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School Rover

Issue 02 Feb. 27, 2004

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"If you tell the truth, you don't need a long memory." Jesse Ventura



INDUCTION OF PREFECTS 2004

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Bradley Noah - Christina Waianga

BOARDING CAPTAINS

Vincent Wosomo - Amy Aragu

PREFECTS

Alfred Passi; Telopar Baudu; Isach Kaworo;
Sila Guligo; Martina Sands; Lilly Nomoa;
Trevor Wosomo; Annalina Richard

A very neat programme of items occurred to celebrate the official installation of the School prefects for 2004. The initial parade on Friday afternoon, February 20, led by the Principal, **Ms Jean Illingworth, Mr. Tekoa Tafea and Mr. Vimal Shankaran** was followed by a spectacular iridescent train of blazers coloured somewhere between red and orange. It is a mesmerizing colour that glows similar to a type of exotic fungus that is found deep inside the rainforest.

Later, the troupe of dancers marched the same palm-leaf bordered pathway and lent instant contrast to the cultural aspects of formality and protocol.

A handful of parents was lucky enough to witness the event. It would have given them as much of a boost to witness the morale of the school and to participate in the intimate proceedings. The new blood from Yarrabah certainly made their statement loud and clear - **Clifford Harris** gave 'Wipeout' its second wind and a firm introduction to the 21st century. Some of the Yarrabah girls braved the audience of the entire school and strutted their 'stuff' to the delight of the onlookers. **Ms Jean, Mr. Tekoa and Mr. Vimal** showed everyone that music still surges through their blood. It's not in everybody's makeup to energize others in this fashion but here were very worthy catalysts.



At the afternoon tea assembly with the school staff, a few sentiments were expressed by **Sila Guligo** :

"Thank you to everyone for helping to make this afternoon a success. Thank you to **Ms Fidow, Ms Gloria and Ms Sharon** for all that you

did to make this afternoon go so smoothly."

The Prefects hope to work closely with **Ms Jean, Mr. Tekoa and Mr. Shankaran** as well as the rest of the teaching staff throughout this year.

We aim to be the best leaders that Djarragun has had so far in order to be positive role models for the rest of the school and the school's future leaders. Thank you.



STEVE PARDEY : It's not every day that one gets to rub shoulders with Business Managers. Such types are generally soundly ensconced in the proverbial 'counting house' antiseptically secluded and secured in the world of commerce, finance and ledgers.

One has had the odd occasion to witness our fiscal representative posed in a still-life tableau like some human appendage to his New Age computer station. Another glimpse found him posing for a camera, offsetting a perfectly innocent bouquet of flowers heavily scented enough to attract any passing swarm of bees. His meanderings have found him in the major staff room testing his banter amongst the diet-conscious or even at the occasional foodfest during staff workshops on the campus.

Generally, tributes are tendered at the departure but in this case we are jumping the gun and getting in our passing shots before the bird has flown the coop.

Firstly, we pass on our thanks to Steve for the unseen work that Business Managers do. We know he must have done something and had some measure of success because our pays haven't stopped arriving at the anticipated times and there have been surges to the building industry and we are confronted with more edifices mushrooming across the campus.

Secondly, our best wishes to Steve and his family. We trust that you take with you fond memories of the Djarragun ethos. To Steve, both 'Vale' and 'Adieu'.

LEANNE STANDEN : Well, as the saying goes, a good thing can't necessarily last forever. We thank Ms **Leanne** for all the work she has done during the first part of the Term acting as Teacher Assistant in the Middle School with the Years 7/8 boys and with the Blue Numeracy and Red Literacy classes. **Ms Leanne** is now off to kick-start her own University studies. We wish her well with her tertiary studies. (Update : Ms. Leanne will continue to work with the above classes each Tuesday and Wednesday.)

COMPUTER SLIDING SHELF : Thanks to Mr. **Kenny Thaiday** for completing a small project in one of the classrooms providing a sliding shelf to house two

keyboards for the computers. He wasn't able to supply the turtle shell inlay requested but compromised with a delicate woodburn etchwork featuring sealife.

COME IN, SPINNERS : Students in the Years 7/8 Boys group each made propellers from discarded plastic soft drink bottles and completed the painting of them last week. The toys have been given to the children in the class of **Ms Louise, Ms Fay and Ms Gwenda**. We wish a quick recovery to Ms Louise who has recently fallen victim to a bout of illness. Get well - and get back to school !!

