

Looking Back – JFHS English/History Faculties

1997	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	

2010 ENGLISH AND HISTORY FACULTIES

Our students and staff have achieved great successes in 2010 – here are just the highlights to give you a taste of 2010:

- River of Stories winners: Robert Anderson for his story 'What not to do in the holidays' that also won the city prize; and Lachlan McIntyre for his story 'Campbell St' and his poem 'A poem for progress'.
- Highly successful History & English excursions – to Bandiana Army Museum for Years 9&10, Bonegilla Migrant Centre for Year 10, Canberra Excursion for Year 10, Melbourne to the Titanic Exhibition, Write around the Murray author visits, the Pioneer Cemetery, and many other local events.
- Year 11 students saw the power of history in a special Holocaust Museum presentation by the survivors of World War Two.
- Year 9 students experienced the world of Romeo & Juliet from Bell Shakespeare in an action-packed fast-moving workshop performance.
- Open Night 2010 featured student exhibits, creations and presentations from their English & History classes.
- Year 11 & 12 Ancient History students were part of an HSC preparation seminar with a leading archaeologist and historian from Sydney, organised by Mr Griffith.
- Year 12 students took part in the HSC English Study Day at CSU – with presentations from HSC markers and senior teachers, including our own staff.
- Mr Keenan and Ms Dixon marked HSC Modern History and English papers at the marking centres in Sydney and Wagga, and will bring many insights to our students.
- James Fallon students, and especially Rachele Armstrong, were key members of the team that brought the 2010 VENT magazine, the youth magazine of AlburyCity. It is a fantastic production full of our students' stories, poems, artworks and ideas.
- In 2010 our students took part in the Albury Debating Eisteddfod, State Debating and Public Speaking Contests, numerous writing and poetry contexts, the school Microstory Contest (and we sponsored the Primary Schools Microstory Contest), Lions Youth of the Year...and more.
- The Border Mail featured many of our students and their hobbies, passions and achievements – Darby Quinlivan and Dr Who, Zac Dacey and his radio hosting, and many more.
- Chloe Laundess won the Riverina Public Speaking Contest for the 2nd year in a row – an amazing achievement.
- Our Year 9 students are the 2010 champions after winning the Riverina Debating Festival in December 2009.

- Lachlan McIntyre was interviewed on Vision Australia radio – and a reading of his great story featured in a one hour show. To listen to a podcast of his interview/reading, go to the English Faculty page and follow the links.
- The James Fallon website has a fantastic writing Gallery on the English Page, as well as Microstory winners, podcasts of students reading their work, and much, much more. See great photos of excursions and events on the History Page too.
- Mr Griffith of the History Faculty travelled to France with the Westfields Ancient History Scholarship awarded by the Premier of NSW. He explored the Roman world of ancient Europe, and has created a special website for senior students throughout NSW.

Zac's Got the Voice

Zac Dacey featured in The Border Mail for his many years of dedicated radio DJ work with community radio. [Open the pdf file](#) to see the full page photo and story.

Down with the Titanic!

In Week 10 of Term 2, teachers from our History staffroom took two busloads of eager Year 7, 8 and 9 students to the bottom of the ocean floor. At the Melbourne Museum, students had the opportunity to see rare relics from the ill-fated ship, brought up from the cold waters of the North Atlantic. They also explored the wreck of the ship in the 3D film “The Ghost of the Abyss” at Imax. While in Melbourne, the students spent their lunch time in the middle of the city – taking in Federation Square and St Paul's Cathedral. It was a great day enjoyed by all.



ROSTRUM VOICE OF YOUTH

The Rostrum Voice of Youth Speaking Competition was held in Albury on Tuesday May 4th. James Fallon High School had two representatives who conducted themselves beautifully on the day. Darby Quinlivan spoke on the topic of ‘A Path Worth Taking’ in the junior section of the competition and posed some thoughtful and inspiring questions. Laura Harris competed in the senior division,

speaking for eight minutes on the subject of 'The Truth Hurts' where she described the plight of our marine animals. Both participants competed amiably and were exceptional representatives of our school. Thanks must go to Darby and Laura for being well prepared and just plain fantastic! Well Done!

Ms Pinn

Year 10 Bandiana/Bonegilla Excursion

Year 10 History recently conducted a site study of two local treasures. First, they visited the excellent military museum at Bandiana – outside the Canberra War Memorial it's the best military museum in Australia. Then they spent some time at the Bonegilla migrant centre – which is developing into an excellent resource for students learning about post-war immigration to Australia.



Year 9 Bandiana Excursion.

For the 2010 Stage five site study, the Year 9 students were taken to the Army War Museum at the Gaza Ridge Barracks in Bandiana. The students had a tour by Vietnam War veterans Phil and Gordon, who were able to explain the stories behind thousands of uniforms, medals, weapons, newspaper and journal clippings, and armour including a helmet that had saved the life of a digger who had been hit by a shell in World War Two. The most popular and interesting features of the day were examining the transport vehicles including helicopters and tanks that have been restored from World War One. We also found out that Borella Road is said to have been named after Victoria Cross recipient Albert Borella for bravery in battle. We learned that the Victoria Cross is the most honoured and revered commendation that is received by a soldier. Our guide Gordon took great pleasure in shaking the hand of Captain Borella's descendant (our very own) Sally Borella.



Overall, it was a fantastic day, and the students took lots of notes and were taking everything in and thoroughly enjoying both our nation and our region's military heritage.

Hear the Lions Roar!

A group of our senior students submitted themselves to the prestigious Lions Youth of the Year Quest. This is an international competition where each candidate has a long interview before a panel of 3 judges, and then presents a prepared speech and 2 impromptu speeches at a formal evening dinner before an audience of 100 people.

Our Year 11 contestants at the Lavington Lions Youth of the Year quest were outstanding ambassadors for our school: Joel Docker, Laura Harris, Breanna Lee, James Buckle and Joanna Martin presented outstanding speeches, and also handled their impromptu questions excellently. The speeches spanned the topics of sharks, inspiration, the AFL draft, finding true heroes and reaching your true potential. James Buckle was the Public Speaking Champion on the night, while Joel Docker was announced Lavington Lions Club Youth of the Year for 2010.



[Back to Top](#)

2009 ENGLISH AND HISTORY FACULTIES

Celebrating Success!

2009 was a year of change and celebration in the English and History faculties. We welcomed Amy Baldock, Amy Murphy and Mikhaila Williams to our staff, farewelled a highly experienced and senior English teacher, Bruce Marshall, to his new position as Support Teacher Learning at James Fallon High, and also watched as our students excelled themselves in many events and competitions. Elsewhere in the magazine you will read about our Lions Youth of the Year champions, the Microstory Contest winners, and the public speaking and debating champions for 2009. Please read on...

- **Murder ... live!**

Our Year 10 students took part in the Bell Shakespeare workshop on the famous play, developing their insights into this classic story and great writer.

- **Open Night ... open!**

This year we presented online movies, video performances and dynamic displays of student work for all to see. We can be proud of our students' achievements throughout 2009.

- **Special Guests in 2009**

This year we welcomed Nancy Rourke and Aunty Rita to our Year 10 History classes – presenting stories and experiences about their childhood as part of our Indigenous community, and sharing their views about the stolen generations and the sorry apology from our Prime Minister. It was an inspiring and powerful event organised by Amy Murphy. We also welcomed a special team of Indigenous writers and the writer Scott Monk to the school – they presented workshops for talented students and writers.

- **Ancient world alive!**

In 2009 Mr Griffith and Ms Dixon coordinated visits from leading Australian archaeologists to present a Riverina conference on the senior Ancient History topics for the HSC. This was a very popular and highly successful set of conferences for Year 11 and 12 students.

- **To Pompeii, and beyond**

Our senior and junior students took part in fantastic excursions to Melbourne to be part of the amazing Pompeii exhibitions during the year, and they were 'gobsmacked' by the displays and interactive displays.

- **A very special prize**

Third time proved lucky for Ron Griffith, English/History teacher at James Fallon High School when the Premier of NSW announced the five State winners of the prestigious NSW Premier Westfields History Teachers' Scholarships. Ron's five week 'Roman Gaul' study tour application impressed the large panel that included sponsors and professionals from organisations like Westfields Holdings and the History Teachers' Association of NSW. Ron's study tour will take him to Bibracte, France's main archaeological Research Centre in Burgundy. He hopes to gain many new insights into Celtic society prior to the Roman invasion and to gain a greater understanding of the process of change brought about by 'Romanisation' on the many tribes of Roman Gaul.

- **HSC English Study Day**

Once again our English teachers were part of the special HSC English Study Day at CSU – presenting sessions for all students in the area as they prepared for their HSC examinations.

- **HSC Marker**

Mr Keenan has been added to the large number of James Fallon High English & History teachers who have marked and set the HSC examinations. This depth of experience adds to the level of expertise available for our students as they prepare for the HSC exams.

- **A river of success**

James Fallon students achieved a great result in the 2009 'River of Stories' competition. This prestigious contest is sponsored by the Rotary Club and Dymock's Bookshop – and Lachlan McIntyre won the Year 7/8 Poetry Contest and the Year 7/8 Short Story Contest. He won a total of \$300 in prizemoney, and also won \$500 of books for the library. Our other big winners were Brody Smith with his story, 'Sweet As' in the Year 9/10 division, and Alyce Taylor with



her poem 'Beautiful' in the Year 9/10 section also. Students also took part in special 'Write Around the Murray' events with authors and illustrators.

- **A big Vent success**

In 2008 and 2009 James Fallon continues to shine in being the largest contributors to the AlburyCity Vent magazine, distributed free to every secondary student in Albury. This magazine showcases the writing and creative talents of our students.

- **Eisteddfod, and more**

Once again our students participated in a wide variety of public speaking and writing events – the Albury Eisteddfod, the Year 9 Debating Day, numerous writing and poetry contests and diverse debating and Rostrum speaking events. We are proud of their achievements.

- **Debating**

Our Senior Debating team completed a challenging competition with a well-deserved victory. The team was: Dargan Pearson, Melissa Slager, Amy Carr, Felicity Treloar, Lewis Gardiner, Lucy Chalmers, Jemma Fisher, Sarah Knight and Sally Laundess. Through the competition these students developed their critical thinking, speaking and listening skills to a very high level, and this will benefit them throughout their HSC courses. Congratulations!



Special congratulations to our Year 8 Debating team: Chloe Laundess, Darby Quinlivan, Abby Iverson, Lachlan McIntyre and Jonathon Meredith for their spectacular victory at the 2009 Riverina Debating Festival this week, held at the Business Centre of Albury TAFE. They defeated schools from across the Riverina in a hard-fought day of skilled argument and talented teamwork. And they were unbeaten the whole day! Their Grand Final debate was fought over the topic 'That parents have all the fun', and they successfully argued the affirmative case. This proves how much they all really do appreciate the joys and sacrifices of their own parents! The Festival Cup now lives at James Fallon High School throughout 2010, and they each received their own individual trophy cup to celebrate this great victory. And as they all said after their win – now we'll never lose an argument at home ever again! But remember team, as you proved, parents do have all the fun!! Thanks to Colleen Johnson who co-ordinated and coached the team, and to Kate Dixon who assisted on the day. Our Year 9 team also competed strongly on the day, and were terrific supporters in the Grand Final. This is an event organised by James Fallon High for all schools in the Riverina Region for the past 8 years, and it continues to be a great success.

James Fallon returns for 150th Albury Anniversary

On Saturday June 8, 2009, our students took a major part in a special celebration of the 150th anniversary of Albury being declared a city.

Our school captain and vice captain, Rory Hutchinson and Tamara Cikaitoga, presented 1859 Mayor 'James Fallon' (played by a local identity) with special mementos of his new role as the 21st century patron of James Fallon High School.

