



# 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 conclude their HSC"*. Is it just me or does the first mentions of the HSC finishing seem to happen earlier and earlier every year!

Anyway, I am sure that the JRAHS 2011 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 (and Girls) Union".

This year, around the globe, has been fraught with human tragedy with seemingly end-on-end natural disasters thrust upon the inhabitants of Japan, New Zealand, Australia and many less reported but just as devastating events across Asia. The human spirit, through all of this has shone brightly and continues to show what an amazingly adaptable, supportive and resilient race we all are. We all hope, of course, that the people of these regions find stability and settlement in their lives and that 2012 is of course less eventful.

Compounding these events are the economic woes of Europe and the stuttering attempts of North America to restart its economy. As with natural disasters and their "ripple effects", we are all unavoidably linked to this global economy which has variously collapsed, re-started and again faltered since 2008. We in Australia, albeit insulated from the full impacts by the tiger economies of Asia and the sub-continent, still look to the politicians and business leaders to look past the point scoring and lead "Australia Incorporated" to a better 2012 and beyond, economically, environmentally and socially.

Make your new year's resolution to find those Russians of your era and reconnect, in a real way, with them in 2012. Like I have found in 2011, with little effort and some collective enthusiasm, you may find those school friends of years gone by are just the people who you will enjoy reconnecting and spending time with.

So, until 2012, may I wish you and your families a happy and healthy conclusion to 2011 and all that you may wish for in the New Year comes within your grasp.

*"If we do meet again, why, we shall smile; If not, why then, this parting was well made"* (Julius Caesar, Act V)

**Paul Harris (1979)**

[pauljharris2009@hotmail.com](mailto:pauljharris2009@hotmail.com)

As another year draws to a close I'm hoping that next year we can have some more articles re your life after James Ruse (no matter how many years have passed since you left).

I was driving to Newcastle recently, listening to the ABC, and heard a news report from **Stephen Dzedzic (2001)**. Stephen is a political reporter in Canberra. This was immediately followed by **Katrina Bolton (1997)** reporting from Darwin where President Barak Obama was visiting our troops. (**Katrina was a worthy recipient at the 2011 Walkley Awards** – see article later in this Newsletter).

I'm sure there are a lot of you out there who have interesting occupations which you would like to share with your fellow Rusians.

I wish you all a healthy and safe Christmas and the very best for 2012.

**Robin Legge**

## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

**Ex-student success – truly a Rusian!** Congratulations to **Malini Raj F Fin** (class of 1997 – First in Agriculture in 1996), who is the Members' Choice winner of the **Most Outstanding Young Professional**, awarded by the Financial Services Institute of Australasia. Malini is the Manager, Portfolio, Co-ordination and Analytics at Westpac and has had over 10 years experience in the financial services industry. She commenced her career in 2002 as an investment banking analyst with Salomon Smith Barney/Citigroup and has subsequently held corporate finance positions in Pacific road Corporate Finance an Wilson HTM Investment Group where she was involved in various capital raisings, M&A and IPO transactions in excess of \$400 million across a wide variety of industries including biotech, industrials, mining and resources, gaming, education and healthcare.

More recently, Malini has worked at Westpac where she has had a variety of roles. She was promoted within the retail bank to manager – portfolio co-ordination and analytics – operations and business efficiency in December 2010. In this capacity, she is responsible for ensuring that all material changes (strategic and tactical) that are to be implemented into the Westpac Retail Bank are identified, captured and analysed for business impact, prioritised and coordinated to ensure changes are implemented effectively with a focus on customer centricity.

Malini is the Chair of the NSW Young Finance Professionals of Finsia, a Member of Women in Finsia Committee, NSW/ACT Finsia Regional Councillor, has been a mentor on the Finsia mentoring program for six programs and involved as a supervisor for the Finsia FSP qualification. Malini was selected and has recently completed a five week secondment with Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation. Outside of work, she is involved in a voluntary capacity with the Starlight Children's Foundation and was part of the 2011 Stanford Who's Who.

Term 4 has been full of a broad range of outstanding achievements, continuing the pattern of earlier terms.

**Encore nominations** Edward Lo-Cao and Joshua Zheng have been nominated for possible inclusion in ENCORE, a selection of performances and compositions from HSC music students, held in the Opera House in March 2012.

