JAMES RUSE ALUMNI – VOLUME 2 NO 3 – 26.8.94

CIRCULATION : 601
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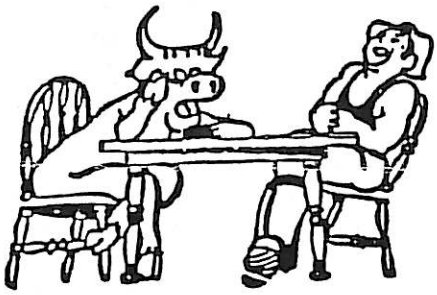

President	Greg Gard ('83)	81 1065
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Treasurer	Nicole Austin ('88)	871 1024
Patron	Mr Jim Hoskin	
Dinner Coordinator	Diana Jackson	651 1885
94 Wine Trip Coordinator	Dave Evans ('82)	744 8160

ALUMNI PUBLICATION DATES FOR 1994
(Please let the school have any script for publishing one week before)

MARCH 18

MAY 27

AUGUST 26

NOVEMBER 25

PRESIDENT'S NOTES.

Dear Old Boy,

Thank you to all those *Old Boys* and the school who turned up to participate in the *Old Boys'* football match on the June long weekend. Unfortunately the overall numbers were low although the games were played in great spirit. For the first year in memory, rugby was not played, as the school no longer fields a side in their sports competition. The chance to aggravate old injuries was greatly missed and perhaps this contributed to the lack of enthusiasm from *Old Boys*. I guess this is a logical consequence of the changes the school has developed over the past 18 years with the introduction of coeducation, necessitating the change of sporting zones, and with rising academic standards. Many older *Old Boys* may be surprised to learn that the number one sport at the school is now girls' soccer. This is to take nothing away from the girls, who showed the greatest enthusiasm as well as the most players on the day of any team and one cannot argue with their impressive record of achievement, including, I believe, two recent State championships.

I am not sure whether the lack of *Old Boys* on the long weekend was due to inadequate advertising (the game was mentioned in the preceding Alumni), the lack of a rugby fixture as mentioned above, or that *Old Boys* no longer want to participate in these functions. The match has been held on the June long weekend for at least 20 years so I find it hard to believe that people confused the dates. I find this is a great day to visit the school, to check on its latest modifications and stir my many memories. It is also the only event in the year which acts as a tangible contact with both the school and its current pupils. The mens' soccer was a great game and I must say I enjoyed it immensely despite it being my first soccer game since under 10's many years ago. They may not play it in heaven but I guess it is the world game.

Possibilities for next year include changing the day to another weekend as many people have commented that the long weekend is a chance to get out of Sydney. Another plan would be to introduce a BBQ to entice those who just want to come along to watch and see old friends. New sports such as cricket or basketball may be the answer. I would be very interested to find out *Old Boys'* thoughts. Feel free to contact me directly or leave a message on the pages of the alumni or at the school. If there is no enthusiasm for the sports day then we will drop it completely.

On a more positive note I have pleasure in announcing the annual *Old Boys'* dinner for 1994. It will be held on October 14th at 7.30pm at the Epping Club (RSL and Community), Oxford St., Epping. Tickets will be available from the school and through Old Boys committee members. Prices are yet to be finalised although I expect that it will cost approximately $30 a ticket. This year as guest speaker we have Mr Murray Smith, a James Ruse Old Boy from 1974. Murray is currently a wine maker in Orange and has recently won a gold medal at the Cowra Show for his '92 Meriot. For those readers of the Herald, his '92 Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon have also both received high commendation from Huon Hooke. His winery is Canobolis-Smith Wines, Boree Lane (off Cargo Rd), Lidster near Orange. Murray will be talking to us about his wines and his life since he left Ruse. We are expecting to be able to be tasting his wines on the night. For those unfortunate few who may not be able to attend the night I am sure Murray would be only too glad to see you at the winery. As always we will also expect to hear from James "The Boss" Hoskin and John "Give us an R" Skinner. These nights are always a great affair so please come along. Partners are welcome but don't expect them to understand the Skin when he gets going with the war cry.

As always if there are *Old Boys* willing to join the committee or act as a year contact please contact me. I hope to see you all at the dinner in October.

Greg Gard.
President.

SCHOOL NOTES.

It is with deep regret that we acknowledge the death of Jesse Hoskin, the wife of our founding Principal on Monday 22 August 1994. Jim and Jesse were married for 56 years and it was only recently that Jesse due to illness was prevented from accompanying Jim at the many formal functions at our school. Jesse will be remembered for her gentle but determined spirit. Our school was represented by the Principal, several teachers, the Captains and Prefects at the memorial service held for Jesse at Parramatta on Thursday August 25.

