



# GESTA NON VERBA

ISSUE 3 – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Email address: [jamesruse.union@bigpond.com.au](mailto:jamesruse.union@bigpond.com.au) or robinlegge@yahoo.com

Next Issue: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

**ICP** It feels good to be back from Alaska and Canada. It is delightful to see how much has been achieved in my absence. The International Confederation of Principals in Toronto was a very moving experience, with speakers focusing on the role of education in building up societies after different crises. It has given me lots of ideas for our global leadership programs.

**Farewell to Mr Michael Iverach:** Congratulations to Mr Iverach. He takes up his new position as HT Science at Girraween HS from the start of next term. Mr Iverach has been a science teacher at our school for nearly two decades. He has made a difference to the lives of thousands of students, not only as a science teacher but as a year advisor, a Duke of Edinburgh scheme leader and an executive in various relieving positions. He has modelled high standards, professionalism, integrity and leadership in the many roles he has held at this school. He will leave a big hole in our learning and in our hearts, but we certainly wish him every success possible in the next stage of his career.

**Farewell to Ms Eloise Burgess:** Congratulations to Ms Burgess. She takes up her new position as HT History at St Marys Senior HS from the start of next term. Ms Burgess has been a HSIE teacher at our school for the past seven years. She has shared her passion for her subjects as a classroom teacher and as a relieving Head Teacher, which included the organisation of several trips to Europe. As a year advisor, she has led a myriad of innovations: laptops, global leadership projects in year 8 and with High Resolves as well as student welfare initiatives. Her enthusiasm and concern for her students are infectious. We wish Ms Burgess all the best for her new role at her new school.

**Olympiads** The International Olympiads in Mathematics, Physics and Informatics were held in The Netherlands (Mathematics) and Thailand (Physics and Informatics) this term. Not only did we have three students competing – Jinghang Luo (12), Evgeny Martynov (12) and Nancy Fu (11) but two of our ex-students led the teams – Graham White and Jarrah Lacko.

Congratulations to Jinghang Luo who achieved a Bronze medal at the International Physics Olympiad.  
Congratulations to Nancy Fu of Year 11 who has achieved a Bronze medal at the International Mathematics Olympiad.



Pictured are Graham White, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left and Nancy Fu, 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left.

Congratulations to Evgeny Martynov of year 12 and his team mates who all received medals at the International Olympiad in Informatics. I have included the report of the event from the amt website:

### Clean Sweep of Medals for Australian Team at IOI

Posted Thursday 28 July 2011

Australia's Informatics Olympiad team has won a clean sweep of a Silver and three Bronze Medals at the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI), held in Pattaya, Thailand.

The Silver medallist is Evgeny Martynov, of James Ruse Agricultural High School, NSW. This is his third IOI medal, having won Bronze in both 2009 and 2010.

The Bronze Medals were won by Eliot Courtney, of Como Secondary College, WA, Robert Newey, of Cobar High School, NSW and Michael Chen of Scotch College, VIC.

Newey is probably the first Australian student to come from such a remote region and win a maths or science Olympiad medal, while Chen at just 13, is one of the youngest competitors and being in Year 8 has much to look forward to.

Martynov spectacularly snatched Silver in the very last minute of the second five-hour exam when he placed a submission yielding the remaining 54 points available to him in Problem 4 to just get himself over the line. Chen, just shortly before, did likewise for the Bronze, coming from behind

Evgeny's achievements in Informatics have been outstanding. Not only has he received a Silver this year but also achieved a Bronze medal last year. He is to be congratulated on his wonderful achievement.



Evgeny is pictured 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left. Jarrah Lacko, a former James Ruse student and Informatics Olympiad Gold winner, led the team this year in Thailand.

**Waverley Festival.** Congratulations to each of our four bands who performed well at the Waverley Festival.

Bands were entered into challenging levels and yet achieved wonderful results:

Senior Wind Ensemble	Bronze
Senior Concert Band	Bronze
Intermediate Concert Band	Silver
Junior Concert Band	Gold.

Congratulations to Mr Armitage, the Music Department and band students (and parents) who all contribute to making our band program a fabulous success.

