



# GESTA NON VERBA

ISSUE 1 – 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2003

Next issues: 25<sup>th</sup> June,  
17<sup>th</sup> September,  
10<sup>th</sup> December.

## PRESIDENTS NOTES.

**Welcome** to the first issue of Gesta Non Verba (GNV) for 2003. This year looks to be a busy one for the Union. In addition to the usual year reunions, we are hoping to establish an annual event that will be open to all ex-students of all years.

I'd like to welcome Mrs Robin Legge to Gesta Non Verba – as our new Union Secretary. I'm sure she will do an excellent job of hunting out all those ex-students we've lost contact with. If you know an ex-student who isn't on our mailing list, please do them in to Mrs Legge by emailing her at [exstudents@jamesruse.nsw.edu.au](mailto:exstudents@jamesruse.nsw.edu.au). The principal of JRAHS, Mr Michael Quinlan, has hired Robin to work three days a week as the Secretary of the JRAHS Union. She will be working to establish and maintain a database of ex-students, as well as organising the publication of GNV; helping to organise reunions etc. and maintaining our school Archives.

As always, we need gossip on ex-students for publication in the next issue of GNV. If you have any dirt (particularly weddings, births, job promotions etc) email Robin on the address above.

PURSUE EXCELLENCE!

**David Streeter**

## Reunions

We need more organisers for reunions of the classes of 1963, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1993, 1998 and 2002. If you would like to help out, please email us at [exstudents@jamesruse.nsw.edu.au](mailto:exstudents@jamesruse.nsw.edu.au).

## JRAHS Website

The official school website can be found at <http://www.jamesruse.nsw.edu.au>.

The JRAHS Union's website can be found at <http://www.jamesruse.nsw.edu.au/union/index.htm>.

We are eager for material to put on the website, so contact us if you have anything to contribute.

## Year Contacts

Our biggest problem in the Union is losing contact with ex-students. We need people to volunteer as Year Contacts for each graduating year, who will be responsible for keeping in touch with other ex-students with whom they graduated. The task is not onerous, and a good way to keep your finger on the pulse! Contact us if you'd like to volunteer. Thank you to Vivienne Sharma (nee Khouri) who has volunteered for 1992.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE.

Just a short note to say how happy I am that of the possible 4,000 graduates from James Ruse we have 707 enrolled as Union members. I hope you contribute to your Union actively and use your secretariat here at school for all reunions and related activities. I believe a Union Dinner is scheduled for late October this year. I look forward to meeting you all then.

**Michael Quinlan**

## EX STUDENTS NEWS

**Kate Fagan (1990)** Extract from a letter received.

“Earlier this year I launched ‘The Long Moment’ at the Sydney Writers’ Festival. I always have loved poetry and writing, and was privileged while at James Ruse to experience the wonderful teaching and encouragement of many people, especially within the English, Mathematics and Music Departments.

My brother James (1989) also enjoyed his years at the school. He graduated as a medical doctor in 1996 and is now working full-time as a musician, travelling between Sydney and the UK, where he lives for most of each year. I am about to submit a PhD thesis on contemporary American poetry, and also work as a musician.”

**Kavita Benedict (formerly Panjraton) (1992)**

“My husband and I gave birth to a baby girl – Aaliya Maya Caroline Benedict on 27 October 2002.”

### **Craig Wood (1990)**

“I write from Berlin, Germany, where I have been working for three years. I am living with my partner Fiona and we have a 5 month old daughter, Kizzy Mackinnon Wood. Fiona and I will marry in Scotland in April 2003. All three of us hope to return to Australia at the end of 2003, to a house and garden.

I finished my PhD. (University of Sydney) in 1999 and I am currently a Postdoctoral Researcher, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology, Berlin, Germany.

Best regards and good luck with the Newsletter and the reunions etc. I hope to make one in person soon”

### **Daniel Rutter (1991)**

Some careers advice from Daniel!!  
“Don’t study. It’s overrated. Avoid university at all costs. Basically, just kind of laze around until you find yourself being sent toys to play with for a living. That’s pretty cool.”

### **Adam Gibbs (1991)**

“Living life at the beach (Byron Bay), irrelevance of Maths in general society, life as a rural lawyer, property investment!”

### **Vivienne Sharma (nee Khouri) (1992)**

Married 1993 to Vinod, baby Zane born January 2002.