Our Open Girls' Soccer Team has done it again – they will play the State Final on Friday September 9 at Blacktown against Westport High School. Last year we met Westport also in the final and won 2–1.

John Ho Year 12 1994 was the National Winner of the Mobil Economics competition. When we add a

further 29 High Distinctions in this competition we were a full 22 High Distinctions in front of the nearest competing school in NSW.

Rebekah Grindlay Year 12, represented Australia in the Young Achievement (YA) Conference held in Chicago recently. Rebekah was elected as President for the 1994/5 year – the first non American President.

I hope your Annual Reunion Dinner is a success and look forward to more contributions to the Alumni Publication in future months.

Michael Quinlan
Principal

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from **David Churchill (1967)**

"Thank you for the recent James Ruse Alumni which is a most informative medium to former students of the school.

It is some years since I visited the school and the newsletter has provided not only information on activities planned but academic successes attained by current and past students. Can I suggest a report on the sporting prowess of the school as some past students may be heartened, including myself, by developments in this area. I believe that sport and academic achievement compliment each other in moulding future well balanced Australians, maybe you share this view.

As advised, I attach a business card should contact wish to be made.

Keep up the good work."

THE NATURAL GAS COMPANY

David Churchill
Mains Liaison Officer

AGL Sydney Limited ACN 003 004 322
Tennyson Road, Mortlake. P.O. Box 35, Concord NSW 2137
Phone: (02) 736 5782 Fax: (02) 743 6109

Letter received from **David Streeter (1990)**

"As a former student of James Ruse, and one with a reputation for balanced argument and peaceful resolution of conflict, I feel justified and compelled to comment on Kate Fagan's letter in the Alumni newsletter of 27.5.94.

I am outraged.

Originally I was going to write a letter full of rational, logical and vitriolic argument against the views Kate inflicted upon us in her letter. I then discovered in actually talking to Kate that this was not a logical or rational matter for me. It was almost completely an emotional one.

What I **think** may be important to me, but that pales into insignificance compared to what I **feel**. I feel that James Ruse is the best school in the universe, and I feel a great loyalty to James Ruse. I also feel that Kate's letter attacks our school, and therefore attacks the students, "old boys" and teachers from Ruse. Most disappointing of all was the inference that you, Mr Canty, have anything but the interests of the students at heart.

I remember my time at James Ruse as an overwhelmingly positive one. I speak as one of the students who early on had problems fitting in at James Ruse. I suppose I would have been termed 'a discipline problem', politely. I am sure other phrases may have been applied to myself by teachers, outside the earshot of students. If they did hold these views, I would think they were probably justified, but I am grateful they did not share those views with students, as it would have been inappropriate.

Similarly I think Kate's remarks are inappropriate. I also think they are wrong, and that the assumptions that she makes are incorrect, but neither of these is the major point.

The common goal of every student at James Ruse should be to attain the highest HSC mark of which they are capable.

As I hope you do not remember, my first years at James Ruse were not happy ones. I was not "in". However, something unusual happened in year eleven. The common pursuit of the highest possible HSC marks had a unifying effect on my year. Old grudges were laid aside and enemies became friends. More surprisingly, perhaps inconceivably, even the teachers became friends.

The personal goals of popularity, a girlfriend and

personal happiness became secondary to the group needs of not letting the side down. Amazingly, almost overnight I found myself popular, happy and yes, with girlfriend. People were even turning up at my parties (which were, by conservative estimate, legendary).

The needs of one individual are usually in conflict with the needs of other individuals. I think there is an immense power in a shared goal, any shared goal, even if that goal is not necessarily one that is deemed "politically correct". Yes, personal happiness is important, but in today's society it is often forgotten that doing something for other people can be equally, if not more, rewarding that doing it only for yourself.

This is why I believe that "The pursuit of excellence" is so important at Ruse.

Perhaps there are those that think it should not be the case, but truth of the matter is that your HSC mark is a number that you carry around with you for your entire life. Kate seems to believe that it is impossible for an individual to make an incorrect vocational choice. The "pressure" applied by teachers at Ruse to make certain subject or career choices are based on valid grounds. In a school that did not care, such "pressure" would not be applied at all. Above all, the advice given by teachers at Ruse is given with the interests of the student, not the school, in mind. Advice is always on a personal level, considering the students' individual abilities and interests, not from some pre-conceived idea of "good" and "bad" courses or subjects.

The view that James Ruse or the Alumni does not encourage non-academic and extra-curricular activities is just wrong. I shall quote you, Mr Canty, though perhaps more thoughtfully than Kate did. The following is from The James Ruse Alumni, volume one, issue two, and is a transcript from the farewell speech you gave to the year twelve of 1992.

