



GESTA NON VERBA

ISSUE 1 – 23rd March 2011

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Next Issues: 22nd June
14th September
7th December

PRESIDENTS NOTES.

Hello again everyone.

Welcome to the James Ruse “old boys club” to the Class of 2010 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 2011 so good luck and best wishes in all your endeavours 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, if only for a short time.

Like me, I am sure you were all shocked and horrified by the recent events in Queensland, Christchurch and Japan. But, at once, uplifted by the human spirit, irrespective of nationality, to deal with tragedy help each other despite the odds and slowly see enough of a future to slowly start to move forward again. The work of rescue and recovery teams, volunteers has been phenomenal and serves as a reminder that we are, in the end, all in this together.

My thoughts are with the residents of these regions and hope that they eventually can see the way forward and that if any of our Old Boys and Girls were affected, directly or indirectly, that they are all safe.

“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

The year began with students concerned about the plight of others. All fund raising efforts, including Valentine’s Day celebrations, have gone to flood victims in Australia and earthquake victims in New Zealand.

Maroon for a Day All of us have been shocked and moved by the devastation caused by the Queensland floods. Along with hundreds of other schools around NSW, our students wanted to lend a hand. So, on Thursday 17 February, we participated in Maroon for a Day. All the money collected went towards assisting Queensland public schools affected by the floods. The floods damaged more than 90 Queensland public schools. Six TAFE institutes and more than 80 government child care centres have also been affected.

Retirement of Mr Ray Lees Thank you to Mr Lees for teaching students at James Ruse AHS for the 35 years. He has worked with five principals, scores of teachers and thousands of students. He leaves a strong legacy at the school, especially in economics. We wish Mr Lees all the best in the next stage of his life. The process to appoint a new Head Teacher has begun. We should know the result before the end of term.

Promotion of Ms Kerrie Wratten Congratulations to Ms Wratten, who has been appointed via a merit selection process to the position of principal of Hurlstone Agricultural College.

New Deputy Principal Congratulations to Ms Annetta St Louis, who has been appointed our new deputy principal. Ms St Louis's view is that every day at James Ruse is magic and is looking forward to starting her new role in Term 2. We will start the process to fill the HT English vacancy in Term 2.

Welcome to new staff In English we have Ms Sree Ragendra, Ms Emily Yong, Ms Margie Birbara . In Science we have Mr Peter Robbison and Mr Lou Biali. In Visual Arts we have Ms Narelle Kathryn. In HSIE we have Mr Nathan Drayson and Mr John Dunkerley. In Agriculture we have Mr Greg Bruce.

Welcome to new instrumental staff We are very fortunate to welcome the following instrumental staff to support our band program; Mr Jon Collins (percussion); Mr Ed Diefes (Tuba); Mr Anthony Grimm (Bassoon); Mr Nathan Henshaw (saxophone/clarinet); Mr John Lewis (clarinet/saxophone); Ms Noelene Neidek (oboe); Ms Lisa Osmialowski (flute); Ms Christine Pringle (French horn); Ms Elena Suuronen (trombone/euphonium) and Mr Adam Tompkins (trumpet). They are all outstanding musicians and instrumental teachers. Our students are very fortunate.

Congratulations to Mr Patrick Wong Mr Wong was successful in winning a place in a wonderful music program, the Centre for Musical Excellence Winter Piano Festival Academy in New York, with Watchung Arts Center (NJ), Rutgers University (NJ) & Steinway Hall (NY). He studied with teachers from Juilliard and Manhattan Music School in lessons, master classes and recitals for two weeks. This was an internationally competitive process with only 12 successful applicants. This was an amazing experience for Mr Wong. We look forward to him sharing all he learned with his students.

Welcome to New Year 11 students Ms Connors, Ms McMillan and I had lunch with our new Year 11 students over several lunchtimes. It was interesting to talk to them about their expectations, their challenges and their dreams. Our year 11 newbies 2010 have organised a buddy system to support these students in their first year at our school.

NSW Music representation Congratulations to Sheree Nguyen, who has been chosen for the NSW String Sinfonia **Musical** This year's musical will be *The Boyfriend* by Sandy Wilson, a musical comedy set in the 1920s. Rehearsals have commenced.

Parent meetings At the Community of James Ruse meeting this term and at the Mothers' club meeting Ms Connors reported on the HSC results, 2010, where the students both raised the bar (12 students with a top ATAR of 99.95; 74% of results over 90 ie a Band 6) and closed the gap between our top and lowest ATAR's! At the Mother's Club, Shi Ling Kou, one of our top achievers, described her goal achievement strategies and gave suggestions for parental support. Again, it was good to talk to parents, and to be able to answer questions. Our strength lies in the way parents and the school work together.

