



DJARRAGUN COLLEGE

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# School Rover

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## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**"You will never find time for anything. If you want time you must make it."**

**Charles Buxton**

Welcome everyone, to another semester of exciting events. The School Rover is making its first appearance this year after a dormant stage in the editing department. As the saying goes, "Time and tide wait for no man" - (or woman - to keep the gender equity field satisfied). There is always such an array of events occurring in, around and about the school, that it can be difficult to really sense doing justice to it all. So much 'water has flowed under the bridge' becomes a bland expression when we are virtually assessing flood proportions.



It is patently obvious that things are happening when you come back to the campus and find new buildings gazing back at you or indications of future projects lurking tantalizingly in the middle distance. Some members of staff have been holding the fort during the latest break so that we again can slip into a comfortable working environment.

New members have graced the staff this year and these will feature in this issue and subsequent ones. (Mind you, some characters are as elusive as quicksilver and equally mercurial).



At the initial staff meeting for the year, Principal, Ms Jean Ilingworth, spoke in glowing terms about the positive reports about the school (and the accomplishments) made by an ever growing number of interested and impressed observers.



An increased number in the school enrolment figure is significant in terms of credibility and educational success of the school. One of the prominent problem areas for many years for indigenous students has been the attendance levels. Especially, in the upper grades,

dwindling figures have been a disappointing reality. It is wonderful to be able to claim that Djarragun College has been able to turn the tide a little. Adding to the international flavour to the school is the South Sea influence posted in grand style by the Samoan dancers late last year. The impact is satisfying particularly with the hypnotic drumming for the dance routines, the flashing machetes, swirling fireballs and the fire sticks, in mind.

The continuation of the Year 13 concept is a heartening endorsement of a successful initiative. The bulging number in the Middle School is definite promise of a healthy future.

The new dormitory facility and the dining hall doubled the boarding sector numbers but the waiting list still remains hardly (if any) diminished.

Term 3 is a nine week duration and the Seniors were reminded at the first Assembly by Ms Jean Illingworth, the Principal that "their days are well and truly numbered."

Students have been encouraged strongly to equip themselves with stationery and necessities for classes. It is satisfying to see many take ownership of their student lives and acknowledgement of their educational drive.

In keeping with those sentiments, "Enthusiasm" is the prime focus of the Virtues programme to kick-start the Term.

**Gio Douven**  
(Outdoor Ed. & Rec. enthusiast)

The ever popular Mr. Gio eventually stamped his form of humour throughout the school. At one time (and still), Mr. Gio is heavily involved in the School Camps in addition to spreading both goodwill and havoc to respective members of the staff.



(Currently, a Cook-off Challenge is in the air against two female staff members who cast aspersions upon his tastes and culinary skills).

Along with a couple of other members of staff, Mr. Gio is gifted with a Dutch heritage. His, in particular, has been subtly titrated through a North Western Australian remote community influence, hence his amazing ability to mimic the famous Mary G (as in Waddaya). Though we know the Afghans introduced camels to the region, no one can explain why Mr. Gio can effect an elephant trumpet that would deceive Jungle Boy out of hiding.

**Mr. Gio** on a weekly basis is responsible for some of the high octane boys in Years 7 & 8 who have been filing around the property on eight brand new BMX bikes. With the professional look of seasoned riders, **Michael Kerry, Brandon Noble, Allan Harry, Manuel Tabuai** have been seen pedalling their mean machines around an even meaner circuit in preparation for the BMX circuit in town which has been held up by the finalization of the appropriate insurance coverage.



**Malofau Chan Foon & Laupisi Asi fitting out the new residence on the school property**

**Manu & Malo Chan Foon** (Houseparents) Arriving from Sydney, we have moved into the front cottage at Djarragun. As Supervisors, we are able to provide support and guidance to the students. We have been strongly involved in transporting the students to and from the airport, to shopping and weekend excursions. My wife likes doing the office work for the dormitory sector and we also have our son, Kennedy with us. We help the students with their homework, support them at the sporting functions and accompany them to the games.



