

FABER EST

THE FORTIANS UNION

BULLETIN

Produced for former students of:

- ❖ Fort Street Girls' High School
- ❖ Fort Street Boys' High School
- ❖ Fort Street High School



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Annual dinner

It's late notice, but the Fortians Union's "Annual" Dinner will be held on Friday, 20 October, 2023, from 7pm at the Mercure Hotel, 818 George St, Sydney, at Railway Square.

Guest speaker will be Dr Stephen Duckett AM (*Fortian '67*). As a leading health economist, he was a regular TV and radio commentator during the Covid-19 pandemic. His current position is Honorary Professor at Melbourne University, in the School of Population and Global Health, and in General Practice and Primary Care.



Stephen Duckett

Attached is a booking form, for your details and method of payment. Places are limited to 100; bookings close on Friday, 13 October. Get your Year group together and BOOK NOW.

Zoom in for the Annual General Meeting

The Union's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 30 September, 2023, on line via the Zoom platform. Instructions on how to join the meeting are laid out in the email. All positions are open, and new committee members are needed. Nominations will be taken during the meeting. If you are unable to attend you can still nominate, by sending an email to don.newby@bigpond.com by Friday, 29 September.

At the AGM, the management committee proposes a change to the Union's Constitution, by deleting Clause 3 (b) (ii), removing the category of "Annual Member". Since no Annual Members have recently paid their subscription, the Union's only income has been from a few new Life Memberships. The "new" subscription will be determined at the end of the AGM agenda.

Fort Street Foundation

Although Fort Street is a government-funded school, money from the Foundation allows for additional resources to be purchased, and capital works undertaken, outside the Education Department's works program. This way the funds support current students. The School's website, under "Our community", has more information on the Funds, which are tax deductible, and how to donate.

Denice Smith — a tribute by Don Newby

Denice Smith (nee Padmore) was my friend. I first met Denice (*Fortian '69*) at the 1986 annual general meeting of the Fortians Union. I had reconnected with the Union the year before, but her involvement went back to 1972, and followed the commitment of her parents, Jim and Gwen.

Denice was Secretary of the Old Girls' Union in 1972 and 1974, and joined the committee of the Fortians Union in 1975, after the merger of the Old Girls' and Old Boys' Unions, because of the merger of the Schools. She was elected Secretary again in 1976.

Denice fought to ensure the Girls would have equal status in the Fortians Union. In later years, she was active in ensuring the history of the Girls' School, the "original" school, was not forgotten, especially by the National Trust, the current occupier of that site. She was a proud Fortian, and always drew attention to HSC results, and the achievements of Fortians, particularly the ladies, in their chosen fields of endeavour.

Denice was active in the Union as committee member and President for 11 of the last 12 years. When she was not on the committee, because of other commitments, the Union lacked direction. Some of those who took on those roles did not have her skills, or had their own agendas.

So what were those skills? It impressed me that she seemed to produce a Newsletter without effort, finding text and pictures, and putting them together in an easily read format.

Mostly, I admired her management skills, her planning, and eye for detail. No doubt these were sharpened during her working years.

For the last 12 years, we worked together on the Annual Dinner, the major event on the Union's calendar. Last year, despite Denice's numerous medical appointments and days undergoing treatment, the venue was booked, menu selected, and the guest speaker had accepted. Then, a week before the dinner, the hotel became difficult about some of our requirements. It was Denice who rang the manager. In the end, we were given two of their "High Tea" vouchers which we raffled. Denice also provided three more prizes, organised the raffle tickets, and prepared the name tags.

She died the day before she was to host that dinner. It went ahead, and was a success, because of the procedures and protocols she had established over years.



Denice Smith

Vale Ian McLeod

Ian Frederick McLeod (*Fortian '54*), who died in June, was a highly respected teacher for more than 25 years at The King's School as Head of Classics and Senior Master. Ian organised the successful Domini luncheons at King's, enabling colleagues to keep in touch. He was at last year's Fortians dinner, with a group of 1954 Boys. Ian also tutored Fortian Janek Drevikovsky in Latin. You may recall Janek topped the State in five subjects at the 2014 HSC exams.



Fortians Union dinner

Friday, 20 October, 2023

Name: _____

Surname at school (if different): _____

Final year at school: _____

I wish to sit with: _____

My email: _____

Phone: _____

Postal address: _____

Any special dietary requirements: _____

I have included payment for the following person: _____

Cost: \$75 each.

Payment can be made on line, to: Fortians Union Ordinary a/c,
BSB 112-879, account number 0158059952. Reference: Your surname
+ Boys' or Girls' + last two digits of your alumni year, e.g. **Smithgirls66**.

Don't forget to email a copy of this form and payments details to:
don.newby@bigpond.com

OR, complete form and post with payment to:
Fortians Union, 63 Acton St, Croydon NSW 2132.

Venue: Mercure Sydney, 818 George St, Sydney (at Railway Square)
6:45pm for 7pm start.

Speaker: Stephen Duckett (Fortian 1967) leading health economist and
a regular commentator on TV and radio during the Covid pandemic.