



**THE MAGAZINE**  
OF THE  
**FORT STREET**  
**GIRLS'**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**

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**Centenary Issue**

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THE MAGAZINE  
of the  
**Fort Street Girls' High School**

JULY, 1949

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FABER EST SUAE QUISQUE FORTUNAE

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SCHOOL CAPTAIN: ANNETTE RANDALL.



## A Congratulatory Message

from the . . .

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EDUCATION**

**C**ENTENARY Celebrations of any kind are exciting functions. When celebrations are organised to commemorate an institution of such public importance as Fort Street, with its notable achievement and its impressive influence on national social development a record of the nature and quality of functions commemorating its founding possesses a future as well as a present importance. The publication of this magazine fulfils that function.

Of the celebrations themselves one has only praise for those responsible for their organisation.

Miss Fanny Cohen, Principal, and all members of the staff of Fort Street Girls' High School worked ardently and successfully. They were ably supported by members of the Old Girls' and Old Boys' Unions represented by their presidents, Miss Elizabeth Bannan and Mr. Les Duff.

The Garden Party was a most enjoyable function. Friendships of other years were revived or more firmly cemented by the common bond of association with Fort Street either as teacher or student.

The Fort Street Dinner was conducted in the best of taste and tasted well.

The Pageant was a magnificent achievement and a satisfying spectacle. It demonstrated the effectiveness of co-operation between ex-students and present students to a marked degree.

To Mrs. Hodgkins who so skilfully wrote the narrative, and to Barbara Brunton Gibb who portrayed the Spirit of Fort Street with superb artistry congratulations are just and timely. Heather Kinnaird gave pleasure and enjoyment with artistic charm and grace. The past was linked with the present in triumphant presentation.

The Fort Street Ball was an outstanding social success and concluded the celebrations on that level of enthusiasm which marked all other functions.

What the future holds is difficult to foretell. But there is comfort and satisfaction in knowing that the celebration of a century of brilliant past achievement has been fittingly concluded and suitably recorded.

## A Message of Thanks . . .

**N**OW that the Centenary Celebrations have come to a conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity of thanking all those who contributed to the success of the various functions.

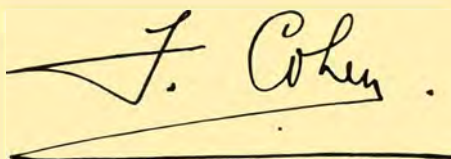
*This success was undoubtedly due to the wonderful co-operation between the two schools and the two unions.*

*The work of the Centenary Committee was made easy by the "Old Boys" and "Old Girls" (not necessarily members of the unions) who more than did their part.*

*The hundreds of letters and telephone calls showing the enthusiasm of ex-Fortians, both young and old, were an inspiration to those responsible for organising the functions. The wealth of goodwill displayed, not only by Fortians but also by those connected in any way with the celebrations, was remarkable.*

*I deeply appreciated the interest shown by the Hon. the Premier and Mrs. McGirr, the Hon. the Minister for Education and Mrs. Heffron, the Director-General of Education Mr. J. G. McKenzie, the Member for King, Mr. D. Clyne and Major-General and Mrs. Fewtrell who were our official guests.*

*To all, particularly the Staff—the Parents of the Girls and the "Old Girls," who gave such unstinting service I give my grateful thanks.*



*J. Cohen*

## THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

FORT STREET SCHOOL celebrated its Centenary in April-May, 1949, with a series of functions. Included amongst these were the School Pageant produced at the Conservatorium on 26th and 27th April, and the Garden Party at the School on 30th April.

We are indebted to Mr. J. McRorie of the Department of Education, who took a great number of photographs at both these functions. They are an excellent record of events during the Centenary Week and will have historic value in years to come. Mr. McRorie has kindly allowed us to use these photographs as illustrations in our second issue of the Centenary Magazine.

### THE GARDEN PARTY

MORE than three thousand guests attended the Garden Party on Saturday, 30th April, at Fort Street Girls' High School, to mark the school's centenary.

Miss Fanny Cohen, Principal of the School, Miss Elizabeth Bannan, President of the Old Girls' Union, Mr. N. R. Mearns, Principal of Fort Street Boys' High School, and Mr. L. Duff, President of the Old Boys' Union, received the guests. Thanks to the good offices of Mr. N. Esserman, a loud-speaker system was installed in the school grounds so that official speeches could be heard.

Proceedings opened by the Minister for Education, Mr. R. J. Heffron, unveiling a commemorative plaque in the school porch.

On this is engraved—

THIS TABLET  
*was unveiled by*  
 THE HON. R. J. HEFFRON, M.L.A.  
*Minister for Education*  
 to commemorate the Centenary  
 of Fort Street School  
 30th April, 1949  
 D. CLYNE, M.L.A.  
*Member for King.*

J. G. MCKENZIE, B.A., B.Ec.  
*Director-General of Education.*

FANNY COHEN, M.A., B.Sc.  
*Principal of Fort Street Girls' High School.*



EN ROUTE TO THE GARDEN PARTY



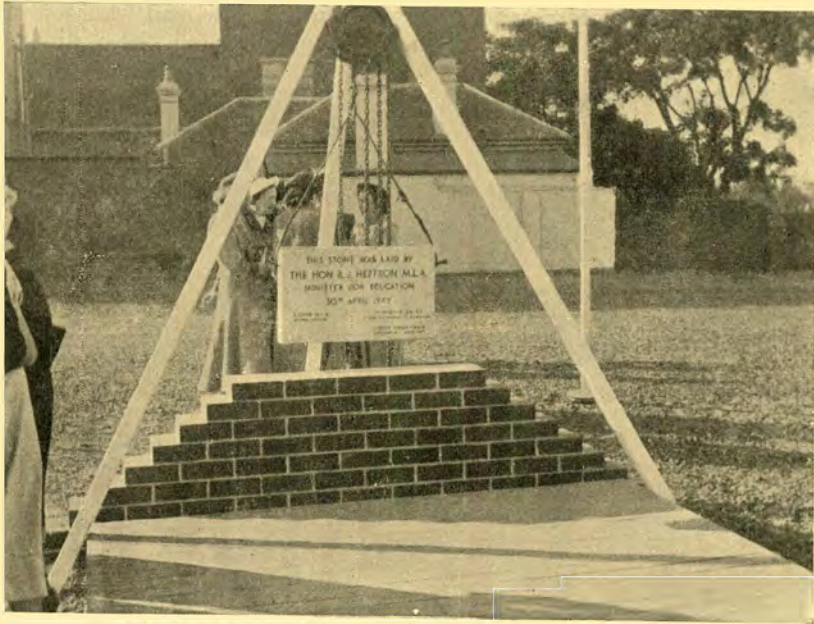
LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION-STONE

From Left.—Mrs. J. McGirr, the Hon. R. J. Heffron, M.L.A., Miss Fanny Cohen,  
Mrs. R. J. Heffron, Mr. J. G. McKenzie, and Mr. J. Back

(Photograph by Mrs. Kennard.)



The next ceremony was the laying of the foundation stone of the Fanny Cohen Gymnasium. This was performed by Mr. R. J. Heffron, who in the course of his speech, said that the foundation stone ceremony was decided on as part of the celebrations of the School's Centenary, but that it had a special significance in that it exemplified the trend towards extending physical education facilities in schools. On completion, it would cost £9,500. Mr. Heffron concluded by saying, "I offer my best wishes to all the girls of Fort Street who will use this gymnasium."



THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE FANNY COHEN GYMNASIUM

(Photograph by Mrs. Kennard.)

Annette Randall, the school captain, presented a silver trowel to the Minister for Education, and bouquets were given to Mrs. J. McGirr and Mrs. Heffron by prefects of the school, Laurel Thomas and Elsie Cousens.

After these ceremonies the staff and girls of the school served afternoon-tea in the class-rooms and play-ground. Afternoon tea for over two hundred people was also served in the Assembly Hall, which for the time-being looked a bower of beauty and loveliness. The official party and those who had been Fortians at the school before 1900 assembled here, so that on all sides references could be heard to school-events back in the nineties and even earlier.

The Garden Party was not only the inaugural function of the Centenary Celebrations, but also the most popular—that is, if judged by the numbers who attended and stayed on until darkness set in. A solid mass of people blocked the pathway and the area around the fig-tree facing the entrance. That this should be a common meeting-ground was understandable for literally hundreds had made arrangements to meet at the fig-tree at such and such an hour and renew school friendships which had lapsed in many cases for a quarter of a century.

Those who enjoyed themselves most were the guests who could hark back to the days of the Jubilee of 1899—and even earlier. Old gentlemen made a constant procession up the back stairs in search of the Armoury (now a staff-room), and stood and reminisced on the days of long ago, when it seemed half a dozen whacks with the cane was the order of the day. Room 9, particularly had a fatal attraction for people. It seems to have been known as the “Black Hole of Calcutta.” “Siberia” was another Mecca for the old boys. Indeed no place was free of these ex-pupils. In order to direct traffic one way, there were notices everywhere with “No Thoroughfare” and “No Admittance” written on them. However, with a fine disregard for law, and with a spirit of independence common to all Fortians, ex-pupils ignored these directions.



SCENE AT THE GARDEN PARTY

*(Photo. by courtesy of M. Webber.)*

One “Old Boy” who had not visited the school for sixty years insisted on crossing the bridge to see the foundation-stone of the Gymnasium despite the urgent pleas of the traffic police who were clearing the way for the official party. “I must go,” he said, “I haven’t been here for half a century.”

A great number of visitors came from the country. There was quite a little colony of Novocastrians, quite a number from Melbourne and others came as far afield as Grong Grong and Murwillumbah, Broken Hill and Dungog. The number of people who asked for invitations ran into hundreds. There was even a trunk-line call from Grenfell late one afternoon for the express purpose of asking for an invitation. The Garden Party was indeed an occasion to be remembered by all, for it showed unmistakably the hold the old school has on the affection of its former pupils.