Other James Fallon High Year 8 students, Jess Gamble, Emily Brown, Rebecca Coldan and Natalie Taylor, took on the roles of

young ladies promenading in their 1859 outfits as the Mayor of Albury for 2009, Patricia Gould, and the State Member for Albury, Greg Aplin, re-enacted the declaration of the City of Albury from the old Town Hall.

Also featured on the day were special displays of research projects from James Fallon High School students. The James Fallon High co-ordinators were History, Drama and English staff members Margie Gleeson, Colleen Johnson and Paul Grover.



Local Aboriginal Elders visit Year 10 History

Earlier in Term 2, two of the Year 10 History classes were privileged to receive a visit from two local Aboriginal elders. Year 10 has been working on the unit "Changing Rights and Freedoms", focussing on Indigenous Australians. This visit was a great opportunity for the students to hear the stories of these women, Nancy Rourke and Aunty Rita.

Nancy spoke of her childhood, family and the life she had growing up in the Benalla community. Aunty Rita was extremely gracious in sharing her story as a member of the Stolen Generation, being forcibly removed from her family and growing up on the Coranderk Aboriginal Mission. Both women discussed what they understood of Indigenous Australian history and the current situation with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology and recognition of the Stolen Generations.

Both Nancy and Aunty Rita were received with the greatest of respect by the students and were happy to answer questions from the students during the talk.

The main message the women had were for all young Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians to make the most out of their education and grow to have respect and tolerance for each other. The students showed empathy, hearing the struggles these women have faced throughout their lives and I know that they are all the better for hearing the tales of these extraordinary people.

Amy Murphy English/History Teacher

Year 8 Medieval Castles

Year 8 have been having fun making models of medieval castles during their Stage 4 course. They have ranged from the early motte and bailey fortresses to the elaborate French chateaux with their conical turrets. Some of the Year 8 girls (Amber Tanner, Rhoda Arthur and Melanie



Upton) even managed to make edible castles – with cake, chocolate, biscuits and lollies. They looked great with the added bonus that they tasted just as good.



Year 8 Kids' Books

At the beginning of Term 4, Year 8 English visited Glenroy's 3-4 A class to find out what sort of stories and picture books they were interested in. They also shared in the reading of some of their favourite books. For Year 8 it was then back to James Fallon to begin on their own picture book, using the characters and ideas of 3-4 A.

Just recently, Year 8 returned and were given a great welcome by our Glenroy friends. This time the books that were shared were Year 8's own compositions – with great story lines and lovingly illustrated. Each Glenroy student was given an original book mark as a gift, and we were all treated to a delicious morning tea



courtesy of Glenroy Public's librarian, Mrs Cromarty. Hopefully, these Glenroy students will remember our Year 8 with affection when they eventually become James Fallon students in 2011 and 2012, and our Year 8 are senior members of the school.

C. Johnson

During the Write Around the Murray Festival our students took part in a feast of great events – here are just some...

- ◆ Our Year 7 students took part in a Comic Writing performance presentation by a well known writer and illustrator.
- ◆ Year 11 students met the amazing Alice Pung, who spoke about her family's experiences as refugees in Cambodia.
- ◆ Year 8 students took part in the Indigenous Writers' Masterclass event.
- ◆ Year 12 Extension 1 students met the famous Australian crime writer, Shane Maloney, and took part in a crime writing workshop.

River of Stories

James Fallon High students achieved a great result in the recent 'River of Stories' competition. This prestigious contest is sponsored by the Rotary Club and Dymock's Bookshop – and this year Lachlan McIntyre won the Year 7/8 Poetry Contest and the Year 7/8 Short Story Contest. He won a total of \$300 in prizemoney, and also won \$500 of books for the library. With some friends, he and our librarian, Ms Bowden, travelled to Dymock's to select great new books for the library collection.

Our other big winners were Brody Smith with his story, 'Sweet As' in the Year 9/10 division, and Alyce Taylor with her poem 'Beautiful' in the Year 9/10 section also. Congratulations to all our winners in 2009. You can read and enjoy the winners' works at the Writing Gallery!

James Fallon Teacher Hits History Jackpot!

James Fallon teacher, Ron Griffith, and the Director-General of Education and Training, Michael Coutts-Trotter discuss his Westfields Award at Government House in Sydney.

Third time proved lucky for Ron Griffith, English/History teacher at James Fallon High School when the Premier recently announced the five State winners of the prestigious NSW Premier Westfields History Teachers' Scholarships. After two previous attempts that were both short-listed, Ron was elated to hear of his award from his Principal, Mrs Anne-Marie Gill.

Ron's five week 'Roman Gaul' study tour application impressed the large panel that included sponsors and professionals from organisations like Westfields Holdings and the History Teachers' Association of NSW.

Ron's study tour will take him to Bibracte, France's main archaeological Research Centre in Burgundy. He hopes to gain many new insights into



Celtic society prior to the Roman invasion and to gain a greater understanding of the process of change brought about by 'Romanisation' on the many tribes of Roman Gaul.

"It took me three years of fine-tuning the application to win over the panel of experts". Ron also gave tips to other aspiring teachers. "I sought advice where possible, worked through each Easter holiday to master the strict criteria and communicated with overseas scholars in order to gain their trust and support." Also, Ron was lucky to have a fantastic editor to peruse his application, his wife Wendy who is a Business Studies teacher at James Fallon High School.

Students will be able to follow Ron's archaeological adventures by accessing a daily blog. On his return, an engaging website is planned for all NSW Ancient History students and teachers to access.

Truly, a win/win/win occasion for Ron, his school and NSW schools in general.

Paul Grover
Head Teacher, English & History

[Back to Top](#)

2008 ENGLISH AND HISTORY FACULTY

Snapshots of Success...

2008 was an amazing year for students in English and History – fantastic competitions, inspiring workshops, awesome guests, terrific hands-on experiences, outstanding excursions and best of all many impressive successes. With amazing students, dedicated teachers and a proud tradition, we look forward to even more awesome achievements in 2009. Please read on...

*** Live on Stage**

Our Year 12 students saw John Woods of 'Blue Heelers' fame in the classic Australian play 'The Club' – a play that was part of the HSC English studies in 2008.

* **SNAP!! – Generation Y**

Part of the opening celebrations for the new Albury City LibraryMuseum was a special exhibition created by James Fallon High students.

This exhibition featured the views, fashions, trends and stories of Generation Y – all displayed in a major interactive collection that included: digital stories and images, huge rotating photo displays, a dedicated website, posters, fashion models, a recreated Gen Y room, ipods of music and much more.

The students spent months working with industry professionals to create the digital stories and special photo shoots, and also with Museum curators to set up the exhibition and website.

This special exhibition displayed the contemporary history trends among the youth of Generation Y, and will serve as an amazing insight into the world of the first decade of the 21st century as future students look back – using this website information and the records we have retained in our school historical archives.

The huge photo opening and information poster are now on permanent display in the English & History corridor, and these photos show some of the styles and stories of Generation Y.

* **The Voice of Youth**

Jess Gamble (Year 7) and Dargan Pearson (Year 10) represented the school at the 2008 Rostrum Voice of Youth Competition. They spoke with confidence, knowledge and professionalism.

* **Intense!**

Year 10 students took part in the live 'Macbeth' intensive with Bell Shakespeare – and came face to face with actors challenging them with a world of betrayal, greed and power.

* **Hear the Lions Roar!!**

Our Lions Youth of the Year 2008 contestants were terrific ambassadors for James Fallon High and the youth of our community: Sophie Buckle, Grace Gallacher, Rory Hutchinson, Joseph Spannari and Joshua Coombes represented the school with great dignity – presenting a 5 minute speech, answering two impromptu questions and also being part of a 30 minute interview before a panel of judges. Grace Gallacher won the Best Speech prize, and Sophie Buckle was announced as the overall winner. Sophie went on to represent James Fallon High at the regional finals of the Lions



Youth of the Year Quest in Walla. It was a great event, and Sophie was a fantastic ambassador for our school.

*** Inspiring!**

Majella Knobel is an amazing Australian woman who has completed her Masters Degree in Criminology at Melbourne University, and who lives independently in Melbourne while also living with diabetes and complete vision impairment, as well as having undergone a kidney transplant. She spoke with our Year 11 Advanced English students, and fielded a range of thought-provoking questions. This was a powerful and inspiring event for all of us.

*** Words are NOT cheap!!**

Our Senior Premier's Debating Team: Joseph Spannari, Olivia Baker, Andrew Flores, Tahlia Bocquet, Sean Crombie, Sophie Buckle, Josh Coombes, Susie Clement, Grace Gallacher and Casey Harbridge – all represented the school in an outstanding way at the series of NSW Premier's Debating Contests in 2008.

*** Open at Open Night!**

We were very proud to present the 2008 Comedy Debate at Open Night...with Kyle O'Shea, Rory Hutchinson, Ms Gifford & Mr Grover debating the topic 'That sons and daughters are smarter than their dads and mums.' The chairperson was Sophie Buckle, and she carefully managed a very divided audience! The winning team was a huge surprise, most of all for Kyle and Mr Grover who were arguing the negative side ... and won!! Also on display were fantastic Year 7 History projects, movie projects, classroom displays, audio exhibitions and PowerPoint projects too.

*** Year 12 Modern History to Sydney**

The journey started with an 8 hour bus trip to Sydney - long and tiring, but worth it. We woke early and hurried to Sydney University. We arrived at our first HSC seminar, making sure to be there on time and dived straight in. Our pens scratched away, making sure to get the best notes. The day went on and everyone seemed to get good notes at different sessions. We later departed the uni and left to discover Sydney for ourselves. Next day we were woken early and travelled to the Jewish Museum. We were taken through the museum by a survivor of the Holocaust and were told gruesome stories of hardship and sacrifice.

Xavier Martin Year 12 Student

*** The Best of VENT 2008**

Congratulations to Rachele Armstrong, Hannah Slattery, Kasey Rohrich, Katelyn Cameron (Year 8), and Chloe Laundess, Maddison Smith (Year 7) – they were members of the 2008 VENT magazine team. They produced the fantastic AlburyCity Council youth magazine for every student in Albury's high schools – it was published in Term 4 and given free to every student in Albury's high schools. We have the strongest representation in this special project.

*** Year 11 Modern History 2008**

On 3rd July Year 11 Modern History travelled to Yackandandah to meet a group of visiting Tibetan monks, exiled from their country by events in the last half of the 20th Century (a case study in Modern History). Dressed in their traditional robes on a cold winter's day, they answered candid

questions about relations with China, what they thought of the Olympics, and how the practice of Tibetan Buddhism affects their daily life. We watched their meticulous work on a beautiful sand mandala, which was gently brushed away and scattered two weeks later – a symbol of the impermanence of life.

In stark contrast was our subsequent visit to the Bandiana Army Museum with its excellent collection of weapons used in all Australian wars. We were able to see “in the flesh” much of the technology of war we study in our core HSC Study – World War I, and in our study of the War In The Pacific in World War II.

More recently, we attended the Courage to Care program, where Jewish survivors of the Nazis’ Holocaust told their stories of survival and the importance of people standing up to the Hitler’s evil. There is still so much to learn in today’s world about the momentous events of our recent past.

*** Chloe Laundess – a State Finalist**

Congratulations to Chloe Laundess of Year 7 who is the 2008 Riverina Region Champion in the NSW Legacy Public Speaking Competition. This contest is a NSW State Government Competition, and Chloe traveled to Sydney’s Parliament House in September to compete in the State Final. She is an outstanding James Fallon ambassador.

*** Ancient History Alive!**

Our Year 11 and 12 Ancient History students took part in a series of high-powered multi-media workshops from a world expert in Pompeii and its history – the core topic for their HSC studies. Mr Griffith organised this event for Albury senior public school students. It was an enormous success and is the second year this major event has been run in Albury.

