



GESTA NON VERBA

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES.

Sometimes, as I read the local or Sydney newspapers, I come across a story of the achievements of current or former students of James Ruse, and I feel proud to be part of a school which produces high achievers in a wide range of fields and endeavours.

I hope the Union provides the opportunity for all students and ex-students of James Ruse to continue their pursuit of excellence, through mentoring, building social and professional networks, and lively discussions such as the ones I've seen on the Union website forums. Most of all, I believe the Union creates a sense of belonging to a special group of achievers.

Those who attended the Back to School day in March would have seen, and been impressed with, the new facilities available to future achievers. But buildings and equipment do not mean anything without people, and I hope we continue to foster pride in the excellence achieved by all students of James Ruse, past and present.

Remember to email your stories, news and achievements to Robin Legge!

Carmen Kong (1997)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE.

After 15 years of passionate commitment to our school Mr Gerard Yeo has been promoted to Head Teacher Social Studies at the Distance Education High School. Gerard takes up his new post on Monday July 18. I am sure all past students will wish Mr Yeo professional success at his new school.

I am travelling to Canberra this Thursday for the presentation of International Olympiad Blazers in the Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Informatics fields. This year for the first time ever we have a representative in each team, with two in Physics and two in Mathematics, totalling seven

representatives from James Ruse out of a total of 24. A brilliant achievement!

Our school is certainly more than bricks and mortar and it was great to see the 120+ ex-students who attended the "Back to Ruse Day" on Saturday 5th March. A new Gymnasium is the only building we have yet to construct to complete our vision and this is projected to cost \$1.5 Million. In our Building Fund we will have \$1.0 Million by the end of this year suggesting the new Gym may not be far off.

I have attached an addendum to your newsletter "Student Achievements for 2004". Worth a read!

Michael Quinlan

CLASS OF '85 REUNION

20 Years since you sat the HSC, wore a school uniform and hung out in Carlingford!

You are cordially invited to catch up with those people you spent six wonderful years with. So mark your diary!

When: Saturday 17th September, 2005

Where: Upper Deck, Watershed Hotel, Harbourside Shops, Darling Harbour.

Time: From 7:00pm till 11:30 pm

RSVP: 1st September, 2005

Cost: TBA for cocktail food and pizza. A cash bar will operate on the night.

Dress: Smart Casual – no jeans or thongs.

Please email either Joanne Kenyon on joannek@au1.ibm.com or Elizabeth Evans on elizabeth.evans@aapt.net.au for more information.

CLASS OF '73 REUNION

There is some simmering interest in a reunion for the sensational class of 1973. For those who can remember they were part of this fine body of students and who may like to catch up on the past 30 years plus, please contact Neville Wyatt at: nwl@lawforce.com.au or telephone (02) 9262 7338. Dust off your platform shoes, reach for the toupe and act now!

Neville Wyatt

I was one of the first lot that wandered down the hill from the Carlingford High School to the new Ag school just beyond the village at the bottom of the hill. I left in 1960 after 4 years and only passed my Intermediate Certificate as it was called then. Never kept up with any of the old school mates as most of us came from far and wide. Myself, I lived in Mortlake and either caught the train or rode my bike. Ryde hill was enormous in those days and I used to wait at the bottom of the hill and hook onto a truck and let it tow me up. On a visit to Sydney in 1988 the hill didn't look so big. The train trip from North Strathfield to Epping was usually entertaining as many of the Chelmsford or Beecroft (not sure) Girls High were on the same train. Usually it was a bus trip to James Ruse. The only reason I used to ride my bike was to save the fare and with that I purchased some of the other student's stamp collections... still have the odd album somewhere. The teachers I can remember were Mr Shearman, the Biology Teacher, "Bogo" the English teacher and Mr Parsons the Math's teacher. Mr Parsons later on was involved with the administrative side of the Soccer (nor Football) federation in NSW. Mr Hoskins I can remember well for the punishment he dealt out and no doubt I deserved it...the cane was well and truly in place then. Not much I can remember of my school days there except picking stones off the new Oval and painting the old tram seats green and giving Bogo one hell of a time. Afraid there wasn't much in the way of Ag lessons as the school was so new but at least my studies in biology to do with eyes helped me out as I ended up becoming an Optician and my dreams of becoming a Vet went out the window...literally. I was wondering if there was to be a 50yr celebration of the JRAHS and is there a list of the old school students.

