

# **GESTA NON VERBA**

**ISSUE 3 – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

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**Facebook page:** <http://www.facebook.com/jamesruseunion>

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

**Please note our new Email Address, Web Site & Facebook Page.**

*This will be my last year as Secretary of the ex-students union.*

*In 2002 Michael Quinlan, who was Principal at the time, asked me if I would be prepared to help rekindle interest in the union and I hope over the past 10 years I have managed to accomplish this task. I have thoroughly enjoyed the contact I have had with a great many of you - helping with your organisation of reunions, locating other cohorts from your graduating years or finding various items in the archives.*

*Many thanks to those of you who have contributed to the Newsletters. I have received many emails from ex-students who have enjoyed reading about life at Ruse as it is today and was in the past. If there is anyone who would like to take over the publication of the Newsletter please let me know.*

*I must thank Eddie Woo (ex-student 2003 & current member of the Maths Staff) for all the work he has done in establishing the new Web Site, Email Address & Facebook Page. Eddie has very kindly volunteered to manage the web site and emails in the future.*

*Thank you also to Paul Harris, President, & Larissa Treskin, Principal, for their support. It has certainly made my job a lot easier.*

*Lastly I wish the James Ruse Ex-Student's Union all the very best for the future. I know James Ruse Agricultural High School means a lot to you and that you have as many fond memories of your time spent there as I have.*

*Robin Legge*

## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Term 3 is always fast and furious at JRAHS. We welcome our new Librarian, Mrs Jenny Bowen.

We have once again achieved fabulous success in the International Olympiads with Nancy Fu of Year 12 achieving a Bronze Medal at the International Mathematics Olympiad and Marco Lee and Brian Gao also of Year 12 achieving Bronze medals in the International Chemistry Olympiad. We wish Joshua Lau of Year 11 well as he leaves soon for Italy to compete in the International Informatics Olympiad.

## Highlights and Happenings of Term III:

**Agriculture.** Year 10 classes visited Bathurst and Gloucester to experience real farm life and gain further insights into the beef cattle industry. Our Ag Enrichment team have entered an exciting competition titled "The Archibull Prize"... we look forward to seeing their progress.

**Justice Week** at James Ruse flourished. The Social Justice team led by Ms Murphy have done a wonderful job of highlighting different needs and supporting a range of worthy charities. Year 8 sold delicious macaroons to raise money for Hunger Gap. Year 9 painted our faces with endangered animals while UNICEF raised awareness and funds. Year 7 have been busy selling "guesses" in their enormous jar of lollies raising money for the Smith Family.

**High Resolves.** Year 10 High Resolves students are focussing on Domestic Violence Prevention: informing, engaging, changing. Three representatives presented their **DOVE** campaign to senior executive and our visiting School Education Director, Ms Janet Chan. D.O.V.E day ensured that the whole school was more aware of the issues surrounding domestic violence and oppression.

**Worm Farms.** Congratulations to GOGREEN who have been awarded a High Achievement for their "Worm Farms" entry in *Enviro Inspiro! 2012*.

**UNSW Progcomp.** At UNSW on Saturday our students, Joshua Lau (11), Ray Li (10) and Ishraq Huda (9), won the UNSW Progcomp final.

**JRAHS Cadet Unit.** At the end of last term, over 100 cadets spent the weekend at the Burgess property in Marramarra National Park, the traditional site of our second term bivouacs for the last twenty years. This bivouac represented the Field Phase of cadet and recruit training and provided cadets with the opportunity of developing not only their field craft, but also their leadership skills.

Congratulations to the following cadets who passed this program with flying colours: CDTSGT Jaffly CHEN, CDTSGT Sing-Young CHEN, CDTSGT James ZHU, CDT CPL Justin WANG, CDT Brendan MA, CDT Kajan PARAMESHWARAN, CDT Andy WANG, CDT Eklavya WANGOO, and CDT Michelle Xu.

**2012 ICAS Computer Skills Competition.** Congratulations to Steve Tran (year 10) who is a potential medal winner for the 2012 ICAS Computer Skills Competition.