AFTERNOON TEA AT THE GARDEN PARTY

## MESSAGES FROM NEAR AND FAR

ONE aspect of the Centenary Celebrations which will always be remembered was the expression by 'phone, by cable, by telegram, and by letter of good-will on the part of former pupils, former members of the staff, and friends of the school.

There were, in the weeks preceding the Garden Party, literally hundreds of telephone calls, hundreds of letters, and innumerable telegrams and cables.

First and foremost was a congratulatory message, sent from New York, from perhaps Fort Street's most famous son—Dr. H. V. Evatt. We quote verbatim :—

I deeply regret that my duties as President of the General Assembly of the United Nations prevent me from accepting the honour to speak at the Centenary Dinner of Fort Street School.

With so many other fellow-Australians, I am privileged to call myself an "Old Boy" of this historic seat of learning and place of character-building. Fort Street occupies a unique part in the history of our State and Commonwealth. It has given more than scholarship to its sons ; it has been more than an educational institution. Old Fortians rejoice in their school's contribution to the life of the nation. It has enriched the community with the high ideals of its distinguished headmasters and able teaching staff. Its traditions have endured in the sacrifice and service of many of its Old Boys in the two World Wars ; while the spirit of Fort Street has imbued its ex-students in the spheres of government and public administration, in the professions and commerce and industry, and contributed fully to the highest standards of democratic citizenship.

I remember specially at this time my late revered headmaster, A. J. Kilgour, and the encouraging advice and helpful counsel that I so frequently received from him during his years of retirement. Part of the proud record of Fort Street is the unselfish dedication of A. J. Kilgour to the service of the boys and school he loved so well.

As a new generation continues to walk in the path of learning that leads through and from our School, we Old Fortians remember with deep and abiding affection our fragment of years in its first century of life that will always remain among our most cherished memories.

I join you now as an Old Boy who humbly salutes the Century of Youth. For Fort Street is a Hundred Years Young ; and of Fort Street's history of achievement, and of its grand heritage, we can say with Shakespeare :

"This story shall the good man teach his son . . ."

HERBERT V. EVATT.

There were others abroad who remembered their old school at the turn of its century.

One message came from June Lascelles, a Fortian at present doing post-graduate work at Oxford; another from two ex-pupils, Ida Charlier and Bessie Bringhurst, the latter a member of the Staff of the Agent-General's Office in London. Former members of the staff, at present in England—Miss Sheila Mackay, Miss Alma Hamilton, Miss Jane Martin, and Miss Helen Bowe cabled their good wishes. Joy Nichols, the famous entertainer, who is at present delighting West End audiences, found time to send a warm-hearted message to the Principal. She said, "Thinking of the best school of all at this very important time. Love from ex-Fortian Joy Nichols."

Anne Hatfield, who has lived for many years in England, sent a message of good-will. Mrs. K. Harland, President of the Ladies' Committee of the Fort Street Boys' High School, who is en route to England, wirelessly her best wishes from the "Orcades"; Mrs. Glynn Palmer, from Fanning Island, remembered Fort Street School on the eve of its Centenary; Gwen Gillard, a member of the Italian Grand Opera Company at present touring New Zealand, sent a cable; Mr. D. Clyne, M.L.A., sent congratulations in a message from Rabaul—and so the list could go on.

Nearer home, we could quote telegrams from all parts of Australia. One came from Rockhampton, another from Queanbeyan, and another from Lismore. Melbourne was represented, Katoomba and Griffith, Maitland and Thirroul.

We were interested at the number of schools which sent messages, and particularly interested in one sent from Perth Boys' High School, by the Headmaster, Mr. Glew. This school celebrated its Centenary two years ago, and has close links with Fort Street, since several of its former Headmasters were Fortians.

Perhaps the message which touched us most deeply was one sent from an ex-pupil, Mrs. Ella Wilson, who had attended the school in 1878.

One friend of the school, Mr. R. G. Henderson, paid his tribute in verse as follows:—

### THE TRUE FORTIANS.

In Mediaeval ages, when Crusades and other rages  
Enticed the wayward hearts of men adventuring to go,  
Left in charge of house, and home, while the men went off to roam,  
With no manly interference, the women ran the show.  
Likewise when Fort Street boys and men to lower levels took their pen,  
They left the women on the Rocks, to do their helpless best!  
So here's to the hands that grasped the reins, to the gallant list of Chatelaines,  
Here's to the girls that held the Fort, when the boys went west!

The Centenary Celebrations have indeed revealed an unprecedented interest and affection for the School on the Hill.

## THE FORT STREET CENTENARY DINNER

THE Wentworth Hotel was the scene of the Dinner held on Tuesday, 3rd May, to celebrate the Centenary. This was one of the major functions of the series, and, although the Ballroom at the Wentworth Hotel was the largest of its kind available, accommodation was so small as necessarily to restrict the attendance to ex-Fortians, except in the case of a few distinguished guests.

Some three hundred were present and formed a representative gathering of the commercial, professional, legal and educational life of the community. Guests included the Premier and Mrs. McGirr, the Minister of Education and Mrs. Heffron. Among those present were Sir Bertram Stevens, a former Premier, and Mr. Christmas, a former Headmaster, as well as a number of former captains of the School. Descendants of former Headmasters were present and included Mrs. McAlister, daughter of Mr. F. Bridges, Dr. Keith Kilgour and Dr. Heather Kilgour. Among those who were unable to be present and forwarded apologies were Mr. Justice Maxwell and Mr. J. A. Williams, a former Headmaster.



Mrs. Heffron, the Hon. J. McGirr,  
M.L.A., Premier



Mrs. J. McGirr, Mr. J. G. McKenzie

Many cables and telegrams were received from all parts of Australia and overseas. They included congratulations from Mr. Glew, Headmaster of the Perth Boys' High School, who had on a previous occasion expressed the influence of Fort Street on education in Western Australia through distinguished Headmasters of the Perth Boys' High School and Directors of Education in Western Australia. Among the former teachers of Fort Street who were present were the Director-General of Education, Mr. J. G. McKenzie, Mr. W. A. Selle, Mr. E. Parker, Miss A. E. Turner and Miss Beatrice Tearle.



Miss Fanny Cohen, Mr. Justice Simpson (Chairman) and Mr. Les Duff

(Photograph by courtesy of the "Sydney Morning Herald.")

Old boys, whose memories carried them back to the 'seventies, were loudly applauded when the Chairman, Mr. Justice Simpson, asked them to stand so that they could be seen by the guests. Mr. George Day, aged 92, was perhaps the veteran. He had come by plane from Wagga the previous day to be present on this historic occasion. Other old boys were Mr. Whipp, aged 87, and Mr. Carr, aged 78, whose memory of the old school goes back to 1878.



Mr. Justice Simpson, Miss E. Bannan, the Hon. E. J. Heffron, M.L.A.

The toasts of the King, the School, the Staffs Past and Present, and the Unions were duly honoured. Mr. Justice Simpson, the Chairman, in his introductory remarks read a message sent from Lake Success from Dr. H. V. Evatt, Minister for External Affairs. He regretted with us that his duties as President of the General Assembly of the United Nations prevented him from being present. He wrote of the School's contribution to the life of the Nation and of the community with the high ideals of its distinguished Headmasters and able teaching staff.

The Premier, Mr. McGirr, proposed the chief toast of "The School" and was supported by Mr. McKenzie and Dr. Collins. He stressed the fact that the School was linked with the history of the State and had developed over the years as had other public bodies. He contrasted the expenditure of £2,000 for education per year by the State in the early days of Fort Street School, with the expenditure of £12,000,000 per annum in modern budgets. He said that ex-students had reason to be proud of the Alma Mater for it was a school famous for the men and women who had passed through it. Edmund Barton, H. V. Evatt and the late Dr. John Hunter were famous sons of Fort Street. Mr. McKenzie, the Director-General of Education, supported Mr. McGirr's remarks and said that he had no fears for the future of State education as long as such schools as Fort Street maintained their high standards.

Dr. A. J. Collins, in support of this toast, claimed that schools flourished or declined according to the personality of their principals. In this connection, he spoke in eulogistic terms of Mr. J. W. Turner, Headmaster of Fort Street School for many years. He referred also to Mr. S. Lasker, who had been a teacher of modern languages at Fort Street School. Dr. Collins feared that modern education, which did not now stress the study of the classics, was producing a student who lacked the cultural background which the humanities could give.

Miss Fanny Cohen, Principal of Fort Street Girls' High School, responded to the toast of the School. She paid tribute to the work done by her predecessors and spoke at length on the influence of Miss Ada Partridge in the development of the School. Miss Cohen acknowledged that, as a teacher, she had learnt much from Miss Partridge with regard to organisation and general administration. She concluded by saying that she was very proud of her old girls, so many of whom had been outstanding in the professional world.

Mr. N. R. Mearns, Principal of Fort Street Boys' School, also responded to the toast of the School. Commenting on Dr. Collins' speech in which he deplored the decline of the study of the classics, Mr. Mearns said that we were now passing through a new era in education. He said that social studies and current affairs had replaced dead languages and, for his part, he thought this was all to the good, for the student of today was more in touch with the world about him. "The boys and girls of today," concluded Mr. Mearns, "are just as important as those students of the past who have made good."

The second toast was that of the "Staff, Past and Present." This was proposed by the Hon. P. C. Spender. This speaker pointed out that school staffs had to deal with average material as well as brilliant students. "Too much emphasis has been placed on those who have been successful in life" said Mr. Spender. "I am convinced that it is much more important to breed good citizens and I hope we will hear more about the people who have discharged their duties as citizens."





From Left.—The Hon. P. C. Spender, M.P., Miss B. Smith, Sir Bertram Stevens, Dr. A. J. Collins, Mr. N. A. Esserman, Mrs. G. Martin-Baker, Mr. D. Weinberg

Miss Elizabeth Bannan, President of Fort Street Old Girls' Union, in a witty and amusing speech, referred to the use of the term "schoolmistress" in modern novels, and to the associations it conjured up. She then referred to teachers of the past and recalled their names and related anecdotes about them. She concluded her speech by a generous tribute to the work done by the staff of Fort Street Girls' High School in connection with the Centenary Celebrations.