Peter Kitchingman (1960)

Hi,
I was a student there from 1964 through to the end of 1969. My years at James Ruse were great, no special, something I don't see in my children's school experience. I now live in South East Victoria after living in South Australia, Northern Victoria, New Zealand during university years, working in the USA & Canada & the Peoples Republic of China. I know of one ex-student living in Melbourne but would be interested to know of others.

Geoff Kirton (1969)
woodlandsagriculture@bigpond.com

Neil Evans (1968) has had a large painting hung in the Wynne Prize 2005 at the Art Gallery of NSW. Having already been hung in the Sulman Art Prize in 2000 and the Archibald Art Prize in 2002 it means he has achieved the rare trifecta of being selected for all three Prizes.

One can view the work and artist himself at http://geocities.com/neil_evans0001/

During the time he spent at James Ruse there was no Art course available. In 1969 he attended the National Art School, having decided to become a professional artist – a rare career path for someone with First Level Agriculture in the Higher School Certificate.

The Class of 1975

That anyone survived the seventies is in many ways a miracle, and be they ex-JRAHS students is even more amazing.

I am finally putting pen to paper, or these days, keyboard strokes to cyberspace! I am really writing this from the perspective of a father of an 18-year-old sitting his HSC this year. What is particularly auspicious is that 30 years ago I was doing the same thing and harp on about my memories of JRAHS to my family. Which in itself has caused uproars of hilarity within the Rutherford household, which instantly puts me in the "leave dad in the corner, he'll be happy" category.

Matt, my 18-year-old brought home his Year 12 school photos. His mother cried saying it will be his last year with all his friends. I reflected on my old school photos, and his brother said "who's that babe" about one of Matt's classmates.

I was at James Ruse when 'The Boss' ruled. We had a Deputy Head master Toft – these people were treated with reverence. Agriculture was overseen by Mr Walters ("Arnie"), and had a strong bond with a Ugandan teacher, Mr. Lukabyo. I revelled in Farm Mechanics led by the strong charactered Mr Skinner – with his offsider Mr ("Felix") Seady. There was Mr Read ("Lou") and Mike McClellan who assisted me through English.

We had fellow students who were certainly characters. We had a guy called Mick Yule, who managed to run naked ("streaking" as it was called in the early seventies was all the fashion) through the quadrangle, followed in close pursuit by Mr White. I could never forget a guy called Mark Watson, who nearly managed to remove my right ear after leaving a chuck key in the metalworking lathe. I'm sure the indentation would still be there on the wall somewhere!

Growing up in the seventies, there was none of the Occupational Health and Safety legislation. We had tractor lessons in the farm paddock on Thursdays, where I managed to hone my skills in repositioning fences, a quick method to install gates and new ways to flatten the Fifth Form's corn crop experiments. There was no September 11, Gulf Wars, street shootings – it was the time of musical groups The Who, Genesis, Slade. Countdown was on Channel 2 every Sunday night at 6pm with Molly Meldrum, Skyhooks and John Paul Young. "Crack" salesmen were those guys who could sell thirty cars on a Saturday at the Parramatta Rd car yards, not some dodgy guy in a nightclub or street corner.

There was no such thing as PC's or mobile phones or E-mails. People actually got together to talk. The absurdity of progress is my boss now e-mails me information – but he sits about 5 metres from my office.

If these all sound foreign to the current Sixth Formers, oops, sorry, Year 12 students, just pass this to mum or dad, or someone of my vintage (as my boys now say with delight!) and some fond memories will float back.

As I said at the start of this reminiscence, this is written from the perspective of a parent whose son is now going through the trials and tribulations of studying for his HSC. Matt's school, William Carey Christian School at Liverpool, is a caring community where all levels of help are available. Study techniques, how to handle your life around study, even depression, are all discussed.

