



GESTA NON VERBA

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES.

A few months ago I had the pleasure of meeting with the new principal of James Ruse, Mrs Larissa Treskin. Larissa is extremely keen to support our union's growth, especially with the biggest celebration in Ruse history to occur in a few years. That's right, our alma mater turns 50 in 2009! Watch this space for upcoming event information, and if any of you would like to be involved in planning for the golden anniversary please contact Robin Legge (jamesruse.union@bigpond.com) to register your interest.

A quick message to the graduating class of 1997 – yes, it's about time for that 10-year reunion of ours. Please join the group 'James Ruse 1997' on Facebook for more information.

In planning for this reunion, I was surprised at how hard it is to find those people whose faces we remember although the names are so unfamiliar. To maintain links with the school please encourage those classmates you still keep in touch with to join the union. Also, don't forget to update your email address details as they change!

Well Ruse-ers, enjoy the upcoming long weekend and always remember to...

PURSUE EXCELLENCE!
Alexandra Streeter (1997)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE.

My second term at James Ruse has been as exciting as the first one. Everyday we acknowledge outstanding achievements – academic, creative, competitive, collaborative, sporting, music, drama, debating – especially fun!

The last round of University of Sydney Scholarships was announced this term. Thirteen of our students received a scholarship in this round: Dominic Balassuriya; Jeffrey Ha; Jason Ting; Stephanie Wang; Keegan Lee; Louise Lim; Tammy Liu; Tanya Rajkumar; Dylan Zhu; Michelle Law; Stanley Lee; Andrew Tan; Graham White. Congratulations!

One of our English teachers, Ms Mary Billing recently participated in the Writers Talk events conducted by our Department in collaboration with the Sydney Writers' Festival. Ms Billing interviewed Ms JC Burke as part of this initiative. The material produced will be used to encourage students' reading, support their understanding of writing processes and instil an appreciation of literature.

Eighteen students from the Konosu district in Japan visited us for 3 days. They were in Australia for only 4 nights! In the mornings they had English lessons with our ESL teacher, Ms Denise Lee. In the afternoons the Japanese students went to normal lessons with their buddy students. On their last day they entertained us with a concert before departing.

Congratulations to the four students who received scholar awards in Chemistry, which put them in the top 20 in Australia: Prajith Jeyaprakash; Yufeng Xi; Alex Stoyanov; and, David Pham.

The written program at the Prefect Induction ceremony highlighted the wonderful skills and experiences of our new prefects. Jonathan Choy (2003 captain) gave the occasional address and urged our students to practise their teaming skills and to strive for excellence. Proud parents pinned the prefect badges onto their sons and daughters, who then signed the original prefect book, which contains the signatures and photos of all the school's prefects since their inception in 1958. Jian, Aolai and Karen officially handed over to Jean, Joshua and Daniel. Parents and prefects enjoyed lunch in Barrengarry House after the formal proceedings

Congratulations to Dorothy Wei for achieving a Silver Medal at the Biology Olympiad in Vancouver. Irene Lo was awarded a Bronze medal at the Maths Olympiad in Hanoi and Sen Lin achieved a Highly Commended. Irene was interviewed on 7.02 from Hanoi.

A group 14 Year 10 students from an arid area of Israel near the Dead Sea visited the school. They toured the farm and gave a presentation on Israeli agriculture to our Year 10 Ag students.

Ruby Kwong attended the Australian Science Innovations Asian Science Camp in Taiwan from 5 to 11 August. She met with Nobel Laureates and distinguished scientists.

Julia Kang and James Sin were the school's representatives for the UNICEF Australia J-RAP Forum – a Junior Roundtable on Asia Pacific – a youth discussion on APEC issues on Monday 3 September at the NSW Parliament House. The forum focused on firstly, Trade and secondly, on Energy, climate change and clean development.

The Stream Watch group has recommenced their regular sampling and collecting results from areas of the school farm. The results are then sent to Sydney Water Stream Watch. Myly Truong from Sydney Water Stream Watch presented the school with new equipment.

Congratulations to the following recipients of Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) Medals: Bonnie Chang and Vaishnavi Ganapathy in the Junior Division, Devarajan Nirthanakumaran and Jeremy Tan in the Intermediate Division and Justin Chau and Xin Liang in the Senior Division. Vaishnavi Ganapathy has also been awarded a BN Neumann Certificate for attaining a perfect score! A fantastic achievement! They will be off to Brisbane to receive their medals.

