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School Rover

Issue 08 Sept. 17, 2004

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Much of the vitality in a friendship lies in the honouring of differences, not simply in the enjoyment of similarities."
James Fredericks



CAIRNS SHOW

The word is now out. Congratulations to the craftsmen and women in the school who arrested the attention of the Cairns Show judges in its centenary event. A trophy now adorns the school cabinet for the 'Best Dressed Stall' at the Cairns Show 2004 and there is no doubt that our 'hands' are deserving of the accolade.

The Show display is now basking in its glory in the College Boardroom so that others will have the opportunity to cast eyes on a collaborated masterpiece.

Congratulations to Roland Reck, Tony Eseg, Kenny Thaiday, Ludo Kuipers and the VET programme participants, Ms Gloria Standen and the Djarragun Hair Salon exponents whose efforts combined to produce an outstanding visual effect at Cairns Show. The range of items included Isach Kaworo's centrepiece - "Kaiar" - a crayfish inlaid onto a circular coffee table; a wooden baby cradle by Koza Passi; wall clocks; jewellery boxes; wood-burnt coasters;

decorative boomerangs; wooden spoons and spatulas. Joey Gibuma learnt his way towards fashioning a lead-light feature which captured the attention of the Show Society. The girls provided a display of hairstyles and braiding which drew significant interest from many show attenders.

Mr. Kenny Thaiday maintained a continuous demonstration of wood-burning and, at one time, was importuned to burn designs in a customer's cue stick.

Mr. Ludo Kuipers set up a powerpoint presentation of the school students to further exemplify the activities and programmes embedded within the school. The array of portraits flashed out the reality of ordinary. It readily endorsed the adage - 'From small things, big things grow.'



The passion of Saggi Eseg (one of our Year 13 contingent) led to his outstanding perseverance in manning the Djarragun stall for the entire duration of the three-day Show. Saggi is a gifted craftsman who applies ingenuity and staunch work ethic to produce stunning artifact creations.

These are the forerunners of the Djarragun 'Workshop Elves'. From whichever perspective, Djarragun artists are literally coming out of the woodwork.

Gideon Society : Les Searle & Alan Cummins : Thank you

to these two members of the local Gideon Society who addressed the students at Monday assembly and distributed the pocket bibles.

TRINITY COAST SOUTH ATHLETICS MEETING

On Wednesday, August 18, students spent a full day testing their mettle at Barlow Park against other schools in this Southern Cairns district . Congratulations to those who participated and raised the Djarragun colours. The high competition sorted out the talented and the disciplined. Some of our students showed stern determination against strong odds and deserve merit for their endurance. **Kym Kerry** and **Selma David** plied on to exhaustion point in the 800 metres races and **Iveno Elia** fronted up time and again with his never-say-die attitude. Robert Pierce set the grandstand rumbling under the Djarragun feet when he seemed to have the competitors blitzed throughout the 800 metres run and was finally overhauled in the dying moments to earn himself third place.

In the Open division, **Trevor Wosomo** posed a striking figure gleaning tidy wins in the 100 and 200 metres, with Joey also blitzing the field in his races.

Perservance, courage, determination and heart is what many of our students showed during their competition on the day. Weather they were running first or last they never gave up, they gave it all they had and in many case even more. One student that showed this determination was Ted Richards, he was our fourth runner in the relay and started his leg of the race in last place, Ted ran this race as if he was challenging first place. This was the attitude and sportmanship shown by all of Djarragun competitors. Djarragun will go to peninsula trials represented by **Robert Pierce, Ray Noah, and Anai Ganaia**. These students then have the opportunity if selected to travel to Brisbane and compete against the other regions in the state.

The students in the stands can not go unmentioned, Djarragun had, by far, the loudest and most supportive team there. No Djarragun competitor went past the grandstand without the rest of the competition schools not noticing , no matter where they were placed. Congratulations to all involved.