### **Debbie Coventry (1991)**

Debbie married Duncan Searle at St Mark’s Church in Darling Point on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2003. Guests at the reception, held at The Abbey in Glebe, included Fiona McNeil (now Bustos-McNeil), who sang at the ceremony, Lisa Young, Jeanette Coulson, Janelle (nee Watson) & Craig Snodgrass and Debbie’s sister Michelle Coventry (1995)

### **Kiri Menere (1990)**

Kiri wrote to tell us she recently got married in January.

“My husband is a lovely Irishman by the name of Gary Collins. We’re currently settled in London. However, after a few holidays to Oz (including getting married in the Hunter Valley on Australia Day 03), we’re pretty convinced that’s where we want to live. I don’t think it will be too long before we’re back out there for good. Seems as though loads of people from our year have lived overseas, but are now returning”.

### **Natalie Bates (1997)**

Road cyclist Natalie left for Italy last week – one of eight on the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) women’s cycling team about to complete an eight-month tour of Italy. Natalie contested the first world cup of the season in Melbourne recently and over the three stages, her best result was 29 from 69 riders.

### **Jenny Harvey (1992)**

“The class of 1992 held a very well attended reunion late last year, there are some photos (Mark Cocquio’s) at: <http://www.nocturnal-central.com/mark/reunion>

**THE FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS FROM NEWS ITEMS, COMPILED IN 2001, TO COMMEMORATE THE 1991’S 10-YEAR REUNION. UP-DATES WOULD BE WELCOMED.**

### **Pippa Beard**

“I completed my PhD from the veterinary pathology department of Edinburgh University (Scotland) in February of this year. The PhD was loads of fun, involving a lot of touring round the Scottish countryside collecting and post morteming dead wildlife (I even got to go all the way up to Shetland). Edinburgh is a wonderful, wonderful city – definitely one of the greatest places on earth and everyone should make a pilgrimage to it at one time or other in their life!

I’m now in another continent, working as a post-doctoral research fellow in the department of Microbiology and Immunology, Cornell University, New York. (That’s New York state, meaning I am about 6 hours north of New York city, even so, its not been an easy month for obvious reasons.) I’m researching the DNA-binding proteins of the herpes simplex virus. It’s a lot more exciting than it sounds, honestly! Cornell University is huge, immensely well funded, and bloody freezing in winter.”

### **Pecky De Silva**

“Well, I am working at Liverpool Hospital. Its my third year out after finishing medicine at UNSW and I’m working currently as the neurosurgical registrar. I’m sort of somewhere at the beginning of a career in surgery with years of training ahead...”

### **Kerwyn Foo**

“I’m working in radiation oncology at Westmead Hospital, only a few km from our old school. I live in Toongabbie, also not too far from JR. I can’t seem to get away from the place – there are Ruse old-boys/girls crawling all over my workplace. Also, am married now and have a cat but no kids.”

### **Darren Gardner**

“These days I spend as much of my time as I can riding my mountain bike, backcountry telemark skiing, playing squash and building a dirt Yurt. Earlier this year I spent 5 weeks mountain biking around Hawaii – big hills, good fun. I have also done some mountain biking and walking in Tassie, some trekking in Nepal (with Glenn) and some honeymooning in Borneo (not with Glenn).

When not pursuing these activities I am a patent attorney with Freehills which is great fun as I continually get to run into ex-Ruse people and see all sorts of cutting edge inventions as well as a whole bunch of crap ones.”

## **Glen Horrocks**

“Life’s a bit frenetic at the moment as I put the finishing touches to my PhD thesis. My topic is computer modelling of the aerodynamics of automobile engines, a collaboration between the University of Technology Sydney, and Bishop Innovation, a Sydney based engineering research firm. I start work at Bishop as an employee in about 2 weeks – real job at last!

I’ve done a lot of mountain biking, walking, canyoning and skiing over the last few years, and have recently done a fair amount of orienteering. To use my outdoors skills for community service, I am active in the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad, a volunteer rescue squad involved in remote area search and rescue (such as lost bushwalkers and plane crashes). I have done many trips and expeditions with Darren Gardner, including a Nepal trekking/mountaineering expedition.”

## **Jason Keane**

“I miss my school days. Not for the school which was shabby, nor my academic achievements which were paltry, nor the sporting glories or the breaking of young hearts. I just miss having someone there. Someones who knew your name, and what you did and who you were. One hundred and forty odd someones who from week to week gave life some sort of community context that is so absent in “real life”. Rugby seasons. Cricket seasons. School plays. Exams. Swimming carnivals. Excursions to Canberra. Cadet parades. A free movie at the end of term. Life was once measured in this primitive calendar and things were at once more important and more trivial than they ever were.