Norman Ma has an exciting time ahead of him. He has been chosen with three other students to participate in the inaugural Geography's Big Week Out. This event is to be held in Noosa, Queensland, from 10 to 14 December 2002 and will be five days of hands-on geographical activities. Norman won his place because of his outstanding performance in the senior division of the National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition. Approximately 86000 students entered the competition this year. In 2005 Norman topped the state in the intermediate age division and represented NSW in the final for students under 16. Coming first there gained him a place in Australia's team to the 2005 National Geographic Championship in Budapest, Hungary. He is now excelling in the senior age division.

Senator Marise Payne spoke on the integration of values into our everyday life at assembly. Year 9 showed two of the videos they had made on *a fair go for all* and on *integrity*. Another two Year 9 students, Jack Zang and Frances Yuen, made a wonderful presentation on values in our lives.

Jarrah Lacko, Xi Chen and Willy Mai did extremely well at the UNSW Programming competition, coming first --- with three minutes to spare. It was extremely stressful for the spectators (Ms Connors reports that she got a few more grey hairs) but the boys were very cool under pressure and their team working skills were superb!

We won a medal at the NSW Combined High Schools Sports Association Athletics Congratulations to our 13 years boys relay team: Sanji Fernando, Daniel Xue, Kevin Guo and Chi-wai Kou. The team received a bronze medal!

Four drama students performed *The Director's Cut* before a full house at the Riverside Theatre. I was very proud of Connie Wang, Sandy Lu, Mariya Hamid and Duncan Loi, whose item was the only drama in a program of song and dance in the Regional *Celebrating the Arts* Festival.

Shi Ling Kou and Connie Wang represented the school at the Healthy Lifestyles Forum at Castle Grand Community Centre.

Thank you to Mr Best and Mr Wong for a sensational 27 item Cabaret Night, *Masquerade*. The Concert Band, the Stage Band, the strings and the woodwinds all performed, as did the Jazz Ensemble and the Year 10 and Year 9 music classes. There were many solo and group acts. My favourite was a very individual, updated version of the Beatles' *Yesterday*, performed by Daniel Vijayakumar, Michael Lai, Saravanam Satkumaran and Hindol Mukherjee.

I enjoyed Drama Night as well. Thank you to Ms Webb and Ms Schauburger. Since the students were being assessed on their performances the audience were very co-operative. The four Year 11 drama students displayed their amazing talents with monologue performances of a very high standard. Congratulations to all the performers.

27 students received a perfect score (120 out of 120 possible marks) in the 2007 Rio Tinto Big Science Competition.

The School Captain of 1990, Dr Kate Fagan, was our guest speaker on Awards Day. In the 1990 HSC Kate had come first in the state in Agriculture, 3 unit Mathematics and Modern History. Overall, she was second in the state and the top female student. An outstanding achievement to emulate. Her PHD is in English Literature. Kate shared some of her experiences since leaving school 17 years ago and performed one of her compositions. She won the Best Folk Album award at the 2006 National Film and Sound Archive Awards. Her latest album is *Diamond Wheel*.

Congratulations to the SRC. Their organisation for SRC week has been spectacular. Student participation and enthusiasm has been high. I was a little concerned for digestive systems after the wasabi, lemon and raw onion eating relays, but the students survived! The Rubix Cube challenge (well done John Fung!) and the balloon relay (with teachers) provided much merriment. Each recess and each lunch time had a wide range of activities. The school dance was well attended and enjoyed by all. Well done SRC!

Year 8, facilitated by some Year 11 students, participated in a workshop on building *Collective Identity*. Students refined their capacities: to interact with other cultures in a way that leads to the advancement of one's own culture and not to its degradation; and, to deal efficiently and accurately with information rather than respond unwittingly to political and commercial propaganda. The program supports our *Gesta non Verba* motto, and is part of the school's student welfare curriculum.

We are planning to launch our new website next term. I am really looking forward to it.

Larissa Treskin

Speech Delivered by Kate Fagan ('90) at our Annual Awards Day – 11th September, 2007.

Principal and Deputy Principals, distinguished guests, staff, students and ex-students:

I'd like to begin by thanking you all very much for inviting me back to James Ruse as a guest speaker at today's awards

ceremony. I was delighted to receive the invitation, and I am both delighted and a little astonished to discover just how many of my old teachers are still working at the school..! There can be no better indicator of the strength of this educational community. As I see it, that kind of dedication must be nourished by a deep well-spring of belief in the school itself, and especially in you, its current students. It's an honour to return to a place that gave me so many happy memories, and where I learned dozens of things that still travel with me.