**Hope for Cambodia's Children Foundation** During the recent holidays ten students (Dominique Chan, Charmaine Lo, Beatrice Zhang, Abbirami Linghanathan, Sandra Li, Vanessa Shim, Bridget Li, Richard Tong, Andre Lo and Rui Chen) accompanied by three staff (Ms Murphy, Ms Connors and Mrs Golding) travelled to Cambodia to participate in a wonderful adventure. The time spent at the Hope for Cambodian Children "s foundation was a highlight. The children and staff at the orphanage made us feel truly welcome and for a very short time we made a small difference in their lives. Now that we are back we are committed to doing all we can to help the HfCCF – provide support, resources and raising funds for their much needed projects. For only \$2000 per year we could sponsor a child to allow them to attend university. We will be hoping our James Ruse family can help us sponsor more than one child to attain a dream that is so similar to our own students. Enquiries on how to donate can be made to Mrs Janie Golding on 98717126. Charmaine Lo of Year 11 has written an article for this newsletter to share our wonderful experiences.

Ms Murphy and Ms Connors

**Cambodia Trip** *On the 2nd of July our „Team Cambodia“ group of ten students and three staff members boarded the plane to Cambodia to experience Khmer culture and to support the Hope for Cambodian Children Foundation. Throughout the 12 days, we bonded and formed lasting friendships; and together we became a united group that did everything together and helped one another. Together, we experienced the horrors of the killing fields during the Pol Pot regime and the history behind the lives of the prisoners, climbed ancient temples such as the Angkor Wat and watched a beautiful sunset. We relished the cold fruit shakes in the hot Cambodian weather, savoured the taste of Khmer food and roamed through the dazzling markets where we practiced our bargaining skills. We went to the local villages and saw pagodas, fishing villages and brick factories. Together we went on a trip which made us reflect on our own lives and the culture we have at home. The four days which we spent at the orphanage was inspiring and touching, and allowed all of us to experience the students“ reality which is so different from ours. The children were amazing, welcoming and extremely happy to share their stories with us. What we lacked in communication we made up with smiles and hugs. The trip opened our eyes, nurtured our leadership capabilities and has now provided us with a license to explore the world. This was an adventure of a lifetime and it will be cherished and remembered forever.*

*We, the first James Ruse „Team Cambodia“ established the foundations of our relationship with the centre, and we will continue to strengthen this bond in the future. We, the first James Ruse „Team Cambodia“ helped the HOPE children understand the importance of dreams and goals. Hopefully, more people will be aware of the needs of the children in this very special orphanage. Hopefully, more people will visit Cambodia to support the centre. James Ruse, we need your help! Let us, the entire school community; get involved with future fundraising activities to help HOPE children realize their dreams. Let us help the children get the education they need. We might be oceans apart, but our dreams are the same. James Ruse, I believe that together, we can help these students prosper now and in the future. Together, we can achieve anything. Yes We Cam Bodia!*

#### **Charmaine Lo, Year 11**



**Army Cadet Unit term 2 Bivouac** Over 100 Cadets and staff from the School Army Cadet Unit attended the Term 2 Bivouac at the property of Collin and Jenny Burgess situated in Marramarra National Park. We were fortunate to have had ideal weather for this bivouac, the Field Phase of training for Recruits and Junior cadets and, for Year 12 cadets, their last camp before passing out of the Unit. For the past twenty years, we have been able to use this property, a five acre block bounded by National Park land, for our Winter bivouacs and for about fifty recruits, this was their first taste of camping out overnight and of hiking in a bushland setting.

A roaring bonfire and toasted marshmallows on the chilly Saturday evening was welcomed by all. Congratulations to those cadets who received field promotions during the bivouac: Bruce Huang, Sing-Young Chen, Jaffly Chen, James Zhu, Sarah Huang, Kevin Tree and Justin Wang. Well done cadets! Thanks to the senior cadets without whose preparation and organization this camp would not have been possible. Thanks also to the staff, especially to our new Unit Assistants, Peter Low and Michael Yang, for their contribution.  
**LT(AAC) B.McFadyen**

**Prefect Induction** This term we inducted the 2011-2012 prefect body into the school. Congratulations to our new School Captain - Sharon Mo, Vice Captain- Brian Gao and Senior Prefect – Vaishni Mahendrarvarman. Our Sports Captains for 2011-2012 are Sandra Li and Alexander Yip. Our new prefect body encompasses such a diverse range of energetic, dedicated, compassionate and passionate young people that we are sure to see wonderful leadership over the next year.

**Honorary Prefects** We had the pleasure of inducting two honorary prefects in 2011. Mrs **Cora Lee** has been associated with James Ruse for the past six years. She has dedicated herself to the improvement of our school and has proven to be an invaluable communication link between parents and the school. Mrs Lee has helped across all areas of the school – the Uniform Shop, Library, Musical, Canteen, Foodfairs, Fetes and anywhere else she might be needed. As president of the JR Mothers Club, Cora has ensured that this important parent body has a voice in the school and has always worked towards achieving the best for our students.

