The Inaugural Gift of the Gab was held on Friday 23 October 2009 at Oatlands House and raised just over $24,500 for St Gabriel's School.

In a year of economic challenges for individuals and business alike, the Principal was ecstatic with the outcomes of the lunch both as a fundraiser and to bring the specialized brand that is St Gabriel's School to a new audience in a new format. "This event was always going to be a challenge as a first off new event, but we are thrilled at the outcome for the school" she said. "The generosity of the people in the room is to be commended and we are very grateful for their support."

She gave thanks to the AMP Foundation which has pledged support for this event by matching the funds raised up to $10,000. "We are sincerely grateful to the AMP Foundation's Community Fundraising Program and Mathew Hurd at AMP for his personal support of this event."

The MC Andrew Voss invited celebrity guests Phil 'Gus' Gould, Melinda Gainsford-Taylor and Matthew Hill to join him on stage seated on the "chilli red" King Furniture lounge and got them talking about everything from footy to the races with hilarious stories from on an off the track and field of play to entertain the 130 people in the room. He even got the then Premier Nathan Rees for a spell on the lounge and he chatted casually about a day in the life of a NSW Premier - a rare insight to a very public figure.

The King Furniture lounge was a big hit and was auctioned off to the highest bidder to take home. Amongst other items on offer was an Urban Graze Truffle Weekend for two to Orange; several signed footballs that have all the guests from the Footy Show since August this year; Weekend escapes in a Lexus and an advertising package donated by 2UE radio. There were also a couple of indulgent romantic getaways for two donated by Loxley on Bellbird Hill.

This fundraising event was conceived as a means to celebrate the educational goals at St Gabriel's School where its programs of communication for children with a hearing impairment and those with other special needs, strive to give their students "The Gift of the Gab". The stage is now set to do it all again next year as the "Gift of the Gab" has well and truly found a place in the St Gabriel's fundraising calendar.