



GESTA NON VERBA

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Next Issues: 23rd June
15th September
8th December

PRESIDENTS NOTES.

Hello again everyone.

Welcome to the James Ruse “old boys club” to the Class of 2009 and congratulations on your results achieved in your HSC. You did yourselves, your families and of course your school and teachers proud. I am sure you are still finding your way around your “brave new world” in whatever you are now pursuing in 2010 so good luck and best wishes in all your endeavors and as one of my teachers wrote on my last day at Ruse:

Be careful where you tread as life is like snow, your footprints will be seen, albeit only for a short time.

Now, having been part of the education sector for 6 months, my attention has been drawn to the recent media coverage of Governments’ introduction of schools “league tables” and to the effectiveness or otherwise of the *Building the Education Revolution (BER)* stimulus package.

In spite of the derision in the media and by the respective opposition political parties on both these issues I can only hope that both these initiatives achieve their ultimate objectives of continually improving education delivered in better schools facilities for all. I can certainly attest that the special needs children here at the Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and those children with similar needs supported by us at other independent “main stream” schools across Sydney are already benefiting greatly from our BER funded programmes.

“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)
pauljharris2009@hotmail.com

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As usual at our school, the term has been packed full of learning in and outside of the classroom. We have had outstanding successes academically, in sport, in leadership. Fundraising for the gymnasium remains a building priority. We are halfway there. We need \$3 million in total. Thank you to all our ex-students who have made significant contributions.

We have been trying to reinvent the role of agriculture in 2010 in our curriculum – across the whole curriculum. The farm plays a very significant part in the lives of our gifted and talented students, meeting emotional and social needs as well as academic. Whilst the academic results that we achieve in agriculture continue to be important, as fewer students go directly into agriculture, we are trying to make more explicit the role of agriculture in understanding life/death cycles, coping with disappointment and loss, dealing with natural time processes and with natural seasons. Students learn they

can't speed up the growth of a potato, that overseas political decisions determine the way corn syrup is found in most tinned products, that the Romantics were right in the role of nature in our psyche. (In Japan, doctors can prescribe a walk in the forest, instead of pills!) We have a way to go, but with deep agricultural understandings our students will leave school being able to make good decisions regarding sustainability, climate change, food production, land use, creating calm, – wherever their lives may take them.

Congratulations to **Andrew Li** (year 11) for being **runner-up in the Australia-New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge Finals 2009**. He has already been awarded prizes in the 2008 and 2009 Australian Mathematics Competition. Andrew enjoys history, and is a keen debator. He has been awarded four medals in the UNSW English and Mathematics competitions. He likes creating visual effects and comedic digital art, and runs a number of websites. He is an active member of Cadets, and enjoys tennis, table tennis and swimming. He also plays the piano and likes writing stories. He is a wonderful James Ruse student who challenges himself across the curriculum! Andrew says, "Neuroscience is a great field with a lot of promise and a lot to explore ...I feel more inclined towards the medical disciplines of neurology and neurosurgery, because they're the ones where the work, research and the discoveries are focused around people and improving their quality of life."

Congratulations to Jacqueline Lai! As a result of her coming **first in Chemistry in 2009**, Jacqueline had been offered the opportunity of work experience in the Office of the Chief Scientist and Scientific Engineer, Mary O'Kane.

It was wonderful to see our students meet their South Korean colleagues from the Cheong Shim International Academy as part of our **inter school global research project**. Seven students and a teacher arrived on Tuesday in Week 2 and spent four days at our school. We have 30 students participating in this project, but not all their partners were able to visit this time. The students are researching the following: algae alternate fuels as energy sources; the development of Korea, Australia and Taiwan after independence; identify the most appropriate Non-Government Organisation (NGO) for community; economic crisis and junk food; eco-friendly agricultural technologies; Right whales and Irrawaddy dolphins; the safety of Genetically Modified Organisms and their potential future use.

Congratulations to Sharon Ho. Sharon has been chosen to represent NSW in the 2010 **Australian Badminton Championship** in Perth from 2 – 10 April.

