



ACN 063 049 669

Maier Road, P.O. Box 771, Gordonvale, North Queensland 4865

tel. (07) 4056 3555 fax: (07)4056 6111

admin@djarragun.qld.edu.au

School Rover

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

By perseverance the snail reached the Ark. Charles Haddon Spurgeon

So here we are again hurtling towards yet another end of Term. Many and varied things have occurred to plant milestones along the way. Keeping up fully with them all is not so easy at times but the array of events will indicate a bit of the freneticism that impels us.



CONSTRUCTION ON THE CAMPUS

There is the general hum of a construction site filtering through the walls of the classroom and the first slab for one of the new buildings already is accommodating walls and the second one is heading the same way. The general commotion indicates serious work in progress - the scratch of gravel, the strain of motors amidst the periodic swirl of dust. The first building will house the Art and Computer Centre and the second construction will give the Senior students their permanent classrooms. The Middle School, once occupying a position on the periphery, is fast approaching its literal definition.

A road has been graded along the outer boarding house boundary which will give access to the acreage on the eastern sector.

Careers Day at Cairns Showground

On Thursday, August 21, the TAFE Hairdressing girls from Djarragun plaited and braided the hair of students from other schools. This was part of a Careers Day held for students from schools around Cairns down to Innisfail.

Ms Gloria Standen accompanied the girls as part of the hairdressing programme conducted at the school.

Other schools came up and asked our girls to do their hair for them which gave them a particular buzz because previously they had only worked on each other. The Careers Programme lasted 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The girls involved were **Lily Nomoa, Amy Aragu, Pauline Savo, Analina Richard, Giwa Waianga, Sophie Billy, Malu Waianga, Jessie Dau, Roseline Day** and **Alice David**.

RATEP (Remote Area Teacher Education Programme)

On Thursday, August 21, eight students from all over Queensland and the Torres Strait (Charleville, Thursday Island, Weipa, Cherbourg, Napranum and Cairns) visited Djarragun to look at alternative pedagogies, particularly in relation to Indigenous education. They have made visitations and observations to a range of schooling and teaching styles in schools from Preschool to Upper Secondary. They will be visiting communities in the Northern Territory - Lajamanu and Nhulunbuy.

Mark Linkson is the teacher coordinator accompanying the group and documenting the visits. The students are observing and researching the philosophies, principles and practices of alternative pedagogies.

We welcome the students - **Gail Russell, Dora Dai, Fred Cobbo, Clayton Laxton, Anthea Stafford** (mother to Jermaine and Brian), **Kaylene Leftwich, Sandra Nicholson, Channa Graham** - to the college and wish them well in the rest of their journeys. Our own **Mapa Kudub** is also part of this RATEP Cairns Region - but he doesn't get to take a trip just yet.

QUEENSLAND TESTS : YEARS 3, 5, 7

Once again the brain waves were directed towards the compulsory testing instruments given to these grades all over the State.

Ms **Linda McKeown** conducted the tests in the Library where her captive audience was lulled into a mood of temperate sobriety before activating the cranial areas that did not involve mental telepathy or sleep apnoea.

No one came out of the room looking too much worse for wear (except maybe for Ms Linda) but that is usually the indication of another job well done. She can now just hold her breath for the next round next year.



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND

HMAS Cerberus Westernport, Victoria 3920

Our thanks from Djarragun students and staff for a really spectacular effort by the following members of HMAS Cerberus :-

- Leut. Steve Stanke** (Boss, Sound)
- Leading Seaman Jason Beach** (Vocals)
- Leading Seaman Ann Bradberry** (Vocals)
- Leading Seaman Daniel Sponiar** (Keyboard)
- Leading Seaman Daniel Blackmore** (Trombone)
- Leading Seaman Chris Goninon** (Drums)
- Able Seaman Yoshi Izumi** (Guitar)
- Able Seaman Lachie Macfie** (Bass Guitar)
- Able Seaman Jamie Lawson** (Trumpet)
- Able Seaman Ross Chapman** (Saxophone)

The whole school was treated to an afternoon of solid musical entertainment by the band members of HMAS Cerberus. The range of music was extensive and the energy shown was almost limitless. At various stages, students were encouraged to jive with the beats and swing with the rhythms. On this occasion, there rose from the crowd our own budding 'Disco King - the Djarragun Groover' - who was subsequently decorated with a certificate of participation. This young gyrating modern-day Elvis enthralled the crowd and prompted attention from the band members to another form of Naval gazing. Congratulations to **Paul Murgha**.

Certificate 1 in Seafood Catching Sector - conducted through TAFE and the certificates will be issued by Pacific Marine Consultants.

There are eight modules in the Course and some of the

students have completed six of those modules already. The modules cover topics like splicing ropes, net-mending, workplace, health and safety, safe food-handling. A lot of the material overlaps - personal hygiene, first aid certificate.