**Visit by schools from Shanghai** On Wednesday 1 August we hosted a visit from over 40 music performers and debaters from Shanghai. The overseas students entertained Year 7 to 9 in the hall for one hour. We also had visiting debaters from other schools in the audience, as well as an OC class from Colyton. After the concert the musicians workshopped with some of our band members, the debaters (with schools and countries mixed) began debate preparation and the rest of the visitors had a farm tour.

**Bands reconnect with the other Agricultural High Schools.** On Sunday 22 July to Tuesday 24 July Mr Armitage, Mr Widmer and Ms Treskin took the Senior Wind Ensemble on a tour to Yanco Agricultural HS, near Leeton. On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August, Mr Armitage, Mr Perrins and Mrs McKenzie took the Senior Concert Band on a tour to Farrer Agricultural High School, Tamworth. We are also combining with Hurlstone to conduct a Playathon.

**NSW Premier's Student Volunteering Awards** Congratulations to Sing-Young Chen, whose outstanding efforts as a volunteer have been recognised with the highest award – The Black Opal. Sing-Young volunteered more than 150 hours of her time for the benefit of the community.

**Debating.** Congratulations to **Brendan Ma** (Year 9) and **Clarence Ma** (Year 12) who represented us in the Finals for the Evatt Debating Competition. Congratulations to Thanya Sritharan, who has been selected in the Combined High Schools Debating Team.

**Drama Showcase.** Last term, we held our first Years 9, 10 and 11 Drama Showcase. It gave our amazing thespians an opportunity to perform their great work. Year 9 graced the boards with clever improvisational scenes, intriguing creative movement pieces and witty skits. Year 10 demonstrated their expert knowledge of the Bard through mash-ups, movement and dance pieces and entertaining MC-ing. Of course, Year 11 didn't disappoint as their innovative group devised performances took the audience on varied theatrical journeys.

**Meth Thara performance** Congratulations to Upeka Nanayakkara (year 9) who performed the *Meth Thara*, a musical drama which was staged at the Riverside Theatre, Parramatta.

**What Matters Competition.** Congratulations to Richard Tong (10) whose essay titled 'Uniformly Individual' won the Years 9/10 category of the What Matters Competition.

**ICAS Writing Competition.** Congratulations to Rayan Premaratna (7), Kai Lun (9) and Winney Kuang (10) who achieved perfect scores in the ICAS Writing competition.

**Sydney University Schools Model United Nations Conference.** 16 students attended the Sydney University Schools Model United Nations Conference. There were 120 participants from public and private schools from all over Sydney. Michael Sun and Richard Tong represented Norway in the Historical General Assembly. The year was 1974 and they fought strongly against South Africa participating in the Olympic Games due to their apartheid system. They were persuasive, empathetic, engaging and loved by their general assembly (most of the time). They each received a 'Diplomacy Award' for their amazing efforts. This award recognises their excellent moral and ethical conduct.

**Maths Success.** Congratulations to Nancy Fu who achieved Bronze at the recent Maths Olympiad in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

**The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual UNSW School Mathematics Competition 2012** - James Ruse students have again performed very well in this competition. The results are as follows:

JUNIOR Division

First Prize: Praveen WIJERATHNA (10) High Distinction to Wilson LIU (9), Patrick SO (10), Yang SONG (9) & Kevin XIAN (8) Distinction to Winnie CHEUNG (10), Jack JIANG (9), Samuel LIN (8K), Kevin SHI (10), Patrick SONG (10), Michael SUN (10) & Justin WU (8)

SENIOR Division

Second Prize to Jonathan ZHENG (11) Third Prize to Nancy FU (12) High Distinction to Brian GAO (12), Victor KHOU (12), Sun Woo KIM (12), Joshua LAU (11), Rachel WONG (11) & Henry YAN (11) Distinction to David HU (11), Johnny HUANG (12), Shelley SHE (12), Michael WONG (12), Gary Xu (11) & Radman ZHANG (11).