Tuesday 8 March was International Women's day. It was the 100th anniversary of the first IWD celebration. International Women's Day (IWD) is a global event that celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. We focused on a range of classroom activities to mark the event, as well as participating in a range of external events such as Women in Science at Macquarie University, Women in Film at Parliament House and the UNIFEM IWD breakfast. Alexandra Au won the IWD speaking competition run by Baulkham Hill Council.

Premier's reception. Ms Mcmillan attended Parliament House on 8 March with Charmaine Lo, winner of the IWD poster, where Charmaine received her prize money (\$500) and that of the school (\$1000). They were in demand for photographs, and for conversations with the politicians. The press were interested in Charmaine saying her prize money would go to help fund her school Cambodian trip, where she would be working with our other students and teachers at the Shades for Aids orphanage. The school prize money will be put towards International Women's Day celebrations next year.

AMOC Mathematics Olympiad Selection School Congratulations to Nancy Fu (11), Victor Khou(11), Rachel Wong (10) and Jonathan Zheng (10) who have been invited to the selection school from 10 – 19 April at Macquarie. They will be competing for a place in the six member team to compete in Amsterdam in July.

Computational Linguistics Congratulations to all of our seven teams who participated in the State finals. Two of our teams gained second and third place, and so will compete in the nationals. The winning team came from North Sydney GHS. Whichever team wins get to compete in Los Angeles. Well done to Benn Zhu, Monica Tay, Carmen Cheng, Bonita Gu (second) and to Kynan Ngai, Leo Huang, Kenneth Hui and Alice Li. All these students will now compete for the national title on 30 March.

Global Student Challenge A James Ruse AHS team (WJB) has been identified as one of 30 finalists in the Global Student Challenge conducted by the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong. Congratulations to Beryl Lin, William Lin and

Johnny Huang, who will be off to Hong Kong for the week of 11 – 17 June 2011 to compete in the final stages of the competition.

Informatics Olympiad School Congratulations to Leo Huang (11), Joshua Lau (10), and Evgeny Martynov (12) who have been accepted into the Informatics Training school from 10 – 20 April at Macquarie Uni.

Australian Mathematical Olympiad: Congratulations to the following students.

Gold Certificate: Nancy Fu

Silver Certificate: Victor Khou, Rachel Wong, Allan Zhang.

Bronze Certificate: Brian Gao, Chris Gu, Jonathan Zheng, Kevin Guo

Invited participants: Babitha Selvananthan, Justin Wang, Karen Gong, Richard Kim, Ben Nam., Kevin Shi, Patrick Oh, Patrick Song, Yang Song, Wilson Liu, Vivian Qin, Allan Lin, Judy Xu.

UWS Scholarships Congratulations to Abishana Gnaneswaran and Romesh Rajaratnam (from Year 12 2010) who have both been awarded one of the five UWS Vice Chancellor's Leadership Scholarships and the Aspire Future leaders program, valued at up to \$50000.

Dobell School Congratulations to Lena Li (who last year participated in the Digital Masterclass at UWS) and Eunice Lim. Both of their applications to the Dobell School at the National Art School have been successful.

2011 Australian Junior Championships Congratulations to Mudith Jayadekara (9) who has qualified for the NSW Athletics Team at the Olympic Athletic Centre from 10 – 14 March. Mudith will be competing on the U16 100 m sprint on 14 March. He won a bronze medal in the NSW All Schools 2010 U14 100m sprint.

International Table Tennis Congratulations to Erny Tsao who will represent Australia in Guam from 18th to 25th of April 2011 in the Oceania Cadet (U15) Boys Challenge and the Guam GJC (Global Junior Circuit) - Cadet (U15) Boys Team. Erny has competed in the NSW Youth (U21) Table Tennis Closed Championships. The Championships is a NSW State Youth (U21) qualifying tournament. Erny has won 3 Medals as follows: two silver medals in U21 Men's Singles and U21 Men's Doubles; and a gold Medal in U21 Mixed Doubles. Erny will probably represent NSW to play in the Australian Youth Championships in June this year.

2011 National Junior Table Tennis Congratulations to Sarah Tan (8k) who has been selected in the 2011 National Junior Table Tennis Squad. She has been selected to represent Australia at the upcoming world Junior Circuit event due to be held in Dededo, Guam, from 18 – 25 April 2011. She is in the U/15 Girls team.