**Mr Tim Keighley** is an ex student of James Ruse. Tim has been an integral member of our fabulous musical orchestra since 1992 playing the double bass. His dedication and commitment has seen him attending hundreds of evening practices and rehearsals to ensure the success of so many musicals. Congratulations to these two very worthy recipients of this very special award.

**Director General for a Day.** Sharon Mo received the honour of becoming the Director General of Education for a Day and Delian Entchev became a School Education Director.



Delian Entchev (Yr 11) was “School Education Director for a day” at Kingswood Regional Office on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

**Economics and Business Studies competitions** Once again we have had considerable success in both the Economics and Business Studies competitions. Unfortunately due to the Year 11 camp, Year 11 economics students were unable to participate this year. Year 10 Commerce students competed against senior students in the Business Studies Competition and achieved wonderful results. Of Year 12 Kevin Guo, Jodic Chan, Esther Lee, Roy Chowdhury, Richard Du and Kajal Verma received Prize money in the Australian Economics Competition. In Year 10 Cheuk Lam, Melissa Lee, Jason Ye, Jaffly Chen and Bruce Huang received Prize money in the Australian Business Studies competition.

**Talented Students Day & HSC 2010** On 20<sup>th</sup> July at the University Sydney, MANSW held the Talented Students’ Day where they presented the T. G. Room medal for 1<sup>st</sup> in HSC Math Extension 2. Stacey Law was awarded this medal. Jinghang LUO, Gerald MAK and Allan ZHANG were awarded the Medal for the Mathsearch 2010 J. L. Williams award.



of

**Australian Table Tennis team** Congratulations to Erny Tsao (10) and Sarah Tan (8) who were selected in the Australian table tennis team to compete in the Korean Junior Open in Cheongyang-Gun between August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.



**International Food Days** Our next International Food day was on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and the theme was Malaysian. To prepare for this event and to get together socially our Malaysian families were invited to lunch at the James Ruse Cottage in June. This social occasion provided a wonderful opportunity for families of past and present James Ruse students to catch up with each other. Thank you to everyone who attended on the day but special thanks to Mrs Lily Gan for her organisation.

Everyday seems to bring new richness and vibrancy to James Ruse and this event was certainly no exception. Our Malaysian Foodfair brought many parents and ex-parents together to create a wonderful atmosphere of friendship and service as well as raising approximately \$2900 for the school which has been ear-marked for our air conditioning projects. Thank you to all the wonderful parents and ex-parents that came back to help make this day so special. A very big thank you to Mrs Lily Gan, Mrs Annie Chen and Mrs Cora Lee who once again pulled us all together for a wonderful occasion.

**Energy, Nanochemistry & Governance” Conference.** On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 12 senior students and Mrs Pooviah travelled to Lord Howe Island to attend the “TOWARDS GLOBAL ARTIFICIAL PHOTOSYNTHESIS - Energy, Nanochemistry & Governance” Conference. The preparation for this conference was arduous.. For more information on this conference please visit: <http://www.raci.org.au/events/category/australian-events>

This was certainly a wonderful start to National Science Week August 13 -21.

### **Spotlight on Gifted and Talented Projects!**

*"The fact is, that given the challenges we face, education doesn't need to be reformed -- it needs to be transformed. The key to this transformation is not to standardize education, but to personalize it, to build achievement on discovering the individual talents of each child, to put students in an environment where they want to learn and where they can naturally discover their true passions." - Sir Ken Robinson*

James Ruse Agricultural High School embraced an important twenty-first century skill at the prestigious State Shakespeare Festival on Monday August 1, 2011; CREATIVITY. The Youth Festival which is driven by the participants themselves allowed our talented students to explore Shakespeare’s work through performance, movement and dance, music, design and photography. It celebrated their response to and interpretation of Shakespeare’s plays as they were empowered to manipulate and gain ownership of the Bard’s language and concepts. Our students performed extremely well and were congratulated and highly recommended by the industry professionals in attendance. James Ruse students received the following prizes;

First Place Photography – Michael Ma (Year 12)

First Place Music Composition A – Natalie Li and Michelle Wang (Year 10)

Highly Commended Dance and Movement – Shefali Chaukra (Year 12)

Highly Commended Costume Design – Bryan Zhu and Jason Wen (Year 12)

Special congratulations must go to the superb effort for Music Composition B – Karen Gong, Vivian Ng, Elizabeth Hsu, Jessie Zhang and Sarah Tang (Year 8).

This was an invaluable and memorable learning experience for all students involved as their minds were stretched beyond the classroom to explore and experience the rich world of creativity. We must remember that governments, businesses and communities now widely regard creativity and innovation as fundamental to social, economic, cultural and technological growth.

