



GESTA NON VERBA

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES.

Alexandra Streeter (1997)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE.

Michael Quinlan

CORRECTION:

The previous edition of *Gesta Non Verba* should have read that Major General Mark Kelly graduated from James Ruse in 1974 not 1964.

Due to the fact that I will be on Long Service Leave for the month of September the next issue of *Gesta Non Verba* will be circulated on 18th October. Please forward any articles for inclusion prior to that date.

Thank You
Robin Legge

My name is Brendon Stewart and I am looking at the cover of the very first Prospectus for the then newly imagined James Ruse Agricultural High School. The cover is a single picture of a practical Ag class under the supervision of one, Mr Grogan. I think that the path beside the oval, leading down to the farm carries his name. Is he still with us in mortal form?? I am one of the students there, keen to follow 'pinheads' (aka Mr Grogan) explanations, my companions names, by way of surnames only (a common enough endearment back in the late 1950's) are Bradley and Ellison (I think). Driving the tractor, the brand new Massey Ferguson is Colin Dunston. He becomes the school captain when we were both in 5th year.

I was inspired to write to you because of two articles that appear in the most recent edition of *Gesta Non Verba*. The reunion of the class of 1965 so wonderfully evoked in these pages by way of Mike Byron's account of events, and the short but pertinent reflection of times at Carlingford Rural School by Rowly Horn. Many of the teachers whose names and quirks were mentioned and recalled at the '65 reunion were there at James Ruse when I too got my polished shoes muddy on the way to the farm. Or more often just by playing around what was at times a building site.

If one looks closely at the many pictures in the prospectus one would notice that the crest on our blazers still carried the name Carlingford Junior, nonetheless by the time the prospectus was compiled and published (1959) the school was being called James Ruse and we the students certainly thought of ourselves as going to James Ruse. In that year, second year for me, I remember helping position the horse drawn, single furrow Mouldboard plough in a garden near to the front gates. At the time it was freshly painted green and silver.

Rowly makes a very important point, our school's history does precede 1960, indeed, if memory serves me James Hoskin's son sat his leaving certificate in 1961 as a student of James Ruse and took my leaving in 1962. At the beginning of that same year the very first Wyndham scheme students had arrived changing the model of high school education. In my 5th year 'the boss' took our class for what was then called honours, in my case Agriculture, he was indeed an excellent teacher. James Hoskin would manage to ask off centre questions which is my case orientated a way of thinking that has been crucial to the way I learn.

I refrained from remarking on Mrs Lino and her sad passing. I will tell you now, that in my first year 1958, when I was just 12 and going each day such a long way to school, all my primary friends had gone off to the local high school, there were certainly times in the play ground when I really appreciated her comfort and care. As for the musicals, which started I think in 1963 just after I left, a very important teacher involved with them was John Pearman. He later left James Ruse to take up a position at the Sydney Teachers College

helping many teachers some of whom are possibly still there at the chalk face, get their Dip Ed.

There is much to recall. Among the many wonderful memories there is the Junior Farmers Club. To progress through the clubs various stages of achievement one could be involved in different learning projects. I took up cattle judging, in particular dairy cattle. This meant that I had to enter into cattle judging contests at 6 country agricultural shows and finally judge at the Royal Easter. In those days too we could get permission to be a rouse-about at the Royal Easter helping out in the various exhibition pavilions. I walked quite a few young heifers around in the grand parade.

Thank you for your editorship of the journal. I should attempt to put together the makings of a reunion for the very early Rusians.

Brendon Stewart (1962)

P.S. If anyone is in contact with students from the matriculation class of 1962 could you please contact exstudents@jamesruse.nsw.edu.au.