The course has been running since the start of the year and it will take some of the students the duration of the year because there have been other activities that intrude into the available time. The four students who have excelled so far are **Jenny Aki, Paul Pearson, Edith Tom and Tom Dau. Barry Ehrke**

MULLYDEN

Friday, August 22 : Student-free day

Djarragun staff embarked on its own minor retreat - one that might hold significant impact upon the use of a newly-acquired pristine piece of property along a magnificent reach of the Little Mulgrave River. A benefactor, who chooses to maintain anonymity, simply bought Mullyden and donated it to the school. Ironically, the property is less than thirty minutes drive from the school, accessible via a winding dirt track that weaves its way along a (for some) daunting ridge. On occasions the gradients on both sides are simultaneously observable and serve to extend the previous limits of one's peripheral vision. After finally wending our way down into more sensible heights above sea-level, we settled amongst the relics of a time-drained orchard - a yesteryear farm. This was once someone's dream - now passed on to us - another arm to Djarragun.

It took some time to grasp fully what was staring us in the face. The magnificent ridge which surfed us down onto this inland peninsula pans out to a flatland embankment that accommodated an airstrip big enough for an ultra-light aircraft. That terrace fell eventually to the river level. The lower section of the property features a sandy bottomed pool constantly fed by hissing rapids; for almost a kilometre above that is a stillwater surface suitable for canoeing and rafting; and even beyond that are more rapids, and the doorway to Nature's inner sanctum.

Teachers are often required to undergo various forms of suffering, inconveniences and challenges on the work face but I can't admit to any withdrawal symptoms niggling at either conscience or rationality on this day. We gathered as a group to visit and acquaint ourselves with the property and, basically, 'osmose' the surrounding environment and visualize possible uses of this godsend. It made one wonder what thoughts had passed through the minds of the Hebrews when they finally entered into the land of 'milk and honey'.

Some members of the party ventured cautiously into the rippling expanse forming a tableau for an ancient baptism. The natural fall of the land forced all, at some stage, to raise their eyes to the mountains and the heavens.

Eventually we reassembled to compile pastoral thoughts in a pastoral setting. Practical ideas like hobby farming, outdoor education facilities, oil extracts from leaves and alternative work projects for students hit the butcher

paper, in addition to subliminal notions such as retreats, Bible Study conferences and a spiritual hideaway. One facetious comment chose to direct any opportunity for withdrawal towards the staff rather than the students.

The day itself was not without its anecdotal supply. Some ventured out in the two-person canoes. The first one making observations of his craft from below the waterline was Mr. **Rick Johnson**, who thus inadvertently provided us with an extra nuance to the famously known 'Johnson outboard'. Help was soon at hand to help him turn the canoe (but not the tide). Ms **Michelle Foxhall** fell victim to our errant water sprite, Mr. **Michael Groundwater** (as if the name wasn't warning enough!!) and was overheard using the 't' word through her layers of saturation after the all-too-predictable dunking. At lunchtime, Mr. **Alan Edwards** was perceptive enough to make his first discovery of a potato that had reached puberty. Mr. Tekoa's concept of distance was put under scrutiny when some others presumed that "just behind those trees" meant not too far away. The non-believers chose to hitch a ride on a passing school vehicle.

Nobody could have re-emerged from this pocket of a hidden valley without some measure of inspiration. To be thrust in the middle of a setting that, from any angle, constitutes calendar panorama, is immediately uplifting. It is even more wonderful to be invited into the whole notion of it all, to savour this unique privilege and to welcome and contemplate the opportunity.



INTERNATIONAL VISITOR

August 28

My name is **Akiko Sumitani** and I am from Osaka in Japan. I am visiting Australia for one week and I have come to do a programme for learning English. I work as a Computer Programmer for a Computer company. I make a local government system for road and street management. I have been working for the company for six years.

This is my first time in Australia and I like it very much. So far this week, I have been on the Kuranda train and up the Skyrail. I also have been to Michelmas Cay for scuba diving. It was my first time for scuba. I was very nervous because I cannot swim but scuba-diving was very good. It was comfortable for me. I spent half an hour under the water. I am staying with a teacher named Petrisha who teaches me more English.

I find that the people of Cairns are very kind and friendly and there is a lot of nature to see all around. I am very relaxed here. In Japan, it is very busy with many cars and people.

Akiko Sumitani

ACHIEVEMENTS

School Assembly recently congratulated several students for particular achievements. **Alfred Passi** earned his credentials for a outboard motor licence.

Others passed the not-so-easy First Aid Certificate - **Christina Waianga, Matilda Gibas, Charmaine Akiba, Angelica Tabuai, Bobby Salee, Edith Tom.**

GIRLS RUGBY UNION INTERSCHOOL COMP.

Charmaine Akiba (Capt), Matilda Gibas, Angelica Tabuai, Jessica Aruba, Lily Nomoa, Amy Arugu, Karen Noah, Helen Billy, Pauline Savo, Malu Waianga, Christina Waianga, Sila Guligo, Annalina Richard, Pado Kaworo, Karlis Baira, Tynesha Henry, Naomi Cook, Jana Cook.

At the school assembly, **Mr. Tekoa** praised the girls for having a go for their first game. **Lily Nomoa, Charmaine Akiba** and **Karlis Baira** were the players of the match.