**Scholar Summer School at Monash University** The following students have been chosen for the Scholar Summer School in the sciences:

**Biology:** David Roshan and Victor Yang

**Chemistry:** Brian Gao, Bonita Gu, Marco Li and Taseen Ali

**Physics:** Brian Guo and Johnny Huang

**Whitlam Institute *What Matters?* Writing Competition** The following students were awarded a certificate for their contribution: Karina Shum, Kelly Wu, Helena Qian, Lisa-Marie Voon, Isabella Kwai, Na-Youn Lee, Linda Hua, Peggy Xie, Joanne Liu, Rhonda Ung, Charmaine Lo. There were 1800 entries across NSW on a range of topics including same-sex marriage, Aboriginal rights, fast food, consumerism, poverty and happiness, tolerance, refugee, Wikileaks and the information explosion. The winning essay was by Madeleine Boxall from St Catherine's Waverley on same-sex marriage. The winner in the years 7/8 section was from Concord HS and in the years 9/10 section, from St Mary's Cathedral College.

**Regional Year 10 Debating team** Thanya Sritharan, has been chosen to be a member of the regional debating team.

**Student Leadership** Amelia Varua (11) and Annie Lu (11) attended a Women's Leadership Conference at parliament House on Tuesday. Chelsea Valeutin (10) attended a three day Student Leadership Conference on Wednesday to Friday.

**Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement** At the end of Term 3 I attended this award ceremony where Roy Chowdury was presented with his award by our new Director General, Dr Michele Bruniges.



**Marie Bashir Peace Prize** On the last Wednesday of Term 3 I attended this award ceremony at Parliament House where Lindy Hua was presented with this award.

**LanguagePerfect World Championships 2011** We entered this competition for the first time to achieve our 12 Gold winners (top 1%), our 4 Silver winners (top 5%), our 8 Bronze winners (top 10%) and our 6 credits (top 20%). There were 80000 entries world wide. As a school we came second in the group of 500 schools with less than 50 entries, earning 72582 points and answering 157,311 questions. Congratulations to Kelly Wu who earned more than 26000 points all by herself! Our students who participated spent 619 online hours learning languages: French, Japanese, Chinese, German, Italian, Latin, Russian, Spanish, Maori and Indonesian. Twelve countries and 1000 schools participated. Overall, Australia came first, followed by New Zealand and the UK. Australia earned 7,318,052.

**Australian Junior Table Tennis Championships** Erny Tsao was selected to represent NSW in the U18 Boys Team competing in the Australian Junior Table Tennis Championships in Sydney from Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September to Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2011. Erny was the 2010 Table Tennis National Champion in U15 Boys Team, and awarded the U15 Boys Best Player

(National Tournament Order of Merit Number 1) in the 2010 National Junior Tournament. Therefore even though he is still 15 this year, he has been selected to the U18 Boys Team rather than his own age group.

**Order of Australia Community Service Commendation** Sanji Fernando has been awarded this commendation. The Order of Australia Association has this year awarded twenty-one 'Certificates of Commendation' for community service, the awardees being students in secondary schools in New South Wales. An inscribed medallion was presented by Her Excellency the Governor, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, at Government House on the 23rd November.

**Strings/woodwind Blue Mountains tour** This was a first for the school and was very successful in the last week of term 3. I received the following email from the principal of Mt Victoria PS:

*Yesterday we were visited by a strings, woodwind and brass group from your school. I just wanted to thank you for allowing them to visit us as they were just wonderful. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the musical items and the quality of their performances. Mr Wong looked great in school uniform. Your staff were so friendly and it was a pleasure to meet them. I hope your delightful students enjoyed their tour and we would welcome them back anytime.*

**Senior concert Band Tour** The primary schools, the special school and the nursing home where the band performed, all praised the performances of our students. Each band tour has a strong agricultural component and this time in Orange, the students particularly enjoyed their orchard tour.

**Mr Wong's performance.** Quite a number of students, staff and parents attended Mr Wong's concert this term at St Mary's Cathedral Chapter hall. 100 hours of rehearsal for a one hour concert - truly a model for our students.

**Pole vault gold medal** Mudith Jayasekara won a Gold Medal for Pole Vault and became the NSW All Schools Champion for 15 Year Pole Vault at the All Schools Athletics Carnival over the weekend. In his 100m event he ran well in the heats and qualified first for the finals but came 5th in the finals. It was a very close finish among the first five runners. Mudith represented the NSW team for the Pole Vault at the National carnival in 3- 4 December in Brisbane.

**2011 Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards** Yoshua Selvadurai (Yr 7) was awarded a 'Highly Commended' in the 2011 Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards. The Dorothea Mackellar poetry competition is one of Australia's largest and oldest school poetry competitions.

**LAZSTA 2011 Space Academy and US Field Studies Tour** I have had wonderful reports about the participation of Jason Chen and Michelle Wang on this tour, which included the Advanced Space Academy Program at the US Space and Rocket Centre, Huntsville, Alabama. Participants spent the week at space camp training with a team that flew simulated Space Shuttle missions to the International Space Station, conducted experiments and successfully simulated extra-vehicular activities. Jason and Michelle are to be congratulated for their commitment to team activities, leadership training and assisting others in completing the Space Academy course as well as the event throughout the tour.