I draw experiences through life, and as anyone of my age (by the way, that's 47 – which would be the average age of most Year 12 parents) can reflect on “what I should have done”, “what I did”, and finally say – “it was my decision at the time”. With the support of your parents and an excellent school, whose academic success since my leaving year 1975, is second to none, you will survive. I can directly relate my positive outlook quite firmly in the lap of my James Ruse days, which was boosted years after I had left and bumped into James C Hoskin in Bankstown who said – “Andrew Rutherford, how are you?”. Keep in touch with your friends, your family – however difficult that could be when parents may be fussing about your welfare and a sibling has just deleted all your saved games on Sim City 2005. But most important, never neglect yourself.

Good Luck to all the 2005 HSC candidates – an old Russian has been there and done that, and lives to tell the tale!!

Andrew Rutherford
Year 12 – Sixth Form HSC 1975 Survivor

Stuart Banham (1990) and his wife Agnieszka recently had their first baby, Michal Alexander Banham. He arrived on 21st April, weighing in at 3.15 kg.

Patrick Magee (2003)
Patrick is currently shooting a feature film (“Gene-X”) at the Prince Henry Hospital Museum in which he's playing the lead role of Doctor Tom Gray.

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The following poem was written by a member of the Creative Writing Group attached to “Sydney U3A – University of the Third Age” and forwarded to our school to let us know that literature is alive and well at the senior end of the education spectrum.

James Ruse is My Name

On the transport, Scarborough, thither I came,
First fleeter, convict, James Ruse my name,
Seven years they'd given me, simply for stealing,
At age twenty-two my poor head was reeling,
But they needed me in this land of the south
Where everyone lived from hand to mouth,

For they had a problem here you know,
The crops, they found, just would not grow.
The soils were poor, the seasons strange,
The move ‘down under’ was such a change.
Well in Sydney Town they perceived my worth
And gave me a chance to till the earth,
They provided some seeds and an old blunt hoe
With land at Rose Hill and said, “Go man, go!”
So diligently I worked on this modest plot
Then anon, just rewards I duly got.
Within fifteen months I was self-supporting,
Hurray,” said the Governor, “we're sick of starving!”
Others copied my methods and my drive
And before long more crops began to thrive,
To the infant colony came a glimmer of hope
Because of one convict who wasn't a dope.
James Ruse, I remind you, is my name,
'Australia's first settler', my title of fame.

Glennis Henning 19/9/02

Student Achievements for 2004

Higher School Certificate

Overall Achievements

- 813 student results with marks of 90% or higher in a subject
- 73 students scored 90% in 10 or more units
- median University Admission Index (UAI) approximately 99.50

1st in HSC Subject:

- Agriculture – Margaret Li (yr11)
- Biology – James Krycer (yr12)
- Cosmology – Joy Thompson (yr11)
- Mathematics (Ext II) – Andrew Ngai (yr12)

Outstanding students (UAI 100) and Dux of Year 12

- Samuel Cheng, James Krycer, Jenny Liu, Abhijit Pal, Tao Shen, Catherine Tang, Nina Xiao, Alice Zheng

Top band performances by Subject

% James Ruse (% State)

Agriculture: 65 (6)	Ancient History: 41 (12)
Biology: 76 (8)	Chemistry: 72 (8)
Drama: 17 (8)	Economics: 54 (14)
English (Advanced): 67 (8)	English (Ext 1): 58 (23)
English (Ext 2): 59 (39)	Geography: 44 (6)
Information Process and Technology: 70 (7)	
Japanese Beginners: 100 (20)	Japanese Continuers: 100 (29)
Japanese (Ext): 100 (52)	Mathematics: 81 (16)
Mathematics (Ext 1): 93 (31)	Mathematics (Ext 2): 89 (27)
Modern History: 59 (9)	PD/Health/PE: 55 (5)
Physics: 80 (12)	Visual Arts: 50 (11)
Software Design and Development: 42 (6)	

Art

- Jenny Ma (yr12) HSC 2004 Artwork nominated for Artexpress exhibition

School Certificate

Top band performances by Subject

% James Ruse (% State)

- Band 6/ Grade A – English (82) (6), Mathematics (96) (6), Science (84) (5), Geography (67) (4), History (39) (5)

