



GESTA NON VERBA

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Hello again everyone.

As another year draws to a close it always amazes me how fast each year flies by, a thought which is usually triggered at the back end of each year by the first news reports of year 12 "about to commence their HSC". Is it just me or does the first mentions of the HSC about to commence seem to happen earlier and earlier every year? And for those of my era, did I happen to see Paul Hardage, English teacher of some years ago at Ruse, interviewed on channel 10 news commenting on the first English HSC paper.... A blast from the past!

Anyway, I am sure that the JRAHS 2010 year 12 alumni are now enjoying some breathing space before the pre-Christmas delivery of HSC results and the need to decide what's next on their life journeys whereupon, also, we will welcome them into our "Old Boys Union".

Speaking about "life's journeys" came into full perspective at a speech I had the privilege to hear this week from Mr Graeme Innes, Australia's Disability Discrimination Commissioner and Race Discrimination Commissioner, a man blind from birth who has fought all his life, firstly as a lawyer and in his current role, for a "fair go" for those in our communities who have not been treated as equals in society. A man of great passion, humour and love for his country and its people but a healthy scepticism for politicians it was apparent from his presentation!

I cannot conclude without wishing Robin Legge all the best in her retirement which commenced at the end of term 3 with thanks on behalf of the Union for her passionate work in assisting the alumni of school to *Stay In Touch* over so many years.

So, until 2011, may I wish you and your families a happy and healthy conclusion to 2010 and all that you may wish for in 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)

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is the end of another wonderful year at Ruse!

ENCORE Congratulations to Angel Fu who has been nominated for possible inclusion in Encore for her HSC piano recital. Encore is a selection of exemplary performances and compositions from HSC Music students, and is held in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House on Monday 7 February 2011.

2011 UNSW Academic Achievement Award Congratulations to Wallace Chow who has been nominated for this award.

AMC medals Congratulations to the following students for being awarded an Australian Mathematics Competition Medal: Junior Division - Charley Jin (7), Kevin Shi (8); Senior Division - Raveen De Silva (12), Stacey Law (12) and Sampson Wong (12).

Duke of Edinburgh Awards Congratulations to the following students on achieving their Duke of Edinburgh Awards: Silver - Romesh Rajaratnam; Bronze - Ling Lee, Lucy Wang, Dennis Nguyen, Hari Sritharan, Timothy Le, Steven Xu.

Ruse ID Thirty of our students participated in a successful training day with Mr Woo last term, as they improved their skills in building, growing and managing our Intranet. Many ideas were

RSL Australia My Country Competition. Congratulations to Kuhan Perumynar who has achieved a Merit Certificate for an entry in the Poetry Year 7 - 8 section.

Cabaret Night. Held this term, this was a wonderful showcasing of our musical talent. The numerous solo singing items were enjoyable. The dance items were amazing. Highlights for me included: the intermediate band and *Abrington Ridge Overture*; the percussion ensemble's *Tahiti*; the junior band's *Time Traveler*; the Year 10 vocal ensemble singing *Walking on Sunshine*; the Year 11 ensemble singing *Umbrella*; the stage band's *Sway* and *Save the Last Dance for Me* - (the vocals were amazing!); the senior band's *Mussorgsky* and *St Louis Blues*; and the final number, the Jazz Ensemble's rendition of *Hallelujah*. Congratulations to all our performers.

Order of Australia Commendation. Congratulations to Shi-Ling Kou, whose service to the community has resulted in the award of a Certificate of Commendation. This award is given to only 21 students from NSW secondary schools. An inscribed medallion was presented to these students by Her Excellency the Governor, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO at Government House on Wednesday 24 November.

Australian Junior Table Tennis Championships After seven days of non-stop tournament, Erny Tsao finished competing in the 2010 Australian Junior Championships in Gold Coast on Saturday the 2nd of October. He won 2 gold medals and 1 Bronze at the Championships, as follows: Gold in U15 Boys Team; Gold in U18 Mixed Doubles; Bronze in U15 Boys Singles. Erny had been doing very well in the U15 Boys Teams event and won almost all matches (except 2 out of 24). He took out the Number 1 position in the U15 Boys Top 10 National Tournament Order of Merit, and received the 2010 Australian Junior Championships U15 Boys Best Player Award.