**JENESYS Programme 2011** Sydney Tang, Emily Hall, Elizabeth Chen and Clarence Ma have been selected to participate in the JENESYS programme to Japan from December 5th to 19th 2011. They have been chosen out of over 900 applications and will be great representatives of Australia as they make the most of this opportunity to visit Japan.

**COJR AGM** Congratulations to Mrs Patricia Xie, on her election as our new COJR president. Ms Xie was previously the Treasurer. We welcomed her to her new role. We thanked Mr Trevor Allison who completed his term as President; Mr Allison was elected Vice President, also continuing to serve our community.

**Year 8 Debating Success** Our Year 8 debating team are Regional winners: Edwina Kuang, Brendan Ma, Stephanie Wu and Tharsini Uruthurakumar.

**STANSW Young Scientist 2011 Awards** The following Years 7 -9 finalists were congratulated on their awards:

Avan Zeng (9), *Testing lift and drag of airfoils* - Special Award

David Feng (9), *Vitamin C in oranges over time* - Third in Chemistry  
 Eklavya Bangoo (8), *Magic microbes* - Third in Earth and Environmental Science  
 Mudith Jayasekara (9), *Soundproofing* - UWS Greater Western Sydney Science Award  
 Thank you to Ms Fernandez for organising the entries of our students.

UNSW	medal	winners
DAVID ROSHAN	YEAR 11	Science
SIMON YANG	YEAR 7	Writing
BELINDA AN	YEAR 9	Writing
DANNY XU	YEAR 8	English
ANITA DENG	YEAR 7	Science

These students received their medals at UNSW on Friday 18 November.

**Maclean High School visit** Six teachers from Maclean HS visited the school to look at our programs and policies. Year 9 students led the school tours: George He, Karina Shum, Michael Pulraj, Richard Tong, Swathi Sridharan, Michelle Mo. They were wonderful ambassadors and sources of information. Other students shared their experiences of their leadership and extracurricular activities: Sharon Mo, Brian Gao, Vaishni Mahendrarvarman, Sandra Li, Alex Yip and Clarence Ma. Hopefully, some longer term links will develop, especially with a visit by their indigenous students.

**Intermediate Band Tour** The band returned from a wonderful three day tour around Batemans Bay. They were very well received everywhere they played. The students have learned lots of teamwork and leadership skills, as well as music and gold panning skills!

**Informatics School of Excellence** Sai Muralidaran (9) has also been invited to this year's AIOC Informatics School of Excellence at ANU, Canberra on 9 - 19 December.

**Artexpress** The following students who have been nominated possible inclusion in *Artexpress* this year: Anna Ye, Anna Zhong, Bryan Zhu and Sang Tran.

**Years 8/10 mentoring launch** SRC relaunched our years 8/10 mentoring program this term. We connected Year 10 mentors, who have been trained, and Year 8 mentees. As our students continue to work closely together, and know each other as individual human beings, and as learners, I expect that wonderful transformations will blossom as all students benefit from the interactions.

**Yanko HS visit** We welcomed the annual prefects visitors from Yanko. Year 10 SRC guided them on a school tour. This was followed by Yanko sharing their activities with SRC and our prefects via a presentation they had brought with them.

**Singapore Zhonghua Secondary School** Teachers and students from this school visited to share programs and ideas. It is good to see the international presence the school has.

**HTA Mastermind** Eric Tan, David Yin, Simon Yang and Harry Dong won History Teachers' Association Mastermind at Seven Hills.

**Remembrance Day Service 11 November** Sharon Mo and Brian Gao spoke very movingly at our assembly on Remembrance day. Cadets Eklavya Wangoo, Michelle Wang and Kelly Wu represented the school at the Remembrance Day service at Boronia Park RSL.

**Air conditioning update** We will be putting in the air conditioners, starting with Cameron block, from 15 December, over 5 days. We will also start closing off the vents. Thank you to the COJR who has made this possible.

**Premier's Reading Challenge** The following students who successfully completed the 2011 Premier's Reading Challenge: Edwin Chiu, Timothy Chong, Dev Khuhasri, Andre Lo, Andrew Tchang.

**Amnesty** Year 9 students participated in a program on Human Rights and Reconciliation by Amnesty International (NSW). Several Year 9 and 10 students attended the Amnesty Students Conference at Redfern Community Centre.

2011 has held many challenges and many successes. Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Please update your contact details with us whenever they change. It is good to know there are thousands of Rusians out there!

Larissa Treskin

## *Greetings from the Farm*

Late semester 2 sees us harvesting a bumper crop of **potatoes** both from the junior classes' vegetable plots and from the Year 10 Potato Experiment. The hot weather has returned to make this task arduous for those not used to physical work in high temperatures. It has been a very wet season and the weeds have taken full advantage of this and have been very competitive with other vegetables.

