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# School Rover

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## QUEENSLAND CORE SKILLS TEST :

Year 12 students have been seen with their heads down poring over the test papers in the annual Core Skills Test. This Test is conducted each year for the Year 12 students throughout Queensland. We had our representatives in it.

Nobody succumbed to acute mental trauma, so maybe they are smarter than that for which they had previously given themselves credit.

Kerry Amber provided a brief report :

The date was 3rd to 4th of September, we sat for our QCS Test. The tests we sat was the Written Test, MCI (Multiple Choice), MC II and the Short Response.

On the first day we sat the test, the first two tests we did were the written tests which started at 9:05 a.m. and that finished at 11:30 a.m.

The second test was MC1 that started at 12:30 and finished at 2:05 p.m.

The second day we sat for the last two tests - the Short Response that started at 8:50 a.m. and finished at 11:00 a.m. and the last test for the QCS was the MCII that started at 12:30 and finished at 2:10 p.m. The test was very hard but all Grade 12 in Queensland had to do it.

Thank you to the school for keeping quiet when we had our exam. Now we have to wait until the end of the year to get our results **Kerry Amber**

**RECRUITMENT DRIVE :** Tekoa and Ludo Kuipers were busily stacking on the mileage (yes, I know I ought be saying 'kilometreage') during the recruitment drive through the Torres Strait and Cape York communities last week. Both were away for one week.

Each year the serious task of searching out prospective students has to be done to promote the school and extend its mission to indigenous youth.

**MR SCOTT IS BACK :** Having been in hospital four days and away from school just over two weeks, Mr. Scott is now back at school. He is taking things carefully and expecting a full recovery.

"I'd just like to say a BIG thank you too to Miss Michelle and Uncle Kenny for looking after my class."



## INTRODUCING : **Tony Epseg**

I have been in Djarragun now since the beginning of this year in various capacity, initially teaching Island dancing and then in July I was appointed as a teacher assistant working under the supervision of Mr. Rick Johnson in Year 9. I also am employed in the boarding section of the school as supervisor and driver for after-school student activities.

I have worked as a carpenter for six years in the Cairns area. I would be interested in working in the Manual arts. I am highly interested in music and cultural activities.

So far working with the students in school, it has been demanding but at the same time, enjoyable. I feel respected by the students and I get along with them easily. I feel closer to them when they refer to me as

Uncle, Sir or Mr. Epseg. This is a welcome change for me especially when it comes from students I don't even know yet. It encourages me to want to respond.

**Tony Epseg**

MS HAZEL HOWARD : Appreciation is merited by Ms Hazel who willingly took on the challenge to stand in for the usual Year 7 teacher, Ross Walters, who was busy traipsing around the globe for a week and a bit following some poetic fantasy.

Word has it that Ms Hazel had her hands full and the mind fixed in mental overdrive in order to muster the herd and settle to a spot of cerebral grazing for a particularly restive audience.

Inevitably, the 'ogre' did return and that assured both reprieve and immediate popularity for the stand-in teacher and she could depart on amicable terms - and settled to relief of her own!! 'Relief' takes on an ironic ambiguity understood only too well by any victim.

Thanks to Ms Hazel for accepting yet an extra day to accommodate a jet-lagged nomad. Until next relief !!!!

**Flora Charlie** sums up her impression :

"Every day at school it's fun but sometimes it's bored (sic) because Mr. Ross gives us a lot of work. but he has gone to the U.S.A. I don't know why. well it was bet (sic) fun when he was gone but we didn't know who was going to be our teacher but it was Miss Hazel. She was nice to us. She is not married. She is single and nice. Well, anyway, on Monday on the same day we had painting. I did a PNG flag and we had Cultural Study. Well our study was about food how plenty you eat. The next day we had hockey clinic. We learnt about how you hold the hockey stick (sic). Hit only on the smooth part of the stick and we had to correct them with the stick . It was fun."