From Left.—Miss A. E. Turner, Mr. W. Selle, Miss D. Dey, Mr. N. R. Mearns, the Hon. C. R. Evatt, M.L.A., Mr. L. Duff

Three speakers responded to the toast of the Staff. W. A. Selle, Esq., M.A., spoke of former headmasters of Fort Street, particularly of Mr. Turner who, he said, had laid the foundation stone of secondary education at Fort Street Model School. His associations with Fort Street went back to the time when the two High Schools—girls and boys—were housed under the one roof. He spoke of the days when he taught mathematics to boys and girls, and said that one former pupil, Heather Kilgour, was present at the Dinner. Mr. Selle felt that he had never lost touch with Fort Street for the sons and daughters of Fortians whom he had taught came on to the University during the time that he had been Registrar.

Miss A. E. Turner, B.A., spoke of her long association with Fort Street, going back to 1912. She knew so many teachers who had been at Fort Street with her and had since retired that she felt she could speak of them more intimately perhaps than anyone present. Miss Turner then in thumbnail sketches recalled their characteristics to an audience who obviously knew and enjoyed amusing references to former mistresses.

Mr. D. J. Austin, Deputy-Principal of Fort Street Boys' High School, reviewed the development of the High School system in New South Wales and said that the fame of Fort Street had been built by former staffs and former pupils. He said that a responsibility to maintain those standards now rested on the ex-Fortians of today as many of whom were present at the Dinner. He urged those present to maintain strong links with their old School.

The Hon. Clive Evatt, LL.B., Minister for Housing and past President of the Fort Street Old Boys' Union, spoke in praise of the two Unions. He said that these consisted of ex-Fortians many of whom had brought honour to the School. Mr. Evatt said that due reference had been made to those who had won fame in academic studies but there were equally great Fortians in the field of sport. He instanced the great cricketer Spofforth. Then again in music he mentioned Amadio, the flautist, and Heather Kinnaird, the singer. He congratulated the Schools—boys' and girls'—on their fine records of achievement.

Mr. Les Duff, President of the Old Boys' Union, responded to the toast of the Unions and thanked Mr. Evatt for his kind remarks. "Fort Street" he said "had a great history to look back upon and in the Centenary year, as an old Fortian, he wished it a successful future."

Before the proceedings terminated, Mr. N. A. Esserman asked those present to express their appreciation for the manner in which Mr. Justice Simpson handled the duties of Chairman.

This function, as were all the others celebrating the Centenary, was a remarkable success. This was in a great measure due to the hard and unobtrusive work particularly of the Ladies' Committee who helped to organise the function and who made themselves responsible for many of those details in connection with the Dinner, which contributed to its success.

N. A. ESSERMAN.

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*Editor's Note.*—The members of the Fort Street Centenary Committee to which Mr. Esserman was co-opted, are most grateful to him for his help in organising the Dinner, and making it perhaps the outstanding function of Centenary Week.

## THE CENTENARY BALL

THE Fort Street Centenary Ball was held at the Trocadero on Thursday, 5th May. This was attended by sixteen hundred people and proved a fitting climax to a week of festivities on the part of ex-Fortians. The guests were received by Miss Fanny Cohen, Miss Elizabeth Bannan, Mr. N. R. Mearns, and Mr. L. Duff.

The Minister for Education, Mr. R. J. Heffron, and Mrs. Heffron, to whom twenty-one debutantes were presented, were among the official guests. Those who were presented were Diana Vernon, Anne Westlake, Patricia Hodgkins, Marie Heatley, Shirley Lewis, Fay Gregory, Ruth Gray, Janet Ray, Betty Wells, Yvonne McKenna, Eva Pataky, Shirley Dobson, Rae Thompson, Joyce Spencer, Dawn Kilner, Shirley Bryant, Phyllis Roulston, Marcia Bedford, Valerie Westbrook, Margaret Ferguson, and Faith Dixon.



Miss Small (Ball Secretary) discusses plans for the Ball with two debutantes.

(By courtesy of the "Sydney Sun.")

The large official party, in addition to the hosts and hostesses, included the Lord Mayor, Ald. E. C. O'Dea and the Lady Mayoress; the Minister for Housing, Mr. Clive Evatt and Mrs. Evatt; the Director-General of Education, Mr. J. G. McKenzie; the Superintendent of Secondary Studies, Mr. J. Back and Mrs. Back; the President of the Ball Committee, Mrs. R. Herwig; the Ball Secretary, Miss M. Small, and the Ball Treasurer, Miss A. Puxley.



**THE OFFICIAL TABLE AT THE CENTENARY BALL**

*Top.*—Mrs. N. R. Mearns, The Lady Mayoress (Mrs. E. C. O'Dea), the Hon. R. J. Heffron, Miss F. Cohen, The Lord Mayor (Ald. E. C. O'Dea), Mrs. R. J. Heffron, Mr. J. G. McKenzie, Mr. L. Duff.  
*Left.*—Dr. Baker, Mrs. W. Selle, Mr. W. Selle, Miss Clyne, Mr. D. Clyne, Mrs. C. R. Evatt, the Hon. C. R. Evatt, M.L.A., Mr. N. R. Mearns.  
*Inside Left.*—Miss A. Puxley, Miss D. Dey, Mr. J. Dey, Mr. D. Weinberg  
*Inside Right.*—Mr. E. Scott, Miss E. Bannan, Mr. N. Date, Miss M. Small  
*Right.*—Mrs. I. Turner, Dr. I. Turner, Mrs. N. A. Esserman, Mr. N. A. Esserman, Mrs. H. Wyndham, Dr. H. Wyndham, Mrs. J. Back, Mr. J. Back, Mrs. S. Sims, Mrs. L. Duff, Mr. S. Sims.

(By courtesy of Identity Photos.)

The Ballroom looked gay and attractive. Everywhere one looked the school-colours, maroon and silver, caught the eye, and the school motto, in gold lettering above the band-dais, excited comment. In addition to the general scheme of decoration, for which the Ball Committee was responsible, there were some tables with their own special decorations. One in particular, on which there was a large replica of a fort, from which flags were bravely flying, arrested one's attention.

Many large parties were arranged for the occasion. Amongst those who entertained were Mrs. G. Stuckey, Mrs. R. Herwig, Mr. G. Kench, Miss June Heffron, Dr. Cloutier, Mrs. H. Waddington, Mrs. Brigden, Miss Shirley Brinkman, Mrs. Scotter, and many others.

The Ball itself seemed to be almost a family affair, as so many people knew each other and paid social calls in the course of the evening. Naturally, the accent was on youth, and hundreds of ex-Fortians who had left school only two or three years previously came to celebrate the Old School's Centenary. Occasionally exuberant young men enlivened proceedings by giving the Fort Street war-cry, and the singing of the school-song at one stage reminded everyone that a common bond united all Fortians. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the debutantes by Miss Fanny Cohen to the Hon. R. J. Heffron and Mrs. Heffron. The girls, in white frocks and carrying red roses looked charming, and the dignity with which this ceremony was carried out, impressed everyone.

Only one complaint was heard about the Ball. The hours passed far too quickly, and long before the dancers had tired, the last dance had been played, and the Centenary Celebrations had come to an end.

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## OLD FORTIANS

MANY old Fortians attended one or all of the Centenary functions. They talked freely of the days of Turner, Conway, Dettman, and other headmasters. There was for instance Mrs. Jamieson, who in spite of her ninety years, thoroughly enjoyed the Garden Party. Other old Fortians who were seen there were Miss Batchelor, a pupil in 1889 in Mrs. Allingham's time; Mrs. Duff, who spoke regretfully of the passing of Henry's sweetshop, where she and her mates used to fortify themselves with ha'penny toffees before the arduous duties of the day; Mrs. Wilson, a pupil in 1878, who sent her best wishes, for the Centenary Celebrations by telegram; Mrs. McAlister, a daughter of Mr. Frederick Bridges, Headmaster of Fort Street from 1867 to 1876, who came to nearly all the functions.

Perhaps the oldest Fortian was Mr. Zlotkowski, aged 92, who was a guest at the Garden Party. Mr. Day, aged 92, of Wagga, came to the Centenary dinner, as also did Mr. Carr, a pupil of 1878. He also was a member of the official party at the Centenary Ball. Another ex-Fortian, Mr. Moore, aged 82, came to the Garden Party and later visited the old school to compliment the Principal on the smooth running of the Centenary Functions.

## PRESENTATION OF CENTENARY BADGES TO PUPILS OF THE SCHOOL



ON the afternoon of Thursday, 14th April, all the pupils of the school assembled on the top play-ground, to be presented with Centenary badges by Miss Elizabeth Bannan, President of the Old Girls' Union.

In a charming little speech, Miss Bannan told us how delighted the Old Girls' Union was to be able to repay, in some small way, the debt each "Old Girl" owed to the School. At the conclusion of her speech, she turned to Miss Cohen and presented her with the first Centenary badge. After all the girls had received their badges, the Captain of the School assured Miss Bannan that all the pupils appreciated the generosity of the Old Girls' Union, and would always treasure these souvenirs of a great occasion.

ANNETTE RANDALL,  
*Captain.*

## CENTENARY SOUVENIRS

CENTENARY Souvenirs in the form of spoons and paper knives have been very popular with Fortians, both past and present.

The spoons, which seemed to be particularly sought after were so designed that part of the handle of each spoon was formed by the Centenary Badge. This had been copied in its original design from that used in the medal issued to mark the Jubilee Celebrations in 1899. The handle of each knife was formed in a similar fashion.

Another Centenary Souvenir is the Centenary Magazine, Part I—a companion volume to the present issue. In it are articles of historical interest including a history of the school together with a list of the achievements of reform students of Fort Street Girls' High School, who have gained academic distinction.

