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School Rover

Issue 8 June 13 2003

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
The true value of money is not in its possession but in its use.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FOR TEACHERS, COUNSELORS,
YOUTH WORKERS**

3 day course
A\$675 + GST

JUNE 25, 26, 27

DJARRAGUN COLLEGE

presents

**THE ROCK AND WATER SEMINAR
in conjunction with Freerk Ykema
(teacher and trainer from the Netherlands)
representing the
GADAKU INSTITUTE**

MABO DAY (May 30) : Today we went to the MABO DAY celebration first when we got there all the students jumped out of the bus and headed towards the Centre Stage and waited there until everyone came to the very centre. Then the lady from Darnley announced that we all the Murray Islanders had to go near the flags so as everyone moved closer and closer **SAGGI MR MAPA** and **NELSON** went up **SAGGI** and **MR MAPA** raised the **AUSTRALIA** flag and **NELSON** raised the **ABORIGINAL** flag with another Aboriginal man and two other woman and man raised the **TORRES STRAIT** flag. After we all raised the flags we sang the national anthem and then we came back to school.
AND WE ALL HAD FUN. **Sophie Billy**



Tuesday, June 03, 2003 : Djarragun School turned up in force at Fogarty Park on the Cairns Esplanade to join in on the celebrations as a result of the historic Mabo case. The event started off with a short march from the Esplanade to the City Mall Sound shell where a series of brief speeches were delivered and Torres Strait Island dance troupes entertained a reasonable gathering.

Noone could be unimpressed with the conduct and level of participation that the Djarragun students showed. Our dancers were not only entertaining; they were inspirational. A tidy set of three duos held the full regard of fellow-students, peers, family members, friends, strangers and tourists by presenting a mesmerizing tableau - the indefinable 'kab kar'- a tantric dance from the Torres Strait.

As worthy understudies to our Seniors, **Rocky Sambo** and **Alick Passi** flawlessly shadowed **Alfred Passi** and **Saggi Epsseg**. **Bradley Noah** and **Bobby Salee** completed the third set. The finest details of timing, balance, coordination and stamina were wrapped up in a performance of superb execution.

The rest of the student body rose to the occasion. The very fine conduct, the positive participation and response, the absence of distractions and the amenable nature of any one of them is something worthy of record.



This opinion is readily supported by the President of the Organizing Committee, Mrs Genemai who thanked the Djarragun students en masse just prior to their departure and commented on the contribution (both in numbers and participation) that the school had made towards this very public function.

The students had contained themselves from arrival at the Park at 8:30 a.m. until their departure at 2:00 p.m. in the most commendable way.

As a fitting tribute not only to the memory of Eddy Mabo but also to the dance teachers, **Pinau Ghee** and **Julie Zaro** and their little retinue of support singers, the Djarragun dancers continued the hype later on during the night at the rest of the function held at Kangaroos Football Club, Irene Street, Mooroolbool.

A seemingly endless line marched onto the field to band into a stolid phalanx of boys and girls. Here again, they strutted their stuff to an appreciative audience and the cool night air. On occasions like this it becomes patently obvious that our youth is providing substance to their own cultural heritage.

TRADE SKILLS WORKSHOP : What a marvellous amount of work is still being churned out of our school's workshop. A very fine piece of workmanship has been carved out by Koza Passi. He is working on a table with three legs on which are carved lizards. It will be finished by next week and will possibly be entered into the Cairns Show craft section next Term.

Other fine work is also taking shape and will be reported on in subsequent issues of the Newsletter.

MR. KAWORO : Isaac & Pado (from Yam Island) visited the school and stayed a few days in the dormitory. During his time here, Mr. Kaworo also addressed the students in their classes encouraging them to pursue their education. He also commented on the development that he observed in the school since his previous visit.

END OF TERM : In a couple of weeks, we again bring another Term to its closure. Teachers are busy collating all the material for Report Cards and the final week will probably see the pace edged squarely towards freneticism. The sightings of a new face or two on the property suggest that things are afoot and the plans for new structures are coming all that closer to reality.