SEE THE FUTURE

Every parent wants their child to be happy and successful - at school, in work and in life. We know that children who get a good start in school have more success throughout their learning and their lives. We also know that early problems that are not addressed can be compounded over time.

The Queensland government has a vision for an education and training system that helps all young people achieve the skills, knowledge and confidence that need to succeed in the 21st century. This vision is detailed in Education and Training Reforms for the Future: A White Paper, a Smart State Initiative.

The vision starts with better preparation of children even before they begin Year 1.

That is why the Queensland Government is introducing a full-time preparatory year of education before Year 1 from 2007, and raising the compulsory school starting age for Year 1 in 2008.

Anna Bligh : Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts
What will happen in 2007?

From 2007, all Queensland children will have access to a full-time preparatory year of education before starting Year 1.

The non-compulsory preparatory year will be offered in all

State primary schools. It will replace the part-time state preschool system that tis not available in all schools. There will be no waiting list for the preparatory year because it will be available to all children attending state primary schools.

It is anticipated that the preparatory year will also be offered in all non-state primary schools. Parents intending to enrol their child in a non-state school should make enquiries directly to the school.

The Government has provided \$395 million for refurbishing existing classrooms and building new classrooms, where needed, in state and non-state schools so all Queensland schools are ready for the new preparatory year.

Kindergartens and other childcare providers will continue to offer programs for children prior to the preparatory year. The government provides funding to the Creche and Kindergarten Association and this support will continue. We will work with this sector to ensure their services complement our new preparatory year.

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DC BAND GOES TO BATTLE

Our ever popular **DC Band** gets the chance to practise their gig before their first ever entry into the Cairns Battle of the Bands Competition held at Crosswell Hall.

Pitched against some very well-oiled and accomplished groups, our muso wannabes treaded the stage with fearless enthusiasm. Despite a full day at Barlow Park for the Athletics Carnival, our gig-masters still managed to concert their energies to airplay their own composition (Come and See) and another popular musical piece (We Have Survived). Before stepping on stage to a packed house, the boys experienced a surge of nerves, but like true professionals they drew on their virtues of courage and commitment, and performed admirably for Djarragun College. Well done **Alfred Pierce, Conjohn Matthew, Godfrey Kerry, Maia Akiba and George Mara!** We look forward to many fine performances in the future. They walked away from the battle zone with a certificate of participation, many compliments, and an invitation to attend again next year. The late night drive home was full of ideas on how to make it even better for the return battle.

A note of thanks to Mr. John Grace ('Gracey') who helped with the tactical moves, organized the arsenal and honed the weapons for the battle of the pitch.

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EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY

When will I need to comply with the evidence of identity requirements?

You will need to comply with the requirements when you are applying for a Queensland driver licence for the first time or renewing your licence and are unable to show your Queensland driver licence (current or expired less than two years).

Why have the evidence of identity requirements changed?

Queensland has adopted the National Guidelines for Evidence of Identity requirements developed to ensure that the processes for establishing a person's identity for driver licensing and vehicle registration purposes are consistent and are uniformly applied.

Can I show copies of my evidence of identity documents?

No. Photocopies or certified copies of original documents are no longer acceptable evidence of your identity. Each document must be an original document.

For more information about obtaining a Queensland Birth, Marriage or Change of Name Certificate contact:

Registrar of Births, Deaths and marriages
501 Ann Street (cnr Ann & Boundary Streets)
Brisbane QLD 4000
Postal : Registrar of Births, Deaths & Marriages
GPO Box 188
Brisbane Albert Street QLD 4002

Telephone: (07) 3247 9203 (Public Enquiries)
Fax : (07) 3247 5818
E-mail : bdm-mail@justice.qld.gov.au
Internet : Queensland site with links to interstate authorities <http://www.justice.qld.gov.au>

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GRANDPARENTS' SUPPORT GROUP

Cairns' Region Grandparenting Support Group Council
ARE YOU RAISING GRANDCHILDREN FULL TIME ??
Are you depressed, stressed, having problems, getting tired, no social life ??