### EDITOR'S NOTE —

The Centenary Issue (Part II) of the Fort Street Girls' High School Magazine aims to give a pictorial account of the various functions held in connection with the Centenary Celebrations. It is felt that in addition to it being of interest to present and past pupils of the school, the Magazine should have historic value since it marks a milestone in the history of one of the great metropolitan high schools.

In addition, the Commemorative Pageant written by Mrs. Joyce Hodgkins, has been printed in the Magazine. The main episodes have been skilfully linked together by the authoress, so that the thread of the argument is clearly outlined. The fine illustrations taken by Mr. J. McRorie, give some indication of the high standard of excellence which the Pageant achieved, when dramatised.

## **A LETTER FROM JOYCE HODGKINS**

### **Author of the Centenary Pageant**

Dear Fortians,

As far back as May, 1948, Miss Cohen said to me, "Joyce, I want you to write a Pageant for me!" and, as she will tell you, I replied, "I'd love to." It was a blithe, though a sincere reply, and I don't think either of us realised at that moment, just how that Pageant was going to fill our thoughts and our lives for almost a year, to culminate in a presentation that exceeded our wildest hopes, our proudest dreams.

I have been asked many times how I set about it all, so it might be of interest to you to know. If you visit the bookstores, you'll find nary a volume on How to Write and Produce a Pageant, so I had to start my labour of love more or less from scratch. Going home on the train that first day, I made



Mrs. Joyce Hodgkins

rough notes on certain aspects of the plan that was taking shape in my mind, and that night the original rough draft was worked out—a draft which remained practically unaltered to the end. Miss Cohen had suggested the inclusion of present day School Activities and the use of the Jubilee Ode as a musical basis, so with those two thoughts in mind, I set out to devise a Pageant which would present two arguments: "What Fort Street Has Done for Her Pupils," and "What Fort Street's Pupils Have Done For Her." Under these two headings,

the various sections were grouped to present a chronological picture of a century of work, play and achievement, linked with suitable parts of the Jubilee Ode. It was my aim to present a fast-moving and spectacular review of the history and activity of the School over a hundred years, and to this end, the staging angle was carefully arranged so that everything would flow smoothly and quickly. The Pageant Plan was presented to Miss Cohen and the Committee, and with their approval, the actual work began to move forward. The dances, plays and special choral items were selected, the Historical Sequences researched and written and the work on the scenery and staging set in train. By mid-February of this year the Narration had been written—it took me roughly three weeks, working at night, and I loved every minute of it—work on the costumes and properties was under way and the entire programme was in rehearsal. How wonderful it all was, this coming to life of an idea—the privilege of being able to watch the gradual and lovely fruition of months of thoughtful and detailed planning! And how keen everyone was! And how marvellous the Committee and the Staff, particularly Miss Crooks, Miss Fischer, Miss Rush, Miss Hales, Mrs. Patterson, Miss Anderson, Miss Crawford, and Mrs. Murray. I cannot begin to say "Thank you" to them, because words are inadequate in tribute to such loyalty, such enthusiasm and such downright hard work. It is indeed a throat-tightening experience to have known such willing and able support. In addition we must thank those men who made themselves responsible for the scenery and lighting effects, the amplifying equipment, the arranging of the Jubilee Ode for the Choir, and many others who in countless ways gave us valuable service.

And so at last to the Pageant itself, and how can one describe the indescribable? Because I think it *was* indescribable, except perhaps in the tears and laughter and the heart warming moments that Fortians and Fortians-by-adoption experienced watching it. From the first words uttered by "The Spirit of Fort Street"—and Barbara was indeed the very embodiment of it—to the final curtain on that glittering and spectacular tableau against the familiar background of the beloved School, the audience was one with us in spirit and emotion—a very wonderful thing—a very inspiring thing.

To all those who added their splendid talents to this final achievement, our special thanks; to Barbara Brunton Gibb, to Harpist Una Gibson, to singers, Heather Kinnaird and Marjorie Makin, to pianist Enid Strong, to radio and stage star Joy Nichols, to organist Wilbur Kentwell, and accompanist Elsie Cousens.

To the girls who gave every ounce of themselves to the task in hand, and loved doing it, to the Staff who laboured so mightily behind the scenes, in the make-up rooms and at the marshalling points, to Miss Cohen who was at all times my rock and my mentor—what can I say to you all except this? "Together, I think we achieved a page in Fort Street's illustrious history and for my part, I am profoundly and humbly grateful for the privilege of sharing in it with you."

JOYCE HODGKINS (*née* KOLTS).



## THE COMMEMORATIVE PAGEANT

A COMMEMORATIVE Pageant, written by a former pupil, Joyce Hodgkins, in which present pupils of the school took part, was produced at the Conservatorium on 26th and 27th April. There were in all, three performances, two at night and one matinee. There was a large and enthusiastic audience on each occasion, who, judging by the clapping, appreciated the careful preparation which had preceded the public performances.

In addition to present pupils of the school, there were individual items by ex-Fortians, Heather Kinnaird, Enid Strong, Una Gibson, and Margery Makin. Joy Nichols, the famous entertainer, at present in London, made a record specially for the Pageant.

The School was greatly honoured by the presence of many leading educationists in the audience. These included the Hon. R. J. Heffron, M.L.A., Minister for Education in N.S.W.; J. G. McKenzie, Esq., Director-General of Education in N.S.W.; L. D. Edwards, Esq., Director-General of Education in Queensland; Major-General A. H. Ramsay, Director of Education in Victoria; C. I. Fletcher, Esq., Director of Education in Tasmania; E. Mander-Jones, Esq., Director of Education in South Australia; and M. G. Little, Esq., Director of Education in Western Australia.

At the conclusion of each performance, Miss Cohen thanked the audience for attending and Mrs. Hodgkins, together with members of the staff, for the work they had done to make the Pageant a success.

We print below an account of the Pageant. The author, Mrs. Hodgkins, has outlined the main thread of the argument.

### THE PAGEANT

#### ARGUMENT: WHAT FORT STREET HAS DONE FOR HER PUPILS

*Note.*—In order to present a picture of the Pageant which will be graphic as well as a record of its form and content, the Narration, which served the dual purpose of programme notes and continuity, will be interspersed with the appropriate scenes into which it led, with brief descriptions, where necessary, of some specially outstanding features. Thus the reader, as well as those who actually saw the Pageant, will have some idea of the scope and treatment of the whole performance. The Pageant opened with the house lights up and the curtains open upon a backdrop of the School, complete with the old gates, tree and fountain. At eight o'clock The First Teacher opened the gates and rang the bell, whereupon the Pageant of Pupils began to move through the audience, across the stage, and through the gates. They came to School in groups, beginning with the first pupils of 1849, carrying on through 1856, 1870, 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1949 . . . all in the appropriate costume of the period and each group growing in number, signifying the expansion of the School. With the closing of the curtains on the last group, the Narrator, representing the Spirit of Fort Street, in white and maroon Grecian draperies, backed by the silver Torch of Knowledge, began the opening lines of her discourse. Throughout the entire performance, background and bridging music were used with classical and subtle effect.



**THE SPIRIT OF FORT STREET**  
Barbara Brunton Gibb

NARRATOR : O noble school ! To thee we dedicate  
 All that is best within us. Thine the part  
 Of shaping and of moulding. Thine the task  
 Of opening youthful minds upon a world  
 Unknown, and the vast treasury of time  
 Discovering. One hundred years ago  
 Men saw thee as a dream materialised.  
 Thy cobbled path was laid, that youthful feet  
 Might tread, where once the sterner beat  
 Of military men made martial ring ;  
 Thy noble gates swung wide to greet the hopes  
 Of many generations. Year by year  
 Fresh feet have echoed in thy corridors,  
 Fresh voices filled thy tree enshaded air,  
 Beginning with those first . . . a century  
 Agone, and following on in time till now.  
 Some came when every day brought golden news  
 From scattered fields . . . the eighteen fifties.  
 Some were young when, north and south, the precious wire  
 Was stretched across a Continent, to link  
 The Old World with the New. Some scholars saw  
 The several States linked in a Commonwealth.  
 And some, the passing of a king, and more,  
 The golden age Edwardian . . . Some, alas,  
 Had known of war and death and peace . . . the first  
 Great grief to blot an era's page, and those  
 Who followed after, knew again the fruit  
 Of bitter hate, and bitter victory.  
 But those who come to-day within thy walls  
 Dear School, to them vouchsafe a sweeter world.  
 O that men's hearts may work in unison  
 That not again War's terrors be unfurled !  
 Vow that the Youth of all to-morrow's days  
 May walk in beauty and in peaceful ways !

*(This was followed by the Opening Chorus of the Jubilee Ode, written in 1899 by Hugo Alpen to commemorate that occasion. It was sung by the Choir, who occupied a permanent position at the left front of the stage, and who wore pastel Grecian draperies with silver ribbons. At the conclusion of this Chorus the Narrator took up the story.)*

NARRATOR : In those old lands, all hoary-crowned with age,  
 A century is reckoned little time ;  
 And to the blue, primeval hills of this  
 Australia, a thousand eons seem  
 As one. But to her cities, nestled by her shores,  
 One hundred years are deemed a pageantry  
 Of first beginnings . . . treasured for her youth  
 To claim as heritage. And so we turn  
 To days when Sydney's streets were still the curved  
 And rutted tracks where wagon, coach and dray  
 Moved ponderously ; where red coats mingled with  
 The soft allure of parasol and fan ;  
 Where many still bore deep the bitter scar ;  
 Of man's cruel inhumanity to man.  
 But, from the sorry travail of her birth,  
 This city now was lifting up her face  
 Towards the light of freedom and of grace.  
 And in the minds of goodly men, and wise,  
 A vision grew of noble enterprise.  
 But stay ! Shall we not lift the curtain now  
 Upon those years, discovering to the mind  
 The stuff of them . . . the pattern . . . the design,  
 Calling upon the ghosts of yester year  
 To leave the shadowy past and re-appear !