I'd also like to extend my big congratulations to every student receiving an award today. Treasure the moment — this recognition from your teachers and peers is a unique thing, and you can let yourselves stop to enjoy it, and take pride in your successes.

Having said that, I also want to congratulate every one of you in this hall simply for being here, as I know the school attracts and encourages a very talented group of new students each year. Although you may not be celebrating an award today, there is probably little difference between you and the person sitting beside you who is being applauded. While they may be taking home the Oscar this year, and nothing can diminish their achievement, I'd like you *all* to think of yourselves as nominees for the very same award... which must make this one of the most well-attended red carpet events happening right now in Australia.

This morning I'll just say a little about the life I have led in my seventeen years since graduating from Ruse in 1990. I must admit the number '17' shocked me slightly, when I realised most of you weren't actually born in the year I left school! But while times may have changed a great deal since then, I'm sure some of the challenges and decisions you face today are identical to those I faced as a teenager. There are some things that remain constant across generations. Alan Best is still running the music department, for one thing. And five of my ex-science teachers are still here, which must make the James Ruse department of potions and transfigurations second only to that run by Professors Snape and McGonagal at Hogwarts. I see the Jim Hoskins auditorium still has a lovely grand piano, too, which I will play a little later on, and which I last played on the morning of my Year 12 farewell assembly when I joined the Year 12 rock band to perform a cover of a Faith No More song. (I'm not sure that JJJ would have 'Unearthed' us for our performance...!)

Last week I returned home to Australia from a 3-month visit to the United Kingdom, where among other things I was fortunate to be touring a new solo album at music festivals across the country. I thought I'd share a few memories of that trip with you, because they give a rough picture of the roads I've followed since leaving school. I performed one of my songs live on BBC TV at the Cambridge Festival, and gave a lecture and reading from a new book of my poetry at London's Royal Holloway college. I was a guest speaker at the Cork International Poetry Festival, and spent a week living on a Gaelic speaking farm overlooking the Blasket Islands on the glorious south-west coast of Ireland. I saw a meteor shower in the last surviving remnant of Birnam wood, visited musician friends in Edinburgh, spoke very bad French in Paris (although you'd be surprised how much you can remember from Year 7 French lessons), and lived for several weeks on a canal boat with my brother James — who is also an ex-student

of this school, and who qualified as a medical doctor in 1996 before moving to England to become a professional musician.

I now divide my working life almost equally between time spent as a publishing writer and academic, and time spent as a songwriter and touring musician. After high school I found my way to the University of Sydney where I enrolled in a combined Arts-Law degree. It quickly became apparent that I was more interested in being artful than lawful, and after three years, I abandoned my legal career and suspended my literary studies to take up a position as editor of the student newspaper *Honi Soit*.

For one roller-coaster year I devoted myself fulltime to the study of sleep deprivation and student activism, working alongside another ex-Ruse student from my year, Ravi DeCosta. Ravi also happened to be the bass player in our Year 12 rock band, and is now working as an Assistant Professor of Political Science in Ontario, Canada, where he has just published a book about Indigenous peoples and globalisation. (In fact, at this point, you'd be forgiven for thinking that if you want to publish books when you leave school, the best way to go about it is to immediately join the school rock band... possibly not a view shared by the teachers in your English department.) At the end of our year editing *Honi Soit*, we left the newspaper in the very capable hands of the ABC's Chaser team, who were studying a year behind us, and who last week showed the world just how effective a couple of cars and a Canadian flag can be if placed in exactly the right spot.

After completing honours in literature in 1995, I began a PhD thesis in contemporary American poetry. My roundabout journey through doctoral studies involved several lengthy periods of time living in the cities of San Francisco and New York, a place very much in my mind today. I was equipped with little more than my story and a sense of exploration — and a passionate conviction that poetry, while it wasn't necessarily going to bring fame and fortune, was definitely going to help me unlock the secrets of the universe and eternal happiness, not to mention defeating Lord Voldemort and restoring order to the wizarding world. I'm pleased to say I still believe it.

