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School Rover

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TERM 1, 2003 Welcome back everyone to the start of yet another year in the millennium. A moderate group of enthusiasts graced us with first day attendance. It was wonderful to see a few parents wandering the precincts obviously also bearing the slight doubts of imminent separation.

ways about it. All staff will readily vouch for the inspirational days (and night, for some) which launched them into the school year.

A full day workshop with **Fran Rollings** (AISQ, Brisbane) and **Lesley Brooks** (W.A) set the tone for positive thought and active endeavour. Full marks to this dynamic duo who prompted the staff into simulated exercises wearing Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats



STAFF PREPARATION DAYS : There's no two

on some occasions and befuddled faces in other instances.

In what can only be described as a smorgasbord of tactical and cerebral gymnastics, Lesley pummelled our brains with persistent but refreshing engagement. In strong focus was the notion of 'Learning through Enterprise Projects'. Whatever the retentive skills for any one of us, it was simulating being walked through small paths of revelation - tracks which we maybe expect our students to take.

The appropriate quota of butcher paper was subjected to the expected display of runes and the voyage of discovery included such things as the 'reinvented toothbrush' and uses for mystery objects. Lateral thinking exploded during these sessions and time was



the major inhibitor to any extended reverie. Our staff should be adrenalin-pumped. All of the scope of creative thinking should now be awakened in each of us. If anything, Lesley may have been responsible for enthusing us into a richer awareness of our collegial abilities. How enterprising is that!!! To Lesley and Fran - our sincerest thanks.

HIGHER GROUND : Striding through the campus like two horsemen of the Apocalypse were **Scott Guyatt** and **Rod Field**. Higher Ground Australia is a non-profit, Christian organization based at Boonah, southwest of Brisbane.

Emerging early into a morning undecided upon its own temperament, staff members congregated at the school Tuckshop where a more than healthy spread of breakfast fare was dished out by Linda Biancotti, the conveyor.

The fun and games officially kicked off at 8:30 a.m. when Rod and Scott artfully enticed the unsuspecting into participation in things probably three metres outside of their comfort zone.

Inspirational as the two leaders were, significant credit must go to a totally responsive staff which forged itself into a versatile, determined and focussed team.

Consider all the dynamics (let alone the tricks) that arise in order to protect a humble egg. What a lesson to learn that the 'last straw' wasn't enough.

To what dimension are we engaging someone who hasn't run under a skipping rope for the past forty years? Leading the blind through an obstacle course or thrusting vertigo upon a trusting soul three feet about the ground - these are not mundane antics but jaunts into metaphysics.

Thanks to both Rod and Scott. We do have the chance

to meet up with them again at subsequent camps which have been planned for our students. The association will hopefully be of mutual advantage and satisfaction. In so saying, I reiterate a quote endowed on us prior to their departure : "An unreflected experience is a lost experience." May we all long reflect each our unique experiences.

RULE SEVENTEEN ...for a better Way to Live

Realize that true happiness lies within you. Waste no time and effort searching for peace and contentment and joy in the world outside. Remember that there is no happiness in having or in getting but only in giving. Reach Share. Smile. Hug. Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself. **Og Mandino**



IRISH ROVERS :

When Irish eyes were smiling on Djarragun's front door Looking for some work not experienced before In the form of Sean and Conal hailing from North Antrim They raised some Irish sweat and never noise or tantrum For work is work, job's a job and still a chore's a chore.

Sean Harvey & Conal Rogers : Sporting the green of Leprechaunland, two industrious figures have been seen haunting the campus generally laden with some article of furniture or anything that Atlas might have tackled for practice runs.

Both lads are from North Antrim in the North of Ireland. This area is famous for its beautiful coastal scenery and the Coast of Antrim. Both are here on an extended working holiday in Australia. Since leaving Sydney and travelling up the eastern coast, they have had the pleasure of working in the banana patch and the odd mango grove. The long hours paid off with good pay packets but the physical side of bending the bananas began to take its toll. With due deference to the tourism industry, each claimed that they reinvested their earnings back into the local community.

Djarragun is the first main contact that they have had with the indigenous people of Australia. It is believed that both parties have survived.

Djarragun is an indigenous College which caters for students from the Torres Strait, Papua New Guinea and

Aboriginal communities throughout the north of Queensland. Both Conal and Sean have expressed an appreciation for their opportunity to contribute towards a meaningful organization. It was a unique experience. Sean and Conal were very impressed with the staff for their friendliness towards them.