"But I know in my 13 years that so much has been accomplished by ex-students that anything is possible. Look at some of the achievers –

Greg Anderson	**Studying Aboriginal Sacred Music in Arnhem Land**
David Cameron	**University medal in English then a PhD at Oxford**
Paul Teal	**Programming the Telecom system as his first task after his University Medal**
Richard Buckland	**Going on European and Asian tours with his proceeds from production of software**
Sue Byleveld	**Doing original research in maths in year 2 at university**
Adrian Tucker	**Playing cricket for NSW**
Andrew Leeds	**Playing fullback for Australia at Rugby**
Richard Ing	**Becoming one of the world's professional tennis umpires**
Toni Powell	**Singing with the Australian Opera**
Gerald Tatrai	**Developing into one of the world's great endurance cyclists**

I could keep going on and on. These people are leaders in many fields. In a few weeks time you also will be leaving us to make your mark, if not as Olympic Games organisers, then certainly in fields too diverse for my imagination to conjure up. My thoughts/prayers/good wishes go with you and so does the staff's."

Although my voice might not carry as much weight as others, I fully support the James Ruse Alumni."

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Letter received from **Justin Wolfers (1991)**

"The letter below is a response to Kate Fagan's letter in the Alumni News (Vol. 2, No.1). I am not sure where else Kate's letter was published, but this is intended as a response, and as such it is submitted for publishing in whatever forum(s) you deem suitable.

I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Alumni News, and have enjoyed both the newsletter generally, and Miss Anderson's efforts.

Wishing you all the best, both personally and for the school,

Dear James Ruse Friends,
re: Kate Fagan's concern's, and the JR definition of "achievement" (Alumni 2:1)

The challenges which Kate poses to the school and the alumni are demanding. Kate's comments are a mixture of prescription and description, and I feel

that they are mistaken in both directions.

First, Kate's description – she tells us that James Ruse is a stifling place, choices are limited as students are simply poured through the educational machine, achieve high marks, and are positively pushed into vocational degrees, without a thought for what they enjoy. The evidence? Kate was "flatly discouraged from taking 3 units of mathematics as opposed to 4 units; I was told that the choice would mean 'throwing away' the chance of doing very well in my final exams."

I was in the same 3 unit maths class as Kate, and under similar circumstances. It was true that by staying in the 3 unit class I too was "throwing away" marks. However, I am glad that my decision was an informed one – I didn't choose my subject under any illusions that it would be helping my marks. Note that Kate was not told that her choice was in any way the **wrong** choice, she was merely given a professional opinion as to its consequences. Indeed, the honesty of her teachers is a compliment to her and a credit to James Ruse: no-one's subject choice is restricted – we are simply trusted to make informed decisions, consistent with our personal definition or achievement.

Further, Kate's description of the "vocational machine" that we are supposedly channelled into is incorrect. After finishing school I was going to work at the racecourse, as a bookmaker's clerk, and eventually as a bookie – I only applied to uni as an afterthought. Contrary to Kate's hypothesising, the school was amazingly supportive of my unconventional career choice. Indeed, one of my fondest memories is of going out to the greyhounds with Mr Trout after my first day at work, and sharing my excitement with him, as I described how everything had gone.

Perhaps more challenging is Kate's prescription – the school should be more "in pursuit of knowledge and self-development" rather than "in pursuit of excellence". The current ethos "prioritising examinations and performance over social interaction and development" must be abandoned, in an effort "to nurture well-balanced and well-supported people".

However, criticising the focus of the top academically selective school in the state on academic achievement is akin to criticising the Con for emphasising musical achievement; or Newtown School for the Performing Arts for emphasising dance. Schools like JR provide students with the very choices which Kate argues are important. Students who wish to emphasise music are facilitated by the Con; surely the choice of those students who wish to emphasise academic achievement is equally valid, and deserves equal facilitation.

Further, in so far as Kate's arguments are for students to be exposed to greater choices, they are an argument for the school's academic focus. HSC success can only increase the array of life choices available. This should be read expansively: not only did my HSC allow me the choice of a number of university courses; it gave me something to fall back on, so that I could pursue my racing career; it convinced me to believe in myself, taught me that when I put my mind to something I can achieve it, and gave me the confidence to pursue my "offbeat" choice. Perhaps the most important lesson that I learned, but which Kate seems to object to is that there is nothing wrong with achievement.

If we can assume that upon finishing school, and being presented with a wide array of life choices, we make the choices which are best for us, then the present focus of JR is correct. I have every confidence that this is a fair assumption to make of a student body that is as intelligent as ours.