**Vale Nancy Wake** It was sad to hear of the passing of Nancy Wake. Nicknamed the “White Mouse”, Nancy served as a British agent in France in World War II. After an impressive war campaign and bearing many medals Nancy returned home to Australia and entered the world of politics. A Nancy here at James Ruse in 1986 when she awarded medals to our Duke of Edinburgh students. Nancy is pictured below with Tanya Vincent, Leowin Filewood and Keith Irwin. (1986 Yearbook) In 1985 Wake wrote her autobiography “*The White Mouse*” and in 2001 author Peter Fitzsimons wrote “*Nancy Wake, A Biography of Our Greatest War Heroine.*”



Tanya Vincent, Leowin Filewood and Keith Irwin with Nancy Wake

**The Endeavour has Landed. 2011 NASA Astronaut Lecture** On August 3 a select number of year 9 students had the privilege of attending a lecture by NASA astronaut, Greg Chamitoff. Dr Chamitoff commenced his lecture with a description of the coincidental events of the reenactment of the modern version of Captain Cook's Endeavour sailing ship leaving Sydney Harbour to circumnavigate Australia at about the same time as the space shuttle Endeavour, of which he was a mission specialist, was launched into space. As the Endeavour sailed up the east coast of Australia, Chamitoff's space shuttle was docking with the Space Station, enabling the transfer of cargo and personnel to work on the completion of the space station.

With the aid of many superb pictures, Dr Chamitoff described the work the astronauts did in installing the last few pieces of equipment to complete the station. We saw the first picture of the completed Space Station with Earth in the background. The space station took about 1000 hours to build and involved 12 space shuttle missions. The NASA team also provided supplies and pieces of equipment that would enable the Space Station to function for at least another decade.

Dr Chamitoff emphasized in his lecture the importance of a student focusing on doing the best they can in order to achieve their goal or dream. He had established his dream of being an astronaut when he was 6-years-old after a visit to Florida and seeing the launch of a space ship.

The students were also taken on tours of the Mechanical and Chemical Engineering schools' workshops, witnessed the making of ice cream using liquid nitrogen and had the opportunity to experience a flight simulator. We are grateful to the members of the University of Sydney engineering staff who escorted our group throughout the day and provided the various activities that we experienced.

#### **Mr Iverach and 32 Year 9 students**

#### **2011 Australian Brain Bee Challenge NSW Championships: James Ruse team fourth place**

The 2011 Australian Brain Bee Challenge NSW Championships were conducted on Thursday, August 4 at the School of Medicine, Campbelltown campus, University of Western Sydney. This was the fourth time that students from James Ruse had entered the Australian Brain Bee Challenge, a competition in which Year 10 students are asked questions about the brain and the nervous system. This year 42 Year 10 students entered Round 1 of the Challenge on a voluntary basis. Students had to prepare for the competition by teaching themselves about the brain using "Brain Facts", a downloadable booklet offered by the competition organisers. In NSW, a total of 1740 Year 10 students entered the Challenge. 25 James Ruse students made it to Round 2, the NSW Championships, in which a total of 127 students competed. However, due to a clash with the Australian Mathematics Competition, only 20 Ruse students participated in the state championships. In addition to a day of exciting brain brawn moments, the UWS provided plenty of food, talks by neuroscientists about the bionic eye, neuron functioning, Alzheimer's Disease and tinnitus, as well as exciting nerve stimulating experiments.

The first event was the team competition. After a competitive preliminary round, the James Ruse team of Sophia Song (10A), Weng Lun (10K), Jason Yip (10K) and Michelle Wang (10T) finished fourth behind Baulkham Hills, Presbyterian Ladies College, and Hunters Hill. After a close final round competition, the final result was Baulkham Hills first (17 points), PLC second (9 points) and Hunters Hill third (7 points). The team needs to be congratulated on their efforts in preparing and participating in the final.

In the individual competition, 12 students made it through to the final round, with two of these students coming from James Ruse: Sophia Song (10A) and Michelle Wang (10T). The competition was very challenging and the audience was impressed with the extent of knowledge demonstrated by all finalists. At the conclusion of the final, a student from Duval School near Armidale took out first place followed closely by a Penrith High student. In addition to prizes, each of the top three students was offered a UWS scholarship worth \$20,000.

