



GESTA NON VERBA

ISSUE 2 – 23rd JUNE 2004

Next issues: 15th September,
8th December.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES.

Welcome to another issue of GESTA NON VERBA!

The Union website is currently being re-designed, so as to make it a convenient source of information for all ex-students. If anyone has photos or news relating to their year at school, please email potential website contents for your year-page to Robin Legge: exstudents@jamesruse.nsw.edu.au.

Also, if people would like to volunteer to be the year contact for their grade, you would be most welcome! The Union is here to help our extended school community keep in contact after we've left the classrooms of the school, but we also need your help in keeping up with all the news and achievements of our ex-students.

The class of 1994 is having their 10 year reunion soon; this is already advertised on the current Union website. Remember to let us know about any other upcoming reunions or grade activities!

Carmen Kong (1997)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE.

The fine traditions set by former pupils of our school are certainly being maintained this year. We have two 14 year old boys who have been included in the Australian Team to compete in the 45th International Mathematics Olympiad from 9-18th July in Athens, a Year 12 student competing in the International Physics and another in the International Chemistry Olympiad. As teams are composed of four or five members only drawn from across Australia, selection is indeed a great honour.

For those of you who missed Alan Best's Annual Musical "Godspell", (or should I now say **Scott Copeman's (1995)** "Godspell"), you certainly missed a great spectacle. **Peter Ballantyne (2000)** came back to provide his skills with light and sound as did **Stephen Chin (2002)** on the drums as part of the band. Thank you Peter and Stephen.

I was recently invited by Mr Andrew Watson, Principal (1983-1989) to his new house in Kenthurst. Mr Watson's house, like **Dr Alan Fahey's (1970)** house, was reduced to ashes during the fires in 2002. The school reproduced appropriate memorabilia for Mr Watson relating to the Years 1983-1989 and for Alan we "found" an old School Captain's badge and pocket.

Keep supporting the Union and the school will continue to support you.

Michael Quinlan

EX STUDENTS NEWS

Todd Cameron (1987)

Hi, I am Todd Cameron. After completing a Bachelor of Business degree I was unlucky to be diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (1991), a horrible disease that I had always associated with a read-a-thon and "someone else".

Since then I have been married, had three children, run a textile company for seven years and then moved to the self employed world as a financial planner in 1998.

My health was as good as could be expected (three hospital trips only) right through until mid 2002 when it started to worsen, and quickly. Now I need to use a walking stick most of the time, which certainly alters the way you see yourself.

Deep down I am still the same person....I am still self-employed, I am still married with three kids, I just cannot do some of the things I used to enjoy doing, but I have found other things more rewarding now (such as time with family and friends).

So now I coach a soccer team, do financial planning work for people with MS (and others) and some fundraising for the MS Society of NSW. All of these are going well.

My comment to you is that life deals out some tough situations, and mine is tough, but it is how you deal with the cards in your hand that counts.

I can be contacted by e-mail at todd.cameron@ampfp.com.au.

Please feel free to drop me a line.

Andrew Leigh (1990)

Andrew married Gweneth Newman in Pennsylvania in January 2004, and graduated from Harvard University with a PhD in Public Policy in June 2004. Gweneth and Andrew will shortly be moving to Canberra, where Andrew will be taking up a position in the Economics Division of the Research School of Social Sciences, in the Australian National University. Andrew is also the co-author of "Imagining Australia: Ideas for Our Future", which will shortly be published by Allen and Unwin. He can be emailed at andrew_leigh@ksg02.harvard.edu, and would be delighted to hear from former classmates.

Sam Kemp (nee Cheers) (1986)

It is with great trepidation I submit this report – after having finished reading back issues of GNV kindly 'posted' to me by Robin for reasons that will become apparent.

