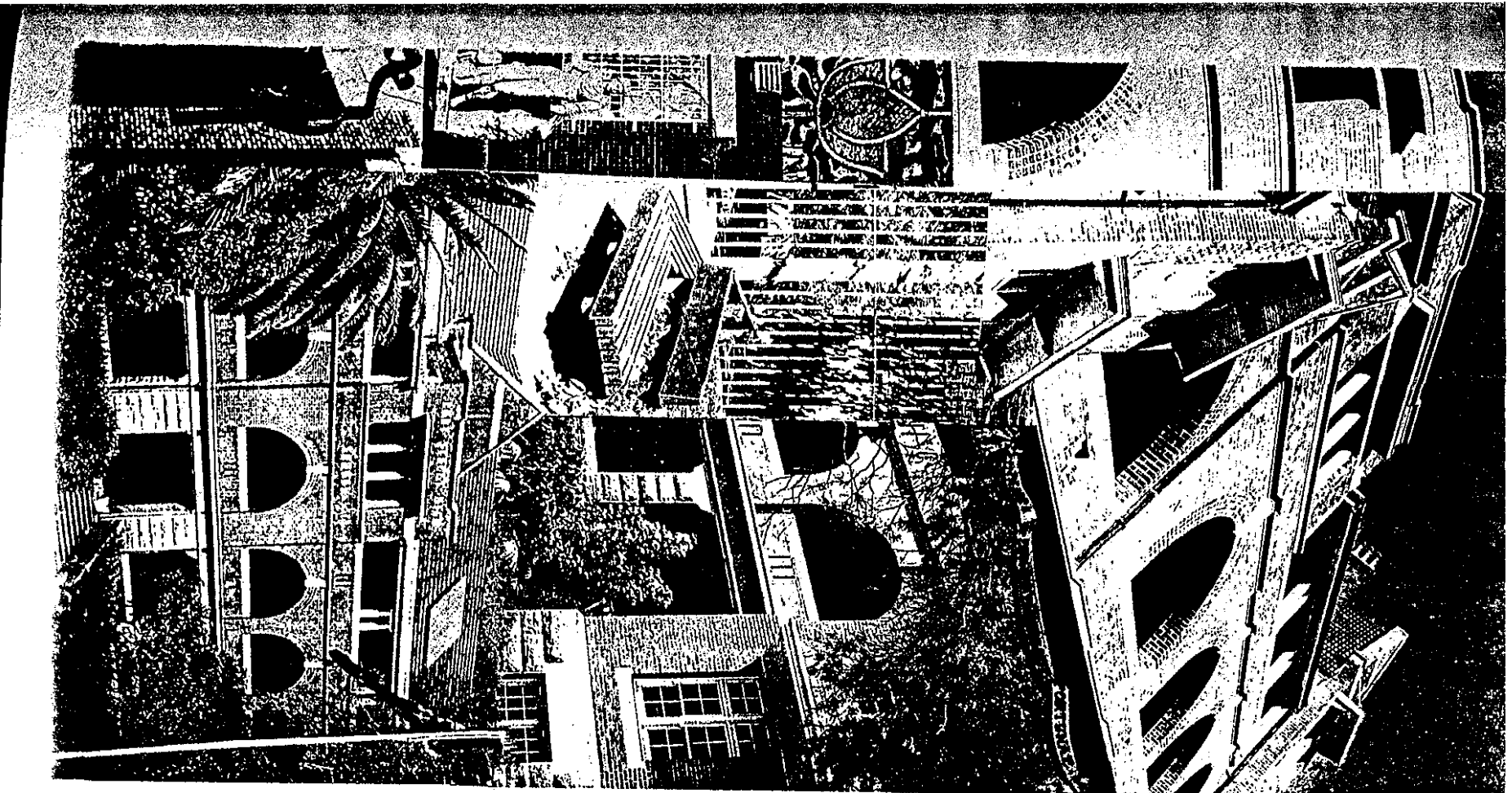


THE FORTIAN

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LEGAL STUDIES STUDENTS MEET JUSTICE MICHAEL KIRBY

Continuing a tradition he started last year, Justice Michael Kirby invited the winner of the Michael Kirby Prize for 3 Unit Legal Studies 1996 plus two other students to meet with him in his Supreme Court Chambers in Sydney. Swati Johri was the top student in 3 Unit Legal Studies in 1996 followed by Shani Mandel and Megan Scott. As usual Justice Kirby was a charming host and we are extremely grateful for his interest in and support of Legal Studies at Fort Street.

Ms Anne Draper

Megan Scott, Shani Mandel and I, accompanied by Ms Draper, had the rare opportunity of meeting with prominent High Court Judge and Fortian, Justice Michael Kirby. He very kindly took time out from his busy schedule, on the few days that he was in Sydney, to meet with fellow Fortians.