**The Great Engineering Challenge** On the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, five Year 11 James Ruse Teams entered The Great Engineering Challenge held at The University of New South Wales. We made our way to "The Roundhouse" accompanied by Mr Gengiah. We were welcomed along with about 45 teams from different schools with an intriguing presentation by "Engineers Without Borders," which soon led to the commencement of our first challenge. The first challenge was the building of a bridge in which all the teams were deeply involved. A short refreshing morning tea break followed and immediately after, the teams met the second challenge. The second challenge was the construction of a water turbine which needed to generate enough kinetic energy to run a cart. Following this was a BBQ lunch where the waiting lines seemed endless. We were able to catch up with the other groups and discuss the challenges. We did not waste any time and before we knew it, the third challenge had

started. We were given the task of constructing a road way for the harbour bridge. To sum things up, another interesting presentation by the RTA inspired everyone at the challenge.

*In conclusion, the Great Engineering Challenge was a fun and interactive way to explore the practical aspects of Physics. We encourage those who aspire to be engineers in the future to pursue this activity in Year 11 as it provides a wholesome experience in the engineering field, with extensive contact with leaders in their respective fields.*

*We would like to thank Mr Gengiah for this wonderful experience and his time spent accompanying us and the Science Faculty for organizing such a unique and enriching opportunity.*

#### **Adrian Law and Kaichen Qiu (11PH4)**

**Jeans for Genes Day Fundraiser 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011** At 7 AM on the cold morning of August 5<sup>th</sup> thirteen Year 11s and I donned our **Jeans for Genes day** team t-shirts and confronted the busy and running-late commuters at **Parramatta Station**. Armed with just a box of 'double helix' badges we sang choruses of "Buy a badge on Jeans for Genes Day, show you care" and "Save a minute, save a life. Donate to Jeans for Genes day" until our throats hurt. Our efforts were well rewarded for our small team from James Ruse (along with 10 other people from miscellaneous schools) raised **a total of over \$3,000** for the **Children's Medical Research Institute** in just two hours at **Parramatta station**. A big thank you to everyone that donated on the day: you have supported a great cause. The **Children's Medical Research Institute** is an independent organisation committed to unlocking the mysteries of disease. Their scientists investigate conditions such as **birth defects, cancer, and epilepsy**. Congratulations to the hardworking Year 11s Abira Riaz, Steven Paredes, James Jiang, Nancy Tang, Snowine Sze, Charmaine Lo, Lena Li, Shirley Liu, Viviana Leung, Alice Li, Annie Li, Dominique Chan and Suraj Ashok Murthy for their **outstanding** commitment to helping the wider community.

Kelly Wu (10)

Organiser for James Ruse and CMRI charity fundraiser

**Australian History Competition** This term we received wonderful results from the Australian History Competition – congratulations to Jason Ye who came 3<sup>rd</sup> in NSW, Rhonda Ung who placed in the top 30 and Sebastian Tanase, Sing-Young Chen and Vithoo Sivanathan who were all in the top 60. Year 10 competed in this inaugural competition and received 30 High Distinctions, 58 Distinctions and 26 Credits.

**Rio Tinto Big Science Competition** More than 31,000 students participated in the 2011 Rio Tinto Big Science Competition this year, with 58 students across the nation achieving a "top scorer" award. 14 James Ruse students achieved this award:

William Hu, Simon Hua, Qing Ze Huang, Sunny Lu, Annette Onodi, Georgia Sun, Shelley Sun, Andrew Tchang, Andy Wang, Tally Zhuo, Jeewho Choi, Timothy Chong, Ricky Chung and Matthew Berry.

Australian Science Innovations is inviting all Australian students who achieved a top score to attend a formal presentation at the Australian Parliament House in Canberra on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The presentation will also include an address by Ruben Meerman (the Surfing Scientist). This is a wonderful opportunity for our very talented students.

**National Youth Science Forum** Congratulations to Annie Li and Abbirami Linghanathan of year 11 who have been selected to attend the National Youth Science Forum in January, 2012.

**Debating** Congratulations to both our Year 9 and Year 10 debating teams. Unfortunately they had to go up against each other in week 3 with the Year 10 team being victorious. Congratulations to Thanya Sritharan, Frank Zou, Ceci Yu and Rhonda Ung who were able to argue successfully that voting should be compulsory.

James Ruse has had a very successful term's debating. The year 7/8 team of Stephanie Wu, Brendan Ma, Edwina Kuang and Tharsini Urutherakumar are the Regional Champions 2011 for the Met-West 7/8 Debating Competition. They now go to the Regional quarter finals for Premier's Debating Competition. Well done.

The year 9/10 team of Ceci Yu, Frank Zhu, Rhonda Ung and Thanya Sritharan continue their successful run of wins beating Model Farms this week which now puts them in the Regional finals next Tuesday.