Boarding students and some parents turned up at Woree High School as supporters. We thank them and we are looking forward to our next game against Trinity Bay High School. The try scorers were **Sila Guligo** and **Matilda Gibas.**

Karen Noah : "We played but lost our game but they gave three cheers to us."

QCST (Queensland Core Skills Test) : Sept 2-3

Anyone using the Computer Room had to be quiet on these days so that the Senior students could work to best advantage. As with the rest of the State, our Senior students were participating in this form of public examination. Good luck, everyone and trust you enjoyed the challenge.

ATHLETICS

Students represented Djarragun College admirably at Barlow Park in the Trinity Coast South and Peninsula trials.

Bradley Noah (High Jump); **Lily Nomoa** (Shotput); **Stanley Daniel** (100 m Sprint); **Ada Waianga** (100 m); **Joey Gibuma** (200 m)

These athletes will be able to contest for the Peninsula Representative positions later on. Good luck, champs.

BOARDERS AT WEEKEND RECREATION

Yesterday, (August 31) we all went to Palm Cove for a swim and after, when we got there, Alfred told us to ask Peter for one football. So I ran over there and I asked Iveno where Peter was. He told me that Peter went down there - pointing to the rocks; so I told Vincent and Iveno to go and get the football. Then we had a big game between boys and girls. Then Mr. Don told us, "Let's go now." So we got in the bus and drove off back to the Boarding House.

Brian Sam

CROCODILE FARM - Edmonton (August 28)

Mr. **Mark Crawford** organized for all of the Middle School to attend the Crocodile Farm as part of a unit in the Environmental Science Programme. It emphasized the use of natural resources in a commercial situation. There are other Crocodile farms being run by indigenous organizations in Northern Australia.

"Yesterday me (sic) and my class went to the Crocodile Farm. When we got there we waited for the woman to come and show us around. When she came, she showed us some crocodiles. We saw two big crocodiles - one from Hopevale and the other one from Babinda and we saw her feed the crocodiles too." **Jilara Rodgers**

MIDDLE SCHOOL SEMINAR : Recently, convened at Woree High School was a seminar for those involved with Middle Schooling in the Cairns District. It was an interesting meeting with interested people. One of the major outcomes was the resolution to convene the next meeting early next Term.

Some of the discussion centred around the functions of a Middle School and its particular role towards fulfilling desirable outcomes for its student charges. Also discussed was the smoothness of the transition from Primary or into Senior Secondary levels. Representatives from Djarragun were **Mr. & Mrs. Tekoa and Rose Marie Tafea, Ms Linda McKeown, Ms Yeshim Ali and Mr. Ross Walters.**

SEEN ABOUT THE CAMPUS

DESK TOPS : **Ms Yeshim's** classroom has been given a facelift with freshly varnished table tops. This brightens the look of the room and might prompt better work from those making use of them.

GARDENS : Some of the plants are experiencing their very first Spring. The installation of the fencing has given the plants between the Middle School and Primary a reasonable chance to survive.

JUNIOR DANCERS : The Primary students are heard developing their own reveries with Island singing and dancing. **Mr. Mapa Kudub and Mr. Kenny Thaiday** are drumming up the mini-frenzies and the recognizable patterns of a routine are beginning to appear.

ADOPT A COP : Constable **Kate Black** who is based at the Gordonvale Police Station, was introduced at assembly as our Adopt a Cop. Const. Kate made a round of the classrooms and encouraged students to make use of the opportunity to work with her and to access her skills and expertise.

EMAILS : Some students have recently ventured into the world of emails. With the acquisition of a few addresses, they should become regular users of our modern day form of communication.

ROCK AND WATER : Several groups have been seen going through the regimen of this programme. The girls are using some exercises to help them focus before their matches. Even the Primary students have taken on board some elements which should help them in the future to take the steps into the higher levels.

FOOTBALLERS : Students who are in the Under 13, 15 & 16 will begin their campaign to contest the finals in their divisions. They are playing for the local

Kangaroos Rugby League Club. **Toshie Wigness and Sabai Elisala** are in the Under 13 team; **Vincent Wosomo, Peter Wosomo and Iveno Elia** are in the Under 15 and **Bradley Noah and Nelson Telofar and Michael Billy** are in the Under 16



team At the Pyramid Race Celebrations, the Dance troupe from Djarragun sets the pace. These students have created quite a solid reputation around the district where they have made themselves available in various functions and celebrations. Above, Alick Passi, Koza Passi & Brian Sam make their moves like chess pieces. Below, Alick Passi is the perfect understudy to Saggi Epseg.



MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC

Many students have the opportunity to have dental inspections and treatment where necessary. The mobile clinic settled on the property over a week ago and now has started its operations in real earnest.

Parents are requested and reminded to fill out the necessary permission forms that should be returned to the school as soon as possible.

We are thankful for the opportunity to have the mobile clinic at our disposal and it is for some students their first visit to a dentist. We thank the clinic for this valuable service.