



GESTA NON VERBA

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Next Issues: 8TH December

PRESIDENTS NOTES.

Hello again everyone.

This week I had the privilege to listen to a truly inspirational speech from Kurt Fearnley, Australia's leading wheelchair athlete where he talked about his "24/7" focus to become Commonwealth champion in his events next month in Delhi and that currently his every waking moment is consumed by this desire.

Kurt's presentation overviewed his childhood as disabled person in a small country town in NSW, the realisation of wanting to become a full time professional athlete after seeing Keiren Perkins win gold in the 1500m in Atlanta. He described his transition from being an awestruck young 18 year old at the Sydney 2000 Olympics to Olympic champion in Athens and then again at Beijing.

But overpowering all this athletic success was his vivid description with an accompanying emotional video presentation of his two weeks crawling the Kokoda Trail in November last year. Kurt freely admitting that it was far and away the hardest thing he had ever done and, feeling for the first time in his life, that he may have to give up on something and only two days into the trek. Collapsing each day into his tent after 8 hours of crawling, cold, covered in mud and scratches all over his body and then doing it all over again the next day; he rightly described his body as an "idiot" for listening to his thoughts each day to continue on. Truly a champion in spirit and body and a living example of how the human spirit can overcome the challenges of a body that is not co-operative!

Before I close I would like to send my thoughts and best wishes to a member of my 1979 cohort of ex students. To Stuart Armsworth, who suffered a stroke some ten weeks ago, to his wife Deb and family keep plugging away mate!

Like Kurt Fernley crawling through the Kokoda mud, the weekly news updates I receive through the grapevine of your rehabilitation progress are just as inspiring.

"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)

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Honorary Prefects.

Mrs **Cindy Chong** was awarded the honour of Honorary Prefect.. In her absence we acknowledged her wonderful contribution to our school. Her association with the school began when her daughter Amanda started Year 7 in 2000. Quickly offering to volunteer across the school Cindy has become a mainstay of our Uniform Shop. She has completed 10 years of volunteer service with the Uniform Shop and for 6 of those 10 years was our Manager. Her commitment to the school and to the support of parents in particular has been so important to our success.

Mrs **Robin Legge**, ex parent and current administration officer, was also awarded the office of Honorary Prefect. Like so many of our parents Robin became involved in the school when her son Andrew was a student here - 24 years later Robin still exhibits her commitment and passion for James Ruse. At our parent teacher night Robin served tea and coffee to the cold parents and teachers for the 24th year. Over her years of service to James Ruse she has attended countless working bees, made costumes for the musicals and run the musical canteen. Perhaps her greatest legacy will be the ex-students' union that she now coordinates; writing four newsletters a year, helping to organise reunions and helping ex-students stay in touch with each other. Her love of James Ruse can also be seen in the countless hours that have been spent preserving and cataloguing our archives. A truly worthy recipient of this award Robin embodies the concept of service that the prefect body symbolises.

Robin is retiring at the end of Term 3. We wish her all the best in the next stage of her life. She will continue to assist with the ex-students union and the archives.

Food Fair After the success of last year's 50th celebrations, our parents are keen to repeat the food fair. Please come and join us for food and performances, on Saturday 13th November.

International Mathematics Olympiad A huge congratulations to our three medal winners. Stacey Law (12) and Sampson Wong (12) both received a silver medal at the International Mathematics Olympiad. Joey Chen (11) also received a Silver medal at the International Biology Olympiad. Kelvin Cheung and Allan Chau returned to Australia on Thursday from the **Chemistry Olympiad** in Japan with a Bronze medal each.

UNSW Law Essay competition Ambika Sethia (12) was presented with her prize for winning the UNSW Law Essay competition by Professor Dickson, Dean of Law.

Australian Informatics Competition Congratulations to our students who participated in the Australian Informatics Competition earlier this year. We received nine High Distinctions, 14 Distinctions and 10 credits. Edwin Chiu (7), Kevin Shi (8), Vivian Qin (9), Johnny Huang (9), Ivan Leung (10), Benjamin Zhu (9) all received an Award of Excellence for achieving a perfect score. This competition is used by the Australian Mathematics Trust to help identify students who have the potential to be develop skills in the coding and problem solving that is associated with computer programming.