What started at the Backpacker's Motel as a fortuitous opportunity for a 'bit of work' developed into a few weeks of hard toil, honest sweat and heavy duty haulage. (Where are those leprechauns when you need them?)

Sean and Conal pass on their thanks to Jean Illingworth, the Principal, and all the staff for the chance to earn a few pounds that might eventually pay their back to the 'Glens'.

Special thanks goes also to **Linda Biancotti** in the Tuckshop who threw a few sandwiches in their direction.

WORK FOR THE DOLE SCHEME : A group of workers on the property have contributed very valuable skills and attention to the school campus. The landscaping around the school classrooms and other areas in the dormitory and the Caretaker's Cottage have been decorated with new tiling. **Lavinia Salee** has given her time towards the dormitory refurbishing and also in the sewing department where she has helped cut out and sew seat covers. The next big job will be similar covers for the school buses.

DORMITORY DOSSIER : There are about fifty-one students now in the dorms. Some usual hiccoughs have been experienced but the students are now getting used to the roster systems which have been put in place. Students have been given extra responsibilities in certain areas. The dorms have filled fast and more students arrive each day.

Some of the girls were cooking turtle for dinner one of the nights. The Weekend Activities have been worked out and a new Evening Officer, Henry Adidi has been employed to carry on the supervision each night. Don & Gloria also will be involved two weekends each month and Suraima and Lorraine will cover the other two.

A lot of organization has been put into the planning of the Boarding Schedule and Elwyn reports a gradual settling of the dust while the students become accustomed to regulations in place. Somewhere in all the hurly-burly is Philemon Chigeza whose installation in to the new Caretaker's Accommodation carries with it an ever widening portfolio.

Henry Adidi made an impressive entrance to the scene and outlined to the students what was expected in terms of proper respect and cooperation.

Gavin (Sport and Recreation Officer) for the boys also has his plate filled during the weekends and has shuttled students to shopping at Earlville and also to the ever popular swimming spot at Loch and Ross, near Gordonvale.

SPOTLESS CATERERS : Needless to say, the place would grind to a halt if the kitchen was not part of the daily agenda. New interim chef, **Sean Hammond**, has taken over the reins in the Food and Catering Department. Sean has been working at James Cook University and the Australian Institute of Marine Science.

(One should expect some seafood platters appearing at some stage!!)

TAFE : Vocational Education Courses are being tapped. Also boarding at the school are past graduates, **Roxanne Nai & Michael Siembo** who are hoping to continue studies at Cairns TAFE. Roxanne is considering RATEP and Michael is interested in Small Business Training. Best of luck to both.

NEW STUDENTS : The enrolment figures are improved upon last year's numbers although there are still quite a few who have not yet heeded the first school bell for the year.

Excellent report from Mr Barry Cedric who informed us that the Yarrabah contingent numbers 41 students who are travelling to Djarragun each morning. Keep it up, guys. This is exciting to hear.

NEW STAFF

Gwenda Creed-Gollner : (Assistant Teacher) from Bessie Point (Giangurra) originally and now living in Gordonvale. Interested in being involved in Art and Early Childhood; also one of her children attends Djarragun.

John Grace : Music Teacher for the whole school - from South Australia initially; worked successfully in a band and then reverted to teaching; experience in the isolated Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory

Yeshim Ali : Middle School teacher who hails from England; along the way accrued valuable experiences in the Northern Territory amongst the Indigenous Isolated communities.

Lorraine Hartley : Teacher Assistant in the Middle School and also Dormitory Supervisor during part of the weekend activities for the girls. Previously, a long time employee at Wangetti Education; very keen in hospitality and Home Economics areas; over many years has built a strong rapport with youth.

Mark Crawford : recently from Trinity Anglican as his previous teaching post; will be specializing in Maths and Science and working towards developing projects in Environmental Science that will encourage student involvement.

Ian Turton (Deputy Principal) : arrived more recently from Trinity Anglican School in Cairns where he was involved with the Vocational Education programme which he will activate here also at Djarragun.

Sherral Aird : Sherral more recently emerged from close association with the College of Chinese Medicine and perhaps, temporarily, has exchanged the acupuncture needles for those in the school's Husqvarna. Some brilliantly rainbowed seat covers are due for general exhibition as soon as the right weather pattern hits the local forecast.

