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School Rover

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*“Sow an action and you reap a habit;
sow a habit and you reap a character;
sow a character and you reap a destiny.”*

William James

WELCOME TO SCHOOL - 2004

No doubt the holidays would have left you with some indelible memories. However, here we are once again, facing the future and looking forward to brighter prospects for the New Year.

A very warm welcome to the students who are returning and especially to those who make their first venture onto the Djarragun campus.

The freshness of the Rain Season summon turbulence for the start to the academic year. The availability of brand new buildings heightens the anticipation for those who will be the first accommodated by them. Children carry themselves positively and the happy smiles again decorate the environs.

The onslaught of the wet season has prompted the dormant lawn back into vigorous life and the groundsmen, Alan and Michael have been seen aboard the “Hustler” making a swathe through the pastorage.

As ever, the behind-the-scene girls in the administration are always vigilant, conjuring up the reserves of their adrenalin for the rush that is about to beset them.

Hi Ho! Hi Ho !! It's off to work we go.....

EARN or LEARN

It is worth reminding parents and students that there is a policy being adopted by governmental decree for students (15 years+) to be enrolled in schools and attending **regularly**.

Particularly with Indigenous youth, the stress is upon attendance, retention, completion and success in education.



SCHOOL ASSEMBLY : The first school assembly witnessed a novel exhibition by the staff which performed a rendition (slightly doctored by Mr. John Grace) of the Beatles hit song of the 70s “I’ll Get by with a little help from my Friends”.

The staff spent a few sessions honing up lost or worn skills; some were comforted by the safety of the time warp which denied the present generation any real gauge for critical analysis.

It certainly allowed the students to see the staff in a different light and possibly allowed some staff the limelight that is not likely to present itself too often. What a tantalizing kick-start for the School Year!!



PASTOR ISAIAH TOM : Regretfully, during the Christmas break, we were saddened to hear of the passing of the father of a student (Isaiah Tom Jnr) who attends Djarragun. Our deepest condolences to **Mrs. Ellie Tom** and the rest of the family whose festive season was shattered by such a personal tragedy.

DJARRAGUN BOARDING NEWS : FEB. 2004

A "Big Happy" welcome back to all our boarders.

The attitude and standard of behaviour of the students who have returned to boarding has given us a great deal of pride because everyone seems very settled and happy to be back. Already we have kept up the level of weekend 'fun' with trips to the shops, a barbecue on the esplanade and the 'Big Splash', also a great outing to lake Eacham which, of course, is a particular favourite during the hot weather.

Ms Sue is very happy with the work everyone is doing to look after your rooms so many thanks everyone for keeping your rooms tidy.

So far, we have welcomed several new students - Sainy Mabo, Annie Mabo, Danielle Chong, Anthony Pilot, Andrew Passi, Shaun Waianga, Daniel Ware, Maia Akiba and Desmond Billy. We can see that you have settled in well and are already enjoying the fun life in boarding. We look forward to meeting the remaining students both old and new as you commence your time in boarding and, of course, your studies for year 2004. I have put in this little verse to help everyone keep on track for the year.....

It doesn't take a New Year
To begin our lives anew;
God grants us new beginning
Each day the whole year through.
So never be discouraged
For there comes daily to us all
The chance to make another start
And begin all over again.

And our special thought from the boarders for the Rover
is

**'Beauty you can FEEL is
just as real as Beauty you
can SEE'**

MASTERCLASS : A significant addition to the campus this year is the inclusion of students who comprise our 'Masterclass' enclave. Some of the students who this year are enrolled in University or College of TAFE Courses have also engaged themselves a couple of days each week in the Djarragun Workshop where other hands-on skills are honed to yet a further step towards mastery. The fruits of last year's labour is telling testament to the latent abilities and both the school and the students stand to gain from this mutual enterprise.

Some faces seen around the campus lately have been :-
Solomon Daniel, Bablu Day, Koza Passi, Pauline Savo, Mavis Sipi, Saggi Epsseg, Gabriel Waianga, Joey Gibuma. Welcome all.

TERTIARY STUDENT HOUSE : Another exciting element to the education umbrella initiated by the school is a Student House based in Edmonton for those students who have graduated from Year 12 and who are proceeding onto Tertiary Studies in Cairns.