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS : On Wednesday, (Feb. 25) six students from James Cook University visited the school for a brief time during the day. Amongst them were **Scott Gibuma, Alec Tipoti & Mark Luki**. They braved a small session with the Red Literacy class in the Middle School, introducing themselves and promoting the students towards higher education. **Scott Gibuma** is from Boigu Island; **Alec Tipoti** comes from Badu Island and **Mark Luki's** origins is the Cook Islands.

AWARDS

Week 3

**Kim Kerry (Respect);
Giwa Waianga (Positive Attitude)
Kumi Abua (Kindness)
Narita Jacobs (Excellent effort/ Achievement)
Maia Akiba (Leadership)**

Week 4

**Karen Noah (Gentleness & Kindness)
Danielle Chong (Gentleness & Kindness)
Dennis Salee (Gentleness & Kindness)
Warren Dau (Gentleness & Kindness)
Cyril Graham (Improved Attitude)
Twetha Eseg (Most Improved)
Kymberly Kerry (Diligence)
Ned Ingui (Most Improved)**

Week 5

**Hannah Mamarika (Helpfulness)
Elsa Mamarika (Gentleness)
Michael Kerry (Helpfulness)
Steven Daniel (Gentleness)
Luanna de Jersey (Good organization and responsibility)**



RUGBY LEAGUE CLINIC

Boys from the Middle School and Senior Sections were provided with a two hour clinic by members of the promotional unit for Rugby League. Mr. **Rod Whittle** from the Australian Rugby League headed a team which included **Simon Boyes** and **Dave Roberts** from North Queensland Cowboys, **Jim Dalanaras** from Suburbs Junior Rugby League and **Peter Narducci** from Queensland Rugby League.

The promotional team is working its way through over 50 schools in the North Queensland and Peninsula regions. More information about their efforts and the programme can be accessed on a website address :

www.arlfoundation.com.au/cairns

We thank them for including Djarragun students in their busy schedule.



COMPUTER ROOM : The new-beaut computer room is still suffering teething problems despite the all-in attention given it by Mr. Ludo and Mr. Frank. Things will eventually fall into place and sooner or later, we shall expect to hear the haunting phrase something akin to, "Houston, we have touchdown!!"

At the moment, word has it that our resident technicians have joined forces with those wrangling with the project "Operation Mars".

Good luck, Mr. L & Mr. F. and best wishes from the rest of us still on planet Earth.

RECENT BIRTHDAYS :

Iveno Elia; Willie Charlie; Isach Kaworo; Kymberly Kerry

GEDEM

Who was seen rap-dancing his way to the cold water fountain over at the Year 10 Block ?

Who's heard of the song "When Kymberly was a baby.."?

WU CHOPPEREN MEDICAL SERVICE :

Jan Robinson and **Leo Lingwoodock** made a brief presentation dealing with Substance Abuse amongst our children. Jan outlined a kit designed to focus better attention by indigenous youth towards the problem. The video and CD were produced in Cairns and featured students from local High Schools. Local recognizable indigenous role models starred in the production.

CORRECTIONS

Some corrections to the previous edition of the Rover :-

- (i) Mr. Alf Gulotta is our VET Coordinator;
- (ii) Mr. Vimal Shankaran is Senior School Coordinator, and
- (iii) Ms Rosemary Morrison is the Grade 11 teacher.

GROOTE EYLANDT STUDENTS : Possibly our very first students who hail originally from the community of Umbakumba on Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria are **Hannah & Elsa Mamarika**. These two girls have been resident in Aloomba with their parents **Titus and Jacqueline Mamarika** for some time and previously attended the Aloomba State School before enrolling at Djarragun College. Hannah likes schooling at Djarragun and says that the 'kids are good and friendly' and she has already made friends with **Sasha Bounghi** and **Megan Stafford**. Hannah hopes after she has finished her schooling to return to Groote Eylandt and maybe work in the store.

Groote Eylandt language is called Anindilyakwa and is one of the 500+ Australian Aboriginal languages still spoken today. Some words from the language are :-

Yingana - which means snake - so don't just stand around when you hear that word (unless you're related to Steve Irwin); **Ditharnka** - which means 'girl'

Ngingurrba - 'boy'; **Jurrua** - 'book'; **Awgala** - 'fish' - and what is more, **Ms Jean** used to work with their grandmother, **Kathleen Mamarika** and teach their mum, **Jackie Murrugun**. Ms Jean is also part of their adopted family. The Anindilyakwa name given to Jean by her adopted father is **Dangmalgalukwa** which means 'Mamarika wind with raindrops'.