Outstanding students

- Dux of Year 10 – Dominic Balasuriya

Sport

Combined High Schools (CHS) Representation

- Cricket – Lincoln Loi (yr11)

Area Representation

- Baseball – Rahul Anne (yr11)

CHS State Knockout Competitions

- Girls' Tennis – reached last 16 in State
- Table Tennis – Regional Champions and 5th in State Finals

Olympiads/Special Programs

Mathematics

- International Mathematics Olympiad – Graham White (yr10) represented Australia in Greece and gained an Honorary mention
- XVIth Asian Pacific Mathematics Competition (APMO) – Andrew Ngai (yr12), Chris Leong (yr11), Graham White, Alexander Zhang (yr10), Vinoth Nandakumar (yr9) awarded Bronze Medals
- Australian Mathematics Olympiad (AMO) Gold Certificates – Andrew Ngai (yr12), Graham White (yr10) Silver Certificates – Pei Dai (yr12), Yu Heng Lau (yr11), Alexander Zhang (yr10), Vinoth Nandakumar (yr9) Bronze Certificates – Andrew Yu (yr12), Chris Leong, Thuc Tran (yr11), Harry Yan (yr10)
- Australian Senior Mathematics Olympiad (AMOC) 1 Prize – Vinoth Nandakumar (yr9) – 2 High Distinctions, 3 Distinctions, 2 Credits
- Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad (AIMO) 5 Prizes – Graham White, Alexander Zhang, Alan Luc, Margit Shah (yr10), Vinoth Nandakumar (yr9) – 15 High Distinctions, 9 Distinctions, 10 Credits
 - Mathematics Olympiad School of Excellence – Xin Liang, Vinoth Nandakumar (yr9), Alan Luc, Margit Shah, Andrew Tan, Graham White, Albert Yin, Alexander Zhang (yr10) were invited to attend
 - National Mathematics Summer School – Chris Leong (yr11), Graham White (yr10) were invited to attend

Chemistry

- International Chemistry Olympiad – Harry Yan (yr10) represented Australia in Greece – awarded a Bronze Medal

Physics

- International Physics Olympiad – David Wang (yr12) represented Australia in South Korea – awarded a Gold Medal
- Asian-Pacific Physics Olympiad – David Wang (yr12) represented Australia in Vietnam – awarded a Bronze Medal

National Qualifying Examination for Science Olympiad – State Awards

- Biology – Harry Yan (yr10) Silver award Dushyanthy Arumugam, Yu Heng Lau (yr12) Bronze awards
- Chemistry – James Krycer, Bruce Chau (yr12) Silver awards Nancy Shen, Michelle Wong (yr12) Bronze awards

National Olympic Scholars Training Program

- 10 students chosen to participate – Praveen Gounder, Yu-Heng Lau, Joy Thompson, Thuc Tran, David Yang, Victoria Ying (yr11), Dominic Balasuriya, Harry Yan, Albert Yin, Alex Zhang (yr10)

Competitions

Australian Schools English Competition

- 1 Medal – Joy Thompson (yr11), 7 High Distinctions, 57 Distinctions, 53 Credits

Australian Schools Writing Competition

- 1 Medal – Joy Thompson (yr11), 91 High Distinctions, 344 Distinctions, 138 Credits

Australian Business Studies Competition

- 2 Prizes – Jerry Mou, Harry Yan (yr10), 8 High Distinctions, 24 Distinctions, 33 Credits

Australian Economics Competition

- Year 12 division – 10 Prizes – Arunan Sriravindrarajah and Elton Chan 1st, Daniel Drew, Nina Xiao, Kang Bei, Andrew Yu, Simon Ho, Ying Gang Chen, Ben Kuo – 17 High Distinctions, 28 Distinctions
- Year 11 division – 5 Prizes – Rahul Anne, Nathan Luey, David Yang, Michelle Tree, Jeremy Huang – 40 High Distinctions, 58 Distinctions

Australian Geography Competition

- Harry Yan (yr10) placed 7th in NSW

NSW Junior History Competition

- Dominic Balasuriya, Saleem Ha, Albert Yin (yr10) awarded High Distinctions

National Language Competition (listening and reading)