By the time I arrived in America in 1998, I had committed to the idea of becoming a writer, although it was never quite clear to me what kind, or exactly how to go about it. I started writing songs in my early twenties when I taught myself to play guitar, and concurrently began publishing short stories and poems in various Australian small magazines and journals. By the time I was 26, I was lucky enough to receive a book offer from Salt Publishing, an international press dedicated to avant-garde writing. My first book was launched at the Sydney Writers' Festival in 2002 and soon after, I became the editor-in-chief of *How2*, an American-based electronic journal of contemporary poetry and scholarship. Since completing my PhD I have taught literature and poetics at various Australian universities, and am still employed as a part-time researcher in the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Sydney.

I have also worked since my teens across Australia as a performing and recording musician. I grew up in a well-known family of folk singers, and spent a lot of time hanging out at music festivals when I was the same age as many of

you. Back then, I didn't necessarily understand or appreciate the richness of this musical education — but it brought some of the most unusual experiences of my teenage years, while inspiring in me a love of travel and adventure, and an interest in musical and artistic cultures from around the globe. I now see my poetry and songwriting as inseparable elements of the same drive toward artistic inquiry, and I've been fortunate to explore both of them in all sorts of places in the world, with a slight sense of amazement that things have turned out this way. I sometimes feel language is my work but music is my breath.

When I was in my first year of high school I imagined becoming a children's doctor. In my second year I wanted to study music or become a novelist. By Year 9, I wanted to be a vet or a biological scientist, and in Year 10, a political journalist. When I reached Year 11 I wanted to be a human rights activist, and by the time my HSC rolled around, I had absolutely no idea what I wanted to be, or what I was going to do when I left school. On reflection, this probably means I was on the way to becoming the writer and creative artist I now am. But as a seventeen year old, I was both afraid of the choices that lay ahead once I left the safety of the school community, and exhilarated at what I might find once I climbed aboard the train that was waiting on the day of my last exam.

Many of you may have wondered where the path beyond the school gate will take you. It can be daunting to stare directly into the eyes of change, and it's completely normal to feel that sense of overwhelming possibility and uncertainty. I think it takes courage to admit you have no clear sense of what the future might hold. It also takes a little flame of self-belief, and compassionate support from people close to you — from your teachers, and especially your family and friends, who will continue to guide your life beyond your high school years.

As a teenager I could never have said for certain that I would end up working as a writer and musician. I can say two things with certainty, however. I know I am lucky to have a family who have always supported my choices with empathy and humour. And I was privileged in gaining at James Ruse a broad and detailed education that taught me, among other things, to trust my instincts, to ask questions of everything that came across my path, to look for the good in situations, and to work hard in communities alongside other people to find inventive ways of seeing the world.

There are times at school where you'll make decisions that feel incredibly important, as though the world depends upon you saying the right thing, or giving the right answer, or making exactly the right choice. But luckily for us, life is incredibly forgiving. There are a thousand roads up and down the hill, and if you're on the wrong one for a while, there's plenty of time to find a different one. If you're honest with yourselves and trust your own boundaries you'll eventually find a right way to go. The more you equip yourselves for the adventure, the more rewarding your journey is going to be.

If I was asked to share a little bit of advice today it would be this: keep an open mind, an open heart, and an active imagination. Engage with things around you, even the smallest details, and reach out to catch opportunities that fly your way, even if they involve feelings of uncertainty. If

something is making you feel pressured or unhappy, or if you don't believe you're doing the right thing — whether it be choosing a career direction or choosing your friends — then there's probably a good reason to listen up and think about why.

We live in tremendously exciting, challenging, fascinating and troubling times. As you work out what the world can bring to you, in your own selves, you will also be deciding what you can take to the world and the people in it. There are responsibilities involved — to yourself, to your communities, and to this fragile planet — but don't forget that as human beings, sharing your breath and destiny with 6 billion other people in every second of every day, you also have a basic human right to exist the way you want to, and in the communities that you choose to, free to experience the happy complexities of your lives. I wish you all the very best of luck and a lot of fun along the way.

Kate Fagan

25 YEAR REUNION

The class of **1982** will be holding our 25 year reunion in November.

Venue: The Dry Dock Hotel, 90 College St. Balmain
- this pub is owned/managed by Darren Baker.

Date: Saturday November 3

From: 7pm onwards

Format: Casual

Any enquiries can be directed to Harvey Gaynor
PO Box 711, Moree 2400.

Email: hgaynor@auscott.com.au

Phone: 02 6759 1700

Fax: 02 6759 1788

Mobile: 0428 591726

FINAL CALL FOR THE GUINEA PIGS PICNIC.

The 40 year reunion of the class of 1962-1967 is on Saturday 20th October 2007.