Old enough to drive dad’s car but too young to work. Old enough to drink and to smoke. To stay out all night – but not have to work in the morning. No rent, no bills to pay. Nirvana, it seemed, was never more than a lunch break away.

I remember Matt Holden’s cars, Mrs Cannon’s accent, Mr Dunkerley’s ties and Mr Mathews’ safari suit, which would appear in a burst of colour once a year like some migratory bird. I remember the try I scored against Epping, carrying half their team on my back on the way to the line. I remember Boris Edwards & his band The Pleasure. I remember Heartbreak Hill and twelve minute runs and Luke Macnab always chipping over the top in touch footy.”

## **Alex Lee**

“Since finishing a business degree in ’95 I’ve been working in various jobs within the Finance / funds management industry. In the main, my roles can be loosely classified as “accounting” and in most instances had involved some form of financial analysis and management support. In keeping with the spirit of change and renewal, I’m starting a new role as a business analyst specialising in management information system next month while finishing off a postgrade degree and whatever little time I’ve got left to myself tend to involve things soccer related.”

## **Lara McKinley**

“And I thought six years of studying agriculture was a waste of time? Not so! It has helped me categorically avoid the temptation of getting sheep to eat the grass on the modest 27 acres of paddock where I am currently living in Central Victoria. Local farmers find my aversion to crutching sheep amusing and (probably concerned about fire hazards of long grass) lend me some of theirs. It’s a picturesque backdrop and red river gums are incredible.

In between avoiding the sheep, worrying about running out of water in our tanks and waging heroic battles against spider infestations I run a business out of Bendigo. My business is centered around the idea of photographic narrative: using words and photographs together to tell a story. These are usually exhibits, combining photographs and first person interviews in a single art-work.”

## **Fiona Bustos-McNeil**

“I have been spent the last year living in London at Goodenough College (a residential college for mainly overseas post-graduate students) and working for the London office of Minter Ellison, Lawyers while Robert has been taking the first year of his MBA at the London Business School. This year we are both full-time students and I have officially enrolled as a student of University College London reading for my Master of Laws (Intellectual Property).”

## **Danielle Nichol**

“I am now working in AMP’s Compliance and Technical Services Department – yes, I am finally a CAT! Destined to work here! It is in line with my ongoing (and seemingly never ending) Superannuation studies, so at least I have that practical tie up now. It’s all legislation & analysis of what AMP is/should be doing.”

## **Gavin Sandercoe**

“After Ruse, went straight into Medical School at Sydney Uni. Had a great time and managed to get through. Got married to Nicole (an accountant) at the end of Uni, and we currently live at Glenwood. Currently working towards a career speciality of Trauma Surgery + Retrieval / Intensive. I currently work at Westmead Hospital, but have been shifted around from Auburn to Orange and Darwin.”

## **Adrian Smith**

“Just about to submit my PhD thesis (about time!). No idea what comes after that. Science looks like a particularly uninviting career but I’m not sure my current alternatives are any better.

Still living in Campsie with Sharyn (my gorgeous wife ) and Madeleine (my gorgeous 18 months old daughter)”

## **Carla Walton (and Vanessa Ward)**

“I’m currently completing a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the University of Wollongong. I have lived in Wollongong for 2 years now and my flat is a 5 minute walk from the beach, which somehow makes the whole study thing not quite so bad.

Vanessa is teaching high school in a small rural village in Malawi, Africa. There are only a handful of other women in the village since the school she teaches at is run by a Catholic brother and is a Catholic boys high school. Recently, most of the boys at her school destroyed the high school in another village after provocation by the neighbouring school's football team. Hence, all but 20 of the students have been suspended or expelled."

#### **John Warren**

"I'm living in Melbourne and working for the Victorian state government. I'm with Land Victoria who are the agency responsible for crown land, the titles office and mapping stuff. It's all good. I've just had my second wedding anniversary (married Catherine in August '99) – no kids or pets yet.

I am still in touch with Andrew Powell – he is living in Brisbane again and is working for the Premiers department in the Queensland Public Service. He and wife Taryn just had their first child – Daniel was born in April this year."

#### **Meredith Whiting**

"Seemingly immediately upon completion of HSC, I started Medicine at Sydney. This went on for 6 years .. I'm happy with my choice now but I don't think I'd do it again. During those tedious hours at Sydney Uni and Concord then Canberra Hospitals, I met Damian Smith. We were married in a lovely little Church in Sutton Forest April 2000 and are living in Canberra now, with plans to move back to Sydney 2002.

I am in my second year of the Psychiatry program, and I actually do think I'm in a privileged position in talking with people."