Very proud new houseparents for this venture are **Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Epsseg**. The grand move was made on Friday 13 amidst the rain and contained exuberance.

TAFE CERTIFICATES : At the school assembly, certificates were presented to students who had attained achievement awards from TAFE in 2003. Congratulations to the students - **Jana Cook, Marita Akiba, Malu Waianga, Pado Kaworo, Olive Baluz, Peter Wosomo, Godfrey Kerry, Iveno Elia, Vincent Wosomo, Chris Hodges.**

LEADERSHIP COURSE : **Christina Waianga & Bradley Noah** both received Certificates of Participation for attending a programme held in Brisbane towards the end of 2003. Every best wish to those who have been elected to lead the school.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Bradley Noah; Christina Waianga

PREFECTS

**Talofar Baudu; Lily Nomoa
Trevor Wosomo; Sila Guligo
Isach Kaworo; Martina Sands
Annalina Richard;**

BOARDING CAPTAINS

Vincent Wosomo; Amy Aragu

DANCE TRAINING : Welcome and thank you to Mr. **David Mundraby** who takes the time to come across from Yarrabah to teach Aboriginal dancing to the Primary students. Distance and time often precludes dance teachers from committing themselves on a regular basis. Hopefully, Mr. Mundraby might be the catalyst for others who can offer assistance to also share their skills.

NEW STAFF : Very obvious to the campus is the addition of many new faces. Staff has been garnished with an array of extra talents to compensate for losses and to supplement the burgeoning curricular inclusions. A very warm welcome to the local scene to :-

Alf Gullotta (VET Programme) and a recent recipient of the Australia Day Awards;

Vimal Shankaran (Year 11 Coordinator) also working in the Boarding sector: originally from Fiji via New Zealand

Francesca Shankaran : Year 10 and Middle School Coordinator : originally from Scotland via New Zealand

Louise Camden : Year 1 teacher

Rosemary Morrisson : Year 11 Coordinator & Home Economics and ATSI Studies : recently working with the Wolintop Bibuya Theological College

Dean Garside : Yr 5/6 teacher : bravely taking on a position that has acquired a nemesis stigma as a result of the Room's quick succession of teaching staff during the past few years.

Barry Weare : Teacher Assistant to Upper Primary as well as a role in Sports Coordination and Health

Wendy Edwards : New teacher taking over the reins

in the notorious Turtles territory.

Gabriel & Lency Sailor : Taking on the position in a full-time capacity, Gabriel and wife, Lency are not new faces to the Djarragun Boarding scene but we welcome them for responding to the greater challenge of fulltime houseparents.

FAREWELL TO MEMBERS OF STAFF

A note of thanks to those who broke ties with the school at the end of the year 2003. Some have spent a considerable number of years devoted to the school. In the case of Mr. Scott, his time extended back to the Emmanuel College days. We thank each for sharing their lives, talents and expertise. Thank you,

**Ms Fay Sangster; Mr. David Scott;
Mr. Ian Turton; Mr. Rick Johnson**

We trust that you all enjoy happiness and satisfaction in your future endeavours.

COMPUTER ROOM / ART ROOM : With high anticipation, staff and students entered into the newly established buildings. Some finishing touches are still in the making but virtually everything is in place and the first use of impressive facilities has been endowed upon the fortunate. Mod-cons is the order of the day and the inclusion of electric louvres and fully airconditioned rooms only adds to the lustre.

Ms **Linda McKeown** and Mr **Ludo Kuipers** share a central office which boasts (amongst other things) a bar fridge. Initial entry into the Art Room and sight of the green tabletops gave the impression of a mini pingpong stadium.

The massive (almost full-wall) projection in the computer room compels one to think that a screen of the old Woree Drive-in Theatre had been relocated.

Diagonally across the second quadrangle, Years 10 & 11 have escalated into the world of creature comforts - airconditioning and spacious surrounds and the refreshing smells of new buildings.

Hopefully, the neurons will be charged with renewed energy and the opportunities are put to good advantage.