'YOU ARE NOT ALONE'

Join a Cairns Grandparenting Support Group.

Our children are our hope for the future
Let's give our children hope and a future.

Need a Hug - We can arrange that too.

Raising children is a vastly different experience to what it was 30 years ago.

Grandparents finding themselves in the prime carer's of grandchildren role often have the need for companionship, information, fun and a chance to share their experiences, good and bad, with other grandparents.

MISSION STATEMENT

To represent grandparents in the Cairns & District area to provide support to the Cairns Grandparenting Support Group Council (CGSGC) in addressing the financial, physical, information and referral, social, legal and emotional problems when grandparents are caring full or part time for their grandchildren and/or are denied access to their grandchildren.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Lynn Burns - 3/3 Mintaro Crescent, WOREE QLD 4868
Telephone : (07) 4054 4129



MAKE FRIENDS WITH FRUIT WEEK

What an amazing introduction to our new initiative to promote fruit to the diet of our students. Ms Yeshim Ali took on the role of demonstration fruit-cutter to a rapt audience of expectant 'fruitflies'. Full credit to Ms Yeshim for organizing the scheme which involved the assembly of buckets, bowls, cutting boards and knives. Others drawn into the fruit frenzy were Mr. John Grace, stainless steel bowl-inscriber, Mrs. Gulotta.

Students are being given pieces of fruit immediately before lunch each day and work through the process of cutting and distributing it in class. Safety, hygiene and presentation were aspects highlighted during the Assembly showcase. The flying foxes in the rookery next to the dormitory must have been turning themselves upright watching the fruit-fest in operation and not having received an open invitation.

All scraps head to the compost bin and eventual use in reconstituting the value of ecology.



The three week programme transpired successfully. Students responded well to the campaign and the Tuckshop is following up with fruit salad mixes being sold from its stores, hopefully, in greater capacity than before the Make Friends with Fruit exercise.

Thanks to Ms Yeshim for the daily chore of ensuring that the distribution took place smoothly and efficiently.

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and duty to help learners on that search for 'meaning'. Parents, guardians and teachers actually retain the power to influence how our protégés find satisfying meaning to their lives.

Key to success in human development is the removal of fear and the installation of confidence. We should be encouraging in our charges an 'unshakeable resolve' and an 'unconditional positive regard' for themselves and others.

In the arena of learning, balance is necessary distinguishing the differences between processes and outcomes and determining which matters more in given situations.

Dr. Phil describe the mind as a 'spin doctor'. It can tend to prevaricate and assume the most convenient position and then think itself tactful. As corollary to this contention, he maintains that 'people are never upset for the reasons they think they are.'

What gains student commitment is the opportunity to do things differently as well as seeing things differently.

Thank you, Dr. Phil, for the food for thought - albeit a veritable smorgasbord!!!

QUEENSLAND CORE SKILLS

TEST - IT'S OVER !!!

The annual test for the Year 12 students held over two days (August 31 - Sept. 01, 2004) for the whole of Queensland has run its course.

The brows of sixteen worried students from the Djarragun campus added their neurons to the psychological and cognitive gymnasium set up in the College Library. Traces of perspiration and signs of mental trauma still haunt the Fort Knox confines of the QCS test field. With something akin to the aura of the Athens Olympics, 'security guards' manned strategic posts at this year's congregated 'brain pool' so that every condition for correct procedure was policed. There was no major preliminary like an international official opening that might include the customary march-past and the pizzazz of fireworks and media spectaculars. For our students, the sobriety resembled a sombre journey into the cloisters.

Special note of thanks to Sally-anne Powell, Auntie Harriet Tapim, Vimal Shankaran, Gwenda Choikee and Sharon Cooney who wore the epaulettes of official custodians.

Gratitude to the Houseparents, Leigh and Penny, who with some of the boarders, prepared the venue and had the equipment prepared beforehand as well as having the students set and 'ready for battle'.

The Hairdressing Salon girls prepared a celebratory meal to revive the 'survivors'.