ICAS computer skills and science competitions We have also received our results from the ICAS computer skills and science competitions. Ashvin Ragavan, William Ye, Joshua Lau, Delian Entchev and Stephen Phan are all eligible to receive a medal in this year's Computing Skills competition. Also Patrick Song, Stephanie Wu, Anthony Yang, Zane Zhang and Johnny Huang are eligible to receive a medal in the Science competition. Medals will be presented at a ceremony at UNSW on November 26th. Last year medal winners were advised that bonus ATAR points can be claimed by medal winners who choose to enrol in particular courses at UNSW.

English ICAS medals: Congratulations to Eklavya Wangoo and Kai Lun for receiving medals in the UNSW ICAS English competition. They will also be presented with their medals on 26 November.

UNSW Progcomp: Congratulations to Joshua Lau (9C), Evgeny Martynov (11Z) and Kenneth Wong (12Z) who won the UNSW Progcomp . This is the 4th year in a row James Ruse has won.

Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement Congratulations to Puneet Sandhu (10T) and Zi Jun Jason Ye (9K) - for their nomination in the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement - Community Languages Schools Students of the Year 2010

James Ruse AHS are the **CHS Table Tennis champions** for the second year in a row. The team of Erny Tsao, Raymond Li, Vinson Wang and Edward Lo-Cao defeated North Sydney Boys High in the semi-final and played St John's Park in the final. After the singles we were tied at 2 all and after the first two doubles, 3 all. We took the final doubles, played by Erny and Raymond, 3-0 to win the gold medal. Special mention needs to be made of Vinson Wang who has been in the team since year 7. In that time he has won 2 gold, 2 silver and a bronze. A truly remarkable achievement.

Director General for a Day Congratulations on their successful nominations for *Director General for a Day*, to Roy Chowdhury and Nivvi Krishnan. They both took part in Western Sydney Region's *Regional Director for a Day*. Both students were invited to take on the role of School Education Director (SED) and shadowed Mr Daryl Jacobs.

Commencing at 8.30am, Roy, Nivvi and other participating students were welcomed by Regional Director, Mr Greg Prior. The group listened to a talk on Sustainability and then participated in a discussion.

Congratulations to one of our ex students, Vinoth Nandakumar, who having completed his honours in Maths at Sydney University, has been accepted to do his PHD in Pure Maths at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, on full scholarship.

Visiting Educators: Thirty five educators including academics, school principals and teachers from many parts of Asia and Australia who had attended the 11th *Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness* visited the school. The participants heard curriculum overviews from Head Teachers Mr Ian Woodhouse, Ms Joanne McMillan, Mrs Sheila Pooviah, Mrs Annetta St. Louis and Deputy Principal Ms Megan Connors. The teachers were joined by five year 10 students - Brian Gao, Sharon Mo, Beryl Lin, Nancy Tang and Victor Khou - in a panel discussion focusing on curriculum differentiation across English, Mathematics and Science, student experiences of academic rigour, agriculture and the school culture. In addition, several students led the visitors on tours to the Library, Canteen, Oval, Technology Block and the Farm. The visiting educators were immensely thankful for the efforts of all the teachers and students who provided a view into the realm of arguably one of the best schools in the world.

Japanese visitors from Waseda University: Professor Koji Maeda from Waseda and a PHD student from Sydney University Kaguki Shimomura visited the school and toured the farm on Wednesday. Thank you to Wallace Chow, Regina Hong, Grace Liu, Andrew Pan and Rida Sen.

State Shakespearean Festival: A huge accomplishment for Year 9 girls Natalie Li, Michelle Wang, and Sing-Young Chen who won the State Shakespearean Festival for their music composition. Reports indicate the girls were "amazing". There are expectations for the group to go to the Nationals.

Great Engineering (Science) Challenge: Sixteen year 9 and year 10 students participated in the UNSW Engineering Challenge. Two year 10 teams won two of the challenges which tested the students with problem solving activities. Despite great performances by the students, we did not gain enough points to win the day. We also look forward to hearing about the exciting science links with USYD, particularly year 9 students involved in rocket building.

RUSE ROCKETS



Over the course of the past two weeks, 4 engineering students from the University of Sydney took up the challenge of teaching the budding scientists of 9K a thing or two about physics. The introductory lessons on motion, forces and Newton's laws seemed simple enough, but everybody knew that the task that lay ahead would be no walk in the park.

