



# GESTA NON VERBA

ISSUE 2 – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012

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**Next Issues:** 12<sup>th</sup> September  
11<sup>th</sup> December

## PRESIDENTS NOTES.

Hello again everyone.

I can't believe how time flies ! Already half way through the year and no doubt the HSC students of 2012 already preparing themselves for the challenges and opportunities that will soon be thrust upon them.

And talking about the years passing, being involved this week as my own eldest daughter contemplates her subject choices for years 11 and 12 and by default, some would say "accident", her post HSC adult life, university and career choices in a couple of short years.

Did I have any sage advice for her? Not really, except that to find a vocation that she will enjoy, make the right choices to get herself there and then work like hell to make sure she achieves her dreams. Was she listening to me? Probably not; I think she was looking at her Facebook account at the time. Ah well.

For those of you who attended the school's celebration of 50 years of musicals and associated activities, I do hope you enjoyed the day. Remember that the school is raising funds to replace the stage curtains, originally installed upon the opening of the James C Hoskin Hall in 1979, the year of my own HSC. The curtains, I suspect, have only fared slightly better than me in the passing of these last 33 years.

So, in closing, keep looking out for ways to engage with and reconnect with your school comrades of years past. This new social media stuff is wonderful in discovering what your old school buddies are up to!

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](mailto:pauljharris2009@hotmail.com)

**Don't forget to check-out our newly re-designed website for 2012 courtesy of Eddie Woo. Eddie graduated from Ruse in 2003 only to return in 2008 as a Mathematics Teacher.** <http://union.jamesruse.nsw.edu.au/>

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Term 2 at James Ruse has continued school traditions such as the school musical, cadet bivouacs and Olympiad successes as well as celebrating innovations such as chess successes, NAIDOC and SRC weeks and the Shakespeare Festival.

**Vale Barry Baillie (class of 1959)** You may have seen this obituary in the SMH. Barry was in the first intake at our school and attended our 50 year celebrations in 2009. He had an impressive career in agriculture. In the 1980's he was chairman of the Tocal Field Days, which our Year 9 are participating in this Friday. He was chairman of the UWS Hawkesbury Foundation and director of the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute at Camden.

**Vale John Bishop.** Mr John Bishop taught at our school for 15 years and served the school in many areas very successfully. He was Canteen Supervisor with no paid help for seven years. He was Officer in charge of the Cadets as well as being sportsmaster. He passed away this term. I was informed by his son Martin. It is very fitting that the loft, part of the John Bishop block, is again being used as a classroom.

**Welcome to two new teachers** A new permanent member of staff, Ms Joyce Ng, joined us in English from this term. Ms Ng has been teaching at Turrumurra HS and was successful in her application for our second English vacancy via the merit selection process. Mr George Lowery is joining us in HSIE, coming from Pennant Hills HS, also via the merit selection process.

**Retirement** Mr Ron Howlett, maths teacher extraordinaire, retired at the end of last term. Mr Howlett has been teaching at our school for three decades, since 1982. Thousands of Ruse students owe their maths success to Mr Howlett. Mr Howlett was thanked and farewelled at a staff luncheon on the last day of term.

**School Development Day** Teachers had a very successful and interesting day at Girraween HS on Day 1, together with teachers from Penrith HS and Baulkham Hills HS, the four selective schools in our Western Sydney Region. Jason Clarke from *Minds at Work* focused on teaching creativity through a range of concepts and activities with a focus on how we can do it effectively as practitioners. Content covered included: What is creativity and innovative thinking? When should we teach creativity and innovative thinking? When and where should risks be taken in teaching creativity and innovative thinking? You can have a look at his website - <http://www.mindsatwork.com.au/>