*** Write Around the Murray...**

Hundreds of our students took part in the many Write Around the Murray Festival events in 2008 – Year 10 heard Libby Gleeson, the well-known writer; Year 7 to 9 took part in performance poetry workshops with Nathan Curnow who is working at Charles Sturt University; Year 11 and 12 were part of a crime writing workshop with a newly-published author and investigative journalist Rochelle Jackson; Year 7 & 9 had special hands-on workshops with Michael Pryor and Cate Kennedy, who have published books of fantasy fiction, poetry and non-fiction.

Year 9 students also took part in an interactive workshop at the LibraryMuseum with an awesome exhibition of video stories.

*** Whitlam Institute Finalist**

Sophie Buckle of Year 11 was announced a finalist in the prestigious Whitlam Institute writing prize – her account of the power of words was announced as a shortlisted finalist in the senior category. A great achievement!

*** Eisteddfod success!**

Our Year 7/8 Eisteddfod team represented the school with great success in the 2008 Debating Festival – Alec Sullivan, Tyson Mann, Darby Quinlivan, Sally Borella (Year 7) and Katelyn Cameron, Chloe Butler (Year 8) – they faced tough opponents and enjoyed a spirited competition.

*** Meeting a Master**

Our Year 11 & 12 Advanced English students had a special opportunity to meet and hear the leading Australian film reviewer, David Stratton, who presents the ABC Movie Show. He spoke of the power of film and the importance of film in our culture. This was a powerful experience for their HSC film studies.

*** A powerful play!**

Year 11 Advanced English students travelled to Melbourne to see Bell Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' – a fast-paced and dramatic production of their HSC play, and they had a real bonus in meeting one of the main actors, Chris Ryan, nephew of our own Science Head Teacher, Mr Ryan.

*** Knights in Battle at James Fallon High**

James Fallon students took part in Middle Ages Feast and tournament with the Medieval Re-enactment Society. It was a spectacular event featured on Prime Television and also in The Border Mail. Students saw recreations of Middle Ages life and food before their eyes, and took part in tests of bravery and chivalry, as well as feasts of food in a School Hall decorated with banners and shields – an event worthy of a King and Queen!!

*** Year 10 Debating 2008!**

The 2008 Year Ten Debating Team were fortunate enough to win the zone and intrazone finals and progress to the regional semi-finals. The team consisted of Scott Caton, Sarah Knight, Felicity Treloar, Dargan Pearson, Sally Laundess and coach Mr Keenan. The team travelled to Griffith for the regional semi-finals. After a workshop and some handy hints and tips we had one hour to prepare a six minute speech. The topic chosen was 'That country folk get a raw deal'. We were the negative team and our opponents were from West Wyalong High. The debate was very entertaining and although we were defeated, it was only by a few points.

Sally Laundess Year 10 Team Member

Congratulations to all our students in 2008. It's inspiring to work with enthusiastic and talented people ...

Paul Grover Head Teacher, English & History

[Back to Top](#)

2007 ENGLISH AND HISTORY FACULTY

• 2007 – a year of excellent achievements

In the English and History faculties we have seen another year of terrific student achievements and enormous successes. In this report you'll read of innovative ideas and stunning results from our students. As students reach for the stars, the more of the universe they discover!

This year we welcomed Ms Anni Gifford and Mr Ian Turner to our faculty staff, and they have become very valued members of our team. There have been many professional development opportunities for staff, and our teachers have travelled as far as Sydney to take part in conferences,

workshops and professional skills activities. Again this year we have teachers marking Higher School Certificate exams, as well as presenting workshop and conference sessions to staff from other schools. James Fallon High School has a highly professional, dedicated and talented English and History staff and it is a privilege to be part of this group of committed professional educators.

• **Teenagers of the Future**

This year saw the beginning of an amazing new project in association with the new Albury LibraryMuseum. James Fallon High and the new Museum have begun a 25 year project, where about 40 students across the school have been invited to record their life and their world on digital cameras, and then a small group are selected to display their whole wardrobe and teenage items (ipods, mobiles, shoes, accessories etc) for a permanent exhibition in the Museum. These items are replaced through the project's funding – and every 5 years for the next 25 years we will see the changing fashions, interests and activities of teenagers through history. There will be photographic and object displays to show the changes over time in teenage life. This is an exciting project for students – they will become part of Albury's history in a very special way.

• **Contest Successes in 2007**

This year saw many students enter many contests with many successes! Katelyn Cameron of Year 7 was a finalist in the SBS television Hotspell regional final, Melissa Lee of Year 11 represented the school at the Rostrum Public Speaking Finals, Matthew Winnel of Year 9 won the senior literary award at the Albury Eisteddfod, and these students were finalists in the inaugural Albury writers' Festival student competition: Tyler Shaw (Year 7), Rhys Hofer (Year 8), Matthew Winnel (Year 9), Dylan Connell (Year 11), Laura Chanter (Year 11) and Renae Schilg (Year 11). Renae was named Runner-Up in the senior contest. Tahlia Gittel and Vanessa Lee of Year 11 also competed very successfully in the Sydney Morning Herald Public Speaking Contest. Students also took part in the Rotary writing contest and many other poetry and writing competitions to extend and refine their skills.

• **Microstory Magic in 2007**

This year again saw hundreds of students enter our own Microstory Contest, where the aim is to produce a top story which is exactly 100 words in length, not one word more or one word less. It is a real discipline and skill, and this year there were outstanding entries – and it was hard for the judges to select the winners and runners-up awards. The 2007 winners were Tahlia McLeod (Year 7), Breanna Lee (Year 8), Matthew Elliott and Jemma Fisher (Year 9) and Susie Clement (Year 10). You can see these winning Microstories in pages of this magazine. The winners and runners-up have been published in the Family Newsletter, the Border Mail and on our school website. They have also featured in a major school display. Again this year James Fallon High sponsored the Primary Schools Microstory Contest – with some excellent winners featuring among our local primary school senior students.

• **Winning Arguments! Success in Debating 2007**

This year has seen a very strong set of debating teams across the school, and a depth of debating skill that is getting stronger and stronger. Our Year 7/8 Premier's Debating squad were joint finalists in the region: Laura Harris, Kianna Douthat, Kayla Roberts, Katelyn Cameron and Joanna Harris, and this is a great achievement. The Albury Year 7/8 Eisteddfod Debating squad were excellent ambassadors for the school this year and competed very successfully: Alister Taylor, Jordan Dent,

Rhys Wilton, Luke Poke, Katelyn Cameron, Laura Harris, Joanna Martin and Kianna Douthat. The Year 9/10 debating squad gave a powerful performance in their debates this year: Rory Hutchinson, Jessica Elsley, Kyle O'Shea, Sean Crombie, Susie Clement, Hayley van Grinsven and Joseph Spannari. The Year 11 Senior Debating team of Steven Krause, Kimberley Crowther, Tahlia Gittel and Sally Cornish also competed strongly in the regional contest in 2007. All these students are a great credit to the school, their families and their own teams as they demonstrated enormous commitment, determination, critical thinking and creative speaking and teamwork skills.

- **James Fallon in Melbourne 2007**

Our Senior Modern History class teamed up with Year 11 Visual Arts to visit the Melbourne Holocaust Museum this year. Here the students were privileged to meet and listened to three Holocaust survivors from Germany and Poland. Their stories of their experiences were unforgettable, and they told them with a passion and urgency that have not faded over the years that have passed since World War Two.

- **The Lions Roar in 2007**

The 2007 Lions Youth of the Year Contest was very successful for James Fallon High. Once again we had the most competitors in the Lavington Lions contest (as we have had for many, many years), and our Year 11 team of Vanessa Lee, Sally Cornish, Melissa Lee and Tahlia Gittel were outstanding ambassadors for the school. Melissa Lee won the club contest, and went on to the regional final where she competed very effectively at a regional dinner attended by her parents and staff from our school. We are very proud indeed of her achievement.

- **The New LibraryMuseum, the Albury Writers Festival and Film Festival 2007**

The opening of the new LibraryMuseum in 2007 saw a large group of students take part in the opening tours courtesy of the AlburyCity Council. They had a conducted tour of the complex, and saw the new exhibitions and displays – and were very impressed with the new cultural precinct developing in Albury. Also new in 2007 was the first Albury Writers' Festival – with writers from across Australia coming to Albury for workshops and displays. Students from our Senior Extension English course attended a crime writing presentation, and many students took part in other festival events. This is a great new initiative in Albury. The Regent Cinemas Film Festival was also strongly promoted among our senior students – fine films from around the world to develop skills in understanding and appreciating the power of film.

- **Ancient History Study Day and HSC English Study Day 2007**

Almost our Year 11 and 12 senior Ancient History students attended the first Ancient History Study Day. This full day of presentations was organised by our own Ancient History teacher, Mr Ron Griffith, who invited a leading research archaeologist from Sydney to present on the HSC core topics of ancient Pompeii and the cities of Vesuvius. It was a highly successful event. The annual HSC English Study Day was attended by many of our Year 12 English students, who heard lectures from HSC markers and other text experts for their coming HSC exams.

- **Living History 2007**

In March local Vietnam Veterans John Wild and Phil Brown came to the school to talk with Year 10 about their experiences in this recent conflict, and the lasting impact it has had on their lives. They

were open and honest with students, and helped bring meaning and reality to those textbook pages. In August, Hiroshima Day was recognised with a workshop making paper origami cranes. This tradition stems from the famous legend of Saduku, who set out to make a thousand paper cranes to help her overcome radiation sickness as a result of the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Every year millions of cranes are made, and many are sent to Hiroshima where there is a statue of a golden origami crane on display. Our origami cranes were on display in the English-History area.

- **On Display in 2007**

Throughout the year we have featured displays of talented students' work in the corridors and display cases of the English and History areas – Ben Moyle's 'Cave Canem' mosaic from ancient Pompeii, English project work and paintings, history displays and presentations, and more. The 2007 Open Night also featured movies made by students, special projects and the annual Comedy Debate – another great success. We have also had many students' book reviews, articles and achievements presented in the Border mail's EM education feature – and these are put on display in the English and History 'in the News' display cabinet for all to see.

- **Anzac 2007**

This year the History presentation on Anzac Day, organised by Mrs Colleen Johnson, focused on an important regional family and their experience of World War One – the Sutherlands from Thologolong Station in the Upper Murray. Two of their sons died in the famous battles on the Western Front – Ben at Fromelles in 1916, and Jack near Villiers-Bretonneux in 1918. They are both buried in France, but their names are engraved in gold lettering on their parents' grave located just opposite Fallon Street near the school.

- **Students write their own books in 2007**

Jesse Barber, Chris Whiting and Dylan Connell undertook the special challenge that is Extension 2 English for their HSC. They undertook over 12 months to write their own books – these were printed and published as part of their HSC examination, and are marked by outside HSC markers. There are copies of their new books on display in the Library, along with previous Extension 2 English students.

- **Special Excursions and Events 2007**

Students from Years 10 and 11 saw the highly talented Bell Shakespeare workshop called 'Macbeth Intensive', while there were many other opportunities to take part in cinema, live theatre and exhibition events. We also welcomed Ms Blunden from the Albury Historical Society who spoke with our history students about the history of our school site and its special significance in the story of Albury.

- **VENT magazine from AlburyCity 2007**

This was a very special year for James Fallon High – the AlburyCity Council VENT committee was almost all made up of James Fallon High students – and they worked with the youth officer and the Council team to produce the VENT magazine which is printed and distributed to every high school

student in Albury. This was a real commitment from these students, and they achieved a terrific result: Josh Holmes (Year 8), Ben Moyle (Year 8), Phillip Gush (Year 7), Katelyn Cameron (Year 7), Blair Duncan (Year 7) and Cameron Payne (Year 10). Cameron Payne especially worked at a very high level in liaising and producing this professional quality magazine of youth writing, artwork and information.

As you can see, this was a very productive and highly successful year for our English and History students.