In teams and equipped with plastic bottles, foam, wooden blocks, duct tape, and scraps of cardboard, we set out on the mission to build our very own rockets! Each team poured out all their knowledge of aeronautical design, drag, wind resistance, trajectory, and air pressure into the construction of their rockets, in hope of achieving the furthest distance come the day of the launch.

On the afternoon of 3/08, we effectively turned the entire school oval into a live firing zone, similar to a scene out of *Mythbusters*. We were soon left in awe by the magnificent sights of our high-flying specimens, courtesy of pressurised air and torrents of water. This drew curious onlookers, along with a PDHPE staff member who wryly commented, "Isn't that a bit of dangerous?" Such concerns were rightly justified, as one rocket landed on top of the tool shed on the farm (bearing in mind that the launch took place in the corner of the oval near the boys' change room).

In the end, there could only be one winner (2 in our case – it was really close). Both teams built lightweight and aesthetically pleasing rockets which served their means well.

We would like to thank Christine Poon, Jeffrey Leung, Mario Bosnjak, and Martin Wong of the University of Sydney for their time and effort.

James Ruse takes out 2010 PWC Australian Economics Competition. All economics students participated in the 2010 Australian Economics competition sponsored by Price Waterhouse Coopers. Congratulations to **Kevin Guo** (Year 11) who was the National Winner. 8 other students also won prizes in the competition. These include: **Blair Wang, Bach Vu, Michael Ma, Clinton Jiang, Sophia Guo, Natasha Pegler, Edlyn Tio** and **Jack Zhang**. A total prize pool of \$1025 was won by these students.



Congratulations to Shi Ling Kou, photographed here receiving the **2010 Pierre de Coubertin Award** from the NSW Awards presentation. This award was instigated in 1993 as an integral component of the NSW Olympic 2000 School Strategy to increase the involvement of students in sport. A student from each school can be nominated by the school each year. The student is to be from Year 11 or 12 and is to be an active participant in sport (carnivals, knock-outs, Wednesday sport, coaching, PDHPE and other). The award recipient demonstrates the qualities of fair play, positive attitude, leadership and consistency in effort over the high school years.

The 49th Annual School Mathematics Competition:

Congratulations to the following students on some outstanding results:

Senior division winners: equal second prize - Stacey Law; equal third prize - Raveen De Silva; high distinctions - Sampson Wong, Kevin Lam, Alan Xian, Wallace Chow, Nikhil Vasan

Junior Division winners: equal second prize – Victor Khou; third prize – Brian Gao; high distinctions – Rachel Wong and Steven Phan.

The **What Matters** writing competition is run by Officeworks and funded by the Whitlam Institute. This year a record 2525 students from over 200 schools across NSW and the ACT took part in the competition. Several James Ruse students entered the competition. Student participation in the competition meant that the school was entered into a draw for competition prizes. As a result a \$1000 Officeworks giftcard has been awarded to the school. Representative students will attend a small presentation at Officeworks, Parramatta next week to receive the prize. Thanks to all the students who entered the competition and who have helped the school greatly: Weng Lun (9), Derek Lau (12), Young-Ju Jae (9), Karina Shum (8), Cheuk Lam (9), Cherie Chen (9), Rodger Wu (9), Ashleigh Wong (12), Bridget Lee (9), Isabella Kwai (11) and Dorothy Wong (9).



Mr Deigan, Karina Shum, Rodger Wu and Cheuk Lam receive \$1000 gift card from Office Works – a prize in the What Matters writing competition announced in last week's newsletter.

Short Films (Secondary) Awards Our school participated in the 2010 Short Film (Secondary) Awards, one of the WeCreate: Connected Learning Awards and Challenges.

The Short Film Awards encouraged secondary students in NSW Departmental schools to go behind the scenes and utilise their own creative abilities to develop a short film of three minutes duration. The final round of judging has been completed and we have been informed that **Dominique Chan, Freya Kong, Lian Park** are to receive an award on behalf of the school for their entry in this year's competition.

All 2010 WeCreate: Connected Learning Awards winners will be presented with their Awards at the Presentation Ceremony to be held in November.

Congratulations to Erny Tsao (9C) who has been selected to represent NSW to compete in the Australian Junior Table Tennis Championships in Gold Coast from Sunday the 26th of September to Saturday the 2nd of October 2010. Erny was the 2009 Table Tennis National Champion in U13 Boys Team, U13 Boys Singles and U13 Boys Doubles, and 1st runner-up in U13 Mixed Doubles. He has been ranked number 1 of U13 Boys in NSW and Australia nationally in 2009, and number 3 of U15 Boys in Oceania in July 2010, and selected into the 2010 National Junior Squad.