Pastures are thriving and we are just waiting for a run of fine, sunny drying weather to cut **pasture hay** for next year. The cattle are in great condition and we are expecting a drop of calves early in the New Year.

The **hydroponics** area has produced a mixture of vegetables that I have been experimenting with, and the set up is great for growing seedlings- Celery, beetroot, lettuce have grown well to transplant size, and the latest trial is water cress which has not had enough time to prove itself yet.

By the time this newsletter goes to print, there should be **crayfish** in the two concrete tanks outside of the farm classroom. The farm hands have worked hard and creatively to set this system up. Homes for the yabbies to shelter under have been made too, with the assistance of the 9Ag1 class. The farm was able to make use of the offer of a water tank from the Government's Solar Schools Initiative. It has been positioned to catch rain water from the work shop and machinery sheds, and it can be run directly into the aquaculture tanks without the need for the water to be treated. Come down and have a look when you are next in the school.

An area of the **peach orchard** has been altered so that new peach trees can be espaliered onto wires. The idea is to make their care and protection from pests easier in the long term.

The **bee hives** which were moved away from the high traffic area near the poultry shed still need some work done to make their area more workable. The Bee-food garden which was created to provide all-season blossom for them is growing well, and starting to gain height and provide more shade in the area. The buddleia bushes have established well and provide a very pleasant honey smell as you walk past them. The Parramatta Amateur Beekeepers' Association has kindly donated two book vouchers for Awards Day, to go to Agriculture students who have shown initiative in practical Agriculture.

The **mulberry trees** which you may remember are outside the farm class room and beside the basket ball nets produced a massive crop in term 4 and students and the School community made good use of them for fresh eating and some jam making. The trees growing in the free-range poultry yards are also giving the layers tasty tree-fall treats and providing dense shade in the hotter months.

The **Zoo-food garden** in the North Eastern corner of the farm is starting to get established and thicken up and we hope before long that Taronga Zoo will be able to take a harvest of banana trees and mulberry leaves for their animals.

Best wishes to you and your family for a safe and happy Festive season.

**Gail Roberts.**

**Agriculture Teacher, Farm Manager.**

### **KATRINA BOLTON (1997)**

Katrina won the "Radio feature, documentary or broadcast special" section of the 2011 Walkley Awards.

"Katrina Bolton, Radio Current Affairs Documentaries, ABC Radio, "Drink, death and dollars"  
Katrina Bolton's documentary takes us inside Central Australia's alcohol-related catastrophe. It asks to what extent the behaviour of businesses – particularly in relation to takeaway alcohol – is responsible for the appalling death rate.

The documentary shows the human side of Alice Springs' addiction to alcohol, introducing us not just to the drinkers but to their families and the people who care about them. It canvasses the indirect deaths, the pressure to keep drinking, and how powerless non-drinkers feel when pubs open every morning and then sell unlimited amounts of alcohol as soon as takeaway sales are legal.

Bolton found it very difficult to secure on-the-record interviews for this sensitive story, as many drinkers were ashamed, many non-drinkers were afraid, and many of the people she spoke to didn't have phones. She found one interviewee, Kevin Wirri, by riding around Alice Springs' town camps on a borrowed bicycle.

The story sparked a Northern Territory Licensing Commission review of the way the venues operate, and retailers in the Alice have since committed to a floor price, taking the cheapest alcohol off the market.

Katrina Bolton has been working for the ABC since 2001, for the past six years in the Northern Territory. This is the second time she has been a Walkley finalist. "Drink, death and dollars" won a bronze in international competition at this year's New York Festival.

Judges' comments:

Katrina Bolton braved the wild bars and takeaways of Alice springs – where the drinking begins early and usually end in violence – to give us an insight into an important issue, in a story which provoked a public outcry. Through natural sound and interviews, Bolton's feature highlights not just the tragic extent of this persistent problem but also the role of the liquor suppliers who continue to fuel it.

## **50 Years of School Musicals 2012**

James Ruse will be celebrating 50 years of School Musicals in June 2012. As part of the program, we are developing an online record of past musicals. Should you wish to contribute to this record, please email your images to [gerard.yeo@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:gerard.yeo@det.nsw.edu.au). Alternatively, could you burn your images or recoding onto a DVD / CD to me at James Ruse AHS, Felton Road, Carlingford Road, 2118.

Planning for a reunion of participants and supporters of the musicals is occurring in the June long weekend in 2012. Further information will be distributed closer to the date when ideas are finalise.

If you wish to contribute to the celebration in some shape or form, please discuss these ideas with Gerard Yeo via email.

Wishing you and your family Seasons Greetings and a restful end to 2011.

Gerard Yeo.