

Fifteenth Latin Summer School - January 2009

Directors' Report

The 15th Latin Summer School was held from 19 to 23 January 2009 in the Education Building at the University of Sydney. It comprised intensive language study through a wide range of levels from beginners to postgraduates, a series of Guest Lectures and a Special Interest Series of seminars for advanced students. There was a total enrolment of 225 students with 25 tutors and 3 administrators. 82 of the total students were from 24 schools in NSW and Victoria.

The Summer School was opened by Ian McLeod who reflected on the aims of the summer school and looked back over the last ten years. He paid tribute to the late John Russell, who died in 2008 at the age of 65, attended many summer schools and wrote a most interesting review of the 2008 Summer School.

The 17 classes were taught by 25 experienced school teachers, university lecturers, and postgraduate students from a wide variety of institutions and we are very grateful to them for their splendid contribution :

Level 1A : Marguerite Johnson and Seumas McDonald *

Level 1B : Joel Morrison and Emma Cole *

Level 1C : Anthony Alexander and Mathew Almond

Level 2A : John Coombs and Damaris Wikramanayaka

Level 2B : Lisa Aronson and Milton Micallef

Level 2C : Michelle McVeigh and Sarah Lawrence

Level 3A : Mike Salter, Paul Reisner *, Helen Pigram *

Level 3B: Roger Pitcher and Alison Waters

Level 4 : Chris Ransom, Elizabeth Minchin, Terry Ryan, Mary Oakes *, Martin Stone, Jessica Dietrich *

Level 5 : Frances Muecke and James Uden

* we were delighted to welcome these tutors to LSS for the first time this year

After many years of tutoring at LSS Mrs Erna Bollard retired to the less onerous role of taking two sessions on Latin scansion. We are very grateful for all that Erna has done for LSS and the cause of the Classics and look forward to her taking some part in future summer schools.

A very interesting and varied series of Guest Lectures was given as follows :

Justice Michael Kirby : *The decline and fall of Latin, History and everything that matters*

Em Prof. Edwin Judge : *What's wrong with the ring of Augustus and with his chair ?*

James Uden : *The Vigil of Venus*

Martin Stone : *Aeneas and the Cardinal Virtues*

Desmond Cahill : *Roman Chariot Racing*

John Coombs : *Gregory of Tours' History of the Franks*

Paul Burton : *Reading Imperialism in Early Latin Literature*

Andrew Miles : *Fidus Achates -the story of Aeneas' best friend*

Two Special Interest Series were presented each afternoon for those in levels 4 & 5 :

Paul Burton : *Transitions to Empire*

James Uden : *Life and letters under the Emperor Hadrian*

All those attending the summer school received a coffee mug and cloth bag to commemorate 15 years of LSS. All 82 school students who attended received a Certificate of Attainment. To encourage all attending to join the Classical Association, copies of the last issue of *Classicum* were freely distributed together with an application form to join the CA at the special rate of \$10 for the first year of membership.

The Latin Summer School is a unique week of learning, wide reading and meeting fellow lovers of Latin in a relaxed atmosphere. We are grateful to Abbays Bookshop for an excellent range of books on their three-day bookstall. Profits from the Summer School go towards promoting classical education in schools and universities and funding visits by distinguished visitors from overseas for the Todd Lecture. Substantial donations are also made to UNE Tesoriero Memorial Fund and the Kudos Foundation. The Latin Summer School was directed by Ian McLeod and Frances Muecke, catering by Anne Bryant and administrative assistance from David Collison, Peter Boyages and Tim Patrick.

LSS 2009 was officially closed by the Vice Chancellor and presentations made to the retiring Director, Ian McLeod