*(Here the curtain rose on a replica of Government House Ballroom, 1848, where, after dancing a waltz cotillion, the crinolined ladies and their bewhiskered escorts enacted the following scene.)*

*Polite applause and dancers return to groups . . . Group left front stage comprises :  
 MRS. McDONALD, MISS JENNY FITZHUGH, LIEUT. ANDREWS.*



#### THE CHOIR

*Back Row, Left to Right.*—R. Turner, J. Lippman, P. Heatley, D. Dawson, M. Middleton, J. Livingstone, B. Bonney, J. Reed, R. Brown, T. Winterburn, F. Fouracre, S. Hammond, Y. Flynn, V. Traversi, P. Gould, I. Ralston

*Second Row.*—S. Burton, J. Campbell, M. Fawcett, M. Rice, B. Bostock, C. Simpson, M. Henderson, M. Blackmore, D. Everingham, M. Poole, J. Caller, R. Westlake, S. McIntosh, P. Mackie, V. Readhead, G. Morgan, P. Trathen

*Third Row.*—Mrs. J. Murray (Music Mistress), M. Wilson, J. Puckeridge, B. Carter, W. Harvey, D. McDonald, D. Lyons, B. Gould, B. Cave, P. Davis, M. Weir, D. Wyatt, L. Whitburn, D. Patrick, J. Hodgkins, E. Cousens (Pianist)

*Fourth Row.*—M. Purvis, P. Allison, D. Smith, E. Wheeler, B. Haines, J. Starr, E. Holder, L. Medcalf, D. Davey, J. Knibb, C. Hewitt, J. Strout, J. Bender, M. Begg, M. Nye, B. Collins, M. Purvis, D. Snow



PAGEANT OF PUPILS 1849-1920



**PAGEANT OF PUPILS—1949 GROUP**

*Back Row, from Left.*—A. Swanson, C. Heeley, M. Marshall, V. Rice, S. Hughes, B. Sievwright,  
N. Blackler, H. Osmond, A. Reid, E. Watson, B. Watson  
*Centre Row.*—M. Menser, R. Dixon, M. Rose, A. Brown, G. Johnson, L. Kelligan, P. Newton  
*Front Row.*—H. Flack, B. Collett, M. Gray, P. Firth, J. Currie, A. Hansen, P. Donnelly

*Captain McDonald and Lieut.-Colonel Sheriden emerge from group at right and come down stage to group.)*

- CAPTAIN McDONALD : Allow me to present you to my wife, sir . . . Marion, my love, this is Lieutenant-Colonel Sheriden, a visitor but lately arrived on these shores . . . Colonel Sheriden, my wife.
- COLONEL (*bowing*) : I am charmed to meet you, Mrs. McDonald.
- MRS. McDONALD : That pleasure will be mutual, I am sure, Colonel. I think you have not met my niece, Miss Jenny Fitzhugh, and her fiance, Lieutenant Charles Andrews . . . Colonel Sheriden.  
(*Lieut. salutes . . . Jenny curtseys. Ladies escorted to seats.*)
- CAPTAIN : And how do you find Sydney, Colonel? I trust you are not too dismayed at your first glimpse of this corner of the Antipodes?
- COLONEL : On the contrary, Captain, I am most agreeably surprised . . . handsome equipages . . . elegant females (*bowing*), some excellent buildings, and a theatre quite to my taste.
- MRS. McDONALD : Indeed, sir, Sydney is proud to hear such compliments. We have been ill spoken of in London, I believe.
- COLONEL : Some low fellow, Byrne, Madam . . . but fortunately Count Strezlecki countered his slander.
- MISS JENNY : You have visited our Royal Victoria Theatre, sir?
- COLONEL : Indeed I have, Miss Fitzhugh, and laughed my sides sore at a most excellent farce . . . The Country Squire. You have seen it?
- MRS. McDONALD : Yes, indeed. Did you not think Mr. Griffith superb and, of course, Mrs. Gibbs as Miss Temperance was adorable.
- COLONEL : Quite, quite. . . An excellent bill, I thought, including as it did the lottery ticket and *valet de sham*. Quite an evening's entertainment.
- LIEUTENANT : You are well accommodated, sir?
- COLONEL : At the moment I am temporarily in residence at the Royal Hotel, but it is my intention to acquire a house as soon as a suitable residence presents itself.
- CAPTAIN : You may encounter some difficulty there, Colonel.
- COLONEL : Doubtless, though to-day I was offered a residence of seven rooms at £100 per annum. The rooms, unfortunately, are small, and there is no stable, courtyard, pump, kitchen range, or even bells to the rooms! But it may serve till a better proposition presents itself.
- MRS. McDONALD : You intend to settle here, then, Colonel?
- COLONEL : Yes, Madam. That IS my intention, and as soon as I am settled, I shall send for my wife and the children.
- MRS. McDONALD : Oh, you have children?
- COLONEL : Four of 'em . . . two boys and two gels. What are your educational facilities, McDonald?
- CAPTAIN : There are a fair proportion of private academies, sir, but education, I am afraid, has not been regarded with all the attention it demands in this new country.
- MISS JENNY : Ah, sir, you must forgive my uncle if he rides his hobby horse. He is very concerned with the matter of education.
- CAPTAIN : And why not, Miss? Because a man is a soldier, must he confine his interest to the sword and the pistol? I tell you, sir (*turning to Colonel*), it is extremely gratifying to watch every aspect of a new country's growth at close quarters.
- COLONEL : I agree with you. I agree with you wholeheartedly, my dear fellow. It is partly that very thought which has led me to undertake this visit. Pray continue your remarks regarding education, Captain.



**THE BALLROOM SCENE**

*Back Row, from Left.*—N. Mellor, P. White, R. Weedon, E. Marsden, M. Watts, M. Lillie,  
M. Lawson, P. McKellar, J. Rogers, E. Peterson, B. Anderson, R. Dunn, R. Mostyn,  
J. Geary, G. James, C. Corrigan, M. Speers, P. Smith  
*Front Row.*—M. Schelling, W. Hamilton, J. Patterson, P. Mills, E. Waik, A. Butt, O. Williamson



- CAPTAIN : If you are a man of progressive mind, sir, you will rejoice to hear that at this very moment a model school is planned which will not only embrace every child of suitable age from the youngest to the oldest, but will be free to all as well.
- COLONEL : A noble project ! Is it not, Miss Jenny ?
- MISS JENNY : Indeed, sir, it is. We are all most interested. I was only teasing, Uncle. (*Looks laughingly at Captain, who pats her curls.*)
- COLONEL : And you have a building to accommodate this school ?
- LIEUT. ANDREWS : It is to be housed in the old Government Military Hospital, sir, which has been handed to the Board of National Education by the Governor.
- MRS. McDONALD : Of course it has been greatly altered . . . old wards converted into spacious classrooms and a new front built on, and the like.
- CAPTAIN : And the extensive grounds will afford ample space for exercise and games.
- COLONEL : Excellent . . . excellent. And who is to be the Headmaster of this establishment ?
- CAPTAIN : I understand a suitable gentleman is to be secured through the good offices of the National Board of Ireland, but meantime a Mr. Farrell is to be appointed. If you are interested, Colonel, I must see that you meet the Hon. Charles Nicholson, speaker of the Legislative Council. He is one of the Board here and a personal friend of mine.
- COLONEL : I should be most happy to make his acquaintance, Captain.
- CAPTAIN : The other members of the Board are the Attorney General, the Hon. R. H. Plunkett and Mr. Holden. Oh . . . and Mr. Wills, to whom I can also introduce you, is the Secretary.
- COLONEL : I can see the Board of National Education has a good advocate in you, McDonald. And what did you say their school was to be called ?
- CAPTAIN The Model School . . . Fort Street.

CURTAIN.

(*The curtain dropping upon the Ballroom, the Narrator continued.*)

NARRATOR : And thus her story starts. . . . The Model School !  
That April day which saw her gates set wide,  
Saw, too, the firm foundation of a fame  
Not lessened by the years. For hers has been  
The honoured part, to stand, untouched by time,  
Watching a nation grow from those who claimed  
Her scholarship. And those first leaders . . . Men,  
Who, seeing the clear pattern of her days,  
Saw, too, the brilliant tapestry of Time.  
O they were very giants . . . Great of heart  
They were and wide of vision . . . waking boys  
And girls to living . . . dedicating self  
To service. Rich indeed the School has been  
In these, and in the men and women, too,  
Who followed, nurturing year by year  
The proud traditions of inheritance.  
So great the School ! So great the guiding hands  
Guiding to greatness !

Here upon the shores  
Of Sydney Cove in eighteen fifty-one  
Was that proud line of Leadership begun !

(This time the scene was a beautifully painted backdrop, representing Sydney Cove in the year 1851, against which the following was played.)

(Group of men and women at right of stage representing populace and welcoming committee. Excited conversation . . .)

- WOMAN 1 : Can you see them yet ?
- MAN 1 : Not yet. Mr. Wills has gone on board to meet Mr. Wilkins, you know. They might be some time.
- WOMAN 2 : This must be an exciting moment for Mr. Wilkins . . . and a lucky man he is, too, coming out to a beautiful new school and all. I hope he likes us.
- MAN 2 : I hope our youngsters like HIM . . . that's more to the point. He's got a responsible job, has a Headmaster . . .
- WOMAN : He has that ! Especially with MY six ! (Laughter.)
- MAN : They're coming now . . . Are you ready, Martin ?
- MR. MARTIN : I've had this speech ready for nearly two years. I OUGHT to be. (Laughter.)  
[Enter Mr. Wills and Mr. Wilkins from left.]
- MR. WILLS : And now, Mr. Wilkins, may I present to you the Committee of Welcome. These are the parents of some of your future scholars, and though you may be tendered more elaborate greetings later, I am sure you will never be tendered a warmer welcome than this, (Cheers.)
- MR. MARTIN : (Clears throat.) Mr. Wilkins, sir, the parents of the Fort Street Scholars are happy to welcome you to these fair shores. We are proud of our country and proud of our school, and we are sure we are going to be proud of our first official Headmaster. (Crowd—Hear ! Hear !) The gentlemen and their assistants who have carried on, pending your arrival, sir, have built the attendance to four hundred pupils. We look forward to the day, sir, when Fort Street will show a thousand scholars on her rolls and every scholar will be proud to call himself and herself a pupil of the Model School. (Cheers.)
- MR. WILKINS : Ladies and gentlemen, I am overwhelmed by your kindness. When one comes to a new land, he expects to find himself among strangers. I find myself among friends. (Cheers.) It is my earnest desire to serve you and your children, so that between us we will build a school which will achieve an honoured and illustrious place in this growing community. To that end I pledge myself and my work. It is my profound hope that you will not be disappointed in either. (Cheers.)