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINATIONS

Packages of information have been distributed to the **Year 8** students and **parents and guardians are requested to return the signed Consent Forms** agreeing to the vaccination being administered to the children under their care. The signed forms need to be returned to the school.

UPDATE : The date for the vaccinations has been postponed because not many of the Consent Forms have been returned.

WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS ETC.

It's definitely all systems go at the moment. A few members of staff (**Mr. John Grace; Mr. Roland Reck; Ms Ana Fidow**) went down to Townsville (Feb. 24 -25) to update on Vocational Education programmes and the requirements for conducting courses and making assessments; **Ms Jean Illingworth** (Principal) visited the national capital about the same time to meet with (DEST - Department of Education, Science & Training). Very positive and favourable comments were made about Djarragun which is held in high regard by members of that Department. It is encouraging to know that this is a school for indigenous students considered on a national scale to be operating successfully .DEST officers were impressed by the 'blended curriculum' initiated at Djarragun.

PUPIL-FREE DAY : FEBRUARY 27

A busy trundle from meeting to meeting for the members of staff was the order of the day. Some continued their continual wrangle with the wiles of Xpata or unleashed the latent possibilities of the Real Game. The prospective ASSPA Committee for this year eventually succumbed to the comfort of an air-conditioned venue. **Chef Carey** provided us with his usual flair of fare for the midday meal though it probably reduced the rate of metabolism for those who suffer in the heat of the day.

NETBALL SIGN ON

Anyone interested in playing netball on Wednesdays at Johnson Park, Gordonvale?

We have junior and senior teams ageing from 6 years - 17 years. Girls and boys welcome.

Sign on at Johnson Park on Wednesday , March 24 at 5:00 p.m.

Please contact Carmel Donovan ph 4055 4592 or Debbie Townsend - After hours ph 4056 1802

ANITA PLOS MANAGEMENT SEARCHING FOR TALENT

Anita Plos management Pty Ltd is currently looking for two female indigenous identical twins aged 15 - 16 for a new children's TV drama series *Double Trouble*.

If you know of any girls indigenous twins that could play the part please give me a call ASAP

P. O. BOX 4803

CAIRNS QLD 4870

Ph. (07) 4039 2003

mob: 0417 643 339

Fax : (07) 4039 1677

email : anitaplos@ledanet.com.au

web: www.anitaplosmanagement.biz

Djarragun Boarding News February 2004

Everyone has settled well into the activities and routine of life in Boarding and we are having a lot of fun and happy times together.

'DJ' Djarragun is our own in-house radio station. The students manage the event each Monday and Tuesday evening.

Mapa is our resident expert 'DJ' who gives positive direction and assistance. We send 'cheerio's, request special songs and messages and generally have a good laugh.

Island Night: Each Wednesday night we enjoy special food cooked by Saraima, Lency & Rosemary with the assistance of some of the students.

Following the meal we enjoy some very flashy dancing. Last week we were entertained by the Hula girls under the direction of Lily, who is the expert in this area. Well done girls, you were graceful, elegant and delightful to watch. The beat of the drums was also provided by the girls who display great talents. Who was that lad dancing with the 'wobbly legs'? Is that you Anthony?

Or the other lad who came 'funny dancing' down the path, surely not Ray? There might be another side to our quiet Ray. Anyway who ever they were we all laughed and had a fantastic time. Thank you everyone for joining in the spirit of fun.

We all went to Yorkey's Knob to view from a distance the QE 2 and were very impressed by the size of the vessel. However, shock set in when one of the buses had a flat tyre and everyone thought we might have to cook our BBQ dinner at the 'beach with nothing to do'. Happily, the tyre was changed and we had our BBQ at the 'Big Splash', where everyone could cool off having a swim whilst waiting for the food to be cooked.

During these very hot weekend days any watery location is the best option. So Lake Eacham is one of our favourite places to go.

Last weekend we took a very special lunch with us and enjoyed a meal of fresh prawns with salad and fruit. Floating on the lake in the inner-tubes and diving off the pontoon kept everyone occupied and happy.

One Sunday at Church some of the students belted out traditional tunes with the drum and everyone joined in singing loudly, which was a delight for everyone present. The church will now have one song each week especially for the students.

The long awaited rain finally came and during those hot but very wet days the students coped very well and took advantage of the weather to swim in the rain....(picture provided)

Our quote from the boarders is from the Bible....

Be humble and gentle, and patient too, putting up with one another's failings in a spirit of Love.

Ephesians 4 : 2



Taking their direction up a further notch on the path to success.