**Violomanu Toailoa-Siaosi & Sarona Asi Laupisi & Sarona Asi** (Houseparents) : These were the first houseparents in the new residence. Mr. Laupisi entered onto the scene late last year and was struck enough by the Djarragun spell that he and his wife took on the role as houseparents which they maintained throughout the first semester of 2005.

This semester both are plying their skills in and around the classes. As an Assistant Teacher, Ms Sarona is tackling duties with Year 10 students and also with outdoor cooking sessions with the Year 7/8 boys. Mr. Laupisi has added his talents to our Ground Force team in the never-ending task of keeping Australia Beautiful around the Djarragun scene.



**Daniel Hollis** (Middle School) : Mr. Daniel has taken over the reins in the Year 9 Boys Welterweight Division. His Maths class is negotiating the path of least resistance on the basic number line which doesn't yet stretch to infinity but extends (at least) into the Morning Tea break. One of the interesting features to his class activities were the creation of rockets from soft drink bottles. Students were able to launch their contraptions by the use of pressurized water. Part of the activity included gauging trajectory, distance travelled and basic notions of aero-dynamics. **Brandon Noble was practically 'over the moon' about his successful craft.**



**Robert Goodhall** (Voc. Ed.) Earlier this year, Robert's introduction to the staff and school included the invitation to erect his own classroom. This was no sooner said than done and a little sector of the property has become another cell to the expanding beehive.

**Helen Rowe** (Middle School) : A veteran in the field of Indigenous education, Ms Helen spent years on Groote Eylandt and a year at Wangetti Education Centre before joining the staff at Djarragun. Ms Helen has taken over the baton from Ms. Rosemarie Noakes-Tafea in the Learning Support Class.

**Lyndall Quaid** : Our very 'happy voice' at the reception counter, Lyndall claims that she is the 'Quaid without the Quid'. We all know that there is no such

thing. After many years in the hospitality business, Lyndall, with her eye for similarity, gave up her former post on Daydream Island and shuffled her way into Djarragun. In short, it was a subtle shift from Daydream Island to 'Island Daydream' - everybody's happy..

**David Smith** (Groundsman/Janitor) : The continuing Wet season plays havoc to this sector of the workforce. Mr. **David** has been literally 'beating around the bush' and successfully battling the foliage and lawns around the school property.

After clearing from the pavements half of this year's supply of seeds from particular shrubbery, Mr. David tactically removed the supply of mini-missiles by heavy pruning much to the chagrin of disgruntled 'warriors' who have had to look elsewhere for a possible arsenal.

**GARSDIE** : Best wishes to the happy Primary School couple who decided to ring the Wedding bells and exchange nuptial vows in Toowoomba during the Christmas break 2004. They opted to maintain the perpetual honeymoon right here at Djarragun !! Ms Michelle withdrew from the classroom arena recently to quietly await the arrival of her (and hubby's) addition to the family unit.

Rumour has it that the mum-to-be is busily polishing up the rattles and organizing the baby formula into Dewey Decimal category on the shelves whilst contemplating a possible early registration to Successmaker for the unsuspecting. Study towards a Masters is also on the plate.

**ANTI- LITTER CAMPAIGN** : One of the popular initiatives continuing from last year is the draw at assembly for a winner of a CD player.

Students who are seen picking up litter from the grounds have their names entered into a collection box. An unusual winner was one of the Primary classes, Team Starfish. The latest proud winner was **Jarrold Noble**.

**DOLL'S HOUSE** : Cherrie Glasson, Raelene Solomon (Cairns Sexual Health Service) visited the school early in the year to discuss a programme of information and support for our students. Last year, tentative moves were made to establish a workable liaison with professionals in their field. A plan to target the important areas of personal health and well-being was implemented this year.

**(ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & OTHER DRUGS)**

**ATODS** : Lenore Mills visited the school to offer the services of ATODS which brings awareness to the Health classes of the various issues which affect adversely the well-being of the Indigenous community.

**TREE PLANTING** : In an innocuous corner of the property, Mr. Daniel set groups of green fingers to work establishing plantlings as part of the school's ongoing campaign for afforestation. 230 plants are destined for the regeneration project.