Cadet Passing Out Parade: We farewelled 15 Year 12 cadets. The cadet parade was magnificent. Our guest was Dr Alan Fahey, school captain of 1970, as well as being the senior cadet and ISCF leader. He spoke of how he had combined his agriculture and medical knowledge in his research on "mad cow disease" and of his lobbying the government against the importation of meat products, given this disease exists in 22 countries. He also reminisced on his early cadet experiences, including regularly taking his rifle home on the bus!

Awards Day. This was again a wonderful occasion. Our guest speaker was Magdalena Roze, from the class of 1999, who in 11 years, has had an amazing career on *Getaway*, BBC, *The National Geographic Channel* and now as a presenter on the *Weather Channel*. She won an ASTRA award (the payTV logies) for her coverage of the Victorian bushfires. Not having studied science at school, she is now a national expert on meteorology, which she studied as a postgraduate qualification, following her undergraduate media degree.

We look forward to another eventful Term after the holidays.

Larissa Treskin

Letting you all know that after 24 years I will be finishing at James Ruse at the end of this term.

I have been asked to continue my role overseeing the ex-students union, to which I have agreed. Seeing I won't be at school on a regular basis I can also be contacted at robinlegge@yahoo.com. I will still be editing "Gesta non Verba" so look forward to your continued support in supplying articles for our quarterly editions. Also if you need any articles from the school archives, or advertising for school reunions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Robin Legge

ALUMNI CADET DINNER

Friday 26th November
6.30pm for 7.00pm
Carlingford Bowling Club
Cost : \$40
Dress: Lounge Suit

For ALL former cadets, current and former Officers of Cadets and other supervising staff. Bookings should be made through the school Accounts Office (cheques payable to James Ruse Agricultural High School). There are limited places, so make your booking early.

If you have photographs from your days in the Unit, please select the best few, scan (if not digital) and email to alan.best@det.nsw.edu.au. We would like to show some during the evening.

Please contact others who were in the Unit with you and encourage them to attend.

I read with interest the article submitted by **Mark Whitley (1975)** regarding his chance encounter with a fellow Rusian years later at an office coffee point. This story reminded me of a similar encounter, albeit under fairly different working conditions.

I was in Afghanistan during 2009-10 and in between extended patrols my team would return to the Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Tarin Kowt known as *Kamp Holland*. Due to the nature of activities conducted by my team, I had the pleasure of crossing paths with **Major General (MAJGEN) Mark Kelly (JR1972)** on a number of occasions. At the time, MAJGEN Kelly commanded all Australian forces in the Middle East for the duration of my tour of duty and his presence at the FOB was generally a direct indicator to Australian soldiers that quality food and news from the greater Defence Force would be shared that night. Once our common ground was established MAJGEN Kelly and I reminisced over animal husbandry lessons, laughed at rivalries with local schools, and nodded sagely at the school's seemingly unbreakable academic hegemony. We then finally got around to discussing military matters, but only after debating the utility of various items of school uniform and how much Barrengarry House would go for at auction.

It struck me that such occurrences must be few and far between for the school these days, and certainly less frequent than reunions occurring in the corridors of major hospitals or strategic consultants' offices in Sydney City. I imagine that many Ruse 'old boys' crossed paths in the sweltering humidity of Vietnam, but how many have done so in gritty mountains of Afghanistan? I'd love to hear from any other Rusians whose post-school life has taken them to this fascinating country.

Looking forward to seeing the Class of 2000 soon!

Regards,.
James Groves (2000)

Chris Fung (2006)

Chris is currently involved with Riverside Lyric Ensemble's production of Jesus Christ Superstar playing the role of Judas.

Below are the details:

<http://www.riversideparramatta.com.au/performance.asp?pID=1301>

Date/Time:

Friday October 22, 8pm
Saturday October 23, 2pm & 8pm
Wednesday October 27, 8pm
Friday October 29, 8pm
Saturday October 30, 2pm & 8pm

Tickets:

Adults \$35.00
Concessions \$30.00
Groups of 10 or more \$25.00
Children \$25.00

Andrew Leigh (1990)

On 24 April 2010, Andrew was selected as the Australian Labour Party's candidate for the Australian federal seat of Fraser following the announced retirement of Bob McMullan. Fraser is a safe Labour seat. Leigh was subsequently elected in the Australian federal election held on 21 August 2010.