**Australian Maths Competition 2012**

Great news for the James Ruse students again; our students have performed extremely well in NSW in this year's competition. We were awarded 4 Medals. Caitlin ZHANG 8T also will receive the 'Prudence Award' for a perfect score in the Junior Division.

**Graham White's Maths Club**. Since 2006, Graham White, ex-student, has been a wonderful support of our mathematics extension programs. Graham has taught his Olympiad training course for the last five and one half years. After completing double degrees with honours at Sydney University, Graham is moving to the United States to begin his PhD in Math (as the Americans will call it) at Stanford University. We thank him for his wonderful contribution to the school and wish him all the best in the next stage of his career.

**Australian Economics and Business Studies Competition.** James Ruse Years 11 and 12 undertook the Australian Economics Competition. It was pleasing to see that we achieved National and State winners in the junior division. Congratulations to Tim Chen, Joshua Lau and Mark Lin. Our cash prizes in the Economics division alone totaled \$1500. Congratulations to all that entered. Year 10 undertook the Australian Business Studies Competition and received many cash prizes and High Distinctions.

**Australian Brain Bee Challenge 2012** The Australian Brain Challenge State Finals 2012 were held at the School of Medicine, Campbelltown Campus, University of Western Sydney. Eighteen of our year 10 students who scored well in the online round 1 quiz, were invited to compete. There were two events in the Finals: the Individual and the Team championships. Congratulations to Harsha Venkateshan who came fourth in the Individual event and to Rosy Wang, Sherrington Li, Harsha Venkateshan and Kuhan Perumynar, who came first in the Team event. For winning, each student received an IPOD shuffle and a book on the brain. A championship trophy, a Zeiss microscope and books were given to the school.

**NSW Table Tennis Champs again!** On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June, the school Table Tennis Team (Raymond Li, Erny Tsao, Avan Zeng, Sarah Tan and Phillip Yang) competed in the NSW CHS State Table Tennis Championships, at Homebush. All players were excited at the prospect of winning the title for the third year in a row.

**Tennis.** Our Girls Tennis team have spent this week playing at the State Championships in Coffs Harbour. Susanna Li (8), Sarah Tan (9), Rachel Yang (10) and Susanna Li (11) are to be congratulated on this wonderful achievement.

**Athletics.** Congratulations to the athletes who competed at the Blacktown Olympic Park in the Sydney West Regional Athletics Carnival. We saw a lot of amazing Ruse competitors there, and a huge congrats to those who made it to State, including Jessica Guo, Tony Huang, Mudith Jayasekara, Joel Jenson, Aaron Lawrence, Yoshua Selvadurai and Kevin Tang.

**Cross Country.** Congratulations also to Jessica Guo of Year 7, who achieved outstanding success in the CHS Cross Country Carnival coming 2<sup>nd</sup>, and overall for all schools she was 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Australian Open and Youth Table Tennis Championships in Brisbane** Congratulations to Erny Tsao for the following results: *Open Men's Team Event (10 Teams)* - Position 7 in the Open Men's Team Event (NSW A Team at position 4) *U21 (Youth) Men's Individual Events* - Bronze Medal in U21 Men's Doubles; and Quarter-finalist in U21 Men's Singles (Erny is the only player from NSW reaching the Quarter-final) *Open Men's Individual Event* - Last 16 in Open Men's Singles (Erny is the only U21 player from NSW reaching the last 16) Congratulations again

to Erny who competed in the **NSW Table Tennis Junior Open Championships** and won the Gold Medal in the U18 Boys Singles (State Junior Open Champion).

Congratulations to Sarah Tan who won gold in the U21 Women's Teams Event in the Australian Open and Youth Table Tennis Championships. Sarah competed in the NSW Table Tennis Junior and Under 18 Open Championships. She won all six gold medals again: U15 Girls Singles, U15 Girls Doubles, U15 Mixed Doubles, U18 Girls Singles, U18 Girls Doubles and U18 Mixed Doubles. She has been invited to be part of the ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation) *With the Future in Mind* team, which is to participate in the training camp, the exhibition match vs the Korean junior national team, and be part of the Australian team at the Korean Junior Open in Daejeon, Korea.