Paul Grover
Head Teacher English and History

[Back to Top](#)

2006 ENGLISH AND HISTORY FACULTY

- **2006 – a BIG year in English and History**

We have been very proud of our students' achievements in 2006 – there have been displays of talented student work exhibited in foyers, an Open Night 2006 where our students presented short films (the special Rory Hutchinson movies), comedy debates, exhibits and special presentations of their work. There have been outstanding individual achievements and a terrific sense of teamwork among students and staff for many special events and contests. At the James Fallon Open Night 2006 there were spectacular events and displays, including a special Comedy Debate featuring the talents of Henry de Zwart, Rory Hutchinson, Kyle O'Shea (the negative team) and Christine Miles,

Hannah Connell and Mr Grover (the affirmative team) – they debated the topic: ‘That teenagers are smarter than parents’. The vote was by applause, and Comedy Chair Judges were Patrick Bruce and Chris Whiting. A close result and lots of laughs saw a coin toss for the winner...the ‘yes’ side!! The teenagers won again!

- **Big Quests in 2006**

Lions Youth of the Year Quest – this prestigious competition is presented by the Lions Clubs of Australia, and sponsored by the National Bank. In this international contest a student takes part in a 20 minute interview about their academic, cultural, community service and sporting interests. They then present a 5 minute speech and respond to 2 impromptu questions at a special dinner with more than 100 guests. We had four Year 11 students selected to compete with the Lavington Lions Club in 2006: Lindsay Mack, Ashleigh Dillon, Alyssa Carpenter and Grace Rouvray. Our Lions Youth of the Quest team were excellent ambassadors at the Lions Dinner event, and showed just how strong the public speaking and presentation skills of James Fallon students really are.

- **Big Displays in 2006**

Throughout 2006 there has been a dynamic flow of exhibits of student work in our display cabinets – visual representations of classic plays like ‘Macbeth’ and ‘Romeo and Juliet’ from Mr Grover’s and Ms Johnson’s classes; displays of new DVD covers, 3D models and movie posters for the novels ‘Raw’ and ‘Dougy’ from Ms Blisset’s classes; Drama shadow puppets and scene stealing photos; children’s storybooks on show ... and much, much more. The English and History corridors display the Border Mail ‘In the News’ clippings for all to see – and it is always being updated – there is so much happening!

- **Big Debates in 2006**

This year we have had enormous success with our Debating teams – two teams winning the Zone Competition and going on to the regional finals. Our Year 7 team of Joanna Martin, Joel Docker, Emily Drummond and James Buckle won against Corowa High and Murray High (including the topic ‘That the internet does more harm than good’) and they proceeded to the regional finals. Our Year 9/10 team of Tahlia Gittel, Jasmine Arnold, Kyle O’Shea and Tom Madden were highly successful champions in the zone competition against Billabong, Murray and Albury High, and they went on to defeat Temora High in the first regional final. They went to Young High to compete before the ‘Flying Squad’ of national debating champions from Sydney, and narrowly lost to Koorinal High who went on to defeat the South Coast winners and compete in Sydney. Tahlia Gittel was selected to be a member of the State Debating Team to compete in Sydney in November. This is a fantastic achievement – congratulations, Tahlia!

- **Big Books in 2006**

One of our Year 12 students, Mitchell Adams, had the terrific opportunity to work with a leading Australian Crime Fiction writer, Marele Day, who was visiting Albury as part of her Writer-in-residence project with Charles Sturt University. Our two 2006 Extension 2 students included Samantha MacGregor and Mitchell Adams – and both Mitchell and Samantha wrote and produced their own books of short stories for their Major Work submissions.

- **Big Anzac Ceremony 2006**

Our Anzac Ceremony was again a real highlight in 2006 – with Vietnam veterans presenting their stories to the students in a major assembly ceremony, and both Matthew Winnel and Diane Prince presenting trumpet and choral items during the occasion – we heard of the enormous sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans in the conflict, and the special contribution of local veterans and their families. This was a special History event in 2006.

- **Big Excursions in 2006**

Our Year 9 and 10 History students travelled to Canberra to soak up the history of the War Memorial exhibits, and our Year 12 students went to Melbourne for the amazing Bell Shakespeare 'Tempest' production, and students saw 'The Merchant of Venice' live as well. As well there were local trips to events and exhibits in Albury, as well as the children's storybook visit to local primary school classes to share the books we have created. Students in Years 9 to 11 also saw the Bell Shakespeare young actors' workshops on 'Macbeth' and 'Romeo and Juliet' – a terrific opportunity to see Shakespeare meet teenagers in 2006. The 2006 HSC English students also had the opportunity to hear leading experts, exam markers and authors present special sessions about the HSC texts and their exams at the English HSC Study Day at Charles Sturt University – presented by the English teachers of Albury.

- **Big Guests in 2006**

A leading Australian poet, Susan Hampton, conducted a writing workshop exclusively for our senior Advanced English students early in the year – focusing on their HSC English exam questions and texts. She provided excellent insights for HSC study.

- **The Biggest Microstories 2006!**

The 2006 Microstory Contest was a very special occasion – the Border Mail published a double-page spread of all the winners and highly commended entries, and received very strong feedback. We also had the greatest number of entries ever in the history of the contest – a contest where students have to write a 100 word story, not one word more or one word less. Also in 2006 we ran a Primary Schools Microstory Contest – with our own winners being the judges. It was very successful. You can read the 2006 James Fallon winners elsewhere in the Magazine pages.

- **Big Website 2006**

This year we have placed onto our school website some fantastic new student work – two short films by Rory Hutchinson, and the live audio podcasts by our recent Microstory winners and interviews with them. They can be accessed by anyone in the world. Also on the English pages are past Microstory winners, Major Works and selected award-winning writing from our students. Take a look at the James Fallon website soon.

- **Big Awards 2006: Young Speaker of the Year Award**

We are very proud of Jasmine Arnold who spoke so powerfully at the 'Sydney Morning Herald' Young Speaker of the Year Contest – her speech was a very powerful talk on current issues, and was published in the Family Newsletter.

- **Big Border Mail 2006**

In 2006 our students have had many of their poems, stories and other activities published in the special EM liftout featured each Tuesday in the Border Mail. We have been one of the strongest contributors to this terrific education feature.

- **Big Events 2006**

Term 4 saw the special Year 9 Debating Festival hosted by James Fallon High – schools from across Riverina and southern NSW are invited. This is a prestigious competition with current issues and special workshops the feature of the day. Also featured in 2006 was the ‘River of Stories’ Contest sponsored by the Rotary Club – a great opportunity for our students to show their writing talents. Throughout 2006 there has been a wide range of writing, poetry, speaking and debating contests promoted and supported by James Fallon High – encouraging students to aim for their personal best, and to strive for the prize in their chosen fields. We are very proud of their achievements and successes. We also had an enormous contribution to the Albury City Council VENT magazine – showcasing student stories, poetry and ideas in this special community publication ... a fine achievement.

- **Big Support from P&C 2006**

In 2006 we have been enormously encouraged by the active support of our own P&C – for the past three years the P&C has contributed to the purchase of multiple sets of History and English coursebooks to support our high-quality educational programs, and the successes our students have achieved at the School certificate and HSC examinations. Without this positive and continued support we would not be as successful as we have been across the school and in the community.

- **Big Farewells 2006**

In Term 3 we farewelled Ms Lorelle Shone, a wonderful long-term member of the English and History faculties. Ms Shone has coached our Junior Debating teams to Grand Final successes over the many years, and has also hosted the Legacy Public Speaking Finals for the Riverina Region on numerous occasions. Ms Shone has been the Rostrum Public Speaking Co-ordinator for many years, as well as an active contributor in senior Ancient History and Junior History and English programs. She has also co-ordinated the school’s Presentation Night feature event for the past two years, and very successfully organised a wide range of year-level programs and events. Her terrific contribution to the faculty has been greatly appreciated, and we wish her well in her transfer to Wollongong.

We have also been extremely grateful for the dedicated contribution of Ms Olwen Steele, Ms Kellie Blissett and Ms Kate Heffey to our faculty during their extensive teaching periods with us in 2005 and 2006. And the warmest thankyou’s to Ms Noelene Mildren and Ms Sherylene Moran for their outstanding support for the faculty throughout 2005 and 2006.

- **Big...and bigger!**

It is without doubt a privilege to be a member of such a professional, dedicated and student-centred education team in our English and History faculties.

Paul Grover
Head Teacher English and History

[Back to Top](#)

2005 ENGLISH AND HISTORY FACULTY

Δ In 2005 we are very proud of many of our students and their achievements in **the 2004 HSC**. Audrey Green, our school dux, achieved her outstanding 99.4 UAI with a package of subjects that included Advanced English, Extension 1 English, Extension 2 English and Ancient History. Her results in all of these subjects were outstanding.

Δ Our **English Extension 1 and 2 students**, under the guidance of Mr Bruce Marshall, achieved a set of HSC results placing them in the top level of achievement in the state. This follows the excellent results in English Extension 2 in 2003 as well. There were excellent results in the history field as well, and we are looking forward to our 2005 Year 12 students aiming for their personal best in this year's HSC exams.

Δ **Audrey Green** also returned to the school and spoke with all our Year 11 students at a special English assembly – encouraging them to aim for their best in 2005 and 2006, and she even produced a 'what you need to know' guidebook for each student, with tips and hints on how to succeed in the coming two years.

Δ On **display in the English/History Area** have been some terrific exhibitions by 7J students – all showcasing their own special investigations into popular mysteries of our planet – Does the Yeti exist? Is there a Lochness Monster? Are ghosts real? What really happened to the Titanic? Can spontaneous human combustion happen? These English students have researched, planned and presented solutions to these long-held mysteries, and they were on display for all to see! Other displays this year have featured poetry, drama and history exhibitions, as well as a special display of Anzac Day posters across the years.

Δ Our students have contributed more than 150 items for **VENT magazine** in 2005 – poems, short stories, opinion pieces ... all submitted by students for publication in the Albury City Council VENT magazine distributed free to all secondary students in Albury. This is a fantastic effort by our students ... well done!!

Δ The English Faculty were hosts to the 'Actors At Work' special performances held in July in the School Hall. Schools from all around the area came to see these special **Bell Shakespeare presentations** which explored the world of the stage, acting and Shakespeare's classic plays. Our students saw comedy, tragedy, talented acting from Australia's best young actors, and then at the end of the performance they were able to ask questions and explore the ideas inside the performances. This was an outstanding opportunity for students to be a part of a very professional performance which opened up the world of Shakespeare's characters and ideas....excellent for their English and Drama studies. For many years now we have been a lighthouse school in the area offering opportunities for Drama and English students to develop and extend their skills. Grab every opportunity to become a better writer, reader, speaker and performer!

Δ This year the **leading Australian poet, Geoff Page**, was part of a special senior poetry workshop with our Year 11 Advanced English students. This was an excellent opportunity for students to meet and talk with a living poet who has published widely over many years.

Δ Year 12 Advanced English students took part in the Border English Teachers' Association **HSC Study Day** in English – hearing specialists in their HSC texts speaking on the exam, the questions and what to expect and how to prepare.

Δ Throughout 2005 our students have been featured in EM, the **Border Mail's** education supplement, with book reviews by Sean Crombie (Year 9) and Sarah Knight (Year 7), interviews with Tahlia Gittel (Year 9), Liam Jones (Year 11), Tahleigh Emerson (Year 7), Tynan Hallows (Year 7), Rory

Hutchinson (Year 8) and Kyle O'Shea (Year 8). Many other events and student achievements have been celebrated through the pages of the Border Mail as well.

Δ The English Faculty proudly sponsored the **Microstory Contest**, and you can read the 2005 winners in this year's magazine ... hundreds of entries in 2005 led to a very closely fought competition, with the highest number of highly commended winners of any year in the competition: a competition which has been running for more than ten years!