The twelve hour ordeal outlasted even the Olympic marathon and it was even harder to predict when the mental and physical elements began to antagonize each other.

Congratulations, Year 12 students, for taking on the challenge and passing through another milestone of your educational journey.

Third Term Greetings from the Boarding House

Well, term 3 has vanished before our eyes!

In boarding, we have welcomed new full time boarding supervisors with Jim and Martha Babao who are living in the cottage at boarding.



Life at boarding is still as busy and fun-filled as ever. Recently, we enjoyed the 'Pyramid Race' festival. This is a special day for Gordonvale when the town puts on a carnival and trained runners attempt to run up 'Walsh's Pyramid'. Several of our seniors worked with the community to assist with setting up the park for the event. We also had 9 of our boarders who entered a 5 km cross-country race. We were really proud of everyone, because they all finished the race and received certificates. Kimberly Kerry received a trip to Green Island for two people as a Special Courage award. Well done everyone. Also as part of the carnival, the Djarragun Dancers made us really proud as they danced some very special and exciting cultural dances. We all enjoyed a really great day and look forward to next years race.

The football has finished for the year and our Senior boys reached the finals. At full time the scores were even however, during the 10 minute each way play off the other team managed to take the lead. Well done to all our boys for a wonderful season of football.

Our year 12 students have just sat for their QCS Test and we all wish them much success and prayers for their future.

As the weather is warming up we are enjoying the beaches and rivers for cool relief. We always have a lot of fun and the boarders thoroughly love playing in the water.

Joke Time !!!

To tell the weather, go to the back door and look for the Dog.

If the dog is at the door and he is wet, it's probably raining.

But if the dog is standing there really soaking wet, it is probably raining really hard.

If the dog's fur looks like it's been rubbed the wrong way, it's probably windy.

If the dog has snow on his back, it's probably snowing.

Of course, to be able to tell the weather like this, you have to leave the dog outside all the time, especially when you expect bad weather.

Sincerely,

The CAT.

Something to Think About

Fred Somebody, Thomas Everybody, Peter Anybody and Joe Nobody were all students, but they were **not** you and me.

They were odd characters and at times a little difficult to understand.

All were students of the same college.

Everybody was too busy to go to school.

Anybody wanted to go but was afraid Somebody wouldn't speak to him.

Nobody went to school.

Actually, Nobody was an odd student too; because Nobody did his homework, Nobody helped at sports.

Once they needed a task done; Everybody thought Anybody would do it.

Anybody thought Somebody should and Somebody thought Everybody could.

Guess who finally did it? That's right.....Nobody.

When a new student came to the college or someone new in the street appeared, Everybody thought Somebody else should talk to them or ask them to come to their college .

Anybody could have made the effort; guess who finally got them to come to school?

That's right.....Nobody!

We should all help each other.....

"Get your FREE Education here"

Education is your Passport to Freedom.

BESLAN SCHOOL APPEAL

Ms Louise has initiated in the school support for the Russian victims of the city of Beslan who suffered such tragic loss of life in the recent terrorist attack on one of its schools.

BACK FROM JAPAN

Talofar Baudu addressed the school assembly on Friday, Sept. 03 to give a brief outline of his recent visit to Japan as the Australian representative to a Pacific Rim Youth Camp.

Talofar showed a few items of memorabilia including a Samurai sword (blunt), a Japanese flag, a model of a Japanese Buddha and some gifts for his family.

Talofar was able to climb Japan's famous Mt Fuji and was very grateful to his host family in Japan during the visit.

DORMS, DORMS, DORMS

The campus has been buzzing lately with the crunch and grind of machinery. It seemed that Djarragun was re-enacting the fateful 9/11 scenario by the materialization of its own 'Ground Zero'.

The gaping pit with its plentiful supply of water had some thinking that a swimming pool was about to grace the property. The dream was short-lived. Because of the underground stream which shares the property, a suitable drainage system and stable foundation for our new dormitories had to be established.

The extensive concrete pad is enjoying its brief look at the outside world before the eventual cloaking by a residential building.