ODE to an AIDE (Assistant Teacher; DEST tutor)

To Kenny and Lovely Larina

As a sequel to the spiel in last issue relating to the multi-skills of Ms Michelle whom, it seems, has been genetically adjusted to clone any of our other teachers, we have a word of thanks passed on to her helpers by one (or other) of Ms Michelle's personalities :

I honour thee, ye humble two  
The elves who see my wishes through;  
The sadistic slaves who fearlessly tread  
Through chilling tasks most humans dread.  
And so I bow my head to you  
(by the way, Larina, can you check my hair for lice?  
To say 'thanks mate, for the great job you do.  
(and Kenny, I want 78 copies of this - one A3 with a single staple in the top left corner)

Thank you, Love from **Michelle**. xxx

HOCKEY CLINIC : The second of the clinics was held during the week without the nuisance factor of rain that occurred during the first session.

Nelson Dotoi assisted Wes with the hockey clinic in which they taught the students how to play a game. Skills such as the loose dribble and the close dribble were practiced.



The students also had opportunities to test out their smashing of the hockey ball. The clinic was organized to introduce the game to students who might want to take up the game for themselves later on.

A third clinic will be conducted next week. Those with special talent might be encouraged to join a local team if they are interested. **Nelson Dotoi**

**Wes Ferns** (Hockey Clinic) : "The kids were great and all had a go at it and enjoyed it. We are hoping to get a team from the school for an inter-school competition perhaps next year. Hockey Queensland is sponsoring the clinics. I am involved with Djarragun College in Cairns and other schools and communities throughout the Gulf and Cape York. I have been mainly based in Cairns. I am a local and have been playing the game since I was seven years old.



MARINE STUDIES :

Not without its measure of glory is the starring vessel



Numba Wan which allows its cadet crew to practise its skills and discover how to control such a magnificent water craft. It isn't every school that can boast the privilege of ownership of a many-horsepowered vessel. Without a doubt, this is the flagship of our Marine Studies programme from which we might expect to draw the odd navigator, helmsman or bosun worthy of their salt.



As supporting staff, Tony Eseg went for a ride in Numba Wan with the Year 11 students who were learning how to moor the boat and to do the figure 8. Mr. Eseg reports : " In addition, they had to learn to respect other boats in the water traffic and have proper regard for the Water Police, Fisheries, and Dept. of Marines and Parks.

The day was wonderful; the water was fine and every student had the opportunity to drive the boat. There were ten students in the boat which is the limit in addition to two teachers."

Teacher in Marine Studies, Alan Chapman filled in a few details about 'Numba Wan', the course in Marine Studies and the progress to date.

"The two x 150hp Johnson outboards powered the boat out into the Cairns Inlet to effect the mooring and the figures of 8. We were able to do some fishing, as well, while having our lunch.

Students do their boat licence training in it. During the year, the students have to learn the information relating to driving boats, buoys, beacons and markers.

So far every student who has entered the course has passed by the end of the year. Students include both boys and girls. The course relates with all areas of marine knowledge.

Numba Wan is about eight years old and is a Haines Hunter Patriot, fibreglass, 8 metres - a Mercedes in the Boatworld.

Special mention : Brian and Ganaia Toby have had practice cleaning up the boat and flushing out the motors."

**Alan Chapman**

THANKS TO KUBIN, ST. PAULS, BADU, MABUIAG, SAIBAI, YAM, MASIG, PORUMA, WARRABER, MER & ERUB COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS WE VISITED LAST WEEK. **Tekoa Tafea and Ludo Kuipers**

**ROD MURRAY & LINDA BIANCOTTI :**

As a temporary measure, the Home Science Room in the school has been used for the Dining Room for the boarders. Now that the Dining Room in the Dormitory has been outfitted, meals are now served there. This removes the need to make the almost two hundred metre trek between the two locations.

Immediately outside of the Tuckshop/Home Science, an extension is in the making. This covered area will provide an attractive alfresco dining facility. One can imagine that with the odd umbrella and coloured canopy, it could easily assume a festival or resort-style character.