**Harvard Success** Congratulations to Anna Zhong, who has been accepted into a number of US universities and has chosen Harvard with a \$40000 scholarship. Anna writes: *Please let them know that I couldn't have done it without all the teachers who have taught and encouraged me, or without the wonderful James Ruse environment, in which I was given every opportunity to grow and contribute to (I remember writing about how much I learnt from agriculture in my Harvard application too). I also think my Visual Arts may have had a huge impact on my application because my admissions officer sent me an email saying how much he loved my HSC Body of Work. Mr Goggin might be happy to know this :) However, I will never know what other reasons they accepted me for... I am still incredibly surprised.*

**Chess Success** Congratulations to Andrew Pan (Year 9) who participated in the biggest international Chess Tournament in Australia from 5 – 9 April, the 50<sup>th</sup> Doeberl Cup, at the Hellenic Club in ACT. It is an Australian Chess Federation Grand Prix 5 Class and FIDE rated. It is also part of the training session for the Australian Junior U/16 Olympiad Squad members.

On Sunday 24th June, James Ruse was represented by four teams of 3 players in the One Day School Tournament for the **Terry Shaw Shield**. We won the senior division in which two of our new year 9 players who are strictly speaking still juniors (Andrew Pan & Raymond Han), played with Joshua Lau (year 11) .

The school plays representative chess on Friday afternoons. The senior division has two rounds left and we are leading in this division, both against Baulkham Hills High School. Because fewer schools offer up senior teams, the divisional rounds are longer for the seniors but the winner is also automatically the regional winner as well. Best wishes to Joshua Lau, Austin Shen, Marco Lee, Suraj Ashok and Mark Lin(reserve).

**Music success** Lian Park & Justin Wu reached the Semi-Finals of the NSW Secondary Schools **Concerto Competition**. This is a great achievement when they were competing against 100 contestants!

**Carslaw Scholar 2011** Nancy Fu was nominated as a Carslaw scholar for 2011 by the School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Sydney.

**Swimming success** Our swimmers did well at CHS. Yale Yi came second in the 100 meters breaststroke and swam in the All Schools on 7 May. He also came 5<sup>th</sup> in the 100 meters butterfly, 100 m freestyle, 100 backstroke. Our 12 years boys' relay came second. Our 13 year boys' relay ( Dennis Yoon, Yale Yi, Shawn Xie and Lucas Myeong) came 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Maths Olympiad Training School** If you missed the story and photo of our students in *The Telegraph*, you can find it here:

<http://m.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sydney-nsw/at-maths-boot-camp-calculating-an-olympic-bid/story-e6freuzi-1226319082640>

**Robotics** Our students enjoyed their Robotics Boot camp with Ms Chen at Macleay Macquarie University. Check out the YouTube video to see the students' robots in action. At 0:24 second, it is William Chen demonstrating his proud product!

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q\\_pAfeNMGSk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_pAfeNMGSk)

**Anzac Day** Many of you would have watched our Senior Marching Band marching in the Anzac Day parade in the city. Others of you would have seen them on TV. They were magnificent.

**Anzac Day celebrations** Twenty eight of our cadets were invited to provide the Honour Guard at the DEC Hyde Park Anzac service on the Tuesday at the end of last term. They also attended memorial services at Epping and Carlingford. The school held its own Anzac Day service at school. Our guest of Honour was Brigadier D. R. Leece, PSM, RFD, ED (Ret'd) MScAgr (Sydney), PhD (Michigan State), FAIAST, FAIBiol, FACD.

*David Leece was educated at North Sydney Boys' High School, the University of Sydney and Michigan State University. He became a scientist, a public administrator and a citizen soldier.*

*His early career was as a research scientist in the New South Wales Department of Agriculture, where he made significant contributions to science, and to agricultural and environmental practice, on the mineral nutrition of crops, the foliar absorption of chemicals, and the impacts of pollutants on plants and ecosystems.*

*Dr Leece transferred to the State Pollution Control Commission in 1980, which became the Environment Protection Authority in 1992. For 22 years in these two agencies, he contributed at senior executive level to advising government, policy development, pollution control, natural resource management, the oversight of scientific research, and the provision of scientific knowledge to underpin government decisions. When he retired in 2002 after 42 years in the New South Wales Public Service, Dr Leece was Executive Director and Chief Scientist of the Environment Protection Authority, and, concurrently, the New South Wales Deputy Commissioner of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission. In 2001, he was awarded the Public Service Medal (PSM) for outstanding service to science, agriculture and environment protection.*

