



# GESTA NON VERBA

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## PRESIDENTS NOTES.

Hello again everyone.

It constantly amazes me how fast we find ourselves in December each year. I am sure it is a function of our lifestyles that see us balancing work, family, friends and self. A balancing act that I am no where near mastering! I think back to my memories of the last weeks of the school year. It was this time of the year, in December, you could “smell” the summer school holidays upon you but you could not, yet, quite reach out and grab them.

Like many of you I am sure, I always turn an ear to the radio or television when I hear of the release of the HSC results. At this time the graduating class waits with baited breath, their HSC results due in less than a week, grasp the fruits of their labour and make some important decisions about the next steps in their life journey. Of course, in my time, on one of those early summer days of January 1980, it meant staring down the street waiting for the whistle and finally the sight of the postman on his pushbike and nervously trying to, but not really wanting to, open the big white Dept of Education envelope. These days, it's a click of mouse away over the internet or an SMS to a mobile phone.

We wish the 2008 class well in making their future decisions and congratulate them all for their efforts at JRAHS and, of course, welcome them to the ex-students union which they will be part of for life.

The school of course is now only a few months away from the start of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with a range of events in the final stages of planning. The biggest of these events being the fete, concert and fireworks on Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>. Keep your calendars clear!

It would also be remiss of me not to mention the burgeoning plans for my own 30<sup>th</sup> reunion for the class of '79, which is tentatively being planned for Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup>. For those

of you who remember our 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> reunions, I am sure you will be back if at all possible! Stay tuned for more details next year.

Thanks to those “old boys” who have made email contact with me since the September newsletter. Most of them from the very early years of the school and all VERY KEEN to be part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations next year. It has been good to hear of your stories of your time at the school in the 1960's and the school looks forward to welcoming you back to help us mark its semi centennial year and for you to catch up with the “old and the bold”.

Best wishes to all ex-students and their families for a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy start to the New Year.

*“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)**  
[paulh@cae.com.au](mailto:paulh@cae.com.au)

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We have our **first Booker Prize winner!** Aravind Adiga, who receives a cheque for \$125000 for his first novel, *The White Tiger*, was a student in the class of 1992. This is only the third time that a debut novelist has won this prestigious literary award in 40 years of the competition. The chairman of the Booker judging panel said that the novel “tackles divisions between rich and poor, and the impossibility of the poor escaping their lot in India. (It does so) with tremendous humour .. and is extremely readable.”

Catriona Noble (nee Hinton), who has just been appointed as the first female managing director at McDonalds, is an ex-student. This puts her into a strong position to succeed Peter Bush, who has been Australia's chief executive since 2005.

Some of you may have noticed that we have removed the history of James Ruse (1759 – 1837) from the school's

Internet. It contained a number of contestable parentage claims which were not supported by primary sources on the site. The issue had been raised with me by a number of the descendants of James Ruse. Janice Ruse Huntington (the great x7 grand daughter) has kindly donated three books to the library which are full of primary sources. The book is called *My Mother Reread me Tenderley*, the first line on his tombstone, which, it is believed, was carved by Ruse himself as his legacy to the historical record. You can of course see the whole of the words he left behind on the replica tombstone at the front of Barrengarry House.

Congratulations to the following students who received **medals** in the UNSW ICAS competition on Friday 21 November at the University of NSW:

**Science:** David Pham, Howard Ma, Bach Vu, David Zhao.

**Writing:** Linly Wang.

**English:** Deborah Song, Michael Ma, Isabella Kwai, Helen Tong, Shelley She.

**Computer Skills:** Amanda Peng, Sing-Young Chen.

Congratulations all the students who have been accepted for the Olympiad Scholar programs. Following their success in the National Qualifying Examinations held in September, these students have been invited to undertake further intensive training as Scholars at the ANU in Canberra during the summer vacation. Their selection was based on ranking across the nation. They will now undergo an accelerated program of learning with top University tutors and Australia's medal-winning past Science Olympians.

Biography	Chemistry	Physics
Shiva Subramanyam (11)	Shiva Subramanyam (11)	Shiva Subramanyam (11)
Shirley Ng (11)	Stacey Law (10)	Stacey Law (10)
Tina Guan (11)	Cleo Loi (11)	Cleo Loi (11)
Aditi Halder (11)	Kevin Pan (11)	Tom Wang (11)
	Sally Yan (11)	Andrew Gong (11)
	Xining Huang (11)	
	Yufeng Shi (11)	
	Alan Chau (10)	

Congratulations to the following students who have been invited to the Australian Mathematical Olympiad Committees' scholar school, to be held at University of Melbourne 8 – 17 December 2008: Sampson Wong (10), Stacey Law (10), Shiva Subramanyam (11), Olivia Kim (10), Raveen De Silva (10) and Wallace Chow (10). They are six of twenty five students, Australia-wide, to receive an invitation.

Congratulations to these students on this remarkable achievement and great honour.

