



GESTA NON VERBA

ISSUE 2 – 22rd June 2011

Email address: jamesruse.union@bigpond.com.au or robinlegge@yahoo.com

Next Issues: 14th September
7th December

PRESIDENTS NOTES.

Hello again everyone.

A Facebook message popped up on my phone this week....”*one of your friends has a birthday this week.*” I am certainly by no means a Facebook freak; far too many other things going on to tell everyone about how many things I have going on! But this one struck a chord.

An ex '79 Old Boy was about to have their 50th. Now this seemed quite weird; a social media site telling me that someone I first met almost 38 years ago was about to pass into another demographic and only a couple of months before the National Census.....will need to tick another box this time around! And then I thought more about it.

1974, our first year at Ruse, a bunch of guys (yes, no girls as yet!) from 20 or so different primary schools, a mixture of short pants and long pants, all with shiny black shoes, grey felt farm hats that actually still looked like a hat, wide-eyed and close cut hair..... this would soon change !!

Fast forward to 1976, enter the first intake of girls, the boys (much) longer hair, Led Zepplin, Black Sabbath (oh, and some group called Abba) playing on the black plastic. Are you all still with me? The “Boss” (Mr Hoskin to everyone else) had many of us variously lined up in his office for haircuts, threatened but not given, and our “plumber’s shorts and Polish pigskin boots” and the felt hat looking very much worse for wear but just good enough for Monday morning general assembly. One of the leaders of these “fashion trends”, designed to impress the few girls now in our midst, was the aforementioned soon to be 50 year old. Happy birthday David McGarrity!

I will be catching up with a few '79ers this week for quiet ale and a bite to eat. Based on probability half of us will be 49, the other half already 50. Me, I'll stick to 49 and run with it for another couple of months then I'll have to “tick the next box.” But what does this all prove?

We, like every year that preceded us and have followed through Ruse have this unbreakable link to our collective past. No matter how long the gaps between get-togethers and no matter how many years pass, ignoring Facebook even exists, we will enjoy each other’s company for a few hours and we will tell the same school stories, which get more elaborate with each telling.

So.....”*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

A new term We began this term with a **new Deputy principal**, Ms Annetta St Louis, and a **new HT HSIE**, Mr Frank Federico (from Sefton HS). We also bid farewell to Mr Ian Lowcock, Head Teacher Administration, who was appointed as Deputy Principal at Epping Boys High School. Ian had been at James Ruse for a quarter of a century and will be missed.

Mathematics and Informatics Olympiads. Congratulations to Nancy Fu and Evgeny Martynov who will be representing Australia at the Maths Olympiad in Amsterdam, Netherlands and the Informatics Olympiad in Pattaya, Thailand, respectively.

Informatics Olympiad awards Only 39 students from Australia and New Zealand were invited to sit the 6th Australian Invitational Informatics Olympiad this year. Congratulations to the following: Silver: Evgeny Martynov, Joshua Lau; Bronze: Leo Huang, Michael Su; Invited participants: Kevin Shi, Daaron chi.

National Student Leadership Conference, UC Berkeley, San Francisco Congratulations to Ben Zhu and Johnny Wang, who will be representing the school at this conference in the United States in the July holidays.

CSIRO Minerals Downunder Flagship Award for Physics Congratulations to Angela Ng (class of 2010) who has been awarded an undergraduate scholarship at UNSW, the CSIRO Minerals Downunder Flagship Award for Physics. She receives \$3000/year for up to for four years.

University of Sydney Year 10 Academic Excellence Awards Congratulations to Shelley She who was successful in achieving one of these awards. Shelly received her certificate at a formal presentation evening for Academic Excellence Award recipient on Thursday 28 April at 5pm in the MacLaurin hall.

Debating Congratulations to our Year 12 team – Jessica Cook, Joanne Fan, Andrew Lee and Joanne Kim – for their win against Castle Hill HS at the end of last term. This team then went on to narrowly defeat our Year 11 team and are now the regional winners. Their next debate will be against a country school via our interactive video link. Year 10 students were successful in their debate against Cumberland High School. The topic was that 'Home schooling should be banned' and we were the negative. Congratulations to Ceci Yu, Frank Zou, Thanya Sriharan and Rhonda Ung. Year 9 students were successful in their debate against Arthur Phillip HS with the same topic and the same side. Congratulations to Sai Muralidaran, Abidev Kihasri, Karen Zheng and Richard Tong.

NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra has informed me that Lian Park, has qualified as a Semi-Finalist in the NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition (from a field of 114 musicians!) Lian performed on Saturday 30th April at Abbotsleigh.