Indeed, this seems to be the crux of Kate's objections – that JR does not sufficiently recognise achievement in all fields of endeavour, and hence that some kind of insidious socialisation results. I can only agree that any school (implicitly or explicitly) socialises its students to value those things upon which it focuses. However, the things which Ruse values are those which are undervalued in wider society: We do not have to hide the fact that we get good marks; we do not have to play football, or smoke or drink or be a "slut" to be accepted, we do not simply assume that young women will leave school, marry and have kids, or that young men will either join a trade, or wear a suit and work for a broking firm. At school, singing in the choir, joining cadets etc are legitimate choices, and correspondingly, further study, a career, travel and so on are presented as legitimate after-school options. To my mind, the Ruse focus is merely redressing the imbalance present in wider society – ensuring that whatever choice is made is a considered one.

Finally, the proof of the pudding is in the tasting – despite (or because) of the JR institutions which Kate has chosen to bag, JR alumni are everywhere – we **are** at the races, selling plants, having kids, selling books, politically active, and importantly we are helping each other out, we are giving each other discounts, getting each other jobs,

swapping notes, having a beer at Wentworth etc.

Yours fraternally,

Justin Wolfers (Currently studying Ec.IV (Hons) at Sydney)

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IN MEMORY

Recently we were all deeply shocked to learn of the death of Michael Boyes, a student from James Ruse who shared our school lives between 1983 and 1988, and who lost his life in a car accident on April 30, 1994.

Death of youth always represents theft of great potential, and leaves us feeling cheated and vulnerable. In Michael we have lost a truly good person, who since leaving school had gone on to study Economics and Commerce at Sydney University. He was involved with the Scout movement and held a position at IBM. Such a tragedy makes us stop and question our perceived immortality, and casts a sobering light on the very things we consider to be important.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends left behind, and we hope that the knowledge of his many contributions and achievements, and the mark he made on all our lives can alleviate their pain.

The memory of his smiling face will always be with us, as he will always be with God.

Sarah Clarry

MODULATION OF THE OVINE IMMUNE RESPONSE

A thesis submitted for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

by

Shari Amanda Lofthouse

May 1994

Centre for Animal Biotechnology
School of Veterinary Science
The University of Melbourne

This thesis is dedicated to the memory of Jan Powe, who inspired my interest in science and provided many years of encouragement.

To The Class of 84

James Ruse Agricultural High School

10 years down the track, well now its time to go back

Venue:	*Country Comfort Inn* *Pennant Hills Road, Pennant Hills* *Telephone (02) 980 6999*
Date:	*Saturday 10 September, 1994*
Time:	*8.00 p.m. to 12.00 p.m.*
Cost:	*$25.00 per head - Partners welcome* *(includes Hors D'oeuvre & drinks until 9.00 p.m. followed by bar service)*
Dress:	*Smart*
Accommodation:	*$95 per room - available by direct booking with the CCI. A discount will be provided if 10 or more rooms are booked - so let them know you are with the JRAHS Reunion.*
RSVP:	*29 July* — *See Attached*

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE MISSING. CAN YOU HELP US FIND THEM?

Marilyn Anderson	Chris Hertner	Antony Lewis
Simon Aungle	Michael Hodge	Iain Marshall
David Bolliger	Caroline Hooper	
Todd Browning		
Adam Cartwright	Shawn Hultgren	Helene McKanna
Peter Davidson	Ruth Kenrick	George Moulos
Greg Fitchman	Chong-eu Khoo	Sean Parr
Allison Gooch		
Mrudula Reddy		
Darren Reed	Lisa Ward	
Ian Sayers	Christina Redshaw	
Mark Werner		
Gavin Wilson		

These people have not been sent invitations. Please forward a copy to them if you know where they are, or give us a call and let us know.

ORDER FORM

Please supply me with _____ tickets to the JR 84 Reunion.

Tickets in the names of: _____

_____

Contact Phone No: _____

I enclose $25 x _____ for full payment.

ALL CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO KAREN ROBERTS AND SENT TO:

380 BOURKE ST, SURRY HILLS, NSW, 2011.

TICKETS ARE TO BE COLLECTED ON THE NIGHT, NO RECEIPT WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOU. CLEARANCE OF YOUR CHEQUE IS PROOF OF RECEIPT.

OBITUARY

Janice Thelma Powe
1939 - 1992

Jan was born at Ryde in February 1939. She spent her childhood in Parramatta. Educated at Macarthur Girls' High School, from which she graduated as Dux, Jan demonstrated strong academic and sporting abilities, and always remained proud of her horse-riding skills. The results attained in her Leaving Certificate gave Jan free choice of scholarships and bursaries then on offer to support attendance at tertiary institutions, but opted to undertake the Teaching Certificate for N.S.W. high schools, marking the beginning of her devotion to education and its promotion.

