



# GESTA NON VERBA

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Next issue: 10<sup>th</sup> December

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## PRESIDENTS NOTES.

Hello everyone and you will note a new name at the bottom of this column. It is a pleasure and an honour to be formally part of the James Ruse ex-students community as your President. This is especially true at this time as the school is fast approaching its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the convict and pioneer farmer James Ruse in 1759 from which the school draws its name

It would be remiss of me not to mention the contribution over a number of years of our immediate past President, Alexandra Streeter and wish her well in her new venture overseas in Hong Kong. Thank you, Alexandra and best wishes!

And so to me. I guess you would call me truly an "old boy" coming as I do from the year of 1979 and approaching my own 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, from a period in the school's history when it transitioned from being a boy's school to a co-educational school. So what of 1979? A time of academic and sporting excellence as the first XV won the Waratah Shield state knockout. A time when the new girls were still finding their feet in the school, very much a minority group with the boys, literally, cleaning up their act so as to try and impress. The first year that completed their HSC on the school grounds in the newly commissioned James C. Hoskin auditorium, previously the tennis courts. The first year without "The Boss" as principal. Truly a time of change for both the school and its graduating year.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Larissa Treskin, the school's principal a couple of weeks ago and as we mused over my time at the school I also heard about the exciting and burgeoning plans for the anniversary celebrations and initiatives for the development of the school's facilities and its non-academic curriculum. It was also good to hear that

at least two teachers from my era have "stood the test of time" and are still imparting their wisdom and knowledge, one being Alan Best in the music department and Ray Lees my old commerce teacher and probably the one I blame (some days) for me ending up an accountant!

Our school is still young in years despite approaching its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we have a reputation that is second to none in many academic, community and sporting domains and the approaching celebrations will be time for you to also reconnect with your past no matter how many years ago this is. I urge you to get involved in the celebrations as they become advertised. It is also an opportunity for the school to "find" you and potentially leverage off each others experiences, skills and resources.

Integral to this is the role of the ex-students union within the school and the "old boys" communities. The union can be many things to many people but ultimately it is your union to take advantage of and I will be working in the future to try and gain a sense of what it is currently and what it could become. The anniversary celebration is a logical and unique opportunity to progress this and initiatives will be incorporated into the anniversary year to reignite the role of the union. Your thoughts are welcome on this at anytime and please feel free to drop me a note on my email address, [paulh@cae.com.au](mailto:paulh@cae.com.au).

I look forward to meeting with many of you over my tenure as union President.

Lastly, this brings me to the parting words of the Year 12 farewell lunch in 1979.

*"If we do meet again, why, we shall smile; If not, why then, this parting was well made" (Julius Caesar, Act V)*

Till next time.  
Paul Harris (1979)

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This newsletter is full of congratulations for a range of outstanding achievements.

Please remember that the school is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, 2009. We have a range of events planned but one of the biggest will be the fete on Saturday, 4 April. It will finish in the evening with a concert and fireworks. Please keep the day clear. Many ex-students are organising events for the Friday evening and the Sunday to coincide with the fete.

Aravind Adiga, from the class of 1992 (Mrs Kowalski was his Year Advisor) has been shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize with his novel, *The White Tiger*. Mrs Romanov has ordered it for the library. Another ex-student to be proud of!

One of our students from last year, Thilina Vitharana has been selected to play for the Sri Lankan Under 23's Cricket team. Thilina flew out on 1 July for six weeks to try and impress the Sri Lankan selectors. He was a very good cricket player, so we may see his name in the Sri Lankan cricket team!

Congratulations to Mr Richard Grant, who has been confirmed in his position as Head Teacher Agriculture/TAS via a merit selection process. Mr Grant addressed the meeting of the Community of James Ruse on 9 September.

Congratulations to our Olympiad students.

Ruby Kwong has returned from the Biology Olympiad in Mumbai with a gold Medal!

Irene Lo has a silver medal (bronze last year) and Samson Wong has a bronze medal from the Mathematics Olympiad in Madrid.

Yufeng Shi has returned from Budapest with a Silver medal in the Chemistry Olympiad.

Jowa Chen and Bonnie Liu returned from the Physics Olympiad in Hanoi with a Bronze medal and an Honourable Mention respectively.

Jarrah Lacko and Xi Chen have returned from the Informatics Olympiad in Cairo with a silver and a bronze medal respectively. Congratulations! The Australian Informatics Olympiad team scored its best ever result, recording a clean sweep of medals.

Congratulations to the three students who are the winners of the Long Tan Leadership awards: Shi-ling Kou, David Tian and Veneet Gorolay. They will receive these on Awards Night.

Our new school captain, Pratima Herle, new Vice-captain, Gabriel Fong, new Senior prefect, Thashangan Murugathas and the following new prefects, were recently:

Minoli Abeysekera, Rohan Campbell, Kelly Chen, Peter Chen, Nicole Chen, Helena Cheng, Simone Cheung, Belinda Cheung, Simon Chow, Bobby Esaev, Cheryl Ho, Carol Kim, Jacqueline Lai, Bosco Lam, Milo Li, Michael Liu, Danny Ma, Rishi Minocha, Jeremy Mo, Richard Niall, Deva Nirthanakumaran, Janette Siu, Kris Subhakaran, Rohan Swami, David Tian, Connie Wang, Joseph Wang, Beidi Zeng, Don Zhang

We also inducted two Honorary Prefects, Mrs Lindy Campbell and Mrs Annie Chen.