*Following retirement, Dr Leece was an Assistant Commissioner of the Natural Resources Commission for five years. He is now Vice-President of the Royal United Services Institute and he edits the Institute's quarterly professional journal, United Service.*

**Shakespeare Festival** 103 of our young thespians (from years 7 – 11) participated in the James Ruse Shakespeare Festival in May. The Shakespeare Festival is a state-wide (perhaps national this year) competition that allows students to showcase their expert knowledge and understanding of Shakespeare through design, music, dance and drama. The winners will now go on to represent the school at regional level.

**UBS Finance Academy** Rhonda Ung has been invited to attend the UBS Finance Academy 2012 to be held at Sancta Sophia College from 9–13 July this year. The objective of the Academy is to provide leadership in investment banking education with a particular focus on senior secondary school students. The UBS Finance Academy, established in 2003 offers selected students an opportunity to explore and learn about a wide range of career opportunities in finance. This year 50 students have been chosen from public schools in ACT, NSW and Victoria. The course is creative mix of theory, industry exposure, field visits, syndicate work and fun. A key learning tool is the finance sector case study.

**Make a World of Difference : A Guide to the Global Citizen"** If you would like to watch this launch at James Ruse 6th March there is now a 12 minute YouTube clip. The clip can viewed at <http://youtu.be/ZvXGcxQZVds>

**Red Shield Appeal** 115 students collected for Red Shield Appeal. Well done to Helen Moon and Interact for their organisation of this great event.

**Amnesty** The Arms Trade Awareness campaign this term was wonderful and well planned. Thank you to all the students involved the activities, including, Capture the Treaty, the Arms Trade exhibit and the Facts Trail.

**Shades 4 Aids.** Year 9 Interact implemented a wonderful *Shades 4 Aids* Day with over \$1500 being raised.

**Radiant Peace Foundation** Charmaine Lo was the International Winner Grades 9 – 12, in recognition of the artwork created for the Radiant Education Peace Education Awards, run by the Radiant Peace Foundation

International, in Florida. Charmaine also wins \$75 for herself, and \$150 for the school. Andre Lo has been awarded an honourable mention in Grades 4 – 8 for his essay, and a cheque for \$30.

**Australian Informatics Competition** Atul Barman (7) and Yang Song (9) have achieved a perfect score in the Australian Informatics Competition. Daaron Chiu(10) achieved a High Distinction.

**Go Green** *Go Green* have been relentless with their recent activities. The food scraps from the new blue organic waste bins will be used to feed the new school worms. Students are taking care of the worm farms/cafes.

**History debating team** Four Year 11 students have been chosen to compete in the History debating completion in July: Rhoda Ung, Vyshnavi Anura, Brittany Xu and Mark Lin.

**World Vision Global leadership Convention** The following four Year 10 student represented us at this leadership convention on Thursday, 1 June: George He, Kajan Parameshwavan, Pooja Halasagi and Tanya Han.

**Youth Enviro Forum** The following four students represented us at this forum at Taronga Zoo on 26 June: Ashley Young (12), Fiona Ma (11), Cameron Hinton (8) and Bobby Dey (7).

**National songwriting competition success** Congratulations to Sun Woo Kim. From all the entries received around Australia in Count Us In, his has been selected as one of the top three. This program is run with support from all the State and Territory education departments, under funding from the Federal Department of Education, and is in its sixth year. The winning song will be learned, rehearsed and then performed by more than 600,000 students in over 2000 schools all over the country, as part of a national program to highlight the importance of music in school education. As part of the next phase, Sun Woo Kim will join the other two top students in a songwriting workshop, to be mentored by a high profile Australian songwriter, in a collaborative process to create a new song which builds on some of his thematic ideas. The final song will be arranged for school choirs, orchestras, bands and classroom support materials will be developed around it to assist teachers and students in integrating more music activities at primary and secondary levels, in government, Catholic and independent schools.