RED SHIELD APPEAL : A number of students gave a part of their weekend time last Sunday to help out in the annual Red Shield Doorknock Appeal for the Salvation Army. Ms **Ana Fidow** organized a contingent from the school which helped out in Edmonton region. Last Tuesday, Ms **Jean Illingworth**, the Principal handed out certificates of Participation to the helpers as well as vouchers for McDonalds. Thank you to all who helped towards this worthy cause.

Ray Noah takes up the story : "On the 24th of May, we had the Red Shield Appeal. Ms **Fidow** and Mr. **Peter** took us to Edmonton and **Koza Passi**, **Bobby Salee**, **Saggi Epsag**, **Alick Passi**, **Bablu Day**, **Alfred Passi**, **Matilda Gibas** and **Mavis Sipi** and I went with Ms Fidow. She took us to Edmonton. **Alfred Passi** and I were doing Barr Street. We went to the first house and a man came and gave us \$2.50 and when we finished and went across a lady came to us and gave me \$2.00. Then we put the money in the bag."

CANCER APPEAL : Today (June 13) Ms **Gloria Standen** and a few girls from the Hairdressing Salon within the school helped out with the fundraising for the fight against Cancer. Students and staff had the opportunity to have their hair shaved, cut or coloured for a gold coin donation. Mr. Warren Pitt MP was to attend the school assembly as part of the campaign as well as a young student from Woree School.



COMPUTER ROOM : The Phantom of the Computer Room has been busy again. Students will be equipped with their own Email Addresses on the School Computers. This adds a further notch in the field of good communication and modern practices.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS : In the last issue, it was stated that a special mention would be made about the members of our Board of Directors. Unfortunately, the Editor hasn't had time to do his homework and hopes to complete the exercise in the next issue. Editor.

NURSE SUSAN DEWALL : On Thursday, June 12 one of the local nurses from Gordonvale visited the school to make a presentation to the students about Smoking and cancer. She played a video called, "In the line of Fire", gave a running commentary, showed posters and overhead projector stencils and handed out brochures and leaflets.

Some of the main messages were that - Smoking is not just a habit, it is an addiction. Cancer kills one out of every three smokers; there are about 4000 different chemicals in a single cigarette; passive smokers can also be affected seriously and it is not really cool to smoke.

At the end of the boys's session, **John Wigness** made the 'thank you' speech.



LATIN QUARTERS

Our globe-trotter, **Ms Fidow** has finally allowed the dust to settle around her sombrero and is once more settled into the more familiar turf of Djarragun. While in Mexico, Ms Fidow taught English at a provincial school for one week. Take her word for it from the following :-

"Tuve un grande viaje a México. La gente era amable y amisto a mi. Vi muchas vistas hermosas y enseñe en las comunidades. Yo no puedo creer que estaba allí. Era una experiencia que yo nunca me olvidare." which translates loosely in English as :-

"I had a great trip to Mexico. The people were kind and friendly to me. I saw many beautiful sights and I taught in the communities. I still can't believe that I was there. It was an experience that I will never forget." **Ana Fidow**

DORMITORY GOSSIP

WEEKEND CAMP : Last fortnight, all the boarders went on a weekend camp at Bramston Beach with **Don & Gloria Standon, Mapa Kudub and Saraima Aisack**.

We mainly went swimming after setting up the tents, we had a barbecue and listened to music.

We went to the shops down there to buy the usual junk food that all children love and also hired some bikes to ride around the camp area. We were in a caravan park down there but we stayed in tents. The weather was not too bad but we had some spitting rain but we didn't get wet, only me and some others. We left on the Saturday and returned on Sunday afternoon. **Samuel Gela**

MS ELWYN : Ms Elwyn has taken sick leave recently and we hope that she recovers quickly.

MS LORRAINE : We regretfully hear of the temporary departure of Ms Lorraine who was working in the classroom as Teacher Assistant with the Middle School students and also as a Supervisor in the Dormitory. We wish Ms Lorraine a speedy recovery and thank her for her special contribution to the school staff and students this Term. Ms Lorraine was always very supportive to the students and left some art books for certain students to encourage them to practise and develop their skills. Our best wishes to Ms Lorraine until we see her at Djarragun again next Term.