A Certificate of Excellence was presented to Lindy Campbell with the following citation: Lindy has been an enthusiastic contributor to the school in all major events. She has been a faithful worker in the canteen and at countless school events, such as working bees, P&C activities, lunches and concerts. She has been involved in numerous musicals, heading the Costume Team for the past four years. The time and effort that she has given to ensure the students have had costumes has been remarkable. Lindy is one of those special people who help make James Ruse the school it is. She thoroughly deserves the Honorary Prefect Award.

A Certificate of Excellence was presented to Annie Chen with the following citation: Annie is a tremendous asset to the school, and in particular, to the P&C community. Her tireless efforts in organising and supporting mothers in the preparation and presentation of food at countless number of events, is legendary. She has participated in and been primarily responsible for catering at events such as Canteen International Food Day, School Fetes, P&C Information Nights, Year 7 Parents' and Students' BBQs, Yearly Formals and Student Leadership Programs. Her actions and motivation are a perfect example of someone who is totally committed to providing active support to the community of James Ruse. Her Honorary Prefect Award is a fitting reward to Annie and her family for service excellence to the school.

Kasuni Fernando (Yr 10) represented the school at the Hills Youth Forum 2008 at Baulkham Hills Shire Council on 29 July 08. She was invited to attend the Forum as a member of the Youth Council. Members to the Youth Council were nominated by a Council resolution last year. Kasuni explained that the topics of the day were focusing on youth education, employment, volunteering and culture & identity. Kasuni has taken up a role in discussions on culture & identity.

David Tian and Manbir Miglani have been selected for the National Youth Science Forum in January 2009. Congratulations David and Manbir.

Well done to Lorraine Li, who has been selected in the Sydney West Regional Girls' Tennis team, to compete at

the State Championships at Gosford from 9 to 11 September.

Congratulations to Alexandra Au (year 8) and Sharon Ho (year 9), who have been selected to represent NSW at the Australasian Under 15 Badminton Championships to be held in Altona, Victoria 30 September - 4 October 2008.

Congratulations to Peter Chen who has received a National Winner Award (\$500) in the 2008 Australian Economics and Business Studies Competition, sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Congratulations to Linda Wu who has won a 5 year scholarship sponsored by the Japanese government. Winners undergo a one year preliminary study of Japanese in Japan, before continuing to university to study either natural or social sciences or humanities. The scholarship covers return airfares and AU\$1400 each month for 5 years! Linda sat for a series of English, Maths and Japanese exams, which were followed by an interview. This is an amazing scholarship!

Belinda Chung had the privilege of co-captaining the NSW Badminton team at the Australasian Championships in WA in July. The team was ranked 6 out of 9 teams. Individually, Belinda won the Women's Singles Plate event and achieved rankings of 7<sup>th</sup> in Australia and 10<sup>th</sup> in Australasia for women's singles. Congratulations Belinda.

Mr Chandra Handa and Ms Wratten recently presented on curriculum differentiation and on supporting underachieving gifted students at a regional gifted and talented conference. During the October holidays Mr Chandra Handa will be presenting at a state conference. Recently, Mr Woodhouse and Mrs O'Reilly presented on teaching mathematics to gifted students. It is good see the expertise our teachers have being acknowledged in these ways.

Congratulations to Jean Voon who has been named as one of four Regional recipients of the 2008 *Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement*. The Award Ceremony will be held on Wednesday 10 September 2008 in the William Wilkins Gallery Bridge Street .

Congratulations to our Year 11 debating team who last Friday defeated Colo HS to be Regional winners. The team members who argued convincingly that nuclear energy is worth the risks are: Adrian Arn, Edward Lu, David Tian and Rohan Campbell.

Congratulations to Pristine Ong who has been selected as the Western Sydney Regional Winner in *The Sydney Morning Herald* Young Writer of the Year competition for 2008. Her entry joins 13 other regional winners in the competition from across NSW. As a regional winner she is invited to take part in the next stage of the competition, which will determine the 2008 Young Writer of the Year. This stage requires the submission of:

- A portfolio of work (3 short stories in total, one being the original competition entry). This will be used to select the 2008 Young Writer of the Year.
- A short biography, questionnaire and photograph.

Congratulations to Rena Zhu in Year 7 who was part of the winning team at the National Synchronised Ice-skating Championships 14 -18 August in Queensland. She is very proud of her gold medal!

During the last holidays James Ruse AHS was the venue for the Primary Industries World Skills National competition; our facilities were enjoyed by competitors, officials, guests and parents. We will continue to benefit from the bush and shade area that was created. Several years ago I was fortunate to attend the finals of World Skills in Korea - an amazing Olympics like competition of vocational skills. A Melbourne school boy won one of the IT sections. Thank you to Mr Grant who liaised with the World Skills organisers.

