation of Business and

Professional Women's Associations to commemorate Miss Arnot and her achievements.

Source: <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/stories/women-library>
Photo: NLA

Message from **Suzanne Craddock** (1962) seeking any reunion details for the class of 1958 -1962



Thanks, Iain, for the early notice that *Matilda* is coming to FSHS! Save the date - 25 August and 26 August! More information on performance times to follow.

From our ABC: Cassie McCullagh



Cassie McCullagh, Fortian 1988, grew up in Sydney and is a presenter, journalist and writer. Since joining the ABC in 2007 she has presented and produced a wide range of

programs for Radio National, Local Radio and Classic FM.

Most recently Cassie presented RN's flagship social affairs program *Life Matters*, and the popular culture programs *TV Club* and *The List*, as well as presenting *Best of the Festivals* and reporting for *Books and Arts*. Since 2017 Cassie has also filled in for Philip Clark and Sarah Macdonald on *Nightlife*, and for Simon Marnie on *Weekend Mornings* for ABC Radio Sydney.

In television in recent years Cassie has been a regular commentator on ABC TV's arts program *The Mix*, and in 2015 co-hosted Foxtel's arts and culture program, *Event*, with fellow Fortian, **Deborah Hutton**.

Prior to joining the ABC, Cassie worked in print journalism as senior feature writer, columnist and news reporter for *The Illawarra Mercury*, and as a staff writer for *The Good Weekend*.

With Kate Evans she co-hosts RN's *The Bookshelf*, an hour-long program discussing latest literary fiction

releases with writers, critics and publishing industry insiders.

Vale Associate Professor Dr. **David Laurence** (1971) who passed away recently after a short illness. David was respected world-wide in the field of mining engineering, a loving husband, father and grandfather, a dear brother and a good friend. He will be missed by family, friends, colleagues at UNSW and Fortians.

Fort Street Alumni at work at Fort Street!

Ms Catriona Arcamone, one of the School's Deputy Principals, writes that Fort Street students are very fortunate to be able to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of a number of our alumni through some new programs which have been trialled and are now running in the school.

These wonderful people are graduates from 2011 through to 2020. Some are undertaking their undergraduate university degrees, some doing a Master of Teaching, several undertaking the writing of theses for Master Degrees and several about to commence their PhD (Oxford University) or complete their PhD (UNSW).

We have a number of School Learning Support Officers positions being filled by our past students, who are doing wonderful work both in and out of classrooms and in the Learning Centre and twice-weekly Homework Centre, working with students from Year 7 to Year 12 across all subject areas. They are assisting students with organisational skills, literacy, essay writing, breaking down assessment specifications and any number of things which will help our students be the best learners they can be.

There is also an alumna (2011) running tutoring programs for small groups of students whose progress was affected by the pandemic closure of the school last year to ensure they are able to meet all subject outcomes. Some of our wonderful student thinkers attend the Philosophy Club, under the tutelage of a 2013 alumnus. Some have returned as music tutors and debating coaches – ensuring Fort Street continues to produce brilliant musicians and winning debaters.

A few alumni are working as volunteers in the Homework Centre after school. A great number are working as one-on-one mentors for the twenty English Extension 2 students, developing unique and individual Major Works across a plethora of subjects and forms.

We are so fortunate to have the enthusiasm and expertise of these outstanding young people who, in their desire to “give back” to the school that nurtured them, will ensure that the next generation of Fortians are in turn gifted with a wonderful school experience.



Did you know that there is a Fortian connection to *Hamilton the Musical*? Thanks to School Archivist **Iain Wallace** for the following news: *The Australian company of Hamilton has been announced and we are excited that Iosefa Laga'aia (Fortian 2016) has been cast in the Ensemble.*

Pictured (right) is Iosefa with his father, Jay. Source: *Daily Telegraph*



Thanks to **Jules Davies**, Fort Street Community Engagement for this article.