After leaving JRAHS in 1986, graduating from Hawkesbury Ag, and embarking on the mandatory travel stint I found myself **not** entertaining at the Belvoir (nowadays the only theatrical encounters I have are those staged at the 33 children Mallowa Public School) Nor did I find myself lobbying against Asylum Seeker policy (in fact the only protesting I do are to those who find out on first meeting I am married to a cotton farmer – who incidentally I have learned are apparently directly responsible for the environmental dilemmas we face today!). I don't think I've ever had a hairdresser called Svetlana – although my multitasking skills are now honed to a fine art as I write this.

I administer Panadol to an irate 2½ year old who won't be convinced that Petit Miam is not a food staple. Suggest **strongly** to my 4 year old that Ricky Lake is not an appropriate choice for an intelligent, well adjusted human being. Fill out yet another entry in a long line of school fundraising (how anyone could ever eat \$223.76 worth of pies is beyond me!), all while being on hold to that Bureaucratic politically correct establishment of Land and Water Conservation.

Why not email? You ask!

Well I would if I could manage to get our dinosaur of an exchange – of which I'm sure there is, somewhere in that little shed (to which the keys have been lost by Telstra) still a stalwart of the CWA doing it all by hand - to stay "up" long enough to send one! Aah technology – we've managed to install a machine in the tractors which for all intent and purposes is an auto pilot requiring only a 180° turn by the operator – providing they're still awake. Yet to make a mobile phone call we need to stand one legged while hopping

up and down singing a rendition of Advance Australia Fair on top of the highest point – usually a truck or shed!

But I digress, after spending some time with the Distance Education School at Walgett, I married a wonderful man and am on a cotton/wheat farm 100kms west of Moree with 3 beautiful children Lachlan 5½, Sophie 4 and Isobel 2½. Perhaps not as glamorous or world changing as many (it seems) of my JRAHS peers but none-the-less fraught with its own challenges.

But as I watch my kids outside in the fresh air, riding their bikes in complete freedom, contemplating whether 'Jonesy' on the excavator will indeed finish the job that makes such a mess of our main road - given to him by my husband in his infinite wisdom with great assurances I will indeed be able to get past in time for the school bus run – I thank God we are here.

Hopefully past the worst of the 'mother' of all droughts and also hoping that institutions such as JRAHS are still imparting knowledge of the land, portraying the spirit we are and encouraging the intelligent, forward thinking youth we need in our dynamic agricultural industry.

REUNIONS

Class of 1994 – 10 Year Reunion

BBQ Lunch at School Hall

Saturday September 25th, 1pm

Food & Beveridges provided

Admin and teaching staff more than welcome!

Cost: Approximately \$10 per person

IMAGES OF THE 1960'S AND 1970'S

A website has been set up which contains numerous photos, scans and articles of general interest to students and teachers from the mid 1960's – early 1970's era at James Ruse.

It contains almost all the class photos for the Class of 1972 (1st Form to 6th Form), but there are also staff photos and general photos showing students from all forms at Ruse during those years. These include sporting, stock boys and School Council photos, all of which are captioned with the student names. One particularly interesting photo is an aerial shot of the school taken in about 1960, before the surrounding residential streets of Carlingford were fully developed. Many, but not all of the photos' came from the JR Archives courtesy of Robin Legge.

Among other items are scans of the programmes for all the musicals from 1967 to 1972, an obituary/tribute to The Boss (who died in 1996) and links to websites about popular teachers Colin Anderson and Mike McClellan.

Any contributions of scans of relevant photos and documents for addition to the website would be most welcome. It is hoped to cover the general era 1965 – 1975. Any inquiries about the website can be directed to ronlovitt@hotmail.com.

The website address is:

<http://groups.msn.com/JamesRuseAHS-6th Form1972>

and it is also accessible from a link on the “Year pages” section of the James Ruse Union Website.

Ron Lovitt (Class of 1972)

CJD & MAD COW DISEASE.

If any ex-students are interested in an article on CJD ie Mad Cow Disease in humans & its relationship with agriculture, sent by **Dr Alan Fahey (1970)** to Food Standards Australia, you will find it on the school website <http://www.jamesruse.nsw.edu.au>, scroll down to James Ruse Union and select Contributions.

Robin Legge