## A VOICE FROM THE CONGO

The voice and choreography of solo artiste, John Paul, enthralled the full school assembly on Tuesday, July 19, 2005.

Using his mouth and chest as percussion instruments, Jean Paul warbled, hummed, beat, throbbed, sired, chortled and clicked his way through songs and a poem called "One Mind, One Voice".

The Primary School students sitting directly in front of him were the first to give in

to spontaneous clapping supporting his basic rhythm.

Later, the rest of the school mimicked the restive motions necessary for his style of Congo dancing.

One of his motives for performing around the world is to establish a school for the youth in his homeland in order to raise the level of existence that they can enjoy. Jean Paul revealed the startling statistics that in his country, a child dies every 30 seconds from what we would consider curable diseases.

A few days later, members of our College band assisted Jean Paul with support music at Cairns City Place. Jean also spent a few days workshopping with the musicians in the school, imparting more of his personal charm, knowledge and skills. We wish Jean Paul all the best in his personal mission to improve the conditions in his own country.



## JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY

Mathematics Excellence Program is a weekly after-school course that runs for eight weeks in the school term, beginning in Term 3, 2005. It is open to all middle school students (Year 6,7,8 and 9) who enjoy and succeed in mathematics.

Dynamic teachers, who specialize in mathematics education and have a passion for the subject, teach the program. Each 70 minute weekly lesson will facilitate noticeable improvement in a student's mathematical ability. The program is designed to allow all participants to experience success.

The program includes experiments, investigations, puzzles and games to develop interest and enjoyment in mathematics. Students will receive a personal textbook containing many hours of additional instruction and maths fun (value \$22).

The cost to the student for this subsidized program is only \$89. a progress report and certificate will be awarded on completion.

To celebrate James Cook University's expanded presence on the south side of Cairns, this course will run from their new site at Woree State High School. Classes are conducted from 4:00 p.m. to 5:10 p.m.

Djarragun teacher, **Mr. Philemon Chigeza**, has been taking a group of our students who include **Annie Mabo** (Yr 9), **Amy Lamport** (Yr 8), **Kennedy Chan Foon** (Yr 7), **Comrie Tabuai** (Yr 6) and **Vivian Baker** (Yr 6).

**Mr. Philemon** reports that **Kennedy** has shown outstanding ability in recording and graphing data. As a group, **Amy, Annie** and **Kennedy** achieved the the best result in resolving a problem in burning a magnesium ribbon.



**Comrie** and **Vivien** were outstanding by the spirit of participation they exhibited in the group and also in reporting back in their class at school.

The progress of the group was so encouraging that more students will be enrolled into the programme.

## COMALCO GREEN & HEALTHY SCHOOLS

368 schools from nine regions throughout the State entered this competition.

Djarragun College merited the **Protection of the Environment Award**. This award recognizes outstanding accomplishment in the preservation and management of local ecosystems and habitats.

Four years ago, Djarragun College opened its door to tropical rain, a sea of mud and its first students on the new Gordonvale campus. Hundreds of trees later, the job isn't finished but Djarragun is a place of which to be proud. The grounds are spotless and fencing stops windblown litter from the highway. The creek bank has been cleared for replanting with suitable native vegetation and tree planting continues with a working bee every two weeks. Recycling and mulching are in place and a substantial vegetable garden has been developed. Student join the local community in regular Clean Up Australia activities. In one of the more innovative environmental initiatives, students are designing sustainable, energy-efficient houses for the future. Wit a student population of 400, including 80 boarders from all over Far North Queensland, Djarragun is working hard to beautify and protect its environment.



*Saggi Epsag, Alick Passi, Ray Noah, Tom Gisu*



Junior Asi, Robert Asi, Romero Suluvale, Julian Suluvale

## ***DANCING UP A STORM AT PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL***

Saturday , August 06, saw the Djarragun dance troupes serving adrenalin rushes with the regularity of evening cocktails. Engaging an inquisitive and spellbound audience, the Samoan group raised the piquancy of cultural awareness by adding dazzling contrast to the buoyancy of dances from the Eastern and Western Torres Strait.