Join the **Class of 1971**, for their 50 Year Reunion, a Sydney Harbour cruise on Friday 17 September 2021, midday. For more information contact **Brett Worsley** by email: bworsley@bigpond.net.au



Thanks to **Jeff Newman** who posted this on the Lost Fort Street Facebook page “Saw this at the National Portrait Gallery. It depicts **Michael Kirby (1955)**, the distinguished former judge of the High Court. Art often expresses a meaning that mere words can never do. The painting is entitled ‘Radical Restraint’”.



FSBHS class of 1963 at lunch recently

The boys of 1963 had a 50-year reunion at school in 2013. They went on to apply for and receive a grant from The Department of Veterans Affairs for a new honour board dedicated to Fortians who served in conflicts after World War 2. This honour board is displayed in the School Memorial Hall.

The School was fortunate to have this group of Fortians visit us in 2019 when they were celebrating 60 Years since they started at Fort Street, when **Graham Easton** (Vice Captain 1963), who has two grandchildren at Fort Street, gave an entertaining talk at one of Fort Street’s recognition assemblies.

From the Principal, Juliette McMurray, the Fortian Museum.

Behind closed curtains our school archivist Iain Wallace has been working on setting up a much larger version of the ‘Ron Horan Museum’. The new museum is located on the ground level of the Wilkins Building in the original entrance to the school, the administration office and the old principal’s office. The Museum is nearing completion and we are hoping to have an official opening on 29 July 2020. Jules Davies, Community Engagement, and Iain Wallace, the School Archivist, will keep us updated on the times Fortians will be invited to inspect the Museum.

If you have a story to share, please email Denice Smith denice.smith@bigpond.com



Following her passion Fortian, **Kitsa Yanniotis** (nee **Markopoulos**) (1977) has created a small artisan company recreating an ancient probiotic superfood with hand produced organic raw cultured vegetables. Kitsa, a lawyer and psychotherapist, now turned a nutrition consultant specialising in gut health.

She started her store *Emporio Organico* a few years ago. Kitsa specialises in children's health and food-based solutions, eco-home and eco-beauty, digestive health, cultured and traditional foods, allergy-friendly and gluten-free, chemical and additive-free as well as more specific diets like Paleo, GAPS & Body Ecology. I wanted to create a one-stop shop to make the transition to a healthier lifestyle more easily achievable. Thanks, **Glenn Maddock** (1977) for bringing Kitsa's amazing career path to our attention. Source: www.northshoremums.com.au



Thanks to **Fred Dumbrell** (1970) for reminding us about **Willie Qua** (1970) who joined that great Jazz group, Galapagos Duck in 1973. Known to Fred as Willy, he shared the following recollections about Willy from school days. I am friends with Willy, and it has been sad to hear of his health issues after such a stellar music career.

"I always think back to sitting next to him in year 11 French. When I asked him, what he was doing in his Christmas Holidays, his response was that he and his brother were going to form a band. The rest, as they say, is history as the band was Galapagos Duck. What I did not say was how nonchalant Willy was in saying he was going down to the Snowy Mountains with his brother to muck around playing music. It was so casual and laid back and totally Willy the great jazz master. I was very lucky, to just pass French. Too much talking in class".



Galapagos Duck at The Basement in the early 70s. Far left Willie Qua. Photo Source Mike Williams published his book "The Australian Jazz Explosion".



18 April marks the anniversary of the death of **Myer E. Rosenblum** OAM in 2002. Rosenblum was an Australian sportsman and lawyer.

He was born in South Africa and moved to Sydney, in 1914, where he was educated at Fort Street Boys' High School and Sydney University. Rosenblum was also a bassoon and contra-bassoon player and won a scholarship to the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

He played four Test matches for the Australian Rugby Union team in 1928, set a record for the hammer throw in 1935 and was also an accomplished tennis player and hurdler. He established a law firm, M. Rosenblum and Co in the 1930s; in 1959 he employed John Howard as an articled clerk.

In his later years, Myer was an active philanthropist. He died of a heart attack at the age of 95 and is buried in Rookwood Cemetery's Jewish Section 24A.

Source: *Rookwood Cemetery Facebook page*