Those who only met her later in her life would be surprised to learn that despite majors in mathematics and biology Jan initially taught Social Science and Home Economics. Her first postings with the then Department of Education were at Burwood and Macarthur Girls' High Schools, but her early career was interrupted by the birth of her two sons in 1960 and 1963. Jan returned to work full-time (as a secular teacher in the Catholic system) in 1965, extending herself by teaching geography and later geology, and completing a course of conversational Indonesian in order to teach that language.

It was the teaching of geology that rekindled Jan's interest in science, and she was sufficiently inspired to return to tertiary education, successfully undertaking a part-time Bachelor's Degree in Geology and Palaeontology at the new Macquarie University (1970-1974). In a typical display of her capability and determination, Jan completed the course in five years - a year faster than the normal programme and it have her great pleasure to recount her success in passing a Statistics exam with high distinction while suffering from (it was later discover) encephalitis!

The commencement of this Degree was Jan's stepping stone into formal science teaching, and she returned to the State system as a member of the Science staff at Parramatta High School. There and later at Baulkham Hills, she taught geology and chemistry. **In 1978 Jan was promoted to the position of Head Teacher (Science) at James Ruse AHS, one of N.S.W.'s prestigious selective secondary State schools. There she was personally responsible for raising the average marks to the point where RUSE students regularly appeared in the H.S.C. top 10.** Her skill and competence was recognised by the Department's appointment of her as the Metropolitan West Regional Science Adviser supporting some 60 State schools.

During 1990, Jan was promoted to the position of Deputy Principal of Cromer High School, and was appointed as Examiner in Physics for the N.S.W. Higher School Certificate. She became a member of the Science Education Advisory Committee of the University of Technology, Sydney; was nominated by the N.S.W. AIP for the BHP Science Teacher's Award; broadcast on ABC Radio National's Science Show, and completed courses in modern Greek and conversational Italian so as to better communicate with parents of her pupils. From mid-January 1992, in recognition of her efforts over thirty years in teaching, Jan was seconded to an advisory role in Metropolitan North Region of the N.S.W. Department of School Education, with a brief to develop plans for improved delivery of physics education in N.S.W. high schools.

Mis-interpretation of symptoms, and the failure of conventional X-Rays to reveal the presence of the bone tumour that caused her so much pain throughout early 1991, meant that the cancer which led to her death was not diagnosed until May last year - when it had already reached the fourth (and final) stage of Metastasis. Jan underwent radio- and chemotherapy for the following eight months, with considerable optimism and dogged resolve to survive. Jan continued to teach, to administer her school, offer remedial coaching, and even to conduct a series of bridging lectures in mathematics at UNSW in January and February this year.

Unfortunately, the cancer progressed more rapidly than expected- the development of secondary brain tumours robbed Jan of her ability to communicate and move freely, a situation she abhorred. In the knowledge that the treatment would have only a short term palliative effect, Jan accepted generalised radiotherapy to the brain in order to survive until the birth of her first grand-child. In a small triumph over mortality, she was able to enjoy the company of baby Halcyon Louisa for exactly three weeks. In the last days, although slipping in and out of coma, Jan remained concerned for the well-being and happiness of her friends and family even unto the hour of her death. **The premature passing of Jan Powe will be mourned by many, and the memory of her life and endeavours rightly cherished by us all.**

Bradley James Powe.
(Edited Article courtesy of the *Australian & New Zealand Physicist)*

Melinda Penn (1989) who graduated recently from the University of Sydney with BScAgr (First Class Honours) and was awarded the University Medal.

Mr Harvey Baker, Director of the Australian Cotton Foundation presents James Taylor with the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Cotton Production Scholarship valued at $5,400 per annum.

"And so you just threw everything together?... Mathews, a posse is something you have to *organize*."

Well folks, it's been four years since we all polished off that final ag exam, and nearly three years since the last reunion. So what has everybody been doing in the meantime? To find out, why not come to the Class of 1990 Reunion?!

When? Saturday, 3 December

Where? At Andrew Leigh's home - 18 Yarrara Road, Pennant Hills

What time? From 6pm onwards

What do I bring? Everything. Food and drinks, plus a tennis racket and some swimmers if you're feeling in a sporty mood.

If you've got any questions, call me (Andrew) on 481 0878. Otherwise, I'll expect to see you there!

Thanks to Michael Quinlan and the front office staff
at James Ruse for sending out this invitation.