The year 11 team of Sharon Mo, Alexandra Au, Kiran Kancherla and Beryl Lin won the Regional final against Winmalee on August 13<sup>th</sup> and now will debate Sydney Boys High at the Maiden Theatre in the Botanic Gardens this Friday.

Three year 11 teams took part in Sydney University's Debating Union Gala Day last month. Our teams won 3 out of 6 debates and had an enjoyable but challenging day having to debate with 30 minutes preparation.

**Marie Bashir Peace Award** Lindy Hua of Year 12 has been successful in winning a Marie Bashir Peace Award for 2011. Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO will present Lindy with her Award on September 21 at NSW Parliament House.

**The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual UNSW School Mathematics Competition 2011** James Ruse students have performed very well again in this competition. The results are as follows:

JUNIOR Division:

High Distinction: Echo DENG (10), Justin WANG (10), Gary XU (10) & Margaret ZHOU (10).

Distinction: Stephanie WU (8A), Sherrington LI (9A), David HU (10), Bruce Kai HUANG (10), Joshua LAU (10), Vivian QIN (10), Jonathan ZHENG (10),

And 19 Certificates, one of which was to Yale YI (7L).

SENIOR Division:

Second Prize: Jinghang LUO (12)

Third Prize: Nancy FU (11) & Allan ZHANG (12).

High Distinction: Victor KHOU (11), Vincent KONG (12) & Evgeny MARTYNOV (12).

Distinction: Brian GAO (11), Sun Woo KIM (11), Richard KIM (11), Ean CHAN (12), Sanji FERNANDO (12) & Anna ZHONG (12).

And 12 Certificates

The Prize-winner's ceremony will be held at the Sir John Clancy Auditorium UNSW on the Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September at 1:30 pm for 2 pm.

**MUSIC Faculty Concerts** The HSC Music Recital Night was on 30<sup>th</sup> August in the Lecture Theatre. It featured a selection of Music 2 and Extension solo and ensemble pieces. The proceeds of the donations went towards funding the hire of our Kawai concert grand piano.

The Annual Cabaret Night was on 14<sup>th</sup> September in the Hoskin Auditorium. It featured the bands, orchestras, vocal ensembles and Elective Music classes.

**Language Faculty News** Firstly on June 14<sup>th</sup> the year eight German students visited Taronga Zoo to supplement their learning about animals. Their day included a hands-on lesson in German and English and a treasure hunt in German. One group of our students won a prize in the treasure hunt; Tharsini Urutherakumar, Shelley Sun, Simon Hua and William Chen. Below is an abbreviated version of Shelley and Tharsini's impressions of the day:

*"On June the 14<sup>th</sup> our class, 8L, went to Taronga Zoo to study German. We did two main activities; they were learning about animals and the amazing treasure hunt. [...] We started with an hour lesson on animals and, like any other GOOD educational excursion; we were expected to fill out sheets. We were taught about different animals including the python, koala, and possum, in both English and German. And because we were such good children, at the end, we received FREE GUMMI BEARS that were also to give us energy for the treasure hunt which was incredibly challenging, except we didn't realise it then.*

*For the treasure hunt we were separated into groups of 4 and given a group name. Ours was the awesome Erdmännchen. The treasure hunt started with terrible, absolutely pouring weather where we had to run from destination to destination desperately seeking pieces of German information and puzzle pieces. [...] There was a race to get back [...] we quickly refilled a clean sheet and assembled an animal. And then it was over, however, for us, we were just beginning to figure out how WET we were."*

Next, on June the 16<sup>th</sup> Theatre LOTE Fantastique visited the school and gave the year 8-11 French students a wonderful performance of their bilingual musical play Coco, Curie et Jeanne D'arc. This performance outlines the contributions of three famous French women – Coco Chanel, Marie Curie and Joan of Arc – to the fashion world, scientific achievement and French history.

Some students had this to say about their experience, *"I loved Coco and Curie. It was amusing to see people I know on stage. The singing was superb."* *"The songs were just fantastic!"* *"The performance was very entertaining and the involvement of the audience made it very engaging and humorous."* *"I like the way Louise [Hall – writer and performer] incorporated the history of each character."*

Then on June the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> sixteen year nine and ten French students and their teachers Mr Wilson and Mrs Walker enjoyed a wonderful two day trip to Melbourne to learn French. Following is an abbreviated version of two students' impressions of the excursion.

*"...Finally arriving at the Space Hotel, we stayed long enough to drop our bags off and then left.*

We caught a tram, the teachers pointing out key tourist attractions while we peered out of windows, almost as if we could devour the *petit* city with our eyes. [...]One of these shops [...] was *La Roule Galette* or the French crêperie, where we were to have our lunch.