In the U15 Boys Singles, as the top New Zealand boys had come over, he just lost to number 1 seed in the semi and managed to get a Bronze. In the U18 Mixed Doubles it was a surprise result. Partnering a 16-year old fellow state (NSW) girl and being un-seeded and aged 14, Erny won six matches in a row, beating the top seeds to win the Doubles' gold. He is the youngest boy from NSW ever to win the National U18 Mixed Doubles title. Congratulations Erny.

Ruse cottage. The renovations have been completed. Thanks to Mr Kerr, the cottage rooms at the back have now been painted. It will soon be used (this term) for some of our parent meetings and other functions. This is now a wonderful new resource for our school community.

Drama news Alexandra Au in year 10 sent a copy of her Drama script to Paul Viles to audition for the Scriptwriting Ensemble. She had an interview last Tuesday and was offered a place. Only 14 students make up this ensemble. They will write scripts and these will be performed next year. This is great news. This will also be useful research into scriptwriting for Year 12 when Alexandra Au selects Extension 2 English. Congratulations on the initiative and on the result!

Debating success Congratulations to our Year 7 debating team - Edwina Kuang, Brendan Ma, Stephanie Wu and Samuel Chu, who have not yet lost any of their debates. After defeating Colo HS, they are now Regional finalists.

Year 9 tables There was a wonderful display of tables in the Library this term. These tables, of solid jarrah, were produced by students of year 9 Design and Technology. They are of an amazingly high standard.

World Vision 40 Hour Famine The school has sent a cheque for more than \$5000 to World Vision.

Australian Informatics Olympiad Congratulations to the following students who have been invited to this year's Informatics School of Excellence in Canberra from 1 to 11 December: Kevin Shi (8), Joshua Lau (9), Michael Su (10), and Leo Huang (10).

Australian Mathematics Olympiad Congratulations to the following students who have been selected for the AMOC Mathematics School of Excellence at Melbourne University from 6 - 15 December: Rachel Wong (9), Victor Khou (10) and Brian Gao (10).

Australian Science Olympiads Congratulations to the following students who have been invited to attend the Australian Science Olympiad Summer School following their outstanding performance in these exams: Jim Ng (10) Biology; Tahsin Ali (10) Chemistry; Michelle Poon (11) Chemistry; Richard Yuen (11) Chemistry; William Fang (11) Chemistry; Jinghang Luo (11) Physics; Dennis Nguyen (11) Physics.

Games Afternoon The whole school got together for a marvellous afternoon of Harry Potter inspired games for recess to the end of lunch this term. The prefects organised an amazing array of food and very clever and different games. The houses have been competing for points each week, awarded for classroom work and other activities by teachers. It was good to see the students and staff dress up in costume. Thank you to the prefects for their ideas, organisation and making it happen in such high spirits!

Chess competition Congratulations to our chess team. They have lots of stamina. On one Friday night Joshua Lau, Austin Shen, Suraj Ashok and Mark Lin tied their games against North Sydney Boys HS in the state semi-finals and at 4.30pm had to start another round. After two games it was still a draw. Unfortunately we were beaten at the very end, with the games finishing at 6.45pm.

Sydney West School Sports Association Recognition Congratulations to Lorraine Li who is receiving a Regional Sports Award for outstanding achievement in tennis on 7 December at the Presentation Evening and Dinner At Rooty Hill RSL.

Australian Junior Wushu (Martial Arts) Competition Congratulations to Linly Wang (10) who is representing Australia in this competition in Singapore from 2 - 10 December.

Year 9 Drama Performances It was a pleasure to watch Year 9 Drama performing a range of creation stories from Greek mythology and the Aboriginal Dreaming to Year 1 students at Carlingford West PS. Our students had researched the cognitive development of Year 1 students and had aligned their performances in terms of plot, vocabulary, song, dance and interaction.