The idea of meeting with a High Court Judge had all of us quite excited. Justice Kirby was very warm and welcoming making us feel at ease almost instantly. Conversation ranged from University Courses, Fort Street Uniform (or lack thereof), Justice Kirby's family, dinner with fellow Fortian John Singleton that night and the general state of the world. He was very obliging, posing for numerous photos with the four of us, especially as we three students in particular were desperate for evidence that this meeting had actually taken place.

We got to sit in his Supreme Court chambers which has incredible harbour views and is filled with all sorts of legal paraphernalia such as law journals, law books, photographs etc. He even had a copy of one of his school photos in his office!

All in all, it was a very exciting experience, especially for Megan, Shani, and I. On behalf of the three of us, I would like to extend my thanks to Justice Kirby for his time (and for the photos he sent us in the mail later on) and most importantly to Ms Draper who made this meeting possible in the first place. THANK YOU.

Swati Johri

Hugh O'Neil Bree Chisholm
Jessamin Clissold



WHY I CHOSE A CO- EDUCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Bree Chisholm currently in Year 12 in Fort Street, feels very strongly that a co-educational education has enormous benefits. She rejects the suggestion that girls are academically more likely to succeed in a single-sex school and stresses the enormous social benefits of a co-ed education:

"Personally the greatest benefits from attending co-ed school has been the lifelong friendships I have made. My male friends are just as important to me as my female friends, perhaps even more so as they exposed me to a completely different way of viewing life, and offered me a variety of experiences, all of which taught me something, not only about life in general but also about myself. As a result I know I will leave school with not just the education, and the social skills required to succeed, but also the ability to adapt to different experiences and the confidence to make up my own mind as to what is best for me. I realise that I do not know everything, but at the very least I have the skills to prevent myself being exploited and the power to learn from the mistakes I will inevitably make. The removal of stereotypes, the friendships, the exposure and experiences, the social skills and lastly the education provided by a co-educational school mean I will succeed after school, in the 'real' world."

"In an age when so many efforts are being made to diminish the inequalities in the workplace and society in general for women, this idea that single sex schools offer a better schooling environment for females, is a backward step. Everyone must learn to work together and learn from each other."

BREE CHISHOLM

LEGAL STUDIES STUDENTS MEET JUSTICE KIRBY



Shani Mandel Megan Scott Justice Kirby Ms Anne Draper Swati Johri

Greetings from Papua New Guinea



Female student from the Eastern Highlands

Ms Libby Davis, a former Science teacher at Fort Street High School, now lives and works in Papua New Guinea.



School Orchestra



Students from Enga Province

HIGH COURT JUDGE ENDOWS LEGAL STUDIES PRIZE

Fortian Justice Michael Kirby was appointed to the bench of the High Court in December 1995 and was approached by the school to endow a prize for 3 Unit Legal Studies. He generously agreed to donate a prize, in perpetuity, to be awarded to the student scoring the highest marks in Legal Studies in the HSC.

Michael Kirby was born to working class parents in Concord. He was chosen to attend Summer Hill Opportunity School and from there proceeded to Fort Street High, where, as a Prefect, he remembers placing John Singleton on detention. At Sydney University he obtained his Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts and Master of Laws with first class honours. In 1975, Lionel Murphy the then Attorney General, asked Kirby to become the chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission. His work on the ALRC included the 1977 Australian Law Reform Commission Report on tissue and organ transplants, which has had a significant impact internationally. This report changed the legal definition of death to "brain dead" or the irreversible stopping of the circulation. This notion of brain death has been accepted by the Council of Europe, the President's Commission in the United States and the Canadian Law Reform Commission.

In 1993 Michael Kirby was appointed as the United Nations Special Human Rights representative to Cambodia. He is the President of the Court of Appeal in the Solomon Islands, and in November 1995 he was elected president of the International Commission of Jurists.

But probably the high point in an already distinguished career was his appointment in December 1995 to the High Court in Canberra. He becomes the fourth Fortian to sit on the benches of the High Court after Edmund Barton, H.V. Evatt and Sir Garfield Barwick.

The inaugural Justice Michael Kirby Prize for 3 Unit Legal Studies was won by Marcus Maller. As Justice Kirby could not attend speech day to present the prize, due to his commitments in Canberra, he kindly invited Marcus and two colleagues to take tea with him in his Chambers in the Supreme Court building in Sydney. We are assured by Justice Kirby that the last time this happened the invitation was extended by Justice Evatt and the invited student was John Kerr (later to become governor-general). During the Easter break, Marcus Maller, Chris Makris, Cristina Chang and Anne Draper (Legal Studies Co-ordinator) met up with Justice Kirby for afternoon tea and a chat. Justice Kirby was a charming host and said that he would be pleased to meet future winners of the Justice Michael Kirby Prize for Legal Studies. Justice Michael Kirby's high ideals and strong interest, particularly in the areas of human rights and law reform, are to be applauded, and we are very proud that he has agreed to endow the prize for legal studies.