It was a cosy little restaurant, with cheerful yellow walls and even more cheerful staff working there. We rehearsed under our breath our orders *en français* before the waitress reached us. When we did have to order, she was perfectly delightful, beaming away at us, telling us that our pronunciation was *très bien* or *parfait*. After our lunch of *des galettes délicieux*, we explored the top-ranked most liveable city in the world.

Finally, shopping list all ticked off, we returned to the hotel to settle in our rooms before leaving to eat at a marvellous Italian restaurant for dinner.

The [second] day began with [...] our French lesson [at the Alliance Française].

It was a definitely interactive lesson, the teacher gently encouraging us to participate in the lesson, now and then correcting our pronunciation and mistakes. *Unless you eat a whole chicken, then it's du, not le...*

After that, we went to the [Melbourne] museum. Our first part of the museum trip was in a small, jolly room, with an eccentric and excited lady with her pet stick insect, Lulu. We learnt about the most poisonous bug (the innocent butterfly, believe it or not), what a bug actually was, and sorted all the different bugs into their different categories. In French, of course.

After that, we enjoyed lunch at the busy museum café, either with a bowl of *les frites* that was the size of someone's head, or with sausage rolls drenched in sauce, or with warm pies, or pasta salads, *ou le sandwich et jus d'orange*, the list was endless...

[Then] we set off courageously to the *petites bêtes* section of the museum. There was a display case with beetles ravenously stripping off a skeleton of a rat. Frames of butterflies, windows of busily spinning spiders, tanks of iridescent diving beetles, a room of stick insects, it was a world of wonder that we entered, busily filling in our sheets in French, learning as much as we could.

It was time to go, although many of us wanted to stay longer. We caught our shuttle bus to the airport, counted our belongings, and waved goodbye to the hospitable and wondrous city of Melbourne, which, without the help of the French teachers, the trip would never have been possible. Maybe France next time, though?"

The Language Department has also recently conducted the Australian Language Certificate – a competition which recognises students for their achievements in languages. We receive the results of this competition in October.

**Chinese Cultural Knowledge Competition:** Congratulations to Kwynne Yuan, Jason Ye, Vanessa Huang who will be absent next term from 18th October – 31<sup>st</sup> October. They are going to Xian City in China having won this prize in the Chinese Cultural Knowledge Competition 2010. They have been invited by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office to a learning and final competition camp program.

**Passing Out Parade:** This was a magnificent event lastweek, with 26 cadets, our largest number to date, participating in their last school parade at James Ruse, with Daniel Xue being afforded the honour of carrying the Duke of Edinburgh's banner. We are the first individual unit to parade this banner as a celebration of the unit's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Our guest of honour was the Reverend Andrew Sempell, an ex – student of James Ruse (1975). Rev Sempell has had an extensive career as a chaplain in the army. Currently he is Rector of St James Anglican Church, King St Sydney.

**HSIE Report** On 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> August, Year 9 students from James Ruse undertook an educational tour of the national capital. While on this tour they participated in a variety of educational programmes focused on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. Students visited Parliament and Old Parliament House, The Australian War Memorial, The Royal Australian Mint, The National Film and Sound Archive and the National Capital Exhibition. They also enjoyed a tour of the Australian Institute of Sport.

**Australian Maths Competition 2011** Good news again for James Ruse. Our students have performed very well in NSW in this year's competition. They have received 2 Medals for first in the year in NSW. Year 8: Medal to Karen GONG 8A & Megan ZHANG 8T. Karen GONG 8A also will receive the 'Prudence Award' for a perfect score in the Junior Division.

Another wonderful and eventful term at James Ruse AHS where miracles happen every day

**Larissa Treskin**

## **FARM NEWS.**

What's happening at James Ruse on the farm?

The two heifer calves have been successfully weaned with minimal trauma using the Australian made Easy Wean nose rings. We are strip grazing the cattle on oats and the lucerne crop. The Zoo Food garden initiated by the Prefects of 2010, has bananas and mulberry trees growing and these are at a good height now to allow the sheep flock to graze underneath and do the weeding for us.

The farm assistants are erecting cranes to raise the mesh covers off the crayfish tanks and we are hoping to have this aquaculture system functioning fully before the end of the year.

The peach orchard is undergoing some interesting change, with a row of espaliered peaches being developed. This will allow easier netting and hence less damage from birds when they start producing.

The large animal handling experience which has been offered to year 12 who are interested in applying for Vet Science has attracted a keen group of students this year and they have developed competence in a range of skills in the handling of sheep, cattle, horses and poultry. There is already a contingent from this year's year 11 students who are enquiring about the sessions for next year.