International tournaments, Oceania Cadet Challenge, Global Junior Circuit and World Junior Table Tennis Championships Oceania After 8 days' in Mangilao, Guam, Erny Tsao proved himself to be the number 1 U15 boy in Australia, and probably the number 1 U15 boy in Oceania as well. In total Erny has won 1 Gold and 1 Silver Medals, and represented Australia in qualifying for entry to International tournaments to be held in Bahrain in November 2011. Erny was also the only Australian to reach the quarter final of the Junior Singles, after beating among other Juniors, a Korean top player and then a New Zealander, the 2010 No 1 U15 player in Oceania.

2011 Harmony Day Poster Competition Congratulations to Charmaine Lo who has been awarded a regional winner's prize in the 2011 Harmony Day Poster Competition. Prizes and certificates were presented to the regional winners and certificates to the runners up and highly commended students at the 2011 Harmony Day Poster and Songwriting Competitions prize giving at NSW Parliament House on Tuesday 14th June 2011. Over 6300 entries were received from 257 schools throughout NSW. Winning posters from previous competitions can be viewed on www.movingforwardtogether.com.au and this year's winning posters will be available on the website.

Red Shield Appeal Ninety seven students volunteered for the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal embodying the spirit of our school and raising over \$5000.

Musical What a wonderful event *The Boyfriend* was. Over three nights we had three magnificent performances. Our Regional Director, Mr David Phipps, and our School Education Director, Mr Peter Rowsell, attended. Thank you to all our student performers, singers, musicians, dancers, choreographers. Thank you to all the support crew in sound and lighting, stage design, set crew, hair and make up, ticketing and ushering. Thank you to Mr Best, Mr Wong and Mrs Ballantyne for the success of the production, and to all the staff who assisted prior to, and over the three nights. Thank you to all our parent helpers for supporting the students, feeding them and for all the help with costumes. We will all remember the high standards of this spectacular musical as an exceptional school community event!

International Essay Competition Winner Congratulations again to Charmaine Lo, who has been awarded the International Winner prize Grades 9 – 12, in the Radiant Peace Foundation International Peace Education competition for her essay on peace. There were other winners and place getters in the video and art sections,

and the younger grades, from the competition's home state of Florida, as well as from around the world. Charmaine has won \$75 for herself and \$150 for the school as well as the honour of being a winner!

Rising Generations Leadership camp Congratulations to Brian Gao and Vashavi Ganapathy, who will be attending this leadership camp in the July holidays.

Director General for a Day Two students, Delian Entchev and Sharon Mo have been nominated for this shadowing experience.

Parliament House Leadership program Congratulations to Leanne Qian and Albert Kartawardana, who will be attending this program.

Global Leadership convention, Sydney Olympic Park The following four students will be attending this convention organised by World Vision: Robyn Lu, Chelsea Valentin, Stephen Mansour and Michael Su.

Hong Kong excursion Johnny Huang, William Lin and Beryl Lin came 5th in an international business competition in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University's "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Student Challenge". This challenge requires students to put together a business plan exhibiting their creativity and business flair.

City2Surf We have a team running this year with Ms Yong.

Regional Shakespeare Festival Twenty five students competed in this festival at William Clarke College . The students achieved 1st place in photography, dance and movement, music and costume design. This means they now perform at the State Shakespeare Festival.

The school is been its usual hive of learning and activity. It does not slow down at the end of term. Prefect elections are in full swing. SRC week in the last week promises to be full of excitement, with events each recess and lunchtime.

I am attending the International Confederation of Principals conference in Toronto, Canada in August.

Larissa Treskin

FARM NEWS.

Last newsletter, I said we were **waiting for decent rain**, and now I am looking to turn it off! The farm is saturated and the wild sucks love it. The 5 calves have met their father, who has returned to the breeding herd for this term. A couple of **orphan lambs** from another school have been given to us, and they are creating a lot of interest and being bottle fed.

Produce from the farm: Apart from the vegetables out of the student plots, Rural Youth has been roasting and covering the **macadamia nuts** with chocolate, which they sell in the Quad. These are very popular amongst the staff and students and proceeds go towards sponsorship of a student in Tanzania to attend the School of St. Jude. The Washington Navel oranges have had two harvests, and feedback from the buyers is that they were very sweet. The Summer pumpkin crop has taken longer than normal to ripen and be harvestable. They have just been picked and will make some wonderful chicken and pumpkin soup.

Sharing the farm: Towards the end of term two, **Karonga Special School** from Epping will visit the James Ruse Farm. Their students walk around the farm and see the vegetables growing, and interact with some of the animals such as the sheep and chickens. A highlight for them is to pick some oranges from the trees to take back to school to process. They conclude their farm walkabout with lunch in the Barbecue hut and toasting marshmallows in the fire.