#### CURTAIN.

(The scene closed with Alpen's tribute to "The Founders," sung by the Choir, and the Narrator again took up the story.)

- NARRATOR : So swift the moving throng of years slips by  
When old eyes look at them. But yesterday  
It seems, the School began, and now 'tis time  
For Jubilee ! The sum of fifty years  
Has totalled on the scroll of days, and Change  
Has set its grand progressive mark upon  
A people and a School. For these the days  
Of Federation, her expansion, too,  
Twice trebled are her ranks of earlier days,  
And now, behold, in separate entity,  
The Girls' School, five years old . . . the prescient sign  
Of all that is to come. O ring ye bells,  
Ye golden bells, in happy Jubilee !  
Salute the School that crowns the lofty hill,  
And turns her stately face towards the sea.



**CHARACTERS IN THE QUAYSIDE SCENE**

*Back Row, from Left.*—R. Randall, Y. Brunker, J. Singleman, S. Morgan, H. Telford, Faye Clark,  
A. Waddington, L. Topham  
*Front Row.*—J. Swales, J. Metz, S. Greenberg, O. Thomas, E. Short, J. Kelly, I. Brown,  
P. Richardson, A. Arnott, J. Fishburn, J. O'Toole

(The third scene in this group of these Historical Vignettes represented the Sydney Town Hall on the occasion of the Jubilee Banquet, 1899, when the following speeches were delivered.)  
Band stops. Chairman rises.

TURNER : Your Excellency, honourable gentlemen, it now gives me much pleasure to call upon Mr. Bridges, Chief Inspector of Schools, to propose on this, the occasion of its Golden Jubilee, the toast to Fort Street School. As you perhaps know, Mr. Bridges has the unique distinction of having been a pupil, a teacher, and Headmaster of the School . . . (cheers) . . . and I am sure no one is more worthy than he to propose the toast of the great institution we honour this evening . . . (cheers) . . . Chief Inspector Bridges.  
(Applause.)

(As he addresses each, he bows slightly in their direction.)  
BRIDGES : Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency the Governor, the Right Honourable the Premier, the Right Honourable Mr. Barton, the Right Honourable the Minister for Education, the Right Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, Judge Backhouse, Mr. Corkran and gentlemen . . . There is hardly a place in the British Empire where you will not find an old boy of Fort Street. (Applause . . . Hear ! Hear !)

Fort Street School commands our honour, our admiration and our support by its brilliant record. It was the first school in the Southern Hemisphere that introduced the kindergarten system and let young children know that the schoolroom may be a happy place. (Cheers . . . Applause, etc.)

It was the first school to introduce drill as a subject and to recognize physical culture as a matter of education. (Cheers, etc.)

The crowning glory of Fort Street School is, however, that it was the first school here to bring higher education within the reach of all children and to place a ladder from the A.B.C. Class to the University. (Prolonged cheers and applause.)

Organ music swells.

#### CURTAIN.

(Following the Vignettes came the Ode to Higher Education, setting the theme for the following Narration and Pageant.)

NARRATOR : And thus her gates were opened wide upon  
The myriad joys of knowledge. Boys and girls,  
Turning the printed page, became aware  
Of history. Loosed from the bonds of words,  
"A cavalcade" emerged from dusty time,  
To live anew in dreaming eyes of youth.  
And thus they came and thus and thus and thus.

(At this point the Famous Figures Through the Ages began their slow procession across the stage, their entrance heralded by the Narrator, their characters sustained by look and gesture, and their grouping arranged round the central figure of Queen Elizabeth.)

NARRATOR : First the fair Helen . . . stolen from the house (Enter Helen)  
Of Sparta by the hand of Priam's son,  
The passionate Paris . . . he of Trojan birth.  
And then the man of Science, he whose name (Enter Archimedes)  
Lives in a principle, unshaken yet,  
The Grecian Archimedes. . . . And next in fame (Enter Cleopatra)  
The Queen of Egypt, holding in her thrall  
Mark Antony and Cæsar, too. The Nile,  
O Cleopatra, dyed thine eyes in green,  
And heard thy death sighs when thyself thou slew.  
See how he views his proud Imperial Rome. (Enter Cæsar)  
This Cæsar, Master now of half the world.  
And even yet a friend will strike the blow  
That lays this laurelled head forever low.  
Mark how a poet, next upon the stage, (Enter Dante and Beatrice)  
Writes his brief hour out with burning pen . . .  
The banished Dante sighs for Beatrice . . .  
Creates a Comedy Divine for men.  
Lowly she comes, the lovely maid, sweet Joan (Enter Joan of Arc)



**CHARACTERS IN THE BANQUET SCENE**

*From Left.*—Mr. Corkran (A.D.C. to the Governor), M. Morton; Judge Backhouse (Vice-Chancellor of Sydney University), P. Peddie; Mr. Barton, J. Whitelaw; Mr. F. Bridges (Chief Inspector of Schools), F. Quigg; Rt. Hon. George Reid (Premier), N. Jollow; Earl Beauchamp, M. Skelton; Mr. Turner (Headmaster), G. Tattersall; Mr. Hogue (Minister for Education), M. Oram; Mr. Lyne (Leader of the Opposition), H. Saxby



AN HISTORICAL TABLEAU

*From Left.*—Jeanette Parkin, Heather Price, Shirley Johnson, Margaret Balderson, Marie Shirt, Carol Blanche, Adrienne Bathgate, Margaret Foster, Elizabeth Makin, Margaret Steven, Diana Hansen, Pamela Edwards, Elizabeth Cayzer, Shirley Saunders, Dulcie Erskine, Deirdre Sloane, Jeanette O'Connor, Gail Hamilton, Jean Wolrige (last two seated), Glen Harrop, Lia Musikant, Beryl Cameron, Nancy Mollison, Beverley Prigg, Christina Borland, Diana Elbourne, Judith Doel, Janice Jones (seated in front)

All armoured in the vision of her cause ;  
 And following her, a Queen of Albion, (Enter Elizabeth)  
 Red-haired Elizabeth—most kingly strong !  
 Arise, Sir Knight . . . Your Queen hath deigned to touch (Enter Raleigh)  
 The velvet of your cloak with jewelled shoe ;  
 What though her favours ended with thy head ?  
 Thou has adventured where the warm winds blew,  
 And Raleigh, though despoiled of life at last,  
 Takes noble place in that rich Tudor past.  
 O hail immortal bard ! Thy songs resound (Enter Shakespeare)  
 Most gloriously. " The little jewel so set  
 Within a silver sea," how great her debt  
 To that most rapturous muse who stayed to fill  
 The mind, the heart, the soul of stage-struck Will.  
 And sterner, too, the " stuff " of Englishmen ; (Enter Pilgrim Father)  
 Locked in a way of Truth most steadfastly,  
 Sad crowned with sacrifice, the Pilgrims went,  
 Leaving the known for unknown destiny.  
 And now a soldier and his lady come their ways, (Enter Marlborough and Duchess)  
 Each starring in a separate firmament,  
 Marlborough and his lovely Duchess, seen  
 In shared allegiance to an English Queen.  
 Pluck from the strings a single note of bliss, (Enter Handel)  
 And multiply it then in splendid sound  
 To make fit fanfare for a man inspired  
 As Handel was. . . . And take the brush to paint (Enter Gainsborough)  
 The glories of a Gainsborough . . . O arts !  
 So rich in truth, bless thine inheritors !  
 And now to tread the boards so often graced (Enter Mrs. Siddons)  
 In earlier days, the lovely Sarah comes,  
 While far across the seas a stage is set (Enter Washington)  
 For different fare, and Washington becomes  
 A hero to the roll of kettle-drums.  
 And soft ! For now upon the heels of Death (Enter Elizabeth Fry)  
 Comes Mercy . . . Mistress Fry, sweet Quakeress,  
 By name Elizabeth, by deed a saint,  
 Walks in the prisons and dispels their taint.  
 As oft as blood has stained the storied page (Enter Louis and Marie Antoinette)  
 Of man's travail, oh yet in many an age  
 This is the price of freedom . . . Often paid  
 By kings and commoners alike . . . a ruthless wage ;  
 Their lives were forfeit to a royal debt,  
 Louis of France and Marie Antoinette.  
 Within the eyes of sailormen, the thought (Enter Cook)  
 Of distant lands is printed like a dream  
 Half caught in waking, never wholly seen.  
 So dreaming, to these fabled southern shores  
 Came Cook, and Britain's standard stretched above  
 The virgin sands . . . O proud that standard yet !  
 It floated, too, above that regal soul (Enter Victoria)  
 So gravely waked to Queenship that drear morn.  
 Victoria ! An Age ! A Way of Life . . .  
 A dedicated task, most nobly borne.  
 And still they come . . . a Lady with a Lamp (Enter Florence Nightingale)  
 Her hand upstretched to lighten suffering,  
 And now a man crusading with a pen (Enter Dickens and Little Nell)  
 Charles Dickens . . . writing of his fellow men ;  
 Man's inhumanity to innocence  
 Dragged from its sorry lair for recompense . . .  
 A people's scribe . . . using his arts to tell  
 The tragic story of the Little Nell.  
 So moves the pageant on . . . And in his place (Enter Macquarie and Lady Macquarie)  
 Comes duly down the avenue of years  
 Macquarie . . . builder . . . prophet . . . governor . . .  
 Seeing the future through those present tears.  
 Our eyes are dim with dreaming, and the page  
 Falls, too, upon the Golden Book of Time,  
 Dear Truth, Dear Knowledge and yet Dearer Fount  
 From these will spring a newer age sublime.