**Transit of Venus** Thanks to Michelle C Wang's winning of a telescope with a sun filter, many students and staff were able to observe the transit of Venus, despite the clouds. Others saw it on line. This was marvellous as the next transit of Venus is not until 11.12.17!

**Table tennis** Congratulations to Erny Tsao, who has been selected to represent NSW in the Men's B Team to compete in the 2012 Australian Open and Youth Table Tennis Championships in Brisbane, Queensland from 1 to 7 of July. This has been the very first time Erny is selected to the Senior State Team.

**Empowering Local Schools** The Deputy Director General has informed me that the Federal Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP and the State Minister for Education, the Hon Adrian Piccoli MP have announced the schools that have been successful in joining the *Empowering Local Schools National Partnership*. Two hundred and twenty nine schools have been nominated for NSW. Our school is one of the successful schools and will receive a grant of \$50,000 that will be deposited in our school account next week. We have also been chosen to be in the first stage of the LMBR (Learning Management Business Reform) implementation, an extensive, holistic software package.

**Every Student Every school** The following is from the Deputy Director General: *Every regular school has been provided with advice about its Learning and Support Resource allocation that will be implemented from the start of term 3, 2012. This resource package has two components – specialist teacher staffing and flexible learning and support funding. Each of these components comprises a base allocation and a supplement based upon each school's student learning need. By re-organising the existing specialist resources provided by the NSW Government to support students with additional learning and support needs and allocating more of these resources to schools, there has been an increase of \$69 million in allocations directly to schools under this initiative. This brings the total annual spend in NSW public schools on learning and support to more than \$219 million. A full list of the Learning and Support Resource allocations to regular schools can be accessed on our website at [www.det.nsw.edu.au/every-student-every-school](http://www.det.nsw.edu.au/every-student-every-school).*

*There is no change in the way eligible students with moderate or high learning and support needs who are enrolled in regular classes are funded. These students include those with moderate or high intellectual disability, mental health disorder or autism, as well as students with hearing or vision impairment and those with physical disability. In 2012, more than \$72 million will be directly allocated to schools to support these students.*

For our school this means that for the first time we get an additional 0.4 (two days a week) in staffing, and over \$17000 to support our wellbeing curriculum.

**Titration competition** at Knox Grammar. Bonita Gu, Dominic Ng and Jim Ng came first on Saturday and move on to the next round. Nine students (three teams) participated.



**2012 Australian Olympiad teams** Congratulations to the following students who received their Olympiad blazers, for being in the Australian teams, on Monday in Parliament House, Canberra from the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for School Education, Early childhood and Youth:

**Chemistry:** Brian Gao (12) and Marco Lee (12) – going to Washington, training in Cambridge, team of four

**Informatics:** Joshua Lau (11) – going to Italy, team of four

**Mathematics:** Nancy Fu (12) – going to Argentina, team of six

On Thursday Ray Li (Informatics) and Victor Khou (Mathematics) also received blazers from Professor Hunt at assembly for being the reserve team members. A magnificent achievement. Our students will be wonderful ambassadors for Australia.



Recently we celebrated **NAIDOC and Reconciliation Week at James Ruse**. On Monday our Social Justice Committee hosted an Assembly. Ms Amy Murphy and the Social Justice team put an enormous effort into making the week special. We welcomed our special guests:

- Ms Lowanna Moran whose family is from the Brewarrina and Walgett areas. She is a Kamilaroi woman from the Kamilaroi Nation and currently studying Art Education at UNSW.
- Mr Jonathon Cattain-Webb whose family is from the Kempsey and Bowra areas. He is a Dungutti man from the Dungutti Nation and currently studying Law at UNSW.