Student Leadership Program. This program concluded for 65 Year 10 students this term, with the final three group presentations. Students were fortunate to hear from Theresa Dinh, an ex-school captain, before enjoying their afternoon tea.

Malcolm Chaikin Foundation Scholarship finalists Congratulations to Wallace Chow, Yash Kumar and Angela Ng who have been shortlisted for the Malcolm Chaikin Foundation Scholarship, with an annual allowance of \$15000 for four years. On 26 November these students will be presented with a certificate for being shortlisted, and the winner will be announced. This is an outstanding academic achievement.

Princeton University Freshman First Honour Prize Congratulations to Irene Lo (2008) who has been awarded this prize for the class of 2013 at Princeton University. This prize recognises exceptional achievement in the academic work of the freshman year and was presented to Irene on 12 September. Because this is an honour for our school as well, the university has presented us with a cheque for \$350 for the library in honour of Irene's outstanding achievement.

NSW Premier's Student Volunteering Awards Education Scholarship Congratulations to Sing-Young for her success in being chosen as a regional finalist in the NSW Premier's Student Volunteering Awards Education Scholarship. Her application now goes to a State panel for consideration, where ten scholarship winners will be announced. The calibre of all our students who entered was impressive

Voices of the Future Youth Ambassador Program Victoria Hu has returned with wonderful memories of her encounters with leaders of the world. She was the youngest of six young people from Australia. Here is an extract from her full report:

Saturday was the big day. Mr Barack Obama- President of the United States was going to speak about the Role of the US in Asia Pacific. Although it was obvious the mid-term elections had gotten to him he still had the power to uplift the entire conference room with his presence. It was just an honour to be in the same room as him let alone hear him speak live! Straight after President Obama was Ms Julia Gillard- Prime Minister of Australia, she spoke with a panel of 5 speakers on the topic of Innovation and ICT focusing her speech mostly on domestic affairs such as the National Broadband Scheme back home in Australia. This morning had a huge line up with Mr Hu Jintao- President of the People's Republic of China speaking after lunch break. He spoke on the emerging markets in Asia Pacific and we were able to listen through live translation. Other notable speakers were Mr Lee Hsien Loong- Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and Mr Felipe Calderon Hinojosa- President of the United Mexican States. It was also a pleasure to meet Mark Johnson a fellow Sydney-sider and Chairman of AGL Energy and op for a photo. The rest of the day was ours to wander the streets of Yokohama and do some souvenir shopping. After a long day, there was a closing ceremony dinner at the famous Chinatown in Yokohama and a cultural night was held back in the hotel where each economy offered something iconic from their country.

Overall, being part of the Voices of the Future Youth Ambassador Program really has been a life changing experience for me. It has opened doors for new opportunities and taught me so much about life away from school and the real world. The friendships formed and memories cherished will remain for me as well as fuel my further endeavours into programs and conferences involving youth leadership.

Bill Ballantyne and Mary Billing retire at the end of 2010 in reality, though not officially. They have given most of their lives to the service of young people at James Ruse. They will be sent off with bare foot bowls at Carlingford Bowling club on Friday night.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you.

Larissa Treskin

FARM REPORT

Hello all ex Ruse students. It took 17000 km of travel around Australia on my Long Service Leave, for me to realise just what great soil and climate we enjoy at Ruse. -There is a lot of sand between towns in WA and the winter temperatures in the NT didn't warrant another layer of clothing. It was a revelation to see canola and /or wheat as far as the eye could see in places - with the only trees dead and standing in a salt encrusted lake beside the roadside. Not everywhere, I must add. We saw some great cattle in the Channel country of outback Queensland, and lots of Chia growing in the irrigated land of Kununnurra.

Ruse farm is experiencing a brilliant season, with plentiful grass, very contented cows and sheep and rampant weeds winning the battle against the vegetables in the student plots.