Senior students participating in the Animal Handling sessions on offer of a Wednesday afternoon have worked with Abbey, the Australian Stock Horse mare this term. I have been greatly impressed by their willingness to have a go at things which are quite challenging to city dwellers. They have learned to catch her in the paddock, halter and lead, tie up and groom her. Most have learned to pick up and clean out hooves, rug and bridle a horse as well. With some of the wild windy weather this term, they have also come to appreciate the effect of nature on the behaviour of animals.

My very best regards to you all,

Gail Roberts
Ag Teacher and Farm Manager

DAVID FUNG (2001)

Biography

Praised as having “undoubted talent” by the Los Angeles Times and described as being “impossibly virtuosic” by the Edinburgh Guide, young Australian pianist David Fung continues to impress audiences with his pure poetry, artistry, and elegance. Mr Fung has performed with leading orchestras around the globe, including the Israel Philharmonic, the Israel Camerata, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Melbourne Symphony, the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa of Japan, the Queensland Orchestra, the San Diego Symphony, and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. He has also been invited to give recitals at international festivals such as the Aspen Music Festival, Goslar Festival (Germany), Der Internationaler Klaviersommer (Germany), Music at Menlo, the Sarasota Music Festival, and the 2006 Edinburgh International Festival Queen’s Hall Series, where Mr Fung was acclaimed as being “prodigiously talented ... and probably (doing) ten more impossible things daily before breakfast,” by Jonas Green in the Edinburgh Guide.

Mr Fung has won coveted prizes at both national and international piano competitions. In 2008, Mr Fung was a top prize-winner at the 12th Arthur Rubinstein Piano International Masters Competition in Tel Aviv, where he was awarded the Prize for Best Classical Concerto, and Best Performance of Chamber Music. He won 2nd Prize and the Audience Prize in the 3rd Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition, and was the grand prize-winner of the 2002 ABC Symphony Australia Young Performer of the Year Award. In 2007, Mr Fung was honoured by the City of Los Angeles for his contribution to the cultural life of the city, and was recently named the recipient of the Charles S. Miller Prize awarded to an outstanding pianist by the Yale University.

After departing the University of New South Wales medical school in 2003, Mr Fung began studies at the Colburn Conservatory in Los Angeles with John Perry. In 2007, Fung became the first piano graduate of this prestigious school. Mr Fung holds a Bachelor of Music and Artist’s Diploma from the Colburn Conservatory, and a Master of Music at the Yale University. Mr Fung has also worked closely with world-class pianists such as Emanuel Ax, Boris Berman, Alfred Brendel, Yefim Bronfman, Leon Fleisher, Claude Frank, Peter Frankl, Andras Schiff, and Arie Vardi.

In addition to recording with NAXOS and ABC Classics, Mr Fung has recorded three albums with Yarlung Records. In 2005, his first U.S. album was released by Yarlung Records, which included works by Liszt and Ravel. His most recent solo release with Yarlung includes works by Schumann, Dun, Chopin, Scarlatti, and Mozart, and was praised as “an overall favourite” of the 2007 piano albums reviewed by James Harrington in the American Record Guide. He has recorded the complete violin and piano works of American composer, Lawrence Dillon, with violinist, Danielle Belen, which was released in 2011 on the NAXOS label. His album with Canadian ‘cellist, Elinor Frey, “Dialoghi”, can be heard on Linn Records.

Mr Fung has been featured in many radio and television programs by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Television and Radio (ABC), Sydney’s Special Broadcasting Services Television and Radio (SBS), the UK’s BBC 3, Radio Scotland, Aspen’s KAJX, Los Angeles’ K-Mozart and K-USC, the “Music of Friends” series with the Radio and Television Hong Kong (RTHK4), the Israel Broadcasting Authority, Israel’s “Voice of Music” radio station, MEZZO (Europe), and Cleveland’s WCLV.

Mr Fung’s fascination with other art forms has led him to explore relationships between visual art and music with audiences. He has presented music in tandem with exhibitions at numerous galleries and art spaces, including the Art Gallery of New South Wales. A champion of contemporary music, Mr Fung has premiered and recorded numerous new works of living composers, and has also performed with contemporary music ensembles such as *eighth blackbird* and New Music New Haven. A strong communicator, and an advocate for music education, Mr Fung presents a series of master classes and lecture-recitals at the Galleria Nazionale della Puglia in Italy, among others in the United States and Australia. In 2010, his lectures in Italy featured Schubert’s keyboard works, and the period practice of Mozart. Mr Fung is currently pursuing doctoral studies at the Yale University. Mr Fung is a Steinway Artist.

If there have been any reunions, or you have something you think would be of interest to other ex-students, please forward to me at either jamesruse.union@bigpond.com.au or robinlegge@yahoo.com. It would be great to have some input for the Newsletter from you.

Thanks

Robin