Congratulations to Erny Tsao, who has been formally selected to represent Australia at the upcoming **Table Tennis Oceania Cadet Challenge**, World Junior Circuit event and Oceania Championships which are to be held from April 1 – 18, 2010 in Auckland, New Zealand. Erny will fly out of Australia on Tuesday March 30 with the rest of the Australian Team to compete in the 3 events and will return to Australia on Sunday April 18. Erny is a current National Junior Squad Member and has been identified as a future Australian Senior Representative.

Congratulations to the school on **winning the zone swimming carnival!** This is an amazing achievement – usually Castle Hill HS are the winners. As well as being academic winners, we have now won in cross country and in swimming!

Congratulations to our teams' successes at the recent **Computational Linguistics Olympiad**. Our team of boys – Gerald Mak, Evan Tran, Richard Yuen and Andrew Wang – came second to Smiths Hill HS from Wollongong. Our team of girls – Rosanna Lam, Agatha Lossy, Carmen Tran and Joanne Kim – came fifth. Well done to both teams. The first three teams now go into the national finals: Smiths Hill, James Ruse and Sydney Girls. One of the prizes for the Boys' team was a visit to the Google office !

We have had five students selected for the AMOC **Mathematics Olympiad Selection School**, to be held at Macquarie Uni from 5 – 14 April. There will be a total of 25 scholars at the school. Six students will then be selected for the 51st maths Olympiad, to be held in Kazakhstan, from 5 – 14 July. Congratulations to Sampson Wong (12), Stacey Law (12), Victor Khou (10), Steven Phan (10), and Brian Gao (10).

Thank you to the Prefects for organising a range of activities which resulted in \$1475 being raised for the **Haiti appeal**.

Members of our concert bands are rehearsing for their participation in the **Anzac Day march** through the city. This is the **first time** that we will have James Ruse Band marching in the Anzac Day march.

Congratulations to Joey Chen who has been selected to be a member of the **Biology Olympiad Team**.
Congratulations to Alan Chow and Kelvin Cheung who have been selected for the four person **Chemistry Olympiad team**. We got two out of the four!
Congratulations to Olivia Kim who has been selected to be one of the 8 member **Physics Olympiad team** in the Asia Pacific Olympiad.
Congratulations to Sonya Marshall who has been invited to attend the residential **UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy** at Sydney University 12 -16 April. Sonya will be working with a diverse group of contemporary women leaders in leadership skills development and she will be exposed to different careers in business.
Best wishes to Anna Yu and Bryan Zhu. Their names have been selected to be sent forward for the **Dobell School** at the National Art School.

Have a peaceful Easter.

Larissa Treskin

VALE MRS SCHOFIELD.

Mrs Schofield was the first secretary appointed to James Ruse AHS. She recently passed away, aged 96. Her two sons, Mal and Jamie, attended the school. Our condolences go to all the family.

FARM NEWS.

The student's vegetable bay to the north of the beehive has been eliminated from the rotation for student plots. In 2009, a teacher that the bees were attracted to, was stung on several occasions, as were students in his class so we decided to remove the need for classes to work in this area. We have instead turned it into a Bee Garden designed on Permaculture principles. Swales of contour banks have been formed to catch storm water and allow it time to sink into the ground, and we have planted a range of plants which will provide shade, flowers and support for the permanent plants that we are growing here. Some of the plants are Buddleia, Carob, Strawberry guave, Icecream bean, mandarin, Chinese raisin tree, comfrey, and lucerne. We've also sown pigeon pea, Queen Anne's lace and borage. More will be added to stack the plants vertically once the little trees have got a bit of height to them. It should be interesting to walk through in a few years' time when we have the path and water pond in place too.

A second happening is the Zoo Food garden that this year's prefects are initiating as a gift to the school and wider community, and hopefully successive year's prefects will add to with more species for the exotic mammals of Taronga. Following advice from the Taronga Zoo horticulturist, we have decided to start with growing banana trees, the leaves of which elephants eat. I have sourced 36 banana trees which await planting after the year 12 exams on the 30th March. Each Prefect will have the responsibility of planting and caring for their plant till the end of their reign in late term 2. The Zoo Food garden will be situated in the far North East corner of the farm, adjacent to Jenkins Road, the farm cottage and the headwaters of the dam. If anyone has access to the common banana as small suckers who would be willing to donate to this project, we would be most grateful. Contact Farm Manager Gail Roberts at school on 9871 7942.