Pastures seem to be a darker green this year -no doubt as a result of the soil testing and re-mineralising, that was done a year ago. We should also see a greater variety of grazing species appear, and less fireweed as a response to the more neutral soil conditions.

This year we leased a bull from Sweven Angus Stud at Cattai to service our cows, and discovered that the manager's wife, Kellie McConnolly 1988 is ex Ruse girl. Calves are expected March- April next year.

It seems that the 'Large Animal Handling 'experience that is on offer to year 12 prospective Veterinary Science students on Wednesday afternoons, has paid off for at least one student- Richard Niall has begun studying Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney.(Remember Richard you should never ever give a person 2 x day old chickens as a gift, no matter how cute they look when you buy them!)

The bee hives have been re-sited to an area on the farm with less student traffic, but are still efficiently cared for by the Parramatta Amateur Beekeeper's Association, who meet monthly in the Farm Classroom. This Association not only looks after our hives, but also shows our honey at Castle Hill show, supplies wax for our Rural Youth to show and has donated two Practical Agriculture Initiative Awards for students.

The 'Bee Garden' is blossoming with the Buddleia, nasturtiums and white clover providing spring flowers for bees and other insects.

The Prefects' Zoo Food Garden in the North East side of the farm along side Jenkins Road has recovered from the extremely cold and frosty winter this year, and the bananas and Mulberry trees are growing rapidly. In consultation with Taronga Zoo, we are growing plants that will be used to feed the zoo animals.

We occasionally have Old Boys and Girls visit the Farm and some even bring their children to visit. Your High School and the friends you made there are special- Please, feel welcome to come and revisit the School Farm.

Gail Roberts.

Agriculture Teacher, Farm Manager..

ALUMNI CADET DINNER

On Friday 26th November, 60 people met at the Carlingford Bowling Club for a fitting celebration of 50 years of Army Cadets at James Ruse. Included in the gathering were former cadets from every decade, one being **Richard Henry**, the first Cadet Under Officer (1960), former and present Officers of Cadets, Friends of the Unit and Adult Supervisors who have helped the Unit stage its lengthy Annual Camp hike each December.

Grace was led by Rev. **Andrew Sempel**, for many years an Army Chaplain. Major (AAC) **John Dale** and his wife, Jan, travelled from Queensland for the occasion and John was the main speaker; he served the Unit for many years during the 70s and 80s as its Officer Commanding. Other speakers included Major (AAC) Ian Cavanagh, representing Lieutenant Colonel David Major, Commanding Officer of Cadet Headquarters NSW, Major General **Mark Kelly**, now Repatriation Commissioner; Flight Lieutenant **Christopher Baker**, based at Williamtown NSW; and **Catriona Noble (nee Hinton)**, a former CUO of the Unit and presently CEO of McDonald's Australia. An email with an apology and congratulatory message from the present Officer Commanding - Lieutenant Colonel **Paul Byleveld** was read by Lieutenant, Bruce McFadyen (AAC). Lieutenant Colonel Paul Byleveld is currently serving with the Red Cross in Pakistan.

Many friendships were renewed and there was no shortage of stores and laughter over the meal and well into the evening. The event was accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation of photographs from the Unit's history, including a memorable image of the school's founding Headmaster, James C. Hoskin, displaying his skills on the school rifle range.



Peter Ballantyne ('00), James Groves ('00) & Chris Baker ('01)



Mark Kelly ('74)



John Skinner & Alan Best



John Dale

DAVID FUNG (2001)

Pianist, **David Fung** will briefly return to Australia from his doctoral studies at Yale University for a series of concerts in March-April, 2011.

The school is delighted that one of these will be a Recital in the M.A. Canty Lecture Theatre, at 7pm on Wednesday 6th April. Tickets will be essential and the numbers are limited to 180. They will go on sale at the start of the 2011 school year (from Monday 31 January) through the school Accounts Office. Tickets: \$15.

You may contact the Accounts Office, in the new year, by phoning the school on 9871 7126.

David will also conduct a Masterclass for Elective Music Students.

Wishing you all a safe & Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2011.

Robin Legge