



GESTA NON VERBA

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES.

Welcome to the first issue of Gesta Non Verba for 2006! I hope the year so far has been an enjoyable and profitable one for you and all of our fellow Rusians.

Having spent the term so far teaching in south-west Sydney, I must admit I miss the charisma and charm of our old school. Where else would you find Year 7 students asking to learn about trigonometry? Where else does the school allow you to participate in the musical even if you're tone deaf and think a "box step" is some sort of device to stand on? Where else are you able to duck down to the farm and create a salad (albeit by stealthily "borrowing" from the Year 7 plots) when you've forgotten your lunch? I'm sure many of us remember instances like these that not only make our alma mater unique, but also create a shared experience for all ex-students across the years.

Reading the numerous contributions to GNV, it is wonderful to see how many ex-students do remember their time at Ruse with fondness. Of course, we all had those times when we wished we were in a different school, but as the years since school start to outnumber the years we were there, all that remains is a sense of belonging that helps form our identity. I hope to see many more Ruse-ites share their memories and news (especially gossip of former students) with our community by contributing to GNV. Send your stories to Robin Legge at exstudents@jamesruse.nsw.edu.au.

Speaking to gossip, I just want to add one little piece of news from my life. I recently became an aunty to Maxwell Felix Streeter. That's right, my brother **David (1990)** and his wife Mary-Anne had their first child in January. The main thing I'm grateful for is that they didn't have a girl, in case David came through on his threat to name her "Rhoda Laina".

Enjoy the rest of the term, and continue to...
PURSUE EXCELLENCE!

Alexandra Streeter (1997)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE.

The Premier, The Hon Morris Iemma has been invited to open two new school blocks, the Canteen and Technology Blocks, on a Sunday (pm) of his choice. We will turn this day into an Open Day with a multicultural food "fest", the Official Opening and a 20 minute gala fireworks display. Funds raised on the day will be added to our Gymnasium Building Fund which now stands at \$825,000 and by the end of the year will be up to \$1 Million. If any ex-student wishes to contribute to this tax deductible fund please give me a call on 9871 7126. We plan to build at the end of next year.

Congratulations to the class of 1965 for the excellent organisation and camaraderie of your 40th Year Reunion. Many a tale was recounted of the infamous Jim Hoskin, founding Principal 1959 to 1978 and other notable teachers, several past teachers were present including Elaine Peterson and Colin Anderson. It was proposed that an "Honour Roll" be erected in our foyer of Barrengarry House to recognise all past students who represented Australia on active duty in the armed services. Five such "old boys" from 1965 served in Vietnam. If you have served and wish to be included on the Honour Roll please drop me an email with Name, Regimental Number and theatre served in to: mquinlan@jamesruse.nsw.edu.au.

Speaking of active service **Major General Mark Kelly (JR 1964)** is the Guest of Honour at our annual ANZAC Day Memorial Service to be held at 10:00am on April 11 in the JC Hoskin Auditorium. At the conclusion of the service Mark will unveil a plaque on our Gallipoli Lone Pine (planted in 1999 from seeds brought back in 1918) which is now 6 metres tall. Visiting ex-students are more than welcome to attend.

Michael Quinlan

Natalie Bates (1997)

Star cycling sisters Natalie & Kate Bates have both finished in the top 10 after the final stage of the Geelong Women's tour last week.

Older sister Natalie came in at fourth place, while 23 year old Kate, ranked seven overall, helped team mate Oenone Wood to take the top spot.

The sisters, who live in Old Toongabbie when they're not competing on the European circuit, have both made Australia's cycling team for the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

While the sisters, who spend most of the year in Europe, are fierce competitors on the road and in the velodrome, off the track it's a different story.

"We see each other a lot," Kate said.

"Natalie's fantastic. She's the biggest and best support I could have. And I think it's vice versa."

Extract from local Newspaper 28/2/06.

Postscript: Natalie won the gold medal in the women's road race.

Baby Boffins in need of Mentors.

Currently we have a very talented group of students who are very interested in Computer Programming and Informatics. Three of our students recently achieved 2nd, 3rd and 6th in the First Australian Invitational Informatics Olympiad and are hoping to progress to the national team.

What they lack is expert guidance. Most of our Informatics students are programming in C++ and would benefit greatly from expert discussion and guidance in this area. If anyone out there could spare some time, perhaps even at the end of an email, it might provide that little bit extra to allow their raw talent to flourish.

If you are interested in supporting our Programming Club please contact Megan Connors, at JRAHS on 02 9871 7126 or by email mconnors@jamesruse.nsw.edu.au.

Thank you.

Class of '95 Reunion.

Photos taken on the reunion night can be viewed on <http://www.kamold.com/gallery/reunion>.

Class of 1962 & 1967 to reunite or not; that is the question.

In 2007 it will be 40 years since we left with our blazers in tatters and our shirts displaying one of the earliest forms of graffiti art. There is some thought that we should organise another reunion before we all retire from the next school of life. The 1992 reunion was fun but we know we missed contacting many of the lads.

If you attended James Ruse first form in 1962 and thereafter and want to be kept informed please provide your contact details including email if possible, to Craig Bryant – cybrgrey@inet.com.au or exstudents@jamesruse.nsw.edu.au or Phone 02 6247 4551.