Congratulations to Linly Wang, who has been awarded a medal for scoring the highest mark possible in the UNSW writing competition (ICAS).

Congratulations to Raymond Li who has been selected into the Table Tennis NSW state team following his winning of eight medals in major NSW table tennis championships. Raymond will represent NSW to compete in the 2008 Australian Table Tennis Junior and U18 Championships 28 September - 4 October in Adelaide. His recent achievements include 3 silver medals in the U13 boy singles, U13 boys double and U15 boys doubles, a gold medal in the U13 mixed doubles and a bronze medal for U15 boys singles in NSW State Junior and U18 Open Championships in July 2008; and a gold medal for U13 mixed doubles, bronze for U13 boy singles, a silver medal for U13 boys doubles in NSW State Junior and U18 Closed Championships in May 2008. A fantastic record!

As part of our school's focus on values education, a special environmental project was organised for Year 7 students. Students were asked to spend one Saturday morning between 9am and 12 noon, to help plant trees in the local community. The location of the tree planting site was Sierra Place Reserve, Sierra Place, Winston Hills. 7L and 7T attended on Saturday 9 August. 7A and 7K attended on Saturday 16 August. Teachers, staff and volunteers from Baulkham Hills Shire Council assisted students.

Congratulations to Jessie Jung on coming second in the 2008 Brain Bee Challenge, held at UWS. In recognition of her success, Jessie has been offered an UWS Academic Excellence Scholarship worth \$25 000, to support her tertiary education.

On 3 July three of our students participated in a panel discussion at the UWS Ethical Scholarship Forum 2008. The students were Mariya Hamid, Kelly Chen and Gabriel

Fong. The audience was made up of academics, and except for 3 UWS students, our students were the only young people attended. Many members of the audience congratulated them at the end of the day. The forum addressed the ethics and management of dishonesty at university.

This is a reminder about filling in your details for the James Ruse AHS Community Business Directory. Do not send any money at this stage, just fill in the details and send the form directly to me. It should be a wonderful way to contact each other, as well as businesses.

**Larissa Treskin**

*Can you help?* A small team of teachers has begun organising items for the craft stalls for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fete next year. We need certain materials to put together to produce the craft kits. If you have any of the following and could donate them to school we would appreciate your contribution. The materials include:

- Beads for jewellery
- Wool - all colours 8 ply
- Buttons - any size, any colour
- Sequins, embellishment, ribbons any length
- Knitting needles - 4mm
- New tea towels
- Scrapbooking material and acid free paper.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Committee are seeking donations of goods, services and/or money for the school. All donated goods and cheques (made payable to James Ruse Agricultural High School) can be sent to school. All donations will be acknowledged in the schools' weekly newsletter and fete programme. Any queries can be directed to [effie.lee@education.nsw.gov.au](mailto:effie.lee@education.nsw.gov.au). Attached, for your interest, is a copy of the flyer which has been distributed to all the students.

I will be on leave from 12<sup>th</sup> September until 20<sup>th</sup> October so I will be unable to address any of your emails until after that date.

**Robin Legge**

Congratulations to **Anthony Saunders (1990)** and his wife Gina on the birth of their second child, Matilda Trixie Saunders, on 26/08/2008.



**James Ruse 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**FETE 2009**  
**Saturday 4 April 2009**  
**2 pm - 8 pm**

James Ruse is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. The organisation for this special event has begun. Various activities and events are being planned for the whole of 2009. The main one being a Fete on Saturday 4 April 2009.

**Multicultural Food Fair**  
**Music Programmes**  
**Stalls - Arts / Craft, Trash & Treasure, Gift Baskets, Farm Produce**  
**Games Galore, Chocolate Wheel**  
**Multicultural Concert**  
**Fireworks**  
**Giant Raffle Draw**

We need as many people as possible to come forward and volunteer. Many hands make light work!  
*(Return slip to office or fax to 9871 3874)*



Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Ph &/or email : \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Class : \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help in :

**FOOD STALLS :**

- Chinese                       Malaysian                       Korean  
 Indian / Sri Lankan         Vietnamese                       Cakes  
 Tea / Coffee / Drinks

- Non- Food Stalls  
 Logistics / Lighting / Traffic Control (*Fathers please...*)

**AND / OR**

I am unable to help, but I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ towards the cost of running the Fete  
(send cheque payable to JRAH into office with slip; **credit payment** into a/c office with slip).

Thanking you in anticipation of your support.  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**



## JAMES RUSE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY BUSINESS DIRECTORY DETAILS

### 1. YOUR NAME

First Name

Surname

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### 2. YOUR PROFESSION

Your Industry

Your Occupation

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### 3. YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO JAMES RUSE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL

Current Parent

Ex-Student

### 4. YOUR BUSINESS NAME

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### 5. YOUR BUSINESS ADDRESS

Street number and name

--

Suburb

State

Postcode

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### 6. YOUR BUSINESS CONTACT DETAILS

Phone

Fax

--	--

Your Email Address (please print clearly)

--

Business/Company Web Address

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No personal information will be disclosed outside the School without your express consent, except where required by law.