Δ Our **Anzac Ceremony** was a very significant occasion again in 2005, with Ms Colleen Johnson coordinating our student presentations, and Matthew Winnel of Year 7 providing the Last Post trumpet tribute. It was a powerfully moving occasion where the past members of our students' families were remembered, and their sacrifices acknowledged in a fitting tribute.

Δ **Jesse Martin**, the world record holder for being the youngest person to sail around the world solo and unassisted, was a special guest with our Year 12 and Year 10 students in September. He talked with students about his experiences, his challenges, and the way in which his life has changed through aiming for his goals and working hard to achieve them.

Δ **The Eisteddfod Debates**: Our fantastic Year 7/8 Eisteddfod debating Team: Ellie Buchhorn, Jacob Konigson, Kieren Pringle, Tahlia McPherson, Matthew Winnel (Year 7) and Kyle O'Shea (Year 8), competed in the 2005 Schools Debating Contest at the Albury Eisteddfod last month. Up against a strong set of opposing teams, they debated their way through these challenging topics: 'That we're not doing too badly', 'That the contest is enough', 'That parents don't understand children' and 'That variety is the spice of life'.

After a gruelling full day of debating, the James Fallon High team emerged victorious, sharing the trophy, the medallions and the awards with two other winning schools. On the day we were only defeated in one debate, and yet all other schools had a majority of Year 8 students in their teams. What a great achievement!! We look forward to even greater victories – as the students said, since you can never win an argument at home, it's great to win one at school!!

Δ In Term 4 our Year 9 students took part in the annual **Year 9 Debating Festival**, where they seized the opportunity to be part of a region-wide competition fighting for the perpetual trophy and the glory. James Fallon High is the host school for this prestigious contest, which is held at the Albury TAFE Business Centre. During the day they had to compete in a series of debates, were part of two workshop events, and watched some outstanding debates from students in other schools.

Δ **The 'River of Stories' Contest** was sponsored by the Rotary Club in 2005, and more than 20 students took up the challenge to compete in this Year 7 and 8 challenge event. This is a major contest where students write a full length story of 1500 words which includes the river as one essential ingredient – there were highly creative adventure, mystery and sci-fi stories developed for this contest.

Δ Throughout 2005 the English and History staff have been reviewing the faculty programs, developing new resources, and implementing new syllabuses in HSC Ancient History, Modern History and Years 7-10 History. The P&C has been extremely supportive in providing new sets of

text resource books for the Year 7 to 10 History and English courses, and this has powerfully supported the students; preparation for their School Certificate examinations as well.

Δ In 2004 we farewelled Jim Hyman, an outstanding senior English teacher at James Fallon High School, a man who also served as a Student Adviser for twelve years, and who marked the HSC English examinations for a number of years as well. He was a highly experienced and professional senior teacher. Both of his daughters were outstanding students at the school in their high school careers, and the staff and the students will miss Jim Hyman's professional experience, wisdom and support. His valuable contribution to the staff, the students and the school will always be deeply appreciated.

I am proud to be a member of such a professional, committed and student-centred education team in the English/History Faculty, and our students and the whole school community should be very proud of our school's successes in 2005.

Paul Grover
Head Teacher English and History

[Back to Top](#)

2004 ENGLISH AND HISTORY FACULTY

A year rich with student successes

Δ Top HSC English results

Our Extension 2 English students presented their major works for the HSC, producing books of short stories and selections of poetry, and in the 2003 HSC marking four of the five students received the highest level of achievement and outstanding marks for their major works. This is a very challenging and demanding course with the most talented English students in the state competing for the highest marks. These students achieved the highest level across the state for their work. The students and their works are:

Nathan Press	The Mailman Chronicles (story)
Daniel McDowell	Phantasmagoria (stories)
Nathan Greene	You (stories)
Paige Darby	Fragments of a stereotype (story)
Tiffany Timmermans	The Eyes of the soul (poems)

Δ Special Events

Throughout the year there have been many special events for students in English and History, as well as the activities and opportunities regularly provided for students to extend their skills, be inspired and also engage with some experts in their fields. Here are some of the highlights of 2004...

- The Aboriginal poet Sam Wagan-Watson ran two workshops, reading his own work and sharing his experiences and ideas with students across the school. This was a great opportunity to meet and talk with an up and coming young Australian poet.
- Students travelled to Wagga to see an hilarious production of 'The Comedy of Errors', Shakespeare's great play – with jugglers, magicians and great acting. Students also travelled to Melbourne to see 'Twelfth Night' and the Australian Centre for the Moving Image at Federation Square. These are important educational experiences.
- In September was the Faraway Films presentation – a Hollywood director presented a session about the ways film is made using clips and scenes from some of the latest Hollywood blockbusters and classic films. The study of film is a central part of the syllabus and this was an excellent opportunity to see and hear experts in the field.
- We travelled to La Trobe University to take part in a Shakespeare Forum – where student actors presented selected scenes from some of Shakespeare's great plays, and lecturers explored the important world of theatre and Shakespeare's life in a series of mini-lectures. We also had a tour of the campus to see the world of university in action.
- Students took part in a History tour to the historic army museum at Bandiana, and also toured the weir with its rich history from the early part of last century – with its role in the growth and development of our region. Walking history tours of the Albury city, and cemetery surveys and site studies of significant sites have been central to the study of History in 2004.
- The OzSpell Contest was very successful again in 2004 – with four students; Marnie Teal, Ken Wood-Bradley, Kate Harvey and Matt Montalbano testing their spelling skills in a knockout contest for \$600 prizemoney. Marnie Teal reached the grand final knockout for the big prize, and was just pipped for first place, receiving the 'silver medal' and a huge round of applause. It was a nerve-racking competition and our students featured in every round up to the grand final.
- Adam Widdison and Kate Treloar were invited to the Albury Probus Club major meeting at the Commercial Club to speak about their views of the future, a youth perspective on Australia and

the world, and to fled questions about their own lives and their ideas about the world. They were excellent ambassadors for the school and showed great maturity and poise in their responses, and in their ability to think on their feet and speak confidently before an audience of 80 adults.

- VENT magazine continues to be a huge success for James Fallon High students. Albury Council chose James Fallon High to be the launch site for the first VENT edition for 2004, and more than 33 students are featured in this edition – the most of any school. Holly Jensen and Vanessa Lee received prizes for the best work in VENT as well. This shows how successful our students are in being selected by an independent editorial group, having their stories, poems, artwork and articles featured in a major magazine which is given to every high school students in Albury, and featured throughout Albury’s public venues. This is a fantastic initiative from Albury City Council.
- Vanessa Lee was selected as a finalist in the prestigious Albury library story writing contest, with a special launch of the book in which her work appears in September. Vanessa also received commendations in the young writers’ competition during the year, showing a real talent for short story writing.
- We have had special excursions to local theatre productions – Steve Martin’s ‘Underpants’ and the Hothouse production of ‘Eating Icecream with Your Eyes Closed’ ...quality theatre and excellent acting.

Δ In the News

Throughout the year our students and their work have been featured in EM, the Border mail’s excellent education liftout produced each Tuesday. We have had Liam Jones and Sean Crombie featured reviewing books for the Border Mail, articles about special events at James Fallon during the year, and a strong focus on student achievement at James Fallon High.

Δ Anzac Remembered

Once again Ms Colleen Johnson and the History students presented an outstanding tribute at our school Anzac Day ceremony, and the special speech written by Melissa Haberfield was outstanding.

Δ Speak Out

This year we again had students competing in all levels of Public Speaking and Debating – in the Commonwealth Bank Competitions, the Sydney Morning Herald Plain Speaking Contest, Rotary and Rostrum competitions, and Legacy Public Speaking Finals. These are all very competitive events, and we had fine achievements from the many students who took part.

Δ Lions Youth of the Year

This year we had an excellent group of school representatives competing in the Lions Youth of the Year Quest – Kate Treloar, Lauren Murphy and Dale Stam. These students presented excellent speeches, two of which were later published and widely acclaimed.

Δ Plain English Speaking Award

Year 11 students Adam Widdison and Kate Treloar represented the school with distinction in the Sydney Morning Herald Plain English Speaking, Riverina Regional Competition. Each speaker was required to present an eight minute speech based on an item from The Sydney Morning Herald. Adam spoke on the topic *Liquid Crystal*, and Kate's topic was *Feminism and Football*. In addition to their prepared speech, competitors were given three minutes to prepare, then present a three minute talk on the topic, *Looking Forward to the Future*. The standard of speaking in the competition was high and all speakers entertained the audience with their interesting subject matter and confident presentation.

Δ Faculty developments

This year we have been reviewing the syllabuses for Years 7 to 10 in English and History, and have been also reviewing the report outcomes and the resources for teaching English and History. A number of staff are marking the HSC in English and History, and we have had staff representatives at the National English conference and other key conferences and workshops for professional development.

Δ Microstory Contest 2004

Once again the Microstory Contest was highly successful, with more than 100 students entering this story writing contest where each story must be 100 words – exactly 100 words, and also win with its style, ideas and ending.

Paul Grover
Head Teacher English & History

[Back to Top](#)

2003 ENGLISH & HISTORY FACULTY

A great year with great achievements

v History of the Future!

This year the History Faculty combined with the English Faculty, and there have been major developments in new History resources for our senior students, and new resources and planning for the new Years 7 to 10 syllabus as well. With Ancient and Modern History classes in both Years 11 & 12 in 2004, and a strong Years 7 to 10 course, students will be excited by the new projects and opportunities to explore the fascinating world of the past to better understand their fascinating world of the future!

✓ **Year 7 & 8 Students Speak their Mind!**

This year our enthusiastic Year 7 & 8 students took part in the Albury Eisteddfod Debating Contest. The teams were: Tahlia Gittel, Melanie Wallace, Victoria Wood-Bradley (Team 1) and Christine Thomas, Lindsay Mack, Kimberley Crowther (Team 2). Their advisers were Tegan Streller, Marie Alcone, Courtney Dower, Alyssa Carpenter and Lauren Clare. This was a great day with a total of 5 debates and lots of talented debating – in fact, the day was so good there was a three-way tie for first place! Our teams were new to debating, and grew in confidence and ability throughout the day.

✓ **James Fallon Students become La Trobe Uni students!**

This year our Year 11 and 12 English students took part in a special La Trobe Uni event with Professor Evan Willis and other lecturers. They saw the uni students present excerpts from key Shakespeare plays, and then heard two mini-lectures on the life and times of Shakespeare and his theatre. This was a very useful and informative day at La Trobe Uni, and we are looking forward to more events with our local universities in the future.

✓ **HSC English 2003**

Our Year 12 students had the special opportunity to hear visiting speakers, lecturers and senior teachers and HSC markers tell them about their key topics, their texts and the HSC exams at the Charles Sturt Uni English Study Day in September, organised by the Border English Teachers Association. This event brought a Sydney study day event to Albury with students preparing for their HSC exams. In 2003 our Year 12 students also travelled to Sydney with Ms Johnson to see a major production of *King Lear*, their compulsory HSC Shakespeare play. This was a tremendous opportunity to see a contemporary version of a classic play.

✓ **VENT is LOUD!!**

Many James Fallon students have been featured in the magnificent Albury City Council sponsored youth magazine, VENT, throughout 2003. This is an independently edited magazine of stories, opinion pieces, poems, reviews, artwork, creative writing and lots more – and more than 60 of our students have had their talented work selected for publication. We really appreciate the Albury City Council support for this great magazine which is delivered free to every high school student in Albury - it's a terrific avenue for student creative talents.