Elizabeth Cayzer (Queen Elizabeth) and Shirley Saunders (Sir Walter Raleigh)

*(Photograph by courtesy of "Sydney Sun.")*





THE BALLOON DANCE

*From Left.*—B. Whyte, R. Millington, P. Lees, G. Ferrow, M. George, J. Carmichael, M. Giles,  
M. Granstedt, P. McArthur, K. Hart, M. Sindel, M. Kelly, M. Cullip,  
E. Evans, J. Smith, D. Warren, R. Maston, B. Wray  
*In Front.*—B. Hall, M. Smith

*(As the curtain fell on this magnificent tableau, the Narrator set the stage for the presentation of Present Day Activities, beginning with Rhythmic Dancing.)*

NARRATOR : The School ! How it embodies many worlds !  
 Behind the dignity of quiet facades  
 Throbs the great heart of youth's activity,  
 And in a hundred different ways, the mind  
 Is caught and held in new experience.  
 For not alone by rule of thumb one learns  
 The sum of daily teaching. All the rich rewards  
 Of knowledge spill themselves in vaster fields  
 Than those which scholars tread by simple rote.  
 'Tis true that fundamental things take place  
 Beside the still more gracious arts, but Time  
 Has broadened education to include  
 The leaping spirit with the agile mind,  
 Incorporating both in lovely grace  
 Of supple movement and expressive face.

*(Here the curtain rose on the spectacular "Bubble Dance," presented in floating draperies of white and silver, with pale blue "Bubbles," and as it fell, the Narrator introduced the first of the Language Plays.)*

NARRATOR : Long, long ago, the ancient sages tell,  
 On Ararat a miracle befell.  
 For resting on its peak amid the flood,  
 Behold ! A curious thing . . . an Ark of wood !  
 Within the Ark, for so the story goes,  
 The lion lay with lamb, and friends with foes !  
 Two of each kind had Noah gathered in  
 Ere floodgates loosed to cleanse the world of sin.  
 This is the legend now enacted here  
 In German tongue . . . But soft . . . It shall appear !

*(The quaint story of Noah's Ark, with Noah and Mrs. Noah, and its pairs of animals, ended with thunder and deluge, and the Narrator set the following scene.)*

NARRATOR : And now we'll come with song to wile your hearts  
 Into a land of make-believe, where gay,  
 Enchanted people tread a merry stage,  
 To make for all the world delightful play.

*(This was a Special Choral Performance of "Climbing Over Rocky Mountains," from the "Pirates of Penzance," performed in authentic costumes of pastel satins and poke bonnets, and at its conclusion once again the Narrator took the presentation forward.)*

NARRATOR : In the dry grammars on the dusty shelf  
 Lies the deep essence of a poet's art,  
 And fitting word to word, the playwright turns  
 An inspiration to reality;  
 See how the novelist will take the bones  
 Of speech and clothing them with written fire  
 Transmute the dross of letters . . . syllables . . .  
 Into a richer life. O what unfathomable springs  
 Of sweet creation lie within the words  
 We learn to lisp from earliest infancy,  
 What rare and lovely doors our mother tongue  
 Unlocks upon the shrines of literature !  
 Thus the great drama of our heritage,  
 And thus we view it now upon the stage !



**A SCENE FROM NOAH'S ARK**

*From Left.*—Toni White and Connie Jones as two Rabbits; Tacey Miskell as Mrs. Noah; Mollie Firth as Noah; Beverley Allen as the Hen; Faye Wagner as the Cock; Margaret Lawson and Audrey Hill as the Elephants



A SCENE FROM "VICTORIA REGINA"

From Left.—Sybil Clough ( Lady Muriel ); Laurel Thomas ( Queen Victoria ); Annette Randall ( Prince Albert )



**THE PHYSICAL CULTURE GROUP**

*Back Row, from Left.*—A. Hooper, P. Haines, E. Mostyn, P. Prince, M. Ramage, M. Jones,  
J. Mackay, D. Davies, N. Graham.

*Front Row.*—L. Hair, S. Lee, J. Raymond

(The interior now displayed was that of a room in Buckingham Palace, in which the famous Housman Scene from Victoria Regina was acted. This was the scene depicting the decision of Victoria and Albert to ignore the previous day's attempt on Victoria's life, and drive in the park as usual. At the close of this moving play, the Narrator introduced the next of the Present Day Activities as follows.)

NARRATOR : *Mens sana in corpore Sano . . .* This  
 The watchword of a bygone age ; " a mind  
 As healthy as the form which houses it."  
 Still in a later day the perfect sum  
 Of striving. And what rare delight for those  
 Who thus embody forth the true ideal !  
 For to themselves no less than those who see,  
 The beauty of a disciplined grace  
 Puts forth the radiant nature of the soul . . .  
 The joyous freedom of this Island race.

(Now, against a black velvet drop, girls in tailored white tunics, bearing a maroon " fort " on the left shoulder, gave a display of intricate exercises, and as the curtain fell on their tableau, the Narrator spoke thus.)

NARRATOR : It has been said that he who learns to speak  
 Another's language, opens up his mind  
 To understanding. If we duly share  
 The thoughts, ideals, the laughter of a race,  
 Crossing the threshold of a human heart,  
 Shall we not be ambassadors for Good,  
 Within a world where EACH man plays his part ?  
 Thus thinking, let us turn towards a tale  
 Well known in many a land to boys and girls  
 All unconcerned with race, and hear, retold,  
 In lilting, charming French, a story old.

(This time the scene was a Forest, with living " trees," who provided the background, sung and spoken in French to the amusing mime of " The Three Pigs," complete with houses of wood, straw and brick, wolf, chimney and all. With the closing of the curtains on this playlet, the Choir sang a reprise of the Opening Chorus, and thus brought to a conclusion the first half of the Pageant.)



CHARACTERS IN THE "THREE LITTLE PIGS"

From Left, Back Row.—E. Frappell, T. Gray, R. Burns, Y. Williams, B. Randall, V. Duckworth  
Front Row.—B. Hammond, J. McLaughlin, J. Wilcox, E. Roberts

## PART II

## ARGUMENT : WHAT FORT STREET'S PUPILS HAVE DONE FOR HER

*The Narrator opened the second half as follows :—*

NARRATOR : O proud the School that noble sons begets,  
 And daughters wreathed with laurel ! Hers  
 The precious honour of their sweet success . . .  
 Profound reward for countless services.  
 And these, her masters and her mistresses,  
 Giving themselves to youth, their guiding touch  
 Has reached into the future. . . . Values learned  
 Have been returned a thousandfold. . . . The buds  
 Have burgeoned into richer fruit than they,  
 The sowers of the seed, had dreamed. And so  
 To these we give salute ! Their glory lies  
 In the rich record of the goals achieved,  
 And too, in humble hearts, remembering  
 The kindly thought . . . the word encouraging.  
*Swell music. . . . Fade for . . .*  
 Now let the trumpets wake this Southern world  
 With echoes of a century of fame !  
 And heralds now shall call the brilliant scroll  
 So rich bedight with many a Fortian's name !

*(Now came the entry of the Heralds, their banners and tabards bearing the School Crest, their silver trumpets echoing a Fanfare. From the curtains stepped two tiny pages in red, carrying tasselled scrolls from which they read names of Famous Fortians of the Past. As they stepped back through the curtains, the Narrator spoke.)*

NARRATOR : All honour be to those whose names  
 Have challenged time, and stand illumined now  
 By their own brilliancy. Yet many more  
 Have set their feet in devious ways, and tread,  
 Unsung, but not less glorious. The fields  
 Of their success stretch round the rolling world.  
 In quiet corners, busy thoroughfares,  
 The Spirit of a School still moves . . . inspires . . .  
 And for all these . . . not lesser heroines . . .  
 We have our praises too.