Meanwhile, across at the Tradeskills Workshop, an extra cell has been enclosed and one can only contemplate that the Queen Bee will soon assume residency. "The walls have ears" is long obsolete; the inclusion of observation panels at various strategic points means now that "the walls have eyes".

Amongst the tinkering, sawing, sanding and carving, one particular masterpiece is edging its way towards completion. An impressive crayfish jigsaw (inset into a tabletop) is receiving an application of stain under the patient hands of its fastidious owner - **Isach Kaworo**.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Members of the Board convened a meeting on Friday, February 13 at the College.

YEAR 11 & 12 LEADERSHIP CAMP :

Last week, the Senior School students spent a couple of days up at Lake Tinaroo on a Leadership Camp. The weather set in so strongly that the return journey had to be made coming via the Kuranda Range because the Gillies Highway was blocked by a landslide.

The Camp Course Coordinators from Higher Ground Organization proceeded with their accustomed routines in 'confidence building', organizational strategies and personal development.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP : This camp has been **postponed** owing to the prevailing weather conditions. Students will still need to return **PERMISSION FORMS** signed by parents/guardians and the \$10 fee.

PROFESSIONAL INSERVICE

The Primary staff got off to a quick start during one of the weekends recently - spending the time to attend a workshop inservice held up in Atherton for the TRASS Programme - for reading, spelling



BUILDING PLANS FOR 2004 : Some may have noticed tenders being advertized in the newspapers for proposed construction of three new dormitories onto the property this year. The need for more living quarters is both exciting and encouraging. It gives positive indication that our students are being drawn towards the prospects of higher education and that enough people



MENINGOCOCCAL C VACCINATION

The National Meningococcal C Vaccination Program is an Australian State, and Territory Governments initiative. This program will be coming to your school. The aim of the program is to protect the children and adolescents against meningococcal C Disease.

In 2004, primary school (Years 1 - 7) and Year 8 students will be offered vaccination against meningococcal C disease.

Meningococcal disease is a severe but rare infection that can cause blood poisoning and inflammation of a lining of the brain. On average, 100 cases are reported in Queensland each year.

Please note that vaccination for primary school and Year 8 students is being offered only as a school-based program in 2004. If your child is not vaccinated at school he/she can be vaccinated in 2005 by their doctor or other participating vaccination service. Alternatively, vaccine can be purchased **at your own expense** using a prescription from your doctor.

PARENTS : Please note that a CONSENT FORM will be distributed from the school in order to acquire the signed permissions from the necessary parents/guardians. We ask that you reply promptly



'Mr. Dean Garside.' was raised in the Northern New South Wales town of Coffs Harbour on a dairy property run by his mother and father who owned his own engineering business in the city.

" The family later moved to Sydney when I started High School. After High School, I gained employment as an apprentice sheet metal fabricator but won a cadetship with the company to study mechanical engineering at Wollongong University. I worked for many engineering organizations and was involved in projects such as the Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre, high-rise buildings and mechanical services, hospital construction and design of lifts and cranes. I moved to Cairns in 1998 and tried my hand in the health industry working in Calvary Hospital and other health areas but needed something more so I started university at James Cook University in 2000 and now find myself as a first year teacher at Djarragun College and look forward to the fun and challenge of working at this school."

'Mr. G'

SWIMMING

Swimming sessions have begun at the Gordonvale Pool but there has been a slight setback with regards to students swimwear.

For hygiene reasons, clean gear must be worn. Students (particularly, the girls) need to bring a clean set of clothes that is not used for change clothes but for the actual swimming.

Students may **not** swim in clothes that have been worn all day because this only adds to the pollutants in the water.

The Pool management has been accommodating insofar as permitting our girls to depart from the standard form of swimwear for reasons of modesty and customary cultural sensitivity.

The Wet Season has hampered access to the pool during the past couple of weeks but it would be unfortunate if some girls were using this as an excuse not to learn to swim and acquire necessary water skills.

Most indigenous children have a great affinity for water and therefore each should be well placed to apply safety and retrieval measures during emergencies.

Non-swimmers : It should be an important goal to develop water confidence and competence in swimming as soon as possible.



SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Students are required to comply with the regulation for wearing the proper school uniform. These are available for sale from the School Office.



'Mr. G' looking forward to all the many challenges that no doubt will come his way this year.