Following the assembly we enjoyed the Indigenous Hall of Fame (Year 12 Social Justice), Indigenous Achievements in Time –Timeline (Year 8A) and Music @ lunch: Gurrumul Yunupingu (Year 8 SJC Leaders). On Tuesday 8A helped us learn some Aboriginal English, we viewed the HOPE WALL (Students used their 'hands' from assembly to write a message of hope for Indigenous Australia) and listened to Music @ lunch: Selection of Indigenous Artists. On Wednesday we learned about symbols in Art Chalk drawing by Year 8 SJC Leaders and on Thursday we enjoyed a fundraising BBQ. On Friday Years 7-10 Social Justice Leaders conducted a Culture Lesson.

The **last week of term was SRC week with a pirate theme** – recess and lunchtime activities every day. The last day of term finished with the regular Prefects Assembly.

Life at James Ruse is dynamic every day. It is both humbling and a joy to be the principal.

As ex-students, please consider visiting the school anytime. We would love to see you.

**Larissa Treskin**

## **JAMES RUSE AHS CELEBRATED 50 SCHOOL MUSICALS.**

Approximately 150 students, parents and staff both past and present revisited, rekindled and formed friendship on Saturday 9 June, 2012 on the occasion for celebrating 50 Years of School Musicals in the JC Hoskin auditorium. The afternoon commenced with a tour of the school with Barrengarry House and the farm opened to visitors to wander and muse about the “old school yard” and the antics that were tested. The School Band under the baton of Glenn Armitage played a series of music from past school musicals including Les Miserables, Oklahoma, Orpheus in the underworld and HMS Pinafore.



***Glenn Armitage conducting the School Concert Band.***

At the “formal” proceedings, Larissa Treskin (Principal) welcomed everyone and also acknowledged the achievements of the school in conducting its 50<sup>th</sup> School Musical.



***Larissa Treskin (Principal) welcoming everyone***

We were extremely lucky to have Leslie Pearson from the first Musical to be conducted at James Ruse in 1963 (HMS Pinafore) to be present on the night. Leslie with Yive Yang (who played the lead female role in the 2012 Musical – Hello Dolly) and Anisha Gunawardhana (the youngest member present from the Chorus of the 2012 Musical) cut the cake.



***Leslie Pearson (1963) with Yive Yang (2012) and the youngest chorus member present Anisha Gunawardhana (2012) cutting the celebratory cake.***

Well wishes from Michael Quinlan, Pete Smith, Keith Pitty, and Sharon Owens were read. This was followed with a series of reflections from Colin Anderson, Patricia Jolliffe, Greg Anderson, Emma Goodsir, Mark Kelly, Paul Eastment and Alan Best.

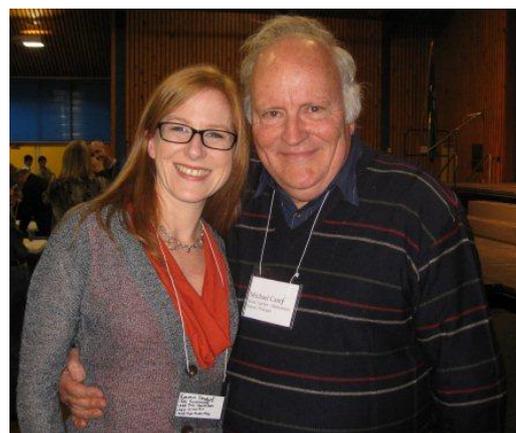
Musical items were enjoyed between each reflection with a variety of performances from the Cast from the 2012 Musical – “Hello Dolly”, The Cast from the 2009 Musical “Crazy for You”, Greg Anderson, Toni Powell who raised the roof of the hall with her powerful voice, Emma Goodsir, Paul Eastment, Angela Zhao, Sherilyn Yao and Anisha Gunawardhana.

During the evening, it was also recognised that Alan Best either co-produced, produced, directed and musical directed 38 of the musicals at James Ruse. At the conclusion of his reflections, he received a standing ovation.