Gloria Standen : a new project in the curriculum is the introduction of hairdressing and Gloria will be setting standards in the coiffure department at Djarragun.

Steve Pardey : hailing from the deeper sector of the State, Steve is moreorless inured to the peculiarities of Djarragun since he had time to osmose some of the character of the school at the end of 2002.

Henry Adidi (After school Supervisor) has joined the

Djarragun staff following a career in the Defence Forces Andrew Adidi (Assistant Teacher) who will be heavily involved in the sports programme through the Senior School and also the cultural dance troupe:

Saraima Aisack : from Blue Nursing Home in Cairns in Aged Care. Originally from Rabaul in Papua New Guinea. Saraima will be working as Assistant Teacher and also Supervisor in the Boarding House three weekends a month.

Don Standon : (Boarding Supervisor) - every Thursday night and second weekend;

Peter Billingham : (Boarding Supervisor) - every Wednesday night and second Sunday

FAREWELL : Whilst welcoming our newer members to the staff, we acknowledge both gratitude and best wishes to those who have taken on commitments elsewhere.

Alan Chapman who ended several years service at the school;

Gladys Atkins : now residing in Sydney after four years association with the school particularly in the area of sport in which her main field was basketball.

John Gregg : Performing Arts teacher very well remembered for revitalizing square dance in the school and for the organization of the concert items, singing, acting and saxophone accompaniment.

Gabriel & Lency Sailor : houseparents now basking in some well-earned free time for themselves.

YEAR 10 CERTIFICATES : The first School Assembly announced the recipients for Official Certificates for the Year 10 students issued by the Association for Independent Schools - **Zui Gara, Nelson Dotoi, Sula Guligo & Christina Waianga**. Congratulations to these students and the teachers who prompted them towards excellence. Let's see who will try to emulate this Awesome Foursome.

SCHOOL PROGRAMME : Djarragun is this year operating with three distinct groupings - Primary School (years 1 - 6), Middle School (Years 7, 8 & 9) and Senior School (Years 10, 11 & 12). In particular, the Middle School has tailored classes in Numeracy and Literacy into ability levels rather than the age and grade categories. At other times, the students will revert back to their chronological age levels.

In the Primary, Mr. **Joe Matama** is assisting in the Year 5 & 6 Class and **Saraima Aisack** is with Ms Michelle in the Year 2; Mr. **Kenny Thaiday** continues as Assistant Teacher with Ms Fay Sangster's Years 4/5 class.

YEAR 10 B : This class will be heavily involved in Enterprise Education this year. Their in-class time will alternate between playing an on-line stock market game sponsored by the Australian Stock Exchange and helping coordinate the activities of our school-based Educational Enterprise.

Our aim is to turn the Djarragun Dance group into a commercial enterprise this year and we will have entered into the promotion phase of the business by the time this goes to print. **Rick Johnson**

SCHOOL MAGAZINE : Each family might be interested in a copy of the School Magazine 2002. A limited number of 150 was printed and are available from the School Office.

DANCE TEACHERS : To maintain the cultural impetus of the school, it is strongly desirable to find interested parents or local performers who could help by transferring their skills and knowledge especially to our more youthful members of the student body. Readers, please keep out a watchful eye for anyone else who might fit the bill. Who would let our cultures stagnate??

COMPUTER SYSTEM : All the panic returned when, at the beginning of the School year, a major hiccup occurred with the Internet system. With Ludo absent for the first couple of days, it was particularly odious. However, our IT-man, fresh from the Cambodian Curtain, soon traced the causes and re-established our links with the modern world. However, a temperamental server is proving more elusive than it needs to be and has provided a slight relapse to the otherwise smooth system in the Computer Room. So, at the moment, it's fun and games for Ludo !!!

SCHOOL CAMPS :

Week 3 Feb 08 - 10 Anglican Schools' Leaders Camp
Sunshine Coast

Week 4 Feb 17 - 19 Yrs 11/12 Tinaroo

Week 5 Feb 25 - 28 Yrs 7/8/9 Tinaroo

SCHOOL UNIFORMS : All students should be wearing their proper uniforms to school. The colourful shirts should be completed with black shorts.

COMPLIMENTS :

Guy Aden : who has been seen looking after the younger students from Yarrabah. Good role modelling.

END OF TERM 1: APRIL 9 for STUDENTS

TERM 2 STARTS APRIL 29.