SPECIAL THOUGHTS : Djarragun extends a special note of support and concern for **Mr. Faifua** who had to make an urgent trip back to New Zealand to attend his wife who fell sick suddenly. We hope everything goes well for all the family.

HARRIET TAPIM : Welcome back into the Djarragun scene to **Aunty Harriet** (Mapa's Mum) who has taken the place of Mr. Faifua while he is in New Zealand. Aunty Harriet has just recently completed her semester of study and started her month break. The Years 5/6 class has another new face at the front for a little while.

NANCY BAKER : Thanks to Nancy for taking on the role of Assistant teacher during last week when the staff was slightly depleted through illness. Nancy flitted from classroom to classroom as well as lending a hand in concocting a trifle and apple strudel with the Home Economic lesson with the Year 7/8 Boys. Nancy speaks for herself :-

"I enjoyed participating in the Mabo Day Celebration in the Cairns City Place on June 3rd 2003 especially dancing and singing island songs as I am a person who is proud of my culture and identity. I enjoy working at Djarragun College as it is a great atmosphere to work in the classroom with both students and teachers as I used to work in the Torres Strait on an island called Stephen Island (Ugar) and really enjoyed working with the students there and since then have really enjoyed working with children and am really happy to be employed by Djarragun College."

DON STANDEN : A particular group of boys were seen recently busily applying their hands towards the formation of a set of skis. Noone seemed too certain what they were going to do with the finished product but hopefully it might eventually find its way to our of our school camps. Good work, Don and the Gang. Amongst the group were **Sabai Elisala, Ronald Addo, Tom Tabo & Lonnie Anau**.

EXTENSIONS TO THE HOME ECONOMIC BLOCK : Taking shape very quickly is an extension to the end of the Home Economic block. This will house sporting gear and also some storage room for the Tuckshop. Maintenance man, Joe is right in amongst it all and a couple of weeks ago had a contractor with his small digging machine entertaining the students by performing two-wheelies with a load of soil in the shovel.

CIVIC THEATRE PERFORMANCE : (June 06)

The students in the Middle School had the opportunity to attend a Matinee session at Cairns Civic Theatre on Friday, June 06. The performance by St. Mary's College students was an amalgam of highly polished items by an amazingly talented troupe of dancers, musicians, singers and actors.

The whole show pivoted around two very opportunist children (brother and sister) who found themselves stranded by their parents and in possession of their mother's well-endowed wallet. Congratulations to 'Margot' and 'Charles' whose introductory interludes were engaging and appetizingly entertaining.

Anyone with a penchant for the Tijuana Brass would be 'blown away' by the finesse of the Brass Ensemble - close your eyes, you're there !! 'The antics of the drummer were not lost to an appreciative Djarragun audience as too was the rendition of 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight'. The choir then went on perfecting the strains of a not too easy 'Chant of Africa', fully loaded with harmony, precise timing, feeling and the slight hint of playfulness - all with consummate ease.

Congratulations, students, staff and members of the Performing Arts Department of St. Mary's College.

One would trust that your night performance served you with a full house to afford accolades you rightly deserve.



CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS were taken by
by Mr. Ludo last week and were available
for ordering @ \$12.00 each

ORDER YOUR MEMORIES NOW !!

**OPPORTUNITY FOR YEAR 9
STUDENTS**

The Siemens Science Experience, a three-day hands-on science, engineering and technology program, will be conducted again in Australian universities in 2003/2004 for students who will be entering Year 10 in 2004. Each program includes a wide variety of practical activities, together with interesting presentations by our leading scientists and engineers.

Thirty-four Australian universities will be participating in the national program and students can attend any one. The Siemens Science Experience introduces students to the facilities available in our universities and opportunities for later studies and careers.

The cost of the three-day program is \$90 (includes GST). It is

possible that your local Rotary club may assist financially. The Siemens Science Experience will be available at -James Cook University, T'ville 30 Sept - 02 Oct. 2003
James Cook University, Cairns 27 - 29 June 2004

Application forms are available from the Science Department and from www.scienceexperience.com.au
Early application is advised.

Any Year 9 student is welcome to attend.



Fun Days are just that and happy faces are part and parcel of the programme.

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**MENINGOCOCCAL
INOCULATIONS**

Monday, June 16