✓ **Special Events in English in 2003**

As part of our Talent English Event program, the English staff organised special talent workshops and opportunities for our students. Stephanie Dixon, a filmmaker and screenwriter, conducted a workshop and showed some of her work. This special event was open to interested future movie directors, script writers and film producers. Recently our Year 10 and 11 students saw a special Cinema Centre presentation by professional film directors from Faraway Films, showing how

movies and made and how effects and stories are created on film. We were amazed at the stories behind those famous movies ... and they way they created special effects in sight, sound and settings. Other Talent English Events in 2003 have been the Harvey Norman OzSpell Contest, Albury Debating Eisteddfod, Author Visits to James Fallon High, VENT magazine contributions, Public Speaking Contests, Commonwealth Bank Debating, Lions Youth of the Year Quest, Sydney Morning Herald Plain Speaking Award, Writing Contests and Rotary Club Debating.

✓ **James Fallon Student joins Sydney Morning Herald**

Daniel McDowell of Year 12 won a place at the Sydney Morning Herald in 2003, where he teamed with a journalist for one week to cover news stories of Australia and the world, and to work in one of Australia's leading newspapers. This was a real insider's experience of journalism, and as part of his week in Sydney he worked in the computer and photographic divisions and watched world news stories break, and helped create Australian news and feature stories. This was an outstanding opportunity to get inside the world of quality journalism – with just a handful of students selected from all over NSW, we are proud to have one of our students selected for this special work placement.

✓ **James Fallon students publish their own books**

Our Year 12 Extension English 2 students completed HSC English Major Works in 2003- a book of short stories or poetry which they researched, drafted and created over the past 12 months. These books were been bound, and a set will be placed in our school library. This group of talented writers experienced the strains and joys of writing their own book, and the agony of the pressures of last minute revisions and decisions. But it was all worth the blood, sweat and tears - their books are magnificent. And the books and their authors? Here they are...

Nathan Press The Mailman Chronicles (story)

Tiffany Timmermans The Eyes of the soul (poems)

Daniel McDowell Phantasmagoria (stories)

Paige Darby Fragments of a stereotype(story)

Nathan Greene You (stories)

Their creative skill was tested and extended through this challenging and exciting project, and it was a pleasure to work with these talented students on this special project.

✓ **Top University Lecturer speaks to James Fallon Students**

Martin Harrison, Lecturer in Literature and Contemporary Media at University of technology, Sydney, was our guest at a special seminar for senior students of English. Martin is also a published poet, and he spoke with students about composing their own work, and also highlighted features of work from published writers, including his own. This was an excellent opportunity for students to be inspired and challenged in their own writing and thinking.

✓ **WriteNow Contest 2003**

This special Sydney Writers' Festival and Sydney Morning Herald Competition is for short story writers, and four students won Commendation Certificates in this statewide contest: Tom Menz, Cameron Gray, Kirsty McPherson (Year 7), and Georgie Hobbs (Year 8). This is an excellent achievement from these young writers.

✓ **Youth of the Year Quest 2003**

Four of our senior students: Kirsty van Grinsven, Audrey Green, Trent Whitbourn and Damien Roos competed in the prestigious Lions Youth of the Year Quest. Each one had to prepare a detailed portfolio of their school and community involvement and achievements, then submit to an interview before a panel of judges, and then prepare and present a 5 minute speech, as well as answer 2 impromptu questions before an audience of 100 people at a special Lions Club dinner. Three of our staff, Paul Grover, Margie Gleeson and Catherine Cutler were present at the Lions Dinner to see our candidates compete with great success – the Lavington Lions Club Youth of the Year was Trent Whitbourn, and Trent went on to compete at the regional final at Mt Beauty. There he underwent the same rigorous competition, and on the night won the Best Speech Award. This was an excellent achievement.

✓ **The Border Mail and James Fallon High**

The Education Editor of the Border Mail, Peter Batson, has been actively publishing the work of James Fallon students in 2003 – the speeches of our Lions Youth of the Year Quest competitors were published in The Border Mail, as well as major features on special guest visits and events throughout the year. We also began the LOUD youth letters column in 2003, with contributions from students on a range of issues. Also published have been poetry and creative writing work from many students – a great sample of great talent!

✓ **Microstory Contest 2003**

Take a look!! In these pages you'll find the winners of the 2003 Microstory Contest, where students compete to be declared the Year Winner - but with a real test: they have to write a 100 word story ... exactly 100 words ... not one word less or one word more! It is a real test of discipline, imagination and writing talent, and the best are there for all to see. Congratulations to this year's winners!

✓ **Harvey Norman OzSpell Contest 2003**

It was a great competition this year! James Fallon had three competitors in the District Final of this prestigious competition: Michael Charles (Year 8), Tehnay Spence (Year 7) and Jasmine Arnold (Year 7). This 'sudden death' spelling contest is a challenging and competitive event, and with a crowd of parents, students and teachers watching, it was a tense final. Tehnay Spence came runner-up on the day, a fine result with more than 30 other contestants. She received a great computer software package as her reward, and all competitors received finals certificates as the school champions.

✓ **The Power of Speech**

In Term 4 a special Debating and Public Speaking tournament and training camp was again held in Albury following the success of the event in the past three years. Teams of Year 9 students from across the region came together for a mind-tingling time of debating topical issues, taking part in workshops and being challenged to polish their speaking and thinking skills. It was an excellent opportunity for our students, and they were great competitors on the day. Also you can read elsewhere in this 2003 school magazine about our students' achievements in other debating and public speaking competitions in 2003.

✓ **Movie Magic**

This year has been groundbreaking in movie making. David Winnel and Doug James of Year 10 have produced, directed and starred in their own short feature film, along with a group of other Year 10 budding 'stars', and their short film, 'Him...', was entered in the Albury Short Film Contest, and featured at a special screening at the Hothouse Theatre in September. There is a growing tidal wave of interest in movie making, and we are encouraging talented film makers to develop and showcase their skills. Perhaps one day...

Many thanks to all the English Faculty Staff and English and History Students at James Fallon High School for their commitment and dedication to striving for excellence and for the outstanding achievements in English throughout 2003. This has been a tremendous year for student success. Go for your personal best in 2004 and grab every opportunity. Words are the most powerful tools we have!!

Paul Grover
Head Teacher English & History

[Back to Top](#)

2002 ENGLISH

Δ Outstanding Student Achievement

The new HSC brought the first examination of the new Extension 2 Major Work in English. James Fallon High presented three students for the Major Work: Toby Paramore, Meaghan Heywood and Heather McAulay. Heather and Meaghan each prepared a book of their own poetry for examination, while Toby submitted a selection of short stories. These major works were more than 60 pages in length. In the examination of their Major Works all three achieved in the highest level of marks possible. This is an outstanding achievement, and demonstrates the immense creative talent within the youth of James Fallon High.

Δ Lions Youth of the Year

Daniel McDowell, Tiffany Timmermans, Paige Darby, Peter Wenke and Bre Laundess took part in the Lavington Lions Youth of the Year Quest in 2002. They had to sit for a 20 minute interview, and then address an evening dinner of more than 100 people with their own prepared speech and two impromptu speeches. They were outstanding ambassadors for our school, and Paige Darby won Best Speech, while Daniel McDowell was named Lavington Lions Youth of the Year. Daniel went on to compete in the Regional Final in Chiltern, where we saw a strong competition, with Daniel being a close contender for Best Speech. James Fallon students have again been highly successful in this prestigious contest.

Δ Border Mail features our students' work

Throughout the year the Border Mail has featured the achievements of our students in EM, the education liftout published on a Tuesday. The Major Works students from the HSC – poems by Heather McAulay and Meaghan Heywood were featured. Audrey Green had a review of the movie, Rabbit Proof Fence, featured there. The best writing of our English students, and news of other notable achievements, have also been featured in EM.

Δ Microstory and Songwriting Winners 2002

This year the long-running and very popular Microstory and Songwriting Contests were sponsored by The Cinema Centre. We had more entries than in any other year (more than 150) which made the judging very tough. You can read the winning microstories and song lyrics in this magazine, and see who the winners are for 2002. Congratulations to all the entrants, and especially to the highly commended and winning competitors.

Δ Visiting Author tells all

Greg Bastien, published author and writing tutor, was a special guest at James Fallon, presenting a hands-on workshop for Year 11 Advanced English students and Extension English Year 12 students – ideas for writing, exercises to develop writing skills and strategies for developing ideas and skills. This was a valuable experience – learning from an expert.

Δ The great Year 7/8 debate

Our first 2002 James Fallon Year 7/8 debating team of Madeline Quin, Samantha MacGregor, Kaly Eames and Annie Greene competed against Albury High. They argued that 'We learn from our mistakes', and we argued the negative side. The adjudicator stated that our team won because they had a strong team line, and presented their arguments convincingly and sincerely. A great victory, and with a bye in the 2nd round, they went on to the final round. Also in team were Alyssa Carpenter and Aleisha Elliott. Their next topic was "That the city is the place to be". The team travelled to Barham High School for this debate and we were given the opportunity to be on the

affirmative side. After a closely fought debate, we unfortunately were not successful. We did, however, have a very good argument, and the team of Annie Greene, Alyssa Carpenter, Samantha MacGregor and Aleisha Elliott competed very well. We were also supported by a strong support group of James Fallon students who came too. It was a great experience for all of us.

Aleisha Elliot

Year 7

Δ Talented Writers grab their pens...

We have many talented students at James Fallon High, and a small group were lucky enough to take part in a special Talented Writers Day with authors and journalists. Jordan Hiles, Holly Jensen, Annie Greene and Tom Nelson were part of a group of 40 local students who experimented with writing ideas, and have become involved in an internet web board of ideas and writing projects. This was a great opportunity to meet the experts and develop their writing talents.

Δ 'Take it as Red' -James Fallon Students feature in new book

This powerful new book of writing by youth was a specially selected volume produced by Charles Sturt University and included the work of three Year 11 students – Tiffany Timmermans, Nathan Greene and Paige Darby. They had to take the title as an inspiration for a piece of original creative writing, and all three were accepted for publication.

Δ Albury New Writing

Another first for James Fallon High students was the acceptance of five students' work for the new book of contemporary Albury writing. This book has selected work from adult and young writers, and we are very proud that Ben Habarow, Daniel McDowell, James Mahony, Tess Rouvray and Nathan Press all had their work included in this special publication. Of the eight youth works accepted for publication, five came from James Fallon High students. This is an outstanding result.

Δ Student work performed in Dean Street

As part of the National Arts Festival held in Albury during October, a special Literary walk was held over four evenings. At various points around Dean Street (in cafes, the railways station, outside the cinema centre, along the street, in QEII square) people were ushered to listen to work performed by writers and actors. Emma Razeng, one of our own students, was one of a small group of writers whose work was selected for performance as part of the Festival. A great achievement.

Δ Harvey Norman OzSpell Competition

The first national spelling contest occurred in 2002 with a prize of \$10,000- and James Fallon High featured a student in the National Final in Sydney. The school winners – Josh Haberfield, Patrick Bruce, Jessica Edmunds, Emily Bell and James Bruce, all competed at Mulwala for a place in the national finals. A very strong field of 32 competitors were there, and in a very professional competition James Bruce emerged the winner after three gruelling rounds. He flew to Sydney with his family and although not the national winner (a student from Finley won the national title) he was a tremendous ambassador for the school. This was a wonderful achievement.

Δ VENT

This is the name of a new magazine which has been sponsored by the Albury City Council – and includes work from high school students across Albury. Every student in Albury high schools receives a free copy of this great collection of reviews, stories, poems, interviews and articles. Many

of our students have had their work published there in the 3 editions of 2002, and this is a great achievement. Congratulations to all the dozens of James Fallon High students published throughout 2002.

Δ The Power of Speech

In Term 4 a special Debating and Public Speaking tournament and training camp was held in Albury. Teams of Year 9 students from across the region came together for a mind-tingling time of debating topical issues, taking part in workshops and being challenged to polish their speaking and thinking skills. It was an excellent opportunity for our students, and they were great competitors on the day. Also you can read elsewhere in this 2002 school magazine about our students' achievements in other debating and public speaking competitions in 2002

Many thanks to all the English Faculty Staff and English Students at James Fallon High School for their commitment and dedication to striving for excellence and for the outstanding achievements in English throughout 2002. This has been an exceptional year for student success. Go for your best in 2003!