**HSC Music Recital.** Superb performances were enjoyed by the packed lecture theatre. Congratulations to Kerry Chen, Rebecca Yu, Lian Park, Richard Guan, Richard She, Austin Shen, Fiona Li and Caleb Wu.

**Community of James Ruse – Guest Speaker Theresa Dinh.** We were fortunate to have 2001 School Captain Theresa Dinh as our guest speaker on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August. As an extremely successful young barrister, Theresa shared her experience in the legal profession. Many parents expressed their gratitude and appreciation on the insight in this demanding industry. We came to understand the importance of being an all-rounder with strong people skills to enable the children to sustain the success in the future. It is inspiring to see Theresa commanded well and achieved so much in her early career. Most importantly she demonstrated how to hold strong and make the best of every opportunity.

**Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement.** This wonderful ceremony acknowledged the talents, dedication and successes of thirty four students from all over NSW. Sharon Mo was a very worthy recipient of this award. Sharon was acknowledged for her wonderful work in student leadership (her role as SRC President and School Captain), her work in social justice (leading the Cranes for Hope Project) and her ability to balance all her activities and achieve exceptional academic success. Below is a picture of Sharon receiving her award from the Minister of Education, Mr Adrian Piccoli MP.



### **Carlingford Development Plans:**

**Ausgrid Proposal .** Ausgrid's proposal to build two transition stations on our land has been shared with the whole school community. The President of the Community of James Ruse and the president of our Mother's Club sent the parents' first response to Ausgrid, pointing out their concerns and seeking further information.

Ausgrid has clarified that the developer (Dyldam) has requested that Ausgrid, as the owner of the power lines, relocate them to facilitate the developer's proposal. As this is critical infrastructure to the supply of electricity in the Sydney metropolitan area, Ausgrid has deemed that the physical relocation works will need to be undertaken by Ausgrid staff and contractors directly. These works will be totally funded by and all approvals sought by the developer. The developer is also responsible for community consultation as part of their development proposal and we have encouraged them at every opportunity to undertake appropriate consultation regarding the relocation of the power lines. The developer has established a 1800 community relations number - 1800 020 007.

**Water Management.** We are also very concerned that the development in the Carlingford area will place excessive pressure on our water courses. Baulkham Hills Shire Council have begun discussing plans with us.

Our concerns also relate to changing easements and the restrictions this may place on the use of our land.

It is the school's hope that a working party of interested **parents and ex-students** could be established to assist us in ensuring the safety of our students is maintained. Thank you to those parents who have already shared their expertise and assistance. It would be wonderful if a parent or **ex-student** with a legal background in this area could assist this group. If you can assist please let me know, [megan.connors@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:megan.connors@det.nsw.edu.au) .

**Toni Powell, ex-student 1983**, will be our guest speaker at this year's Awards Day Ceremony. We look forward to hearing Toni's story and if we are lucky, hearing her beautiful voice in song.

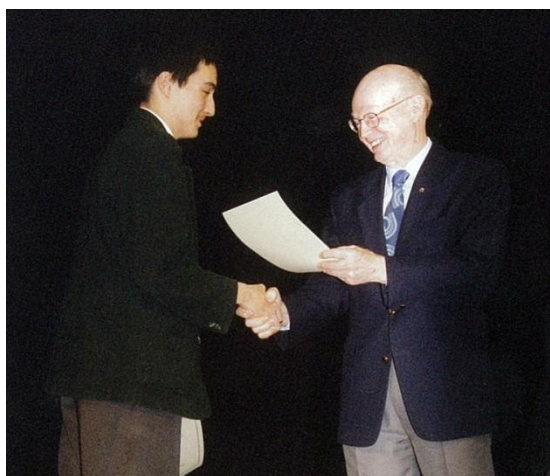
Our **Building Fund** has been accumulating well over the past year. We now have \$1.95m in our fund to build a Gymnasium, however we do need considerably more. Past and present students have made wonderful contributions to our building funds and we enjoy daily our beautiful lecture theatre. Building fund donations are tax deductible. If you are able to help us, even with a very small amount of money, we would greatly appreciate it. If you would like to make a donation please call our Accounts Office or Mrs Janie Golding on 0298717126. We need to ensure that our facilities reflect the wonderful reputation and success of our school.