Graeme Elder is coordinating a daytime event at the school around midday. For information please contact Graeme at gmelder@bigpond.com.

In the evening Greg Richards is coordinating a posh night out with good food, a few speeches and wine at a well known Gladesville Restaurant. Bookings are required for this event. For information please contact Greg at gregr@pushpullmedical.com.au.

If you were in that group that started in 1st year 1962 or joined us at some period of our six years at JRAHS up until the HSC in 1967, and not one of the 44 of 140 we have already tracked down, you can get an update and general information from the reunion coordinator Craig Bryant on 6247 4551 on cybrgrey@inet.com.au.

GEOFF LAWRENCE ('68)

Geoff Lawrence, a James Ruse student from 1963 and 1968, and School Captain in 1968, has just released his latest book *Supermarkets and Agri-food Chains: Transformations in the Production and Consumption of Foods*. The edited collection, published in England by Edward Elgar, analyses the gradual shift in the distribution of power in agri-food supply chains, away from the manufacturers of branded food products to the global supermarket chains such as Wal-Mart and Tesco. It is argued that this transformation is having a profound effect on the food we eat together with the ways food is produced, processed and marketed. The book introduces a variety of theoretical and cultural approaches to the analysis of change and management of the entire food chain and discusses their impacts on farmers, workers, and on the environment.

After leaving James Ruse, Geoff studied agricultural science at Sydney University, and sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, before taking out his PhD in sociology at Griffith University. He is currently Professor of Sociology and Head of the School of Social Science at the University of Queensland. He has interests in agri-food restructuring, social aspects of biotechnologies, and social change in rural Australia. He is the author of 25 books and over 300 book chapters and journal articles. More information can be found at: <http://www.ansoc.uq.edu.au/index.html?page=13829&pid=0>



Geoff Lawrence (now)

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Geoff Lawrence (then)

“Once Upon A Time In Beirut” **CATHERINE TAYLOR ('85)**

“My first memories of Beirut are of a dynamic tangle of contradictions: ancient and cotemporary, pre and post war, Muslim, Christian, East and West, secular and devout, eye popping wealth that rubbed against desperate poverty. In the middle of it all, the city drew its energy. Once upon a time, in Beirut, I found an unlikely place to call home.”

Catherine Taylor and her husband (award-winning ABC *Four Corners* reporter Matthew Carney) moved to Beirut in early 2001 to work as foreign correspondents. It was the start of an era that would see some of the Middle East's most tumultuous events for a generation.

As Catherine journeyed through the region on assignment, Beirut emerged as an unlikely haven. Everything about this formerly war-torn city enchanted her – from exploring its famous nightlife to her new home in an elegant Oriental apartment – and its reputation as a war zone faded to the sidelines.

Once Upon a Time in Beirut is Catherine's lyrical account of almost five years in the Middle East. Her evocative vignettes of life and compassionate portraits of her friends and acquaintances take the reader behind the headlines and into their lives: among many others she introduces us to a young Palestinian refugee, a Lebanese hashish farmer, Osama bin Laden's best friend and an Egyptian female boxer.

After returning from reporting on the early months of the Iraq war, Catherine discovered she was pregnant. And when she and Matthew decided to stay in Beirut to have their baby, a whole new story began to unfold.

The family returned home to Australia in 2005, but in 2006 Catherine travelled back to Beirut after the war between Israel and Hezbollah to see how her adopted country and friends had coped, and how, with their remarkable resilience, they now saw the way forward.

Catherine Taylor has a degree in politics and fine art, and works as a journalist. Her writing has been published in newspapers and magazines around the world. She has lived in London, Melbourne, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Beirut. Catherine now lives in her hometown, Sydney, with her husband and two small children.

(Media Release from Random House Australia)

KEITH BRAIN ('90)

All of our Olympians reflect on the enormous impact their Program had on their lives.

For Keith Brain, the 1990 International Physics Olympiad delivered more than just the accolades and the meeting of like-minds. Keith Brain met Elisabeth Le Strange who was attending the International Mathematics Olympiad. The two Olympians discovered they shared more than a love of intense international competition. Several years later after their respective University studies, Keith and Elizabeth married and now have two young children.

Keith's Olympiad experience encouraged him to study the disciplines of Mathematics and Physics alongside Medicine and Physiology. "The Olympiad taught me to think hard and deeply about problems and to work at understanding problems from first principles. I really think the Olympiad helped to lead me into a research career."

