



DIURNA

NEWSPAPER OF THE 24TH LATIN SUMMER SCHOOL: DIES IOVIS, JANUARIUS XVIII

Today is the final day of Abbey's Bookstall

The third of the Nicholson Museum tours takes place today at 12.35 pm

The post prandium lectures at 1.30 pm today are:

Matthew Ross

"The politics of citizenship: Barnaby Joyce, the Social War and citizenship legislation from 91-89 BC"

New Law School Annexe SR 340

Mike Salter

"*Appendix Probi* and the birth of Romance"

New Law School Annexe SR 342

Kathleen Riley

"Latin Woostered and Hard-Boiled: The Classical Style of P.G. Wodehouse and Raymond Chandler"

New Law School Annexe SR 344

The activities for school students will continue today in New Law School Seminar 028

Special Interest Series for Level 4 continue today from 2.50 pm to 4.00 pm:

1. Dexter Hoyos "Caesars and Critics: Emperors in their own words and in later criticisms" New Law Annexe 344

2. Kathleen Riley 'Loquacissimae manus': Fred Astaire's Ancient Eloquence, New Law School Annexe 342

The 24th LSS ends tomorrow with a free BBQ for all at 12.30 pm, followed by the closing ceremony in New Law Lecture Theatre 101, c.1.30 pm, with some entertainment and the awarding of prizes.

Second Prize-winning entry in the Diurna Competition

The Value of Latin

by Vihan Roy

A question that I am asked most often is "Why do you study Latin? It's a dead language. Why don't you learn one that you will be of use in the future, like German or French?" It irritates me to the point that I now respond with a default "I don't know. Maybe I have a couple of screws loose in my head?"

But one day while I was translating those nasty Caesar passages. I thought to myself "Why am I doing this? What is the point? Is it not just a written language that no-one uses anymore? A language that has been lost in time and detested by students for its difficult nature?"

Awakened by an answer, I felt a light-bulb appear over my head. I realised that Latin's highly intricate structure is part of its beauty and usefulness in our era. One use of Latin is that it provides the sharpening of a highly needed 21st-century skill: fine-tuning. The ability of fine-tuning is needed in coding, as a computer programmer might need to change his coding if he wanted to make his data encrypted. In Latin you must be like a programmer and test each ending of a word to make the sentence "right" and then match it up with its appropriate translation. I

believe Latin is one of the few languages that allow this type of thinking to flourish due to its highly inflected nature.

Latin's Beauty is expressed through its seamless and graceful leaps and hops from one clause to the next, almost as if the words on the page are delicate ballerinas on a stage. Just as in English, an author's expression of his emotions, his ideas, and his concepts are almost artistic, yet very succinct. From the use of metre in Virgil to hyperboles in Horace, it is pleasing to be able to appreciate the author's deliberate use of literary and rhetorical devices.

I realised a fundamental truth. Latin, even with all its complexities, at its root, is simple and supple. Once you start to appreciate this fact, Latin becomes an enlightening experience rather than a source of boredom. You will be able to see the subtlety of the author being expressed through a few succinct words. You will no longer sleep through Cicero's long droning speeches but observe them with deep fascination.

As I eased into my chair, I decided that I would now answer the question "Why do you learn Latin?" with a short and crisp reply "For the same reason you learn English."

LATIN AT WEA SYDNEY IN 2018

72 Bathurst Street, Sydney, 2001

Telephone: 9624 2781

info@weasydney.nsw.edu.au

Cost: \$252, or \$227 with concession

All courses run for nine weeks in two-hour sessions, making a total of 18 hours. All the courses will be taught by John Coombs (2A).

Latin Beginners 1

This course will start at the beginning of the Oxford Latin Course, book 1

Mon 29 Jan - Mon 26 Mar 2018

2pm - 4pm

Latin Beginners 2

This is a continuation from Latin Beginners 1, and will be starting in chapter 7 of the Oxford Latin Course, book 1

Wed 31 Jan - Wed 28 Mar 2018

3:30pm - 5:30pm (first session)

Latin Intermediate 4

This is a continuation from Latin Intermediate 3 and will be starting in chapter 47 in the Oxford Latin Course, book 3

Fri 02 Feb - Fri 30 Mar 2018

2:30pm - 4:30pm

Latin Advanced

TEXT: Oxford Latin Reader, Oxford University Press, 1997. We are part of the way through the book.

Wed 31 Jan - Wed 28 Mar 2018

10am - 12pm (first session)

OR

Fri 02 Feb - Fri 30 Mar 2018

10am - 12pm

The 25th Latin Summer School

will be held from

Monday January 14 to Friday January 18, 2019

Visit www.latinsummerschool.com.au for details later in 2018.