#### **Lisa Young**

"In August last year, I rather grudgingly gave up living in the Blue Mountains – and not very grudgingly gave up working at Nepean Hospital as a medical researcher – to move back to Sydney. This was the result of taking up a position with the NSW Police Service as an intelligence analyst, which has been both a major challenge and a major culture shock. (You lot could have helped by being a bit less intellectual and left-wing early on...!) I'd tell you more, but then I'd have to kill you! Do enjoy it though, and hope to start a Masters in this area next year.

Still into photography, it has taken me to some of the best and worst places imaginable during the last couple of years. I still amuse (frighten?) new friends and colleagues by spontaneously repeating things inadvertently collected at Ruse – "To put the lathe in back gear, take the pin out of the bull wheel and engaaaage the back gear lev-rrr!"

## **GREETINGS,**

At the conclusion of 2001, two devoted members of staff who together accumulated 48 years of distinguished service in the NSW Public School System retired. I refer to Mick (Killer) Canty and Mel Boddy. Many past students would have encountered one or both of these members of staff.

Limited copies of the 2001 Yearbook are available for purchase. The Yearbook contains amongst other items, the speech by Bernie Newsom (Former Deputy of JRAHS) on his association with Mick Canty and also a tribute to Mel Boddy written by Bill Ballantyne.

Should you wish to obtain a copy of the 2001 yearbook, please contact the school with your postal address and payment. The cost of the 2001 Yearbook is \$15 (AUD) including postage within Australia, \$20 (AUD) if posted overseas. Please make your cheque drawn on an Australian Bank made payable to James Ruse Agricultural High School and I will ensure a copy is placed in the post for you.

Alternatively complete the form below and return to the school.

## **40 YEARS OF MUSICALS AT JR**

James Ruse Agricultural High School is currently in the process of compiling 40 years of school musical (1963-2002) in a publication.

If you have photographs, which could be used to supplement our collection especially between the years 1963 to 1976, it would be greatly appreciated if we could combine our resources to make this publication more substantial and a worthwhile keepsake.

Should you have any photographs that you would like to contribute, please contact the school by email on [jr\\_yearbook@email.com](mailto:jr_yearbook@email.com)

The school is currently accepting pre sale orders. The cost of the publication is \$15(AUD) if collected personally, \$18 (AUD) if posted within Australia, \$25 (AUD) if posted overseas by air mail.

Should you wish to obtain a copy of the publication, please contact the school with your postal address and cheque drawn on an Australian Bank made payable to James Ruse Agricultural High School and I will ensure a copy is dispatched as soon as the publication is complete – currently estimated at about 22 May, 2003.

Alternatively complete the form below and return to the school.

Money raised in this exercise contributes towards our purchase of a new Grand Piano for the Music Department..

Thank you in advance for you continued interest and support of your former school.

**GM Yeo.**

**2001 YEARBOOK**

The Principal  
James Ruse Agricultural High School  
Felton Road, Carlingford, NSW, 2118  
Tel: +612 9871 7126  
Fax: +612 9871 3874  
Email: [jr\\_yearbook@email.com](mailto:jr_yearbook@email.com)

I am interested in purchasing a copy of the 2001 **Yearbook**. Please tick one of the following boxes.

- I enclose \$AUD15 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling within Australia.
- I enclose \$AUD20 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling outside Australia.

My postal address is:

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**CREDIT CARD INFORMATION**

**2001 YEARBOOK**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount:  \$AUD15 including postage and handling within Australia

\$AUD20 including postage and handling outside Australia

Bankcard       MasterCard       Visa

Credit Card No.      |      |      |      Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Cardholder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 40 YEARS OF MUSICALS AT JR

The Principal  
James Ruse Agricultural High School  
Felton Road, Carlingford, NSW, 2118  
Tel: +612 9871 7126  
Fax: +612 9871 3874  
Email: jr\_yearbook@email.com

I am interested in ordering my copy of "40 Years of Musicals at JR 1963-2002". *Please tick one of the following boxes.*

- I enclose \$AUD15 to reserve my copy. I understand that the school will contact me when the publication is available for collection.
- I enclose \$AUD18 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling within Australia.
- I enclose \$AUD25 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling outside Australia.

My postal address is: \_\_\_\_\_

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### CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

### 40 Years of Musicals at JR 1963-2002

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount:  \$AUD15 I will personally collect when the publication is available.

\$AUD18 including postage and handling within Australia

\$AUD25 including postage and handling outside Australia

Bankcard       Mastercard       Visa

Credit Card No.      |      |      |      Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (as shown on credit card)

Cardholder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_