Fresh Ink Young Writers Ensemble Congratulations to Alexandra Au of Year 11 who has successfully auditioned for this ensemble. The ensemble is a select group of gifted and talented writers from Year 10, 11 and 12 who meet once a week on Tuesdays (5.00 – 700pm) at the Australian Theatre for Young People at Walsh Bay throughout the school year. Alexandra is involved in a range of skills development workshops with specialist tutors from the performing arts industry. This will lead to a presentation of rehearsed readings from her work to be presented in June 2011.

Value –adding and MySchool Despite my trying to explain to some journalists that NAPLAN is a very blunt instrument, some still don't get it. NAPLAN was not structured to differentiate growth for the top 3 %. Our students are achieving at the very top end in Year 7; they again achieve at the very top end in Year 9. A different type of test would be able to measure this growth. We have our own tests that measure this growth. However, NAPLAN does not have questions that can show this growth, so growth is not shown on the website. All that is shown is that our students achieved the best in the country. Congratulations to Year 8 and 10, and to all our teachers.

From its inception NAPLAN has not been able to discriminate at the top end. For selective schools, it is not a very useful measure to demonstrate either value adding, or for targeting students who need extra support. The media makes much of it, but selective high school principals have seen presentations from the Educational Measurement Directorate that the results have little validity for us.

Larissa Treskin

FARM NEWS.

Hello all, while the floods and disasters of the world and floods and cyclones have affected parts of Australia, **the weather on James Ruse Farm is relatively "normal"**. We are waiting for decent rain, so student plots are pretty bare and the stock are eating very dry pasture. Cannot complain however, as we have a shed full of hay as a back-up.

We have **5 lovely calves**, all born within 10 days of each other, thanks to the virile bull we leased last year from Sweven Stud. The exercise was such a success that we have arranged to do the same again this year.

The relocation of the bee hives to the Bottom Lane Paddock is working well- no more stings to students, though it is a little less convenient for the Parramatta Amateur Beekkeepers' Association when they want to inspect or work the hives. I have recently joined the above Association, and have met some lovely, friendly, knowledgeable people from all walks of life who are into beekeeping. They will have a stall at the forthcoming Castle Hill Show and I am sure if you are interested, you will be welcome at their meetings, which are held, in my teaching room on the JR farm- You may recognize it as

Room 24 or more recently as F1.1. Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month. If you would like more information, the Secretary is Dave Wilson, 94842596.

Animal Handling Experience for prospective Veterinary students is well under way on Wednesday afternoons. So far they have gained skills with cattle- use of the crush, drenching, milking, drafting, and experienced tattooing, ear tagging and rectal palpation which was, I believe, the most memorable experience of all. We move onto sheep work, and in the new term they meet Abbey the Australian Stock Horse for equine adventures.

I am nearing the end of an **Holistic Management Course** (A Framework for Decision Making) which is being run by TAFE Western at Wingham. It is based on the book Holistic Management by Alan Savory, who is the creator of Holistic Management International. His method of making decisions holistically is permeating the world, both in the Agricultural field and for people in every day decision making. The course has given me positive direction in both my private life and the means to make more Holistically aligned decisions for the Farm.

All the best to everyone,

Gail Roberts

Ag Teacher and Farm Manager

EX STUDENTS WEBSITE.

We need someone to administer the Ex Students Website. If you know of anyone who could help, or a couple of people, please let me know.

Thanks, Robin

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. There are still a few tickets available through the school Accounts Office for \$15.

You may contact the Accounts Office by phoning the school on 9871 7126.

I received the following email from **Brett Jacobs (1972)**. If anyone can be of assistance to Brett please contact me at robinlegge@yahoo.com.

My name is Brett Jacobs and I am a graduate of James Ruse of 1972. Could you help me with finding a contact at James Ruse.

I am now working in Paris and I have received an enquiry about a young French agriculture student from the Somme region who has been highly recommended to us by Jules Laude, Mayor of Bullecourt. Alexis FICHEUX is in his second year at Ag. school in Rouen and is seeking an internship (non-remunerated) in Australia as part of his degree. Alexis would like to work on a farm for a two month period (June-July 2011). His parents are farmers and he has also worked on a property in Canada. His preference is to work with bovines.

Many thanks and warm regards,

Brett

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FRANCE

DAVID B KIDD – 1961 to 1965

I have very fond memories of my days at James Ruse and the disciplines that embodied this unique School, when in those days having to write a letter to the Principal (Mr James Hoskins) and in turn the Dept of Education, providing our reasons for acceptance to attend this school along with a reference from our Primary School Principal.