Andrew's early years of education were in Melbourne, Malaysia and Indonesia, before receiving secondary education at James Ruse Agricultural High School in Sydney, New South Wales. Andrew holds a BA(Hons) and LLB(Hons) from the University of Sydney, and an MPA and PhD from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has published over 50 journal articles in the disciplines of economics, public policy and law, and over 100 opinion pieces. His research findings have been discussed in The Australian, The Australian Financial Review, Christian Science Monitor, The Economist, New York Times, The Sydney Morning Herald, Time Magazine, Wall Street Journal and Washington Post.

Andrew's current research is in the fields of labour economics, public finance, and political economy. He has previously worked as a lawyer for Minter Ellison (Sydney) and Clifford Chance (London), and as Associate to Justice Michael Kirby of the High Court of Australia. He has also worked as a research officer for the British Labour Party, as senior trade adviser to the Australian Labour Party, and as a research fellow with the Progressive Policy Institute (Washington DC). In 2009, he was promoted to a professor at the Australian National University.

He has published three books and over fifty journal articles. Andrew is also a regular columnist for the Australian Financial Review.

Andrew lives in Hackett with his wife Gweneth and their sons Sebastian and Theodore.

(Andrew mentioned to David Heffernan (ex staff member) that **Antony Green**, the ABCs political guru, attended James Ruse, graduating in 1977.

VALE Adam Harvey (1995).

Adam Harvey passed away last month. His death was due to melanoma.

David Fung (2001)

David will be back in Australia to perform with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, some solo recitals in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne during their period of the 10-30th March, 2011.

In the past 5 months he has returned from 3 concerts with the Israel Camerata Orchestra in Tel Aviv, performing a cycle of Mozart Concertos with them, and performed a 12 concert tour of chamber music in the San Francisco Bay area with Music@Menlo. He also performed solo recitals in Spain, Italy, France and Brazil. Along with lectures and masterclasses at a National Piano Mastercourse in Italy, at the National Gallery of the Arts in Bitonto, Puglia.

Magdalena Roze (1999)

Magdalena was guest of honour at our Awards Day this year and gave an inspirational speech.

After graduating from James Ruse Agricultural Highschool, Magdalena pursued her passion for journalism and the media by studying a Bachelor of Arts in Media and Communication, for which she was awarded a scholarship by Sydney

University. During an internship at Channel Nine in her final year, Magdalena was offered a job as a Researcher on travel show "Sydney Getaway." Producing programmes about exotic travel locations inspired Magdalena to pack her bags and experience the world herself. While travelling through London, an exciting opportunity presented itself at the BBC in London. Magdalena ended up working on travel shows and documentaries in the UK for 2 years before returning to Australia where she continued to research and produce television programmes including "Uncharted Territory" and "20 to 1." Magdalena then made the transition from Producer to Presenter. Her passion for travel, wealth of television experience and journalistic skills, lead to her being offered the highly coveted Television Reporter role on the National Geographic Channel in Australia and New Zealand. Magdalena is now a Weather Presenter on Foxtel's Weather Channel, where she gets up at 3.30am each day to present the weather to Australians every morning from Monday to Friday. Always driven to be the very best she can in every role, Magdalena decided to undertake a Graduate Diploma in Atmospheric Science at Macquarie University whilst working full time at The Weather Channel in order to become a qualified Meteorologist. Magdalena graduated this year with straight High Distinctions and was awarded the Biophysical Environments Prize and the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society Atmospheric Science Prize for her academic achievements. She is regularly called upon popular news programmes including Sunrise and The Today Show for her weather expertise and presents the weekend weather for Channel Ten's National Morning News every Friday. She is also the weather presenter for dozens of radio stations around Australia including 2GB Sydney. The highlight of her career so far was accepting the award for Best News Coverage at the ASTRA Awards, the Logies of pay Television, for her coverage of Victoria's Black Saturday bushfires. Amongst all of this, Magdalena hasn't neglected her passion to travel- she has travelled extensively through New Zealand and the Australian outback, Europe, Asia, South America (including the Galapagos Islands), the Middle East and she just returned from a 3 week holiday in Cuba.