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the success of each musical. Your role – no matter how small made the experiences of the students a joyful one. Thank you to everyone who attended this event celebrating 50 School Musicals. I hope you enjoyed revisiting your school and that you would stay in contact. A big thank you to the supporters / helpers who made this event possible. Without your contribution, the event would not have been as successful as it was. Thank you to everyone who made donations towards the replacement of the stage curtains – we have started on this journey and I hope we would have brand new curtains for the 51<sup>st</sup> show next year. If you wish to make a tax deductible contribution, please do not hesitate to contact me or the school.

I am in the process of developing an online collection of photographs recording 50 School Musicals (1963 – 2012). When it is completed, you will be able to download the photographs. Thank you to Alan Best, Patricia Jolliffe, Paul Eastment and Peter Hoy who have made their personal collection available.

Below are a few photographs from the evening.



L to R Megan Connors (Deputy), Larissa Treskin (Principal), Annetta St Louis (Deputy) Sherilyn Yao (Student) and Susan Yao (Parent).

Mick Canty and Emma Goodsir



Greg Anderson



Emma Goodsir



Paul Eastment



Alan Best



L-R Patricia Jolliffe, Paul Eastment, Greg Anderson, Toni Powell, Alan Best, Margaret Finch and Rose Evans

**Gerard Yeo**

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**Written by Pete Smith ('72) for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of School Musicals.**

Some years ago I took my daughter Claire back to the School to wander the student areas and retrace some of the steps of my youth. The time was just after the students had left for the day and I suspect I may have broken some kind of visitor protocol and that it may not have been the 'right' thing to do. (Gee, doesn't he ever learn!)

I took her to Barrengarry House and as she looked through the Honour Boards she asked if my name would be among them. "No, I was never really a high achiever here Claire". After a few moments and an excited call she was halfway up the staircase pointing to my name as the first recipient of the Colin R. Anderson Award For Drama.

I love the school and my time there and the school's motto has become our family's. But I was an underachiever, intimidated by the obvious academic prowess of my peers, and my response was to play the fool, annoy teachers and generally clock up canings in numbers that today might be considered 'child abuse'!

My role as Curly in Oklahoma and the subsequent recognition of my performance with Colin's award changed my life. I was now *somebody* with a fledgling talent that was recognized by others as something to nurture and care about; I was proud of this small achievement and began to hold my head up high in a school where personal confidence, bearing and pride was the norm.

I have been privileged in being able to catch up with Colin Anderson and others from time to time when my travel and business interests allow it. Rather sadly, one such occasion was the funeral of the Late Mrs Leslie Lino who, as readers will likely know, was also a driving force behind the School's musical performances for many years. It was also an opportunity to catch up again with every boy's sweetheart: Mrs Lino's daughter, Patricia.

The musicals are a wonderful tradition; indeed I believe they are an outlet for those like me who crave the discipline, direction, nurturing and freedom of creative expression before we can develop and function in ways that enable us to fulfill our capabilities. It is for this reason that I consider Colin Anderson and Bruce Berry (for vocational guidance) as two of the most influential people in my life.

From these few words, I hope I have been able to convey and you will understand the bitter disappointment that I have for not being able to attend the school's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Musicals. Rather ironically I had been visiting Sydney from Melbourne for the five weeks prior to the night and returned on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

I wish everyone every happiness for the evening.

**Pete Smith**

I am one of the pupils who matriculated at James Ruse Agricultural High School in 1962, the second group to do so after the name of the school was changed from Carlingford Agricultural High School. 2012 marks the fiftieth year since this group matriculated. Life takes us on widely divergent paths and it is more than forty years since I have had any communication with my classmates who went on from James Ruse to study and graduate from Sydney University. In the early years after matriculation one of our group, Ian Maclelland was quite active in communicating and attempting to maintain some sort of contact between us but either that fell by the wayside or my semi-nomadic career moved me beyond his radar range. In this fiftieth year since our matriculation it is possible that someone is considering a get-together of those of us surviving. If you know of any such endeavour I should be most grateful if you were to inform me and give me contact details for finding out more.

**David H Pritchard (BvScMVS) ('62)**  
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