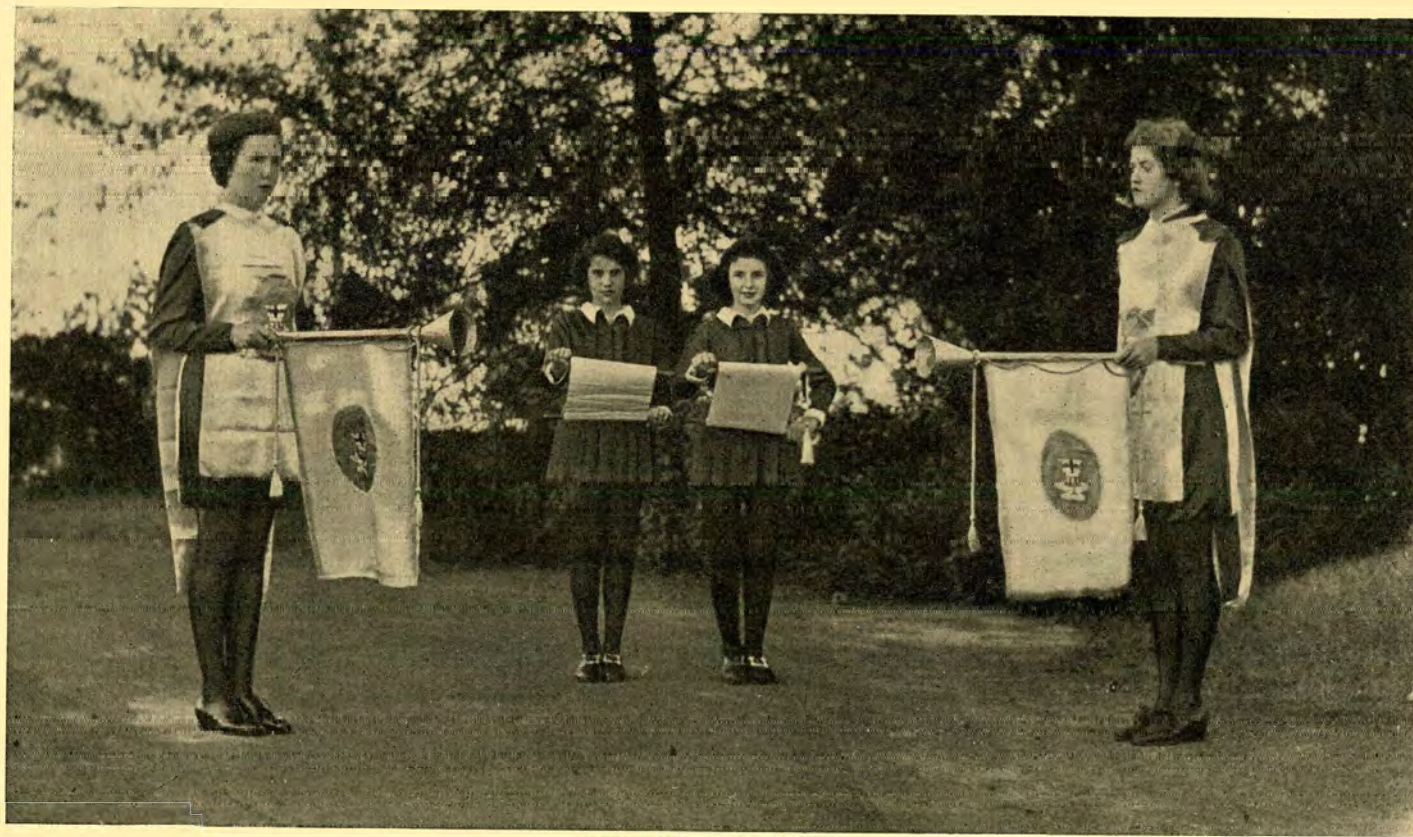
*(During the Narration the curtains rose on a blacked-out stage, and as each Field of Success was named, the spotlight turned upon the appropriate group.)*

NARRATOR : In the broad stream  
 Of Knowledge, many craft are guided safe  
 To harbour by the minds that Fort Street first  
 Had shaped. The academic gown . . . the hood  
 Proud symbols of the Teacher.

*(Education was symbolised by a girl in gown, trencher, and Master of Arts hood, and holding the Diploma of Education.)*

NARRATOR : Every man  
 The maker is of his own fortune, and  
 The humanities have equal claim  
 To man's ambition. The limpid strains  
 Of music wake the world to poetry  
 And touch the breathless soul to ecstasy.





**HERALDS AND PAGES**

*From Left.*—Margaret Vincent, Margaret Sweet, Joan Keller, Joy Hudson

*(Representing the first of the Musical Arts, Miss Una Gibson took her place at the Harp, playing "Petit Patapon.")*

NARRATOR : Into a world, long racked by ruthless pain,  
The healing art of medicine has come  
Like a bright hope sustained on mercy's wings.  
All the long hours that pass across the face  
Of suffering are known to those who watch  
And tend. Theirs the skilled hands to lift the load  
Of night from tired hearts and ease the day  
Of misery. . . . O bless the Healers' way,  
Vouchsafing them the miracle they seek  
Of life preserved, and strength unto the weak.

*(Medicine was here represented by white-gowned surgeon and physician and the scarlet-caped nurse.)*

NARRATOR : Now let the radiant song proclaim itself  
In shining showers of gold . . . so rich endowed  
By nature and by art, the voice, unbound,  
Engirdles all the world with heavenly sound.

*(The second of the Musical Arts was represented by Miss Heather Kinnaird and Miss Marjorie Makin, the former singing "Summer Night," the latter "Love Went A'Riding.")*

NARRATOR : The glory of the Ancient Grecian State  
Lay not alone in temples and in groves,  
But in the rippling loveliness of line  
The human form achieved in motion.  
For they perceived within the living art  
Of sport, a dual altar nobly served . . .  
The mind and body. Ave to those now  
Who thus preserve an ancient truth, who stand  
Proud in the varied fields of their renown,  
Their brows "light-touched" by that Olympian crown.

*(The Sport group represented tennis, swimming and athletics.)*

NARRATOR : To each the instrument of his own choice.  
A liquid rain of notes falls now upon  
The thirsting spirit, and in swift release,  
The soul, deep drinking, knows a rapturous peace.

*(Miss Enid Strong represented the third of the Musical Arts with a brilliant Chopin study.)*

NARRATOR : Pond'ring the mysteries of being, these,  
The Scientists, hold commune with the stars ;  
The heights, the depths . . . profound, inscrutable,  
Their happy playgrounds are, the myriad forms  
Of life, their all-absorbing joy. For them  
The hours are timeless and the microscope  
Houses a million worlds, as step by step  
They trace the great adventure. Theirs the quest  
For knowledge, their rewards, the quiet goals  
Of revelation. Pay thy tributes, then,  
To these who labour patiently, that men  
Might know creation's secrets, and apply  
That higher knowledge to their destiny.

*(The spotlight now turned upon the Scientist, in white laboratory coat, absorbed above a microscope.)*

NARRATOR : In all the fields of great achievement, none  
More rich than that of motherhood. This  
The unspectacular, the oft unmarked  
Procession of the daily round, this has  
Its brilliant compensations. For the child,  
The world's most potent force, is hers to mould,  
To teach in those impressionable years  
That leave their imprint to the end of time.  
The values that the School has given her  
She passes on, and with each new day comes  
A newer opportunity to wield  
The undisputed power of the home.  
O wield it well, ye mothers ! Yours the sons  
And daughters of the future . . . yours the race  
To guide by great example towards peace !



**FIELDS OF SUCCESS**

*From Left.*—Heather McKay (Education); Nancy Adcock, Elizabeth Coombs and Maureen Thompson (Medicine); Lois Joseph and Perry Jacobs (Motherhood); Moya Hodgkiss, Marlene Mathews and Robin Hewitt (Sport); Prunella Butler (Science)

(Now the spotlight travelled centre stage to reveal "Motherhood," a group of a mother and two children.)

NARRATOR : And now, in tribute to this modern age,  
 We turn towards the ever broad'ning field  
 Of entertainment. . . . Steep the artist's way  
 Who would the topmost rung of fame essay,  
 But she who often climbed a higher hill,  
 Perceives the symbolism of it still.  
 To all who tread the boards, both near and far,  
 May you succeed, and be accounted "Star!"

(The final spotlight picked up and held a radio cabinet bearing the photograph of Joy Nicholls, representing Entertainment. The cabinet doors were opened and a message and song, specially recorded by Joy in England, were amplified to the audience. At the conclusion of her song, the full stage lights went up, revealing the complete Tableau, each group framed in a "Fort" background against crimson and silver drapes. The next scene took place unannounced and front tabs. First came the Heralds, then the pages bearing banners inscribed 1849-1949, and finally the first scholar and the latest scholar joined hands, in token of the continuity of Fort Street's long history. This was followed by the Finale of the Jubilee Ode, and the Narrator spoke her concluding words as the curtain rose on the great Final Tableau, in which all participating groups were represented.)

NARRATOR : An thus the span of wandering years is bridged  
 With light, and that first dawn which saw the shape  
 Of things to come, is far outshone with things  
 Achieved.

But O, the Spirit which could trace  
 A nation's growth in a childish face!  
 And plan example for Democracy,  
 Deeming it truth that man indeed is free  
 Who treads the path of knowledge willingly,  
 Sharing an international destiny!  
 That vital force outshines the very sun,  
 Welding a century of hope in one.  
 May we, who find our inspiration here,  
 Thy glorious standards radiantly bear,  
 Asking for no rewarding, save that man  
 Shall see in us a friend . . . a Fortian.

Ensemble : The School Song, "Come Fortians All."

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GOD SAVE THE KING

## RE-BROADCAST OF THE PAGEANT

ON Thursday, 5th May, station 2GB received Miss Cohen, members of the staff who had assisted in producing the scenes, and the girls who had taken part in the Pageant at the Macquarie Auditorium, for a re-broadcast of the historical sequences of the Pageant.

The broadcast, introduced by Mr. Charles Cousens, described the opening scenes of the Pageant, the Government House Ballroom of 1898, the Quayside of Port Jackson in 1850, and the Jubilee Banquet of 1899. The musical background was supplied by the choir with a selection of their Centenary songs, while extracts from the narration by Miss Barbara Brunton Gibb, who portrayed the Spirit of Fort Street, were included.

Then on behalf of station 2GB, Mr. Button presented Miss Cohen with the discs and the studio's permission to have our Centenary Pageant re-broadcast on any station of our Australia-wide network.

Our Captain, Annette Randall, expressed the School's appreciation of this generous gift, and sincerely thanked 2GB for their co-operation in making our Centenary Celebrations a success.

R. WEEDEN.

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## FORT STREET CENTENARY PARTY

ON 15th June an afternoon tea-party was held at the school for members of the various committees associated with the Centenary Celebrations.

All the guests agreed that the Celebrations had been a success and were glad to know that the Centenary of their old school had been suitably recognised. Miss Cohen thanked all who had worked so enthusiastically and said that the good organisation of the various committees had accounted for the fact that everything had run on oiled wheels. Miss Bannan, President of the Old Girls' Union, thanked all ex-Fortians for the time and energy they had devoted to a very good cause. She pointed out that the leadership given by Miss Cohen had largely accounted for the success of the functions.

After afternoon tea had been served in the Library, the rest of the afternoon was devoted to renewing friendships and to various post-mortems being held on aspects of the Centenary Celebrations. This was a final gathering and was a happy ending to a period of hard work which had brought its own reward.

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