The groundworks presently aren't too interesting a view for the beleaguered dormitory students but they will experience the surprise of finding buildings gracing the landscape on their return in Term 4.

THE REAL GAME : Some students are showing keen interest in the exercises in the Real Game programme. Clever ideas and suggestions for town planning and community projects have emanated from the Year 9 boys, in particular. Mr. Barry Marr has been enjoying the student participation in the Tuesday afternoon sessions and has witnessed earnest efforts from the least expected quarters of the student body. Congratulations for effort to Sabai Elisala and company.

TERM 4, 2004

4 October
6 October

Staff return
Students return

TERM 3, 2004 IN A NUTSHELL

The elapse of time during the term occurred with frightening speed. The very busy pace was highlighted by an exacting programme of events, both on and off the campus.

The Cairns Show was one of the first 'hurdles' which was successfully negotiated by our very competent and skilled artists and artisans.

The School Athletics Carnivals, followed by the Trinity Coast South event held at Barlow Park, gave the opportunity for many of the students to be involved in a popular activity at which many excelled.

The Wala Dance group and a production of Binni's Backyard lifted the cultural appetite along with our School's representative performers in the Battle of the Bands Competition.

'Make Friends with Fruit' was a well-received exercise on the road to health programme which now also takes in the visit by a doctor each week to help monitor the well-being of the students. Ms Elwyn is really very enthused by the followup for students with ear problems and reported that several students were actually cured from their disabilities that could have been serious if not curbed at an early stage.

Mr. Vimal has initiated Rugby Union teams in the school and in typical fashion, the boys and girls have taken on the challenge in true spirit.

One of our students, Talofar Baudu, represented Australia in the Japanese Pacific Rim Camp. He's been and back from his memorable trip, back into the grind.

Throw in the occasional School Disco and 'burning the candles at both ends' becomes matter-of-fact to the point of blasé.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

At a recent seminar attended by one of our teachers, Mr. Philemon at the Australian Catholic University in Brisbane, the information covered included thinking, reasoning and working mathematically in order to teach students the skills.

The one day workshop included teachers from all around Queensland.

Mr. Philemon summarized his impression of the course in the terms that 'Maths is just as much about language in numeracy as it is in literacy.' Since all of our students are to differing degrees subject to language difficulties in English, the workshop in Maths highlighted strategies that would be helpful in overcoming some of the current problems for our indigenous youth.

The final summary to the handbook distributed to the participants was :-

My HOPE is that

*YOU will consider ways to build the confidence of school children in their own abilities to use mathematics

*and so, in a pastoral sense, build the children's self-esteem and growth towards independence

*YOU will become familiar with teaching approaches which open up the possibility of encouraging students

*to apply their own ideas to their learning of mathematics

*to grow to become resourceful and independent of the teacher, and

*to develop self-confidence both as individuals and as mathematicians

EVERYDAY HEROES

On Tuesday, August 24, a presentation by the Combined Forces was made to the secondary school students. This was a powerful production of sound, colour and images. Three projectors flashed synchronized picture clips onto a wide screen and the pulsating beats of heavy-duty speakers mimicked an effect of a life-sized defibrillator. The attention of the students was drawn towards some degree of an hypnotic state.

Strong messages of encouragement flooded the session and role models in various situations promoted the notion of participation in worthwhile and fulfilling occupations.

NEW HOUSEPARENTS

Welcome to **Jim & Martha Babao** who are taking a trip into the unknown by the challenge of houseparenting after 43 years in the aviation industry. James is originally from Ipswich and grew up in PNG.

Martha comes from Kokoda famed for the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels and the Kokoda Trail during the Second World War. Martha flew with Air Nuigini for thirteen years in the International flights during the seventies and eighties as a flight director.

Interests are in helping people such as eight years with Red Cross in PNG.; involvement as a major fundraiser for charity and taking Miss Papua New Guinea to the Miss World Pageant and Miss South Pacific to Apia, Western Samoa.