Rod Murray is our Chief Cook and Bottle-washer and can be found deeply engrossed in preparing the day's gastronomic delights. Ms Linda is the Tuckshop Convener and has her work cut out for herself in anticipating the needs and tastes of prodigious consumers. One of the very notable services Ms Linda provides is the supply of sandwiches for those who may not have brought lunches - or forgotten them in the haste to get to school.

What's on the menu for the day is generally chalked up on a notice board outside of the tuckshop though a good sense of smell is probably the more dependable medium of communication between appetite and digestion.

Anyway, 'happy eating' goes without saying here.



**RED & YELLOW LITERACY GROUPS :**

Visual Arts Workshop : The project for this term has been to paint a series of four fabric panels to be used for curtains for Mr. Johnson's classroom.

The students have been studying the Aboriginal desert art of Central Australia and have incorporated elements of these designs into the curtains. Of particular interest was the use of symbols to depict elements of the landscape. Desert animals also feature prominently. The curtains will be on display on Open Day.

Patricia Baird in Year 9 has shown her special talents and been of great assistance in the design and execution of the panels. Other students who have capably assisted in their own time are Rosina Sands, Kylie Yeatman, Lavinia Dean, Gennie Aki, Alice David and Millie Dau.

**Miss Linda McKeown**



ANDRE MOORE : A towering figure on the campus is that of Andre Moore. Locally prominent in the Kuyyam Pride Indigenous Basketball team, he lends both his expertise and experience towards the Djarragun youth. Any impact he makes can cover a wide spectrum. Andre kindly voiced his perceptions -

"Personal development is something in which I have become interested - dealing with issues like bullying, anger management, peer pressure, abuse in relationships

We've watched a series of videos called Wexford Series made in Canada. It role-plays one of the subject topics in each video. We discussed the video and how it related to our own lives. During the past couple of weeks, we have reviewed the videos and done exercises which relate to the subjects. Students were put into groups that discussed the topics and decided how the material was relevant to their present lives.

I would love to mention some of the names of students who have been impressive. I can do this in the future when I learn each of their names. Simon Fidow has shown interest in signwriting and hopefully, I can use my contacts to direct him to the appropriate resources.

Reading is one of my favourite pastimes and it is one of my main goals to convince students to constantly strive to develop their potentials and read more also.

I don't want to be regarded only as a basketball coach and player even though that is a major part of my life. That is just a vehicle that I can use to drive and motivate others.

I have been very fortunate to use the game of basketball to travel around the world. I have played in five countries including the USA, France, Spain, China and Australia. My biggest accomplishment has been in creating my family in Australia.

I have visited schools all over Australia. The students

and faculty of this school are just as driven to succeed as any other place with which I have been associated. I encourage any indigenous parent to spread the word that Djarragun College is a very good learning environment.  
**Andre Moore**

#### PASTOR ANDREW : RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our children are the seeds of the future. Christian living is their future. Our Primary school children all take their Christian Studies seriously. We have studied the story of creation, Noah and the Great Flood, Jonah and the Whale, The Parable of the Lost Sheep and the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

We have been learning the Lord's Prayer. We now have some workbooks on Christian Education and Bible Studies. It is a very special gift from God to work with our children.

Dear Lord, please protect our children, keep them safe and help them to learn from their parents and their teachers.

Here is a prayer we have studied this Term :

Dear God,  
Thank you that we can pray any time because ...  
when we are happy      You are with us  
when we are upset      You are with us  
when we are worried    You are with us  
when we are confused   You are with us Amen.  
Peace be with you.      **Pastor Andrew**



#### PUPPETS AND PUPPETRY

The Blue Literacy group in the middle school have been working very hard designing, making and painting a variety of interesting puppets.

Their task in literacy was to put on a puppet play suitable for primary viewing. The students have written their own plays and are expected to put them on for the primary school at a later date.

They will be assessed on their design of the puppet, their play script writing and their actual performance. Miniature puppet theatres were made by the students and then with the help of Mr Roland, a full size puppet theatre was constructed including finishing with creative painting designs.  
**Brian Dowling**