Paul Grover
Head Teacher English

[Back to Top](#)

2001 ENGLISH

In 2001 English students took part in a huge variety of challenging, exciting and mind-inspiring events – in the school and out in the community. Here are some of the highlights to remember...

Lions Youth of the Year Success

Rhys Jones of Year 11 was successful in winning the Lavington Lions Youth of the Year Quest, and went on to compete at the Zone level finals. Jason Cranmer was also successful, winning the Best Speech Award on the night. These students present themselves for a half-hour interview based on a comprehensive personal resume, and then present two impromptu speeches and a five-minute prepared speech. It is a challenging and rewarding experience, generously sponsored by the National Bank.

In the past six years James Fallon High students have won the Lavington Lions Youth of the Year Award five times, and Rhys Jones joins Hannah Wenke, Toby Paramore, Kim Hutchison, Kim-Lee Mildren, Jennifer Francis and Cade Whitbourn in winning the Youth of the Year or Best Speech Awards. A number of these students have in the past achieved success at the zone and regional finals, which is an outstanding result in this prestigious competition.

Children's Storybook s

After a special visit and librarian's presentation at Albury North Public School, our Year Eight students read with the junior Primary and Kindergarten children, and then create excellent storybooks for Primary age children. This is a special annual event where our students learn about publishing, writing for children, book design and storywriting conventions.

Speaking of Success

Jason Cranmer and Audrey Green represented James Fallon High at the recent Albury Rostrum 'Voice of Youth' Contest, accompanied by Ms Shone. They both performed at a very high standard, with Jason the runner-up in the senior division, and Audrey the winner in the junior section. Audrey went on to compete with great humour at the district finals.

Trent Whitbourn and Audrey Green competed in the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Contest in a high-standard competition. James Fallon High hosted the regional final co-ordinated by Ms Lorelle Shone.

A friend through a pen

In 2000 more than 150 students obtained a penfriend from an overseas country, and again this year the United Nations Association provided letters from teenagers as far away as Africa, Europe and South America, as well as USA and Canada, who are very keen to have Aussie penpals. Students selected their penpals at a lunch meeting, and are in touch with a person from another culture and another country.

Dramatic events

Year 11 and 12 English students saw a fantastic production of 'Julius Caesar' presented by the Bell Shakespeare Company this year – a powerful and highly-charged live performance with some imposing special effects. The timeless messages about power, politics and integrity shone through.

Year 7 and 8 English students, and drama students, were part of the audience for Morris Gleitzman's 'Second Coming' at Hothouse Theatre, and got to meet the author and the actors after the show. It was an excellent production, and inspiring for students.

Poets on Wheels

This year we've had special workshop presentations from a variety of 'poets on wheels' – more than 30 selected students interested in poetry, performance and creative writing have taken part in these specialised 'hands-on' workshops, and the poets have also presented mini-performance poetry to our school assembly.

SENIOR DEBATING – SPEAKING OF SUCCESS

Our senior debating squad went from strength to strength in the early rounds of the Commonwealth Senior Debating Contest in 2001.

The first debate against Murray High was our hardest. Erin Widdison and Jason Crammer were very experienced and effective speakers but Stephanie Payne was new to the game and had the daunting task of 3rd speaker. She has the potential to be a great debater ... but experience means a lot in debating (so get involved now junior debaters!) We lost!

In the second debate against Albury High, Erin and Jason teamed up with our school captain Hannah Wenke. Hannah is an outstanding 3rd Speaker, and the team prepared an excellent case for affirmative. The topic was "That compulsory voting is more democratic than optional voting".

Hannah tapped into one of the best resources around – her Economics teacher Mrs Prater. We debated against Murray High and for the first time in my memory, we licked 'em!

On 30th May we had our third debate against Xavier. Once again the stalwart Erin fronted up as the seasoned first speaker. Jason was overseas so a brave Emma Van Lint stepped into his shoes.

Hannah wisely decided to get back to her HSC studies, but luckily Crystal Broadfoot decided to resume debating. Crystal was one of our strong junior debaters. It's great to see her back in the team. The topic was "That heroin trials are the answer to the drug problem". We were negative.

The team researched the matter thoroughly and were helped by Jason even though he would be overseas at the time. They all spoke strongly and showed great teamwork. And we won! Again! The team went on to win the Zone Championship title – a major event for 2001, and truly reflecting the depth of debating talent in our school.

Their success was due to some hard-fought debates against some very talented teams from schools within the region. This honour adds to the long-running success of James Fallon High in Debating and Public Speaking, with zone, region and state finalists in the past few years.

YEAR NINE DEBATERS' BIG WIN

Our team of Year 9 debaters: Audrey Green, Trent Whitbourn and Jessica Dale achieved an outstanding success in defeating a much older Year 11/12 team from Scots at the Rotary Debate Knock-out. They debated the topic: That we should support the GST – and they had the more challenging affirmative side to argue. In the second round they debated the topic: That Mickey Mouse is a rat. This was a thought-provoking debate which was very narrowly lost, again against a much older and more experienced team.

Poetry Awards

One of the most prestigious poetry contests is the Dorothea Mackellar Australia Day contest. There were 3,000 high school entries, and we were very proud to announce that Daniel Jackson was awarded a Highly Commended for his poem WW1, and Stephanie Stevenson, Sarah Purchall, Melissa Crowther and Adam Connell all received Certificates of Commendation for their entries.

Vent - the new Albury Youth Magazine

James Fallon High School students have been major contributors to the new Albury Council youth magazine, called VENT. This is a great opportunity for writers and journalists of the future to develop their skills. Two of our students, Hilary Green of Year 7, and Chris Brown of Year 10, are on the Vent editorial committee as well.

New HSC Major Work in English

Our first new HSC Year 12 English Extension 2 students, Toby Paramore, Meaghan Heywood and Heather McAulay submitted their Major Works, comprising a selection of short stories and two poetry collections, for examination for their HSC in 2001. They spent many hours with Mr Marshall, their teacher and guide, preparing and polishing their writing ready for the professionally published submission in this Major Work examination.

Microstory and Songwriting Contest Success

Once again in 2001 we had more than 100 entries to our Microstory and Songwriting competitions. In the Microstory Contest students had to write a 100 word story - but not one word more or less! And the songwriting contest tests the lyric and creative talents of students. In this edition of the School Magazine you can read the winners' entries, and also the winner of the 2001 Primary Schools' Microstory Contest, which is sponsored by the English Faculty. Congratulations to Hilary Green (Year 7), Rhiannon Konigson (Year 8), Daniel Jackson (Year 9), Felicity Hoffman and Brendan Stead (Year 10). Also congratulations to Dion Gregory-Jack of Hume Public School.

Paul Grover
Head Teacher English

[Back to Top](#)

2000 ENGLISH

English Snapshot 2000

In 2000 more than 200 of our students seized the opportunity to write to a penfriend somewhere around the world. The United Nations Association sent letters, photos and postcards from students in Africa, Canada, Asia, Europe and South America. Great for reading and writing, and especially getting to know our world even better.

English Snapshot 2000

In 2000 the Border Mail included a special Education Mail (EM) liftout magazine each Tuesday. James Fallon High was featured throughout the year – with poetry, speeches, English projects, articles, viewpoint pieces and much more.

English Snapshot 2000

In 2000 a new Writers' Club, called Scribblers, began at James Fallon High. A small team of dedicated writers have been meeting to look at writing opportunities, competitions and publishing ventures. Their enthusiasm will hopefully lead to an even stronger 2001 Scribblers Club. Daniel McDowell is President, and Sarah Harrison the Secretary in 2000.

English Snapshot 2000

In 2000 students travelled far and wide to get a taste for the best in live theatre and performance. We saw a theatre adaption of 'Pride and Prejudice', a live production of 'Summer of the Seventeenth Doll', Bell Shakespeare's brilliant 'Much Ado About Nothing' and Morris Gleitzman's 'second Childhood' at Hothouse. Live theatre is very much alive.

English Snapshot 2000

The Microstory Contest was again a great success - and you can read the best of the 100 word (precisely 100 words!) microstories in this issue. The Border Mail featured a double-page spread of the best microstories of the past 4 years in 2000 as well. As well, we had our first Song Writing Contest - with entries from many students looking for a break into the world of writing lyrics for contemporary bands.

English Snapshot 2000

Hannah Wenke, Heather McAulay, Toby Paramore and Ben Percy represented James Fallon High in the 2000 Lions Youth of the Year Quest. This is a prestigious competition where selected students present a prepared speech, and also submit themselves to an interview and a set of two impromptu speeches. It is a challenging and rewarding experience. This year Toby Paramore won the Club Best Speech category, while Hannah Wenke won the Youth of the Year at the club and zone levels. This placed her in the running for the state finals, where she narrowly lost to the eventual national finalist. A fine achievement.

English Snapshot 2000

This year the English Faculty has actively promoted a range of worthwhile challenges for students - a wide range of poetry, speaking, debating and writing contests, radio production competitions and

the publication of best work in the Border Mail. Congratulations to the hundreds of participants - you all win by developing your skills in English.

English Snapshot 2000

The English Faculty sponsors the special delivery of The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age for students and staff - quality broadsheets to develop knowledge and English skills. We also manage the distribution of 100 free copies of the Border Mail each week – these are generously donated by business houses and the Border Mail.

English Snapshot 2000

In 2000 we purchased a series of excellent new texts for our English 7-10 program - new books included 'Raw', 'Deadly Unna', 'Going Off', 'The Call', and John Marsden's complete 'Tomorrow' series. We also purchased new film titles for visual literacy studies, a new TV and video, as well as posters and displays for student work in 2000.

English Snapshot 2000

Throughout the year the English Faculty area mounts special displays of student work for others to see; there have been excellent displays prepared by staff and students in 2000 - from autobiographies, to children's storybooks, to special projects and exhibitions.

English Snapshot 2000

In 2000 our students have had special success in Debating competitions- teams from Years 7, 8 and 10 have all been very successful. Our Year 10 team won the zone competition – defeating all schools in our area. Erin Widdison, Jason Cranmer, Crystal Broadfoot, Clare Harris and Jessica Thurling took part in the team's successes, as well as competing in the Rutherglen Invitation Debate. Ms Colleen Johnson, their coach, was very impressed by their achievements. Our Year 8 team had great success in their invitation debates as well – Trent Whitbourn, Brodie McAulay and Romney Massie – some real talent there. Ms Lorelle Shone, the coach, has watched them develop their skills strongly. Teams from Year 7 also competed in the Department of Education local competition, and Year 9 students represented James Fallon High in the TAFE sponsored contest in November. Well done to everyone!

English Snapshot 2000

In 2000 Audrey Green of Year 8 won the Riverina division of the Legacy Plain English Speaking Contest – the Department of Education's prestigious speech contest. Audrey was flown to Sydney with her mother and Ms Avril Lambert, her teacher, to compete in the state finals in September. In 2000 Clare Harris and Jason Cranmer represented James Fallon High School in the Senior Division of the Sydney Morning Herald Plain English Speaking Competition. They spoke very well indeed, and were commended for their maturity and thoughtful approach to their speech presentations and impromptu speech sections.

Paul Grover
Head Teacher English

[Back to Top](#)

1998 ENGLISH ALIVE!

Students at James Fallon High are discovering the power of words! Throughout 1998 there have been many opportunities for students to polish short stories, poems, speeches, debates, playscripts and microstories for the many contests and exhibitions this year.

There is no better way to aim for a great career than to develop the power of words - in any career you choose your ability to communicate with confidence and flair are qualities employers are really looking for. Aiming for your best in speaking, reading, writing and listening, and making the most of those opportunities to hear, see, read and write to develop your best, this is what will build for a satisfying future.