1972 students will be interested to know that Greg Corra recently met Brett Jacobs in Paris. Greg was apparently in France to market his range of fine and prestige Australian wines, though what the French will make of a Snake Gully red is yet to be reported. We had been unable to find Brett for the 2004 Reunion but he has now made contact himself. He is working for the International Energy Agency in Paris as Manager for South East Asia in their Non-member Countries Office. His message is as follows:

"Brett studied Forestry at ANU, Canberra, and worked for a few years in the local industry. Decided it wasn't his bent and did some economics and worked for Government in energy policy and trade. Spent a few years in the 90's living in Fiji and working around the South Pacific energy administrations on their energy policy and systems. Didn't achieve much but now has a great respect for the locals pace of life and their beaches. Now working in Paris and looking forward to the 2009 Reunion".

Brett would welcome contact from any of his old mates visiting Paris. To get an idea of what Brett is getting up to and the addresses and contacts for the International Energy Agency I have included the details of their website below:

<http://www.iea.org>

A map showing the IEA's location in Paris is in their website at:

<http://www.iea.org/Textbase/about/map.asp>

Ron Lovitt (1972)

We did it!!

There were seventy people at our reunion. We started with just two names from the graduating class of 1965 and with clever detective work the organising committee of Andrew Beattie, David Faulkner-Dick and Mike Byron managed to locate two thirds of the students of the year.

There were some amazing telephone calls, lots of wrong numbers but as we tracked down a school mate, they generally knew of one or two other ex-students and our network and numbers began to grow. It was forty years since most of us had been together and those contacted became as excited as the organising committee about our upcoming reunion. We began the planning in about October 2005 for a proposed reunion date some time in March 2006. We knew that any date we selected would not suit everyone so we just bit the bullet and picked a date, March 18 2006.

The Carlingford Bowling Club was chosen as a venue because it was close to the school and it did prove to be a good choice. Mr Michael Quinlan and his wife were invited to be our guests and provide us with information on the school as it is now. We also located and invited three teachers from our era. They were Elaine Petersen, Colin Anderson and Chris Dudley. The

months passed and the list of acceptances grew and the big day arrived with an unimagined speed. Suddenly it was Friday 17th March and the Reunion was the very next day. So many things to do.

Although the reunion was to officially start at 7.00pm, the ex-students and their wives and partners began to arrive an hour early primarily to try and recognise and share their life experiences with their special friends before the evening began. It was the start of a truly happy evening. David Faulkner-Dick was the MC for the evening and has lost none of his word skills that he gained in classes. The 1965 School Captain, David Kidd, welcomed the ex-students, Andrew Beattie invited Mr Michael Quinlan to tell us about James Ruse AHS as it is in 2006. Many many things have changed but the core focus is still the same. A good educational facility staffed by good people, giving good outcomes and retaining Agriculture as a subject. Mike Byron thanked Michael Quinlan for his excellent timeline of our old school.

Ex-teachers were invited to speak to the group and starting with Elaine Petersen then Colin Anderson and finally Chris Dudley, they gave us a mixture of serious and sometimes very funny anecdotes of their times as teachers of us in that era. Mrs Grace Schofield, the mother of one of our classmates, was the original administrative assistant and accompanied David Schofield and his wife to the reunion. She gave us a great rendition of her time at James Ruse and proudly told us that she had turned ninety two years of age only four days previously. Each of the speakers acknowledged her contribution to the school. Michael Quinlan had told us that the school had twelve administrative personnel now and we reflected that Mrs Schofield was the only admin. person back then. We finished the night with class mates addressing the gathering with stories that were significant to us. Throughout our night "the boss" stories flowed which paid tribute to a man who shaped our lives. The Bowling Club was only booked to midnight and it was heading towards 1.00am and the reunion was still in full swing. The club graciously allowed us our time together and it was after 1.00am as the last of us left vowing to have another reunion soon.

What a great night.

My advice to anyone planning to have a reunion – just do it – it's a great night.

Mike Byron (1965)

I've finished up in Japan, and have just moved to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for a year, as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development. I will be working as a Project Management Advisor in the Community Fisheries Development Office, within the Cambodian Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. I've only been here for a couple of days but am loving the people, the food, the crazy traffic and the house hunting, from dingy shacks through to grand colonial era mansions.

Mitchell Isaacs (1998)

I attended Carlingford Rural School a selective school from 1955 to 1957. I am now 63 years of age. I find that there is no mention of the Carlingford Rural School Annex when the history of James Ruse High is mentioned. We were the pioneers of James Ruse with just 3 classes moving to the annex in 1956 under terrific guidance of teachers like Littler, Shearman, Grogan, Banner and others whose names elude me.

We had just 3 class rooms to the right of the admin building which I now think have been demolished as a need for expansion then followed wood and metal work soon after. We were the first to plough the land now the site of the assembly building and others. We also built the play ground furniture some of which were still in use around 1984 and planted trees. As I said earlier we were the pioneers. I was one of the first to be elected by the students as a Prefect and also to be awarded a scholarship, at Intermediate level, to attend Hawkesbury Agricultural College which I commenced in 1959 completing my diploma in Agriculture in 1961.

The reason for these few comments is to recommend that the commencement date for James Ruse Agricultural High School should be changed from 1960 (I think) to 1956.

In finishing I have been in agriculture all my working life a big part of that time at the Poultry Research Station Seven Hills until closure in approximately 1990, my daughter Alison attended James Ruse commencing 1984 with a very high pass in the Higher School Certificate around 152 in the State which I was very proud of.

Rowly Horn (Rowland George Horn)