The farm has produced sweet corn and soon the pumpkins will be ripe. Rural Youth made chocolate covered macadamia nuts for sale to the Ruse Community and beans and parsley were sold from their Charity Garden.

The farmhands cut and baled our very first bales of lucerne hay earlier in the year - something to see in the middle of suburban Carlingford in the late afternoon, with power lines crisscrossing the paddock and forming a surreal backdrop for the rows of bales as they dropped from the hay baler!!!



Gail Roberts
Ag Teacher and Farm Manager

One of the main topics in the media in the past week has been the government's decision to allow the importation of overseas beef into Australia starting today from countries known to have Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (mad cow disease) and it's human equivalent (spread from BSE) variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). This is a serious threat

to the health of all Australians. One of my aunts died with CJD in 2000, it is a terrible way to die and is untreatable. I have recently submitted a thesis on the subject and all of the following comments have been thoroughly researched.

I recommend that you only buy product of Australia animal material, not Made in Australia material (which only means that value adding has occurred here). If you aren't sure of its origin, don't eat it! This goes for all animal product not only beef.

BSE has not gone away.

Most countries of the world are infected. Australia and New Zealand are 2 of less than half a dozen countries officially free from BSE and scrapie (mad sheep disease).

Millions of cattle in the UK were destroyed in an effort to try and stop BSE, mainly by shooting and burning.

One infected cow can be used to make 5 tonnes of food material which can infect hundreds of thousands of people. The number of people dying with CJD is steadily rising both within and outside of the UK.

BSE is believed to have spread into the UK sheep flock.

Cows have been slaughtered in the UK / Europe for the food chain under the age of 30 months.

The disease usually presents after cattle attain 36 months of age because the incubation period lasts for years.

Cattle are being consumed overseas in the incubation period.

Cows and humans are infectious in the incubation period.

The incubation period in humans is years to decades.

Blood, body fluids including saliva are contagious as is muscle (meat), not just the spinal column.

Tests are only accurate in the final stages of the disease or at post mortem and can easily have false negatives in humans and animals. Tests are rarely performed.

At least 20 species other than cattle have become infected including fish (bream) fed experimentally with BSE material. This has implications for farmed fish, one of the intended main future protein sources for the world.

The infectious proteins termed prions are resistant to all of the usual methods used to kill infections and most sterilizers will not kill them.

The minimal infectious dose is unknown but 1 mg of BSE material from the brain of an infected animal can infect a calf with BSE. Butchers saws traverse neuronal (brain, spinal cord and nerves) material.

Prions adhere well to surgical and dental instruments.

CJD prions have been spread through surgery in Australia, which although rare has occurred.

Infected meat can spread the disease onto butchers and restaurant saws, boning knives, meat cleavers and to cutlery and utensils used by clubs and restaurants.

The government changed the regulations in Australia in 2002 to allow the importation of live embryos and semen for many species including cattle and sheep from countries known to be infected with BSE and scrapie.

Monday the 1st of March represents another serious widening of the breach in our quarantine border security.

A thought for the future: animal genes have been placed into plants, raising the possibility of even wider ramifications in the future.

Dr Alan Fahey (1970)

REUNIONS

The leaving class of '69 are planning a get-together pre-Easter, 2011.

Interested parties can contact **John Mullavey** at ajmulla@netspace.net.au or 0418 123 154, **Noel West**, nwest@bigpond.net.au, **Ken Donaldson**, ausqant@gmail.com, **Paul McMahon** sulcoras@optusnet.com.au or **Phillip Bowman** phillipbowman@bigpond.com.

A few students from **1981** are in the initial stages of organising a 30 year reunion next year. Please contact **Paul Jeffery** at paul.jeffery@exemail.com.au for further details.

Ken LAI (1992) was featured in a documentary on SBS – part of their 'Secrets and Lives' program titled: 'Angels in New York'. The documentary is about the original musical Ken composed and co-wrote, 'Angels' and the journey to try and bring the show to Broadway in New York.

<http://www.sbs.com.au/shows/angelsinnewyork/watchonline/page/i/1/h/Watch-Online/>

WISHING YOU ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY EASTER