- Japanese Distinctions: year 8 – 30, year 9 – 21, year 10 – 5
- French Distinctions: year 9 – 16, year 10 – 4
- German Distinctions: year 10 – 7

Australian Mathematics Competition

- 1 Medal and BH Newman award for Perfect Score – Graham White (yr10) – 87 Prizes, 167 High Distinctions, 352 Distinctions, 146 Credits

University of NSW School Mathematics Competition

- Senior – 2 Prizes – Andrew Ngai 3rd, Andrew Yu (yr12) – 3 certificates – Chris Leong, Thuc Tran, Saissan Rajendran (yr11)
- Junior – 9 Prizes – Vinoth Nandakumar 2nd (yr9), Margit Shah 3rd, Graham White 3rd (yr10), Dominic Balasuriya, Saleem Ha, Benjamin Heung, Matthew Wu, Harry Yan, Hao Ye (yr10) – 8 certificates – Howard Chang, Denise Chen, Milton Lim, Henry Lu, Alan Luc, Kenneth Wong, Albert Yin, Alexander Zhang (yr10)

J. L. Williams Mathematics Competition (Mathsearch)

- 4 Medals – Yu Heng Lau, Chris Leong (yr11), Graham White, Albert Yin (yr10) – 10 Distinctions, 5 Merits

Macquarie Business Mathematics Competition

- Challenge level – 6 High Distinctions, 10 Distinctions, 9 Credits
- Foundation level – 1 High Distinction, 1 Distinction

Australian National Chemistry Quiz (RACI)

- Excellence Certificates and Plaques – Fiona Chung, Joy Thompson, Victoria Ying, Adrian Ho, Thuc Tran, Yu Heng Lau (yr11)

NSW Schools Titration Competition

Excellence in titration – 2 JRAHS teams qualified

Australian Schools Science Competition

- 5 Medals – Kin Lam (yr9), Ruby Kwong, Jeremy Luk, Jason Ng, Bowei Zhao (yr8)

National Chemical Analysis Competition

- 1 Gold Medal – Nancy Shen (yr12),
- 2 Silver Medals – Shan Jiang, Bruce Chau (yr12)

Australian Informatics Competition

- Prize – Milton Lim (yr10)

Australian Schools Computer Skills Competition

- 1 Medal – James Sin (yr8), 27 High Distinctions, 141 Distinctions, 96 Credits

Castle Hill Agricultural Show

- Reserve Champion Angus Bull – James Ruse Poseidon – paraded by Christine Chang (yr8)
- Champion Angus Female – “Shania” – paraded by Amanda Chong (yr11)
- Heifer 16-20 months – “Shania” – placed 1st – paraded by Amanda Chong (yr11)
- Cow over 2 years – “Kel” – placed 2nd – paraded by Vivienne Lea (yr11)

Cultural Activities

NSW Secondary Schools’ Concerto Competition

- Yu Heng Lau (yr11) selected in “finals” concert

Debating and Public Speaking

- Karl Kramp Debating Competition – Zone Finalists – Jennifer Chen, Gary Chow, Emily Heath, Katherine Todd (yr11)
- UTS Debating Competition – Quarter Finalists – Yi Yi Chen, Veronica Wong (yr12), Andrew Coleman (yr11)
- Macquarie Schools debating competition – James Ruse team - Yi Yi Chen, Catherine Tang, Veronica Wong (yr12) – placed 1st
- Parramatta Rotary Clift Public Speaking Competition – Maryanne Gold (yr9) – placed 1st

Multicultural Writing Competition

- Prize – Mert Korkusuz (yr7)

Other Achievements

Cadets

- 2003–04 – CUO – Arthur Lau, Marcus Lockard (yr12): WO2 – Chavi Fernando (yr12)
- Adventure Training Award – Arthur Lau, Marcus Lockard (yr12)

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

- 5 Gold awards – Angela Kow, Jenny Liu, Yong Chern Kho, Vaishnavi Parimalanathan, Marcus Lockard (yr12) – 4 Silver, 21 Bronze

National Youth Science Forum

- Jigar Darji, Alan Lee (yr11) invited to attend.