In 1998 the Family Newsletter published the best of student writing, while in the February edition we were proud to announce that our 2 Unit English class achieved outstanding HSC results with half the class being placed in the top 10% in the state.

Students have been encouraged to take part in the Albury City Council Youth Forums and other speaking opportunities, while the 1998 Microstory Contest brought another set of outstanding achievements. Ms Cleeton co-ordinated this year's contest, and the winners' entries can be seen in this magazine too. And the winners are.....: Year 7 Bre Laundess; Year 8 Heath Edmunds; Year 9 Hannah Wenke; Year 10 Matt Nastasijevic and Year 11 Joel Morrisroe.

A new student newspaper was produced, called The Fallon Express, and further editions of a new-look student newspaper are being planned for 1998 and 1999.

Our entrants in the 1998 Lions Club Youth of the Year Contest were Tanya Trevena and Kim-Lee Mildren, and they were excellent ambassadors for our school, with Kim-Lee taking the prize for the best speech in the club competition.

In March was a special writing workshop event called 'The Writer and the Cop'. One of Australia's leading writers, Gabrielle Lord, and Roger Johnson, an ex-detective with Special Operations, presented a workshop on how to use real-life in mystery and detective stories. It was a fascinating experience for our talented writers.

We also sponsored a special workshop with Aboriginal writers for senior students, which gave them valuable insights into their HSC English course. In November was a special writer's seminar with a published writer, Neil Boyack, conducting a workshop with senior students. Mr Hyman co-ordinated this event.

Kim-Lee Mildren competed in The Sydney Morning Herald Plain English Speaking competition, presenting a speech on 'capital punishment', and an impromptu speech on the theme, 'Green'. She was congratulated by the judges on her poise and presentation. Jason Cranmer also competed in public speaking, with an excellent speech on issues of the environment. Both students presented their speeches at Open Night also. Other top public speaking contestants in 1998 contests have been Crystal Broadfoot and Kim-Lee Mildren.

Our students have taken part in outstanding play performances - senior students travelled to Melbourne to see David Williamson's 'The Club', and many students were part of trips to see Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' in Albury, Tim Winton's 'Lockie Leonard-Scumbuster' at the school and Morris Gleitzman's 'Two Weeks with the Queen' in Wagga. In November was a special production of a student musical, 'Smash Hit', which our students were encouraged to see, along with local drama productions.

Our junior debating team has been a very strong group this year, with Kim Hutchinson, Lana Melbourne, Melinda Allott and Lauren McNicol performing very well in the Commonwealth Bank competition. In the Rotary Debating Competition, Aimee Cleverley, Heather McAulay and Hannah Wenke achieved excellent results, competing against much older students too! Ms Johnson has been coaching this talented group of debaters. Our senior debating team of Kim-Lee Mildren, Tanya Trevena and Alistair Robinson competed early in 1998, with Mr Hyman coaching the team.

At the 1998 Open Night students, parents and visitors were able to enjoy best selected student work on display, with Microstory winners and highly commended entries featured, guest speeches, a book contest and a comedy debate between Kim-Lee Mildren and Alistair Robinson, and Ms Gleeson and Mr Grover, on the topic "That teenagers have it easy". It was a closely fought comedy debate, too!

In December we once again took part in the Year 7/8 debating carnival held at the Albury TAFE for local high schools, where our junior students gain valuable experience in debating skills.

Once again our HSC students took part in the Border English Teachers' HSC Study Day held at Charles Sturt University, where they had presentations from senior markers, and Mr Waters and Mr Grover presented special seminars to the 2Unit Related students in preparation for their HSC exams. Mr Waters is a very experienced senior English teacher (as well as being our principal!), and Mr Grover is a Supervisor of Marking in the HSC English exam in 1997 and 1998. The Year 12 2Unit English teacher, Mr Rouvray, is also marking the 2Unit English exam in 1998.

In 1998 we have encouraged students to begin a penfriend letter-writing project, and over the last 2 years about 100 students have begun writing to students in other countries around the world. This is a great way to develop writing skills, and to get to know the wider world. Ms Cleeton and Mr Grover have co-ordinated this project.

Ms Bowden, our librarian, has been invited to bring the library to the classroom in 1998! In this program, Ms Bowden makes a selection of the best new fiction books, and brings them to English classrooms for a live book review to students. This has been a very successful new project in 1998.

Students in all years are able to purchase The Sydney Morning Herald at half-price (just 50c), with the paper delivered to the school each day. There are excellent resources for many subjects and projects, and the English Faculty sponsors this service because of the tremendous value in students reading a quality newspaper and keeping in touch with world issues and the best international journalism.

We have now placed 2 computers in each English classroom, with opportunities for students to use them for projects and assignments, and to develop their word processing and writing skills. This is part of our ongoing technology plan being prepared by Mr Griffith, and already we have students involved in an HSC 'Macbeth' on-line internet discussion group with students from around the world. Ms Cleeton has co-ordinated this special project.

During 1998 Mr Hyman has been our relieving Head Teacher while Mr Grover was overseas visiting famous sites like Gallipoli, the birthplaces of great writers, the Globe theatre and other historic places, and also during 1998 Mrs Noeleen Mildren has been an excellent relieving teacher on many occasions. There have been a number of other casual teaching staff who have worked very hard to assist on those occasions when staff are ill. I am very grateful to all these talented and professional people.

Also in 1997 and 1998 a number of our staff, Mr Hyman, Mr Rouvray and Mr Grover, have been involved in marking the HSC English exams in Sydney and Wagga, developing expertise to advise students on exam techniques and strategies.

Well, 1998 was another big year for James Fallon High students and staff, and I would like to specially thank the tireless and highly professional English staff who have worked very hard to encourage students to strive for their best in all their work - in class, in assignments and in contests and excursions. With such dedicated, experienced and professional educators, our students have the opportunity to achieve personal best results, and to develop their speaking, reading, writing and listening skills for a successful future. All they need to do is grasp the opportunities, and strive for their best.

Mr Paul Grover
Head Teacher English

[Back to Top](#)

1997 ENGLISH

All along the walls of the English block are framed portraits of the 1997 Microstory winners, displays of our most talented writers from state competitions and posters advertising the opportunities English gives people for the future.

This year has seen some outstanding individual achievements from many James Fallon High students in the areas of English, and many other strong performances from across the whole student body in the statewide examinations in Year 144 and 12.

Some of the highlights have been:

- ✓ Our students' best short stories, microstories and poems have been featured in our Family Newsletter, including work by Bryce Livermore, Krystal Horadam, Rebecca Parkinson, Dayna Walsh, Jacquie Walters, Kara Malaoinato, Jennifer Francis, Jarrod Hillary, Heather McAulay, David Parkinson, Sarah Cozens, Carly Ambrose and Lauren Hyman.
- ✓ Jennifer Francis of Year 11 was a state finalist at the Plain English Speaking Awards, and was flown to Sydney with her mother thanks to the generosity of Hazelton Airlines, and competed at the Powerhouse Museum. A wonderful achievement from a student who has also been a consistently high-achieving public speaker. Her prize-winning speech was published in the Family Newsletter, and she also presented it at the P&C and Open Night.
- ✓ Bronte Ward of Year 12 achieved the outstanding result of being one of 16 state finalists in the Sydney Morning Herald Young Writer of the Year Contest, the most prestigious writing contest in NSW. She was flown to Sydney and took part in the finals at a special presentation lunch at the Sydney Opera House, overlooking the harbour and the bridge. For her efforts in being the Riverina Region winner she was awarded a Waterford crystal clock, \$100 of books and a CD-ROM encyclopaedia. Bronte's work has also been published in the Family Newsletter this year.
- ✓ Adam Stewart and Jennifer Francis of Year 11 represented the school at the Lions Youth of the Year Quest in 1997, where were interviewed by a panel of judges, gave a prepared speech at a special Lions Dinner, and responded to 2 impromptu questions. This prestigious contest was won by Jennifer Francis, and she competed at the Regional Finals – giving one of the best speeches of her career.
- ✓ Our Junior debating team of Kim-Lee Mildren, Tanya Trevena, Carly Ambrose and Robert Pickering competed in the Commonwealth Bank competition, and achieved considerable success throughout the year. They are developing as strong debaters with their coach, Mrs Colleen Johnson, very impressed with their ideas and teamwork.
- ✓ Julia Malcolm, Lauren Hyman and Ciara Paramore have represented the school in the Senior Debating Competition, and have had some very challenging and stimulating debates against senior student in other schools. Their coach, Mr Phil Rouvray, has been very proud of the way they have marshalled their arguments and presented their case in this very competitive contest.

- √ The 1997 Microstory Contest saw more than 130 entries pour in, with a very high standard of competition this year. Competitors had to write a story EXACTLY 100 words in length, not one word more or less. The very best stories from each year win a cash prize, and are widely published. There were outstanding entries this year, and the highly commended winners were also put on display. Our Year Winners for 1997 were Year 12 David Parkinson, Year 11 Lauren Hyman, Year 10 Carly Ambrose, Year 9 Jarrod Hillary, Year 8 Heather McAulay and Year 7 Sarah Cozens. Congratulations to all entrants in 1997 – you are all winners!
- √ Dayna Walsh of Year was announced a highly commended winner in Australia’s premier poetry contest – the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Contest, a contest which sees 8000 entries from across the nation competing for the honours. This was an outstanding achievement, and her winning poem, ‘Anaesthesia’, was published in the Family Newsletter earlier this year.
- √ Rebecca Parkinson of Year 11 competed in the Rostrum Public Speaking Contest, and was also a finalist in the Horror Short Story Contest 1997, both fine achievements from a talented student.
- √ Tameka Hammond of Year 9 was announced as a finalist in the International Poetry Contest – a wonderful achievement.
- √ Following the highly successful visit by author John Marsden in 1996, this year we invited Margaret Clark, author of a number of books we have as class novels and in the library collection. More than 100 students from our school, and about 100 other student guests, heard Margaret Clark tell all about her own career, how she gets ideas and the value of writing for a successful life. A great experience.
- √ Throughout the year the English Faculty have encouraged students to strive for their best – in classwork, by competing in writing and speaking contests, and by being active readers in DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) each day. Our Library collection of fiction books is an excellent source of quality young-adult fiction, and many students are taking advantage of the best books by the best writers on offer there. We always encourage students to read themselves rich!
- √ For the second year in a row the English Faculty has sponsored a Primary Schools Microstory Contest, and also invited Year 6 students to write a letter to Year 7 students so they can find out more about high school as they approach Year 7 in 1998. These events encourage good relations between our schools, and encourage students to see the value of writing and reading in their lives.
- √ In 1997 there have been a number of excellent excursion events for students in English - Shakespeare’s Macbeth presented by the Melbourne Theatre Company in Albury, Kenneth Branagh’s 4-hour Hamlet at the Cinema Centre, Two Weeks with the Queen on stage, and many other smaller excursion events where students have visited local primary schools and read their work and even taught younger children through their writing. These are very important events in the school year.
- √ At the 1997 Open Night we showcased the best work from our students, and held a Sound Effects Contest as well – Nathan Junck was the winner there. In Term 4 we held our annual

English Award, where invited students from Years 7 to 9 prepare a portfolio of their best work from 1997 for the Presentation Night English Award judging. Students in Years 10-12 are judged on their full year English assessment task results for their Presentation Night Awards.

So, 1997 has been a year of outstanding success for many of our students, and many others not mentioned here have achieved excellent class results with class awards and commendations throughout the year. Congratulations to everyone whose work has been acknowledged in 1997. The partnership of home and school has brought excellent results this year. Thanks to all families for their support in 1997. As an English Staff we are committed to supporting students who work for their personal best, and we are looking forward to further achievements in 1998.

Mr Paul Grover
Head Teacher English

[Back to Top](#)