This was in the early days of J.R. and the school had recently relocated from Carlingford Rural School, then located on the hill above Carlingford. In 1961 the school consisted of some 350 students, about a quarter of this was the entrance year of 1961 enrolment. The school offered young city students the opportunity to study Agriculture at secondary level (the curriculum was lead and developed by a father of one of my fellow students at the time), and provided what previously was only available at Hurlstone, Yanco and Farrer Agricultural High Schools, other than a handful of NSW country high schools, for predominantly country students. That being said, there were some country students attending JR at that time living with relatives in Sydney to attend the school.

Our Principal, Mr J Hoskins, was considered at the time one of the most respected and influential headmasters in N.S.W., and as a result took the school to become one of the state's leading high schools at the time and the rest is history, to the academic level and beyond. During this developmental period of J.R. we had regular sporting events between the other three Agricultural High Schools within the state and had an outstanding record with our sporting achievements in Athletics, Swimming, Rugby Union, Tennis and Cricket at the CHS representative level.

The school along with the total support of the headmaster and staff introduced Drama (which at the time was not considered an agricultural pursuit or preferred discipline.....by some!!!), nonetheless commenced the start of many Gilbert and Sullivan and other dramatic plays (no girls at JR then and had to make do with what we had for the female roles). The school also initiated an active Junior Farmers Club, the first Interact Club (junior Rotary) in Sydney, and the J.R. Cadet Unit. I am sure the diversity of the school, discipline, respect and leadership that was engendered during those years has remained with us all and has provided a sound platform for our lives along with the "ups and downs" I'm sure we have all experienced.

On leaving J.R., I joined a major Feed and Flour Milling group in Sydney and left the city with my wife and family (son), to manage a smaller rural venture in the same industry at Dubbo, then later to the NSW north west at Carroona Feedlot,(Quirindi) for some 10 years, Moree with a multi- national oilseed processor including a short stint back in Sydney, then back to the bush at Wallabadah (near Quirindi) where we had a small grazing property, educated our 3 boys (Farrer Ag High) and our daughter (Calrossy) and started a Grain Trading business, then, hence refer to my earlier mention of "ups and downs", and survived the "downs", with my family, whom now, all live in rural NSW with their wives/husband and families.

I have lived in Saudi Arabia for the past 4 years with my wife and work for a Saudi Business consortium as the Operations Director, running an Oilseeds Crushing Plant on the Red Sea, about 350kms north west of Jeddah. This has been one of my most interesting challenges of my career, both culturally and professionally, and about to embark on further project developments that are nothing short of amazing. I get back to Oz for a month, three times a year and enjoy what I believe is the best place on the planet, to visit family and friends (incl. some of the J.R. ex students occasionally).

I have attended a number of J.R. ex students reunions over the years and look forward to attending many more (god willing.....we are all looking at 60 in the rear view mirror now), to enjoy the company of the class of '65 and others, differing from the physical standpoint, our personalities don't change.

GESTA NON VERBA

Manik Mayadunne (2006)

My band is a 6-piece jazz/indie rock/funk band by the name of **Room 6**. I play guitar and sing, Jonathan Nguyen (another ex-Russian from 2006) plays keyboard, and we have drums, bass guitar, trumpet and tenor saxophone to complete the line up. We've been playing our original music at various Sydney venues over the past few years, including the Manning Bar (Sydney Uni), Candy's Apartment (Kings Cross), the Lansdowne Hotel (Broadway), Cat and Fiddle Hotel (Balmain), the Arthouse Hotel (Pitt St, Sydney) and the Excelsior Hotel (Glebe), and won the University of Western Sydney Band Competition in 2008.

So that's a bit of a band bio. As for the upcoming gig:

What? Room 6 @ the Lair (Metro Theatre), supported by *Hey Big Aki*, *Gaps at Sea*, and *Our Monk*. *Hey Big Aki* has 4 ex-Rusians from 2004 in it - Dilhan Perera, Angela Hoang, Adam Keane and Maggy Wong, so it'll be a big Ruse show!

Where? Metro Theatre, George St, Sydney.

When? Saturday March 26th. 7:30pm start.

How much? \$11 presale, including booking fee. \$15 at the door. Tickets are available through the Metro website - <http://www.metrotheatre.com.au/events/2011/03/26/room-6-the-lair>.

More details: See www.metrotheatre.com.au/events/2011/03/26/room-6-the-lair or the facebook event www.facebook.com/home.php#!/event.php?eid=160579060652130

WISHING YOU ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY EASTER