



# GESTA NON VERBA

ISSUE 3 – 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2003

Next issues:      **10<sup>th</sup> December 2003**  
                             **31<sup>st</sup> March 2004**  
                             **23<sup>rd</sup> June 2004**

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES.

Greetings Rusians!!!

As you are all probably aware by now, the Annual Dinner that was scheduled for this weekend has been cancelled due to insufficient numbers. It's unfortunate, as many people were looking forward to it, and many people had been working behind the scenes to organise it. I'd like to also thank Mr Canty who was scheduled to be the guest speaker – don't think you're off the hook, Mick – we'll be calling on you to speak soon enough!

This will be the last introduction to Gesta Non Verba from me. I've decided to retire as president of the JRAHS Union. It's been a fun few years, but work and other commitments are taking their toll. I'll still be behind the scenes, fiddling with the website and helping out the executive, but it is time to let someone else take a turn on the tractor.

I must admit I had big hopes when I started sending out those first few lists of email addresses. I believed then that students of JRAHS have a bond to both the school and to each other that is unique, and is the basis of an enormous network of friends. You have all proved me right – that first small list of slightly over ten email addresses has swelled to over one thousand – and mostly through word of mouth.

Big thanks to Carmen Kong, David Yu, David James and the year organisers for their help over the years. Thanks to Michael Quinlan, principal of JRAHS, and Robin Legge, JRAHS Union secretariat for all their support, which has been essential. Most Rusians would be aware that the school puts in a lot of time and effort for the Union – and unfortunately, often more than the ex-students themselves put in.

I hope to catch up with many of you at the Annual General Meeting – we need a big turn out. If you are interested in taking office please contact Robin Legge at [exstudents@jamesruse.nsw.edu.au](mailto:exstudents@jamesruse.nsw.edu.au).

So here's to our next happy meeting and in the meantime don't forget to...

PURSUE EXCELLENCE!

David Streeter

## PRINCIPAL'S NOTES.

It is wonderful to see the Union's membership growing rapidly, the most recent member is Mark Glazier 1988, which brings membership to 1,088. On the school front Mrs Sandra Hurst (English) will retire at the end of this year after 14 years at JR, it appears this will be the only staff change for 2004. The longest serving present members of staff are Ray Lees (Economics), Bill Ballantyne (Science) and Alan Best (Music), all in their 29<sup>th</sup> year of service to your school. Of the current 59 teachers 36 are in the 12<sup>th</sup> year or more at JR. We expect the new two storey, 55m long technology wing to be completed in mid December while the old Industrial Arts Block, Francis Block, will be demolished and replaced early in 2004. This will complete the building program of the school, which the State Government funded over the past eight years at a cost of over \$10 million.

The school will support the Union in planned "non formal" activities in 2004. I believe there is significant interest in a family BBQ, Sports Day early in the year.

Michael Quinlan

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Date:                    Monday 27 October 2003**

**Time:                    7.00 pm**

**Venue:                  Conference Room of  
Carlingford Bowling Club  
(overlooking the lights of the city)**

## Tribute to David Hogan

It is with great sadness that I read about the passing of my school-mate David Hogan in your last newsletter. To those of us who knew him well at school he cut a memorable figure – very tall and thin, with a bizarre sense of humour and curious taste in music, and the entire package operating on an intellectual plane none of us could approach or comprehend well.

Michael Canty's anecdote about myself and David (while admittedly somewhat altered over the years) was illustrative of the awe with which we, his closest peers, held this gentle and humble friend.

While I seldom met David after high school he was often in my thoughts. As I suspect he was for many of David's friends, now grieving the loss of the only true genius that many of us will ever know."

### Damien Sullivan (1986)

## 20 YEAR REUNION. 1978 – 1983 Cohort

**When:** Saturday 25 October 2003 from 7.00pm

**Where:** The Epping Club – 45-47 Rawson Street, Epping

**Price:** \$65 per person (inc. food & drinks until 10.00pm – thereafter normal bar prices)

**RSVP:** By Friday 26 September 2003

**Payment:** Electronic Funds Transfer or

Cheque made out to Glenn A Paine, 7 Bayberry Way, Castle Hill NSW 2154.

For further information go to

<http://www.classof83.michaelmowbray.net>.

## Where are they now (farmyard edition)?

1. Teddy the Highland Galloway steer.

Teddy was part of the 1994 State Government "Release the Wild Fluffy Animals" scheme (otherwise known as the cut the costs of Agricultural High Schools budget measure). He was returned to his native Scotland, or more precisely he was pushed onto Jenkins Rd with a travel brochure featuring the Edinburgh Festival. Eventually he did make it to Scotland, where after many years of happily munching the greenest of grass his last wishes were honoured when a pipe was shoved up his rectum and he was made into the world's fluffiest bagpipe.

2. Agnis the Australop.

Few of us could of known the monumental future that awaited Agnis, an ordinary, lightly feathered, brittle egg producing old hen. In 1992 Agnis was personally chosen by professor Tony Stubbing (no relation to the Love Boat captain – but gee he gets sick of people asking) of the CSIRO to be a key part of a major research exercise. Whilst Agnis did make the supreme sacrifice, Tony believes without her we still would not know the answer to the age old question – Why did the chicken cross the road? For those who are interested the 1254 page report can be downloaded from [www.you'vegottobeyolking.net.au](http://www.you'vegottobeyolking.net.au).

3. Marvin the Dam Eel.

Marvin survived the shock of Richard Bushell's Mid winter home invasion, in fact he was often heard recounting the story in the front bar of the Epping hotel. Eventually Marvin became a victim of the excess pollution and fertilizer runoff and was last seen in a Pennant Hills Players amateur production of "The Incredible Hulk". Although he missed out on the lead role, he was thought ideal to play a slide on role as the door snake in 3 separate scenes.

4. "Cabbo" the cabbage.

Cabbo pretty much laid low throughout the nineties, before emigrating to Germany in 2002. He returned soon after very disappointed with the experience. One of his mates was heard to say "Cabbo used to be such a fun guy, now he's just a sour Kraut."

5. Julienne Helena Fencepost.

Remarkably enough Julieanne Helena is the only featured member of this article still in residence at JRAHS. She still sits at the corner of the back paddock, and boy could she tell a story or two. Unfortunately as most of you will remember Julienne Helena is completely deaf so was unable to answer any questions for this article.

6. Peter Astridge

Do I even need to tell you. Student Teacher Pete's career has gone from strength to strength since his stint at Ruse, surely culminating in his appearance in the Helga's bread ad. Only an ex-Ruse student Ag teacher could deliver the line "Is it Helga's" with just the right amount of imploring compassion. Keep an eye on this years Oscar ceremony – just maybe Pete Astridge will be the first person who has either attended or taught at James Ruse who is even remotely famous, (excluding Dr Harry's poodle).

The End.

**Justin Bunt (1988)**

The last issue of Gesta Non Verba covered the rUNSWift team's entry into the 4 legged league of the RoboCup international robotic soccer competition, this is a follow up on the competition result.

After five days of exciting matches, rUNSWift again take honours of being world champion this year. For photo of the competition see <http://photos.yahoo.com/eileenmak>.

**Eileen Mak (1999)**