And a successful research career at that. After graduating from the University of Sydney in Mathematics/Physics (Honours), Medicine (Honours) and a PhD in Physiology, Dr Brain was awarded the prestigious Nuffield Research Fellowship at Oxford University in 2001. A year later, Keith was granted a concurrent three-year Stains Medical Research Fellowship at Exeter College, Oxford.

Keith's research focuses on the autonomic nervous system and builds on medical understanding of body functions outside direct voluntary control (such as the regulation of blood pressure).

The eminence of his physiology research grows and in 2005 he became a Wellcome Trust Research Fellow. Wellcome provides the UK's largest non-governmental source of funds for biomedical research.

It's a full timetable of research discovery for Dr Keith Brain. He is frequently published in the most esteemed global medical journals and is revered by his peers for his work on the action of various drugs within the human body. "I am very proud of my achievements to date and excited by the future possibilities of my research."

Extract from Brochure published by Australian Science Innovations & Australian Mathematics Trust..

JENNIFER DARNELL ('92)

Jennifer is living in Rheine, Germany and marrying Christian Kleine there on 22nd September.

DAVID FUNG ('01)

Following celebrated concerts with the Sydney and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras, David won the International Klaviersommer Festival Competition in Germany in 2004. And after also capturing the festival's People's Choice Award, David quickly became a young artist in demand around the world.

David left Sydney two years ago, to pursue his concert career and to continue his studies with his teacher, John Perry. To do so, David withdrew from his second year in Medical School. Yarlung Records recorded this American Debut Album, "the piano: A journey from Hubris to Humility", in advance of his 2005 world concert tour.

Extract from Album cover.

GABRIEL CLATWORTHY ('82)

I attended James Ruse in 1981 and 1982, completing Years 11 and 12. Having attended a private girls school for the earlier years, I was astounded by a couple of Ruse traditions. Firstly of course were the boys – plenty of them, and just gorgeous. Every morning we would line up for assembly, honour our Queen and salute the flag. Does that still happen? There was strong emphasis on traditional 'male' subjects, such as Farm Mechanics and Sheep & Wool, and no "girl" sports such as netball. As a female student, you had two options with sport – play soccer or hockey, or watch the boys. Naturally, I watched the boys *and* the girls, as my year had some fantastic female soccer players such as Vera Kurz, Jill McKenzie, Nicole Shultz and Sarah Thompson. The unstated policy of not specifically catering for girls, but rather encouraging inclusion in traditional male fields, has had a long term influence in my chosen career paths of Forestry and National Parks management.

Student family backgrounds were wide and varied, which I think remains one of the great celebrations of the public education system. We all loved going down to the farm with Mr Brown in the middle of suburbia. I learnt it wasn't wise to sit on stinging nettles in a short shirt or to stand between a cow and its calf, and what to do if you didn't have a trochar and cannula handy. I'm probably one of the few students who has since been able to put all that knowledge to good use. A few of the smarter students in my year were quick to recognise the benefits of hydroponics.

Before attending James Ruse myself, I had already experienced some part of James Ruse. My father, Frank Clatworthy, was the Maths Master some time prior to me attending the school. As small kids, we would love going to see the Ruse musicals, and particularly enjoyed the fact that the "girls" were in fact boys. I remember them as excellent productions. Many of my friends had been taught by Dad, and it was definitely unnerving for any boys coming home to have to face "Mr Clatworthy", as the strap had been an acceptable and routine form of discipline in earlier days. Daily evidence of my fathers presence could still be seen by me in class, sitting in an upstairs maths room, looking across to the older classrooms to see "BALD" spray painted on the roof. Dad still enjoys attending annual presentation day at the school to present the Maths Medal – something I was never going to receive.

This reminiscing makes me sound old – which is *completely* untrue. I do however have my own children (3 boys – is that poetic justice?) who are dealing with the challenges of high school. I want them to have the absolute love of learning I got from school, and to remember it as a time of enjoyment and new experiences. I recall the passionate debates we had with Mr Taylor in Modern History, the look of amused despair in Mrs Pooviah's face in Biology, and buying a poddy calf to bring back on the school bus from an excursion to Bathurst for Mr McGregor to rear. These positive experiences are to me the true indicators of a successful high school education.

ARCHIVES

If ex-students have any items they would like to donate to the School Archives please let me know. We would appreciate any photos, articles etc. to add to our collection of memorabilia.

Robin Legge