Please keep in touch. We love to hear from our alumni.

**Megan Connors**  
Relieving Principal

### **VALE EDWARD HENRY (TED) CLARK (Principal 1989 – 1991)**

With sadness, we learnt that former Principal, **Mr Ted Clark**, passed away on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August at the age of 80 years. Mr Clark was Principal of both Mitchell High School and James Ruse Agricultural High School (1989-1991). Mr Clark was the beloved husband of Helga, father and father-in-law of Jen, Alan and Narrelle, Robyn and Greg and grandfather of Michael and Lauren. Mr Clark is remembered by staff as a kind and caring Principal whose generosity of spirit endeared him to all staff and all students. He was especially generous with his own time and whole-heartedly supported all wider school endeavours, from Girls' Knockout Soccer to School Musical to Cadets. "Everything was smooth sailing under Ted." Mr Clark was a thorough gentleman and is sadly missed by our school community.



### **VALE GENIA QUICK (Music Teacher 1987 - 1995)**

Genia passed away on August 9, after a long illness.

### **VALE RAMTIN RAVAIE (Class of 2005)**

Ramtin had been a registrar at RPA for six months when he was tragically killed in a cycling accident in Newcastle. Staff remember him as a wonderful student with great dignity and integrity. *Ramtin was an outstanding individual and his passing is a true loss to society* (Mr Bialy). Over 70 of his cohort attended his funeral, some coming from overseas. His passion was making a difference and the world has certainly lost a gifted young doctor.

### **REUNIONS:**

**Steve Dixon (Class of '74)** has enquired if there is any chance of a reunion in the future. He lives on the North Coast of NSW and is looking for an excuse to visit Sydney. Steve can be contacted at [infologic@bigpond.com](mailto:infologic@bigpond.com).

## **James Ruse Class of 1972 - 40 Year Reunion**

A Reunion of the JR Class of 1972 is being plotted and planned for around Feb/March 2013. Possible venues are currently being assessed by a committee of ruffians led by former Eastwood Rugby player and Kincumber Pub General Manager Grant Kennedy. The last big reunion at Dooralong Valley Resort in 2004 was a roaring success with 60 or so guys from all the groups in the form. It was a buzz, it really was. Anyhow, if you came last time you know what a great time you had, if you didn't then don't miss it again!

Further details will be posted on <http://jamesruse1972reunion.webs.com/> when they become available.

Inquiries to Ron Lovitt (02) 9774 1873 or email your query and contact details to [ronlovitt67@hotmail.com](mailto:ronlovitt67@hotmail.com)

If you have moved house or changed your contact details since the 2004 reunion it would be very much appreciated if you could email me your current details so that I can send you all the info/paperwork when the time comes.

## **Ron Lovitt 1972**

### ***Class of '63.***

*I have had an enquiry as to whether anyone is planning a 50 year reunion. Please let me know if any celebrations are being organised so I can notify other ex-students.*

Thank you for keeping the site going and I congratulate you for its format and content. As an x-student class of 1969. It heartens me to see reports of Ruse today and the excellent work being done by the wonderful teachers and administration to keep James Ruse AHS at the pinnacle of learning for all students.

It is also wonderful to hear the stories of previous classes that started the traditions that are so proudly being carried on in the academic community of today.

I have very fond memories of my years at Ruse. The motto I have engraved in my heart as I daily try hard to follow its true meaning.  
Again well done to all.

### **Bill Fortier**

**X James Ruse AHS Vice Captain,  
CUO of Cadet Unit  
Captain of first XV rugby union  
School prefect.**