Definitely a note of thanks to the organizers and troupe trainers and support musicians and singers, including Mr. Esau and wife, Fay, Ms Sarona, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Epsag and Mr. Mapa.

Thanks to all students who created the full entourage that swept the members of the audience off their feet. All of this was performed in their own private time willingly given on a Saturday evening and proudly representing their school. Their measure of generosity is further highlighted by the presentation of an enticing banquet to which they were not invited.

Musika Malie and Faataupati were the two routines danced by the Samoan performers.

The whole procedure involved houseparents, drivers of buses , boarding students and day pupils.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Many members of staff have been busy recently attending workshops in Cairns, Brisbane and Sydney. Our Darth Vader in the Mac Lab (**Mr. Ludo**) spent valuable days in Sydney soaking up the necessary information that will help establish an ever growing network system in the Information Technology within the school.

Djarragun students have the opportunity to access both MacIntosh and PC computers.

**Ms Shankaran & Ms Louise** suffered two days on Magnetic Island discovering what Captain Cook didn't. Their workshop dealt with literacy and appropriate and successful pedagogies.

**Ms Helen** attended a seminar for Appraisalment which deals with the application of criteria in order to identify learning difficulties.

## **DJARRAGUN COLLEGE HAIR SALON**

Certificate 2 in Hairdressing is conducted at Djarragun under the supervision of Pam Lauenstein. Training consists of hands-on practical work, as well as theory. There is a wide clientele base at our salon and students have the opportunity to learn various techniques of hairdressing and put their new-found skills into practice on a regular basis.

The students involved are Luanna DeJersey, Emily McGreen, Lisa Kynuna, Teegan Walthers and Edith Wosomo, Jenny Leota, Tia McMillan and Dominique Kawana.

The group will be servicing Yarrabah Aged Care Hostel this week and also will be preparing for an electives programme in Week 8 of this term.

Each day, students are responsible for compiling their own portfolio of planning, performance records and achievement awards.

## **SPORTS DAY**

Sport (in its many variant forms) is rarely absent from the Djarragun programme. This year has drawn its own full measure with both busy schedules and the satisfying sprinkle of successes.

**RUGBY UNION** : Djarragun students have orchestrated some convincing wins in this code of football during the season. Of particular note is the fact that three of our students, **Toshie Wigness, Charlie Dau & Lonnie Anau** headed down to the Gold Coast as part of the Under 15 Peninsula side last week.

Ms Kendall accompanied our representatives to the tourist mecca and reported in glowing terms of their efforts. In particular, Toshie Wigness excelled and caught the eyes of the talent scouts.

**Natasha Brunne** was successful for selection to the Peninsula side girls' Rugby Union side. A slight knee injury has to be remedied before Natasha takes off to Brisbane for the next stage of the competition.

Earlier, Natasha went to Sydney where she was selected for the Women's Indigenous team that next year will make a tour of New Zealand.

# SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

VIKINGS : ~~WARRIORS~~ : KNIGHTS

The School House teams vied for top position on Friday, July 29 at the Gordonvale State High School Oval.

Possibly rallying under their newly made banner, Knights splashed their red colour to a convincing victory by the end of the day. This was a satisfying triumph for the Knights who for the past couple of years have been the 'perennial underdogs'.

Ms Linda McKeown produced a spectacular banner which possibly helped towards underpinning a decisive win for the Knights.

The tone of the programme was one of enjoyment; students participated honestly and war cries developed a little closer to haka status.

Congratulations to **Ms Kendall** who organized the whole event and thanks to students and staff who participated and assisted with the smooth running.



Off and running



Walingi, Michael & Edmund



Adam McGreen on discus

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## SPECIAL THOUGHTS TO MR. GRACEY

We all wish Mr. Gracey a speedy recovery after his very unfortunate accident last week. Also, our regards to Ms Yeshim who has to provide the extra nursing possibly in preparation for an even greater 'expectation'.

Warm welcome to **Ms Faye Sangster** who has come in to fill in for absent teachers in the Primary classes.



Officialdom at its best