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AITAP participants re-enact their presentation at the School Assembly. They made their own impact at the Conference held this year in Cooktown.

Standing as ever silent and watchful is the vigilant Ms Ana. Congratulations to our representatives at the Cooktown Conference. 'AITAP' stands for the Aboriginal & Islander Tertiary Aspirations Programme and encourages students to participate in social skills of debate, public speaking and academic as well as cultural challenges.

Yet again another 'breaking of the ice' exercise; these students are the first from Djarragun to take part in the contest which (from reports) is no soft shuffle around the dance floor. Gumption is what it takes and that's exactly what our students gave. (Names withheld by request of the 'survivors').



Ms **Francesca Shankaran** (Middle School Coordinator) is finally out in picture form. An extra additive to the multicultural mix found at the Djarragun campus, one will locate Ms Francesca by listening for the definite sounds of the Scottish lilt - no-one ever alerted to the possibility that it comprised the "S" in ESL.

Welcome to a thoroughly delightful personality that bubbles with the squeaks. Apparently, it can all be traced back to the Scottish/Italian mix - it does something to you. Anyway, Europe's loss is Australia's gain.

That's not anything near to the end of this story. It happened in her travels on her first trip to the Antipodes that Ms Francesca discovered Fiji and at some stage discovered the name 'Shankaran') and a man who went with it). We have heard her maiden name but modesty deters us from attempting it in script form.

This unique combination eventually earned them sanction in New Zealand from which they opted to escape the Land of the Long White Cloud because it had never been a 'convict' country. Welcome to the land of the Southern Cross and to Djarragun.



WALA DANCERS FROM WEST AFRICA

A highly energetic group of five performers entertained the students for the afternoon session. Their second visit to Djarragun proved just as successful as the first one about eighteen months ago.

Above, Kymberly Kerry is trying to master the 'African Playstation' which is a clicking combination produced by two wooden beads at either ends of a piece of twine.

FAREWELL - MS ELWYN CAMERON

Our ubiquitous Health Officer, Ms Elwyn has finally fallen to temptation and taken the option to move further North to join her daughter in Mossman.

Not the easiest job on the campus, Ms Elwyn has had the opportunity to witness many improvements and development in the health and well-being of students. Given the high dependency of our students on junk food and unhealthy eating practices, problems arise in many forms ranging from dental, personal hygiene, hearing, sight, viral, hypertension, stomach, head pains and sports injuries.

Ms. Elwyn endured a brief stint in the dormitory as a supervisor until the need for the Medical Officer was seen as a necessary role within the day and boarding school scenes.

Our thoughts to Ms Elwyn for all of her efforts towards the health of Djarragun students.

On Friday, I will be moving on from my Health Officer position at Djarragun College, feeling very sad and very happy at the same time.

Sad because I have enjoyed my position and the relationship I have with the students, staff and many parents/guardians/grandparents that I have met during my time.

And happy because I will be spending my time with my beautiful granddaughters in Wonga Beach and helping my daughter with her very busy Hair Salon in Mossman. Just a tad different career path!!

I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all for the joy and love, support and guidance I have received at Djarragun College and wish each and everybody a fulfilling and 'growing' life.

Ms Sue Clarke from Boarding will be taking over from me so please be kind to her. I wish her all the best in her new position.

Coming events :

the School Dentist will be here next Term so please get those forms signed quickly when you receive them.

There will also be a TB screening.

Recent events -

We now have Dr Stuart Allarbut consulting at Djarragun College on Tuesday mornings. Please send a note to the teacher if you have anything that you think your child needs attended. We are so lucky to have our own doctor. Thank you, Dr Stuart.

Edmonton Community Health, Gary Janke & Sylvia Solomon have made two visits to do Hearing Tests. It has been a very successful venture with students now not needing surgery due to vigilant medication and eardrops administered after the tests. Great work, all.

Once again, I wish you well and thank you, everybody.

Love, Life & Live.

Ms **Elwyn Cameron**

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