Congratulations to Manbir Miglani who has been selected from many students to join the top 50 applicants in the state at the Aspiring Business Leaders forum at the University of Sydney in early October.

During the holidays, on 8 October 2008, the NSW Association of Agriculture teachers gave our ex-Head Teacher, Agriculture Mr Lisle Brown, (now retired), the highest accolade in the Agriculture fraternity that can be given

to someone. He was awarded the JA Sutherland Award at a ceremony held in Deniliquin. Mrs Gail Roberts was proud to read the citation of all Mr Brown's achievements, which demonstrated excellence in Agricultural Education in NSW Secondary schools.

Congratulations to Victor Butnejski (*Eco-concrete: a sustainable solution for non-safety critical projects*), Sanji Fernando (*Toxicity of household chemical solutions to soil worms*) and Timothy Le (*Temperature and viscosity of liquids*) for being finalists in the STANSW Young Scientist 2008. They were presented with their certificates and cheques at USW Parramatta on 24 October. David Roshan and Kim Sun Woo received Certificates of Excellence.

We welcomed the past principal, Mr Michael Quinlan, back on Thursday for our combined Mothers' Club and Community of James Ruse meeting. *Connections*, an association for ex-parents and ex-staff, was launched at this meeting. Mr Quinlan has agreed to be the first honorary president. The parents farewelled Mr Wearne, who is retiring at the end of this year. The Community had the biggest cake for him last meeting. On this occasion he was farewelled with speeches, a gift and applause.

Congratulations to Victor Chan, Daniel Vijakumar, Nathan Wong and Jeremy Luk, who have been shortlisted for the Malcolm Chaikin Foundations Scholarship. This is one of UNSW's most prestigious awards for undergraduate students, with an annual allowance of \$15000 for four years.

Congratulations to David Tian and Manbir Miglani who will be attending the National Youth Science Forum in Canberra in January. 288 students were chosen from nearly 2000 applicants, drawn from 1800 secondary schools across the country.

Congratulations to Bonnie Liu who has been selected to participate in the Forty First ANU/AAMT National Maths Summer School, which will be held at ANU in January 2009.

There have been a number of staffing changes this year. One of our Deputy principals, Mr Greg Wearne is retiring after 17 years at our school. He is being farewelled at a number of functions to thank him for his contribution – nearly 4 decades to the education of young people, and half of that time at this school.

We have a new Deputy Principal appointed, Ms Megan Connors, who takes up her role next year.

We farewell Ms Vicki Phillips in Languages. We will also fill this position by a merit selection process, as we need a French/Japanese teacher.

Mrs Pela O'Reilly has taken promotion as a Head Teacher Maths and is leaving us at the end of the year.

Mr Lou Biali in Science is retiring, after his year of leave.

Mr Richard Grant was appointed Head Teacher Agriculture during this year. We welcomed Mrs Karen Johnstone to our Agriculture staff this year. Next year we will welcome Ms Sofia Hamid, from Mt View HS.

We farewelled Ms Denise Lee and welcomed Mr Sung Yi as a teacher of Japanese.

I am looking forward to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations next year. Please keep the whole day of 4 April free in your calendar for our fete, and plan to have both lunch and dinner with us, as you catch up with your classmates from past years.

Have a peaceful holiday period. Merry Christmas! May the new year bring you lots of joy!

**Larissa Treskin**

### **MISSING ALUMNI FROM 1970**

Ex-students from the 1965-70 cohort have been tracking each other down and planning to get together for a reunion in 2009 to celebrate the Schools 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

We'd appreciate any help you can give us with finding our "missing" contemporaries – so if you know the whereabouts of anyone from 1970, or can track them down, please prompt them to get in touch.

So far we have contact details for 50 out of the 130, with names of most of the others. We still need to find the names of the students who joined the School in 5<sup>th</sup> Form (Year 11) & contact details for the other 80.

Members of the HSC class of 1970 (1968 School Cert.) should make sure we have their details by sending an email to [1970@OldHoskinians.org](mailto:1970@OldHoskinians.org). Put your name & year in the 'Subject' & your phone and email address in the message body.

For more information email us at [contactlist@oldhoskinians.org](mailto:contactlist@oldhoskinians.org).

**Graeme Skelton & John Morrissey.**

The Fete committee are very busy at present and it promises to be a wonderful day. You will be able to get any information regarding the day via a link to the school's web page. This will be available at the beginning of the school term next year. Through this link you will be able to purchase 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wine and raffle tickets.

There will be archival material on display in various class rooms and also current students will be interviewing ex-students regarding their time at Ruse and life after. These interviews will then stored in our archives. If anyone would be interested in helping set up the display please let me know.

Apart from the usual stalls which the school will organise there is also going to be a section with "ex-students stalls" which would be a marketplace type setting where people can "buy" a certain amount of space and sell their wares. If anyone would be interested participating in this could you please contact [Effie.Lee@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Effie.Lee@det.nsw.edu.au).

If there are any reunions or events being organised to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year could you please let me know so that I can advise others.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2009.

**Robin Legge**