The Rural Youth club was again able to sell oranges and chocolate coated macadamias to the school community, to support our sponsorship of Gloria, our Tanzanian student to attend the School of St Jude. RY has also begun a 'Vegetables in a Bucket' project so members can learn to grow herbs and vegetables in their container which they can then take home to eat.

It won't be long before the mulberry trees have ripe fruit, and the students can start to enjoy eating sweet ripe berries straight from the tree. Perhaps this year Rural Youth can learn the new skill of Jam making. Best wishes to all,

**Gail Roberts**  
**Ag Teacher and Farm Manager**

## REUNION (1969)

A very belated story regarding the 1969 leavers getting together @ Wamberal in February.

We had a dinner at the Country Club on the Saturday night after half a dozen of us braved the fairly hot conditions for 9 holes of golf in the afternoon. Some of us shared some accommodation in the area, while others travelled. Gary MacFadyen, always well organised, lives around the corner and was able to walk to and from!



Back row from left to right: Harry Stamboulidis, Julian Pile, Paul McMahon, Paul Chapman, Gary MacFadyen, Ross Burns, Mark Girvan, John Mullavey, Ray Stanton, Stephen Dodds and Noel West.

Front row, left to right: Gary Eyles, Graham McWhirter, Jonathan Andrew, Peter McDonald and Dave Forsyth.

Richard Allen had to leave early for his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations with family in Sydney.

Sadly, we had lost David Cairns in the 18 months since we last got together. Plans are in place for an informal gathering, perhaps on the south coast this time, in 2012 with a big event planned for 2014 to mark 50 years since we started at Ruse.

**John Mullavey**

## Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Musicals at James Ruse Celebrating 50 years of school musicals

In 2012, James Ruse Agricultural High School will be celebrating 50 years of school musicals. The proposed date is Saturday 9 June, 2012 (June Long Weekend) commencing at 3:00pm in the JC Hoskin auditorium.

Student leaders will be conducting guided tours of the school. Food stalls are being organised for you to purchase your own dinner.

From approximately 6:00pm, we will be convening in the JC Hoskin auditorium where past chorus and principals are invited to perform a signature tune(s) from their musical. I appreciate some Russians might be shy and are unable to “hit the high notes” as they once could – groups representing various years of the same musical may wish to combine to increase the range and volume. If you are interested in forming your musical group or let me know of your interest and I could invite students from other years of the same musical to increase the numbers.

Further information is on Facebook – just search for Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Musicals at James Ruse.

If you wish to contribute ideas of activities that could be done in that afternoon / evening, let me know. I will investigate the viability of it and publish a more detailed program for the day closer to the date.

Gerard Yeo  
gerard.yeo@det.nsw.edu.au

### **Bio: David Hoffman (1979)**

Memories of my time at James Ruse are mixed. I remember good friends and good times, including: playing handball with some shots “lipping off the node” whatever that meant; pulling bizarre faces in class; only ever finishing one woodwork and one metalwork project; Skinner; the Boss; girls arriving as the school went co-ed; and a car rally that ended with a piece of meat connecting with a certain teacher. But I also remember being on the end of what might today be considered some bullying.

As far as studies went, I remember being upset at having to do French instead of Commerce from Year 8 through to Year 10 and then lucking out when my parents paid for me to go on the French trip to Noumea! Sneaking hints from fellow students to scrape through Economics in Year 12 (cheers Paul); failing Year 12 Ag – OMG as they say today; and doing just well enough in Maths, English and Chem to get into UNSW.

Fast forward – accountant, married, Bachelor of Commerce, three children, transfer with work to Adelaide (1990), the beautiful Adelaide Hills, retrenched (1994), grew a business and

became a partner, heard a call from God to become a minister of religion (1999, but put on hold), Ruse 25 year reunion, kicked out by my partner (2008), legal battle, Bachelor of Theology ..... and just last month I was ordained as a Minister in the Uniting Church.

I've been the Pastor at Golden Grove Uniting Church in the north east corner of Adelaide since the start of last year and life is great. So, grace and peace to you all in the name of Jesus Christ, and if any of you are ever in Adelaide feel free to track me down (especially any old class mates).



### **REUNION – CLASS OF 1965**

The class of 1965 is planning a 40 year reunion for February 2012. It will be our 47<sup>th</sup> year reunion. Early planning is under way but could interested parties contact Mike Byron on [Byron@hwy.com.au](mailto:Byron@hwy.com.au). Details will be forwarded to those contact details I already have and others as details become more precise.