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# School Rover

Issue 02 Sept. 09, 2005

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*"To be able to be caught up in the world  
of thought - that is to be educated."*

*Edith Hamilton*

Jean Paul harmonizes with some of our crooners.



## BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Thirteen bands vied for positions of excellence at Cairns State High School, this year's venue for the Battle of the Bands.

Djarragun was represented by Manu John, Conjohn Matthew, George Mara, Godfrey Kerry, Maia Akiba, Ray Noah and Winston Gisu. The backstage support was done by Tibius Satrick.

Two songs were selected for the performance. One was called 'Peace' and the other was called, 'Unity'. Both are original compositions created this year by Emmanuel John (Manu).

Overall, Djarragun College came sixth. The band received popular support from the audience and the older sector of the spectators appreciated the softer music which Djarragun performed. All the other bands played Rock and Roll. We had our own style.

**Godfrey Kerry**

## RATEP STUDENTS

VISITING FOR THE DAY ON AUGUST 19, 2005 were students **Suzanne Bowyang**(Mareeba), **Sylvie McGregor**(Yarrabah site), **Maude Olbar & Lois Saunders** (Hopevale) and 13 other students from as far as Mount Isa, Torres Strait, Roma. In this particular Diploma group, there are 35 students enrolled. Some will proceed to James Cook University next year.

Sylvie and Suzanne enjoyed the set-up at Djarragun. They had not been to our school before and they really liked the 'atmosphere'. These four tertiary students spent their time with the Years 7/8A Literacy and the Year 9A Literacy classes. It was a mutually convenient visit because the classes were practising speeches and class presentations. All students (Djarragun) introduced themselves and engaged themselves in conversation.

Teachers **Clare Bartlett** (former teacher at Djarragun) and **Linda Price** accompanied the group. looking at alternate pedagogies and classroom environments.

Not all work within schools so the classroom situation can be a new experience. Some will work in administration.

The next stage of their tour will take them to various parts of the Northern Territory to look at Indigenous schools in those regions. We wish them all well in their coming trek.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Staff members continue to inject knowledge and skills through the Professional Development programme.

NQSF (National Quality Schools Framework) : Professor **Peter Cuttance** and assistant **Keryn McGuinniss** made a presentation at Djarragun on Monday, Sept. 05 to some campus staff plus members from other Cairns schools.

Much work has been done to compile programmes and strategies of best practices in quality education in Australian Schools.

Strong focus was directed to the education of boys.

## FAREWELL TO STAFF

**Ms Saraima** : Our very popular Assistant teacher in the Primary and zealous organizer of the kup mari pit has decided to take a trip home to PNG. We wish Auntie Saraima all the best and a speedy return.

**Mr. Esau Suluale** : Clearly, Samoa's cultural impact into Djarragun was firmly entrenched with the spectacular song and dance routine that Mr. Esau injected into the extracurricular activities. We thank Mr. Esau for his cheerful enthusiasm and strong sense of purpose towards the welfare of our students. His influence was put to advantage in many areas of the school, in classes, camps, youth guidance and sport.

## RELIEF TEACHER

**Cecelia Davern** : Filling in for Ms Ana Fidow for one week was Ms Cecelia. Originally from Papua New Guinea, Ms Cecelia has been in North Queensland for over thirty years. She has taught on Thursday Island and at Yarrabah and spent about fifteen years with Education Queensland.

Though she has a strong inclination to travel and teach overseas, Ms Cecelia has chosen to stay to enjoy her grandchildren while they are growing up. At the school assembly, Ms Cecelia was presented with a certificate by Latoya Armitage.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MUM AND DAD

Ms Michelle has finally released her new son from his nine month detention. We understand that there were no problems staged with Customs, Quarantine or the Australian Taxation Office. All the very best to the blue bonnet brigade that will haunt the halls and the nursery over the next few months.

## DRAMA OF A MODERN DORM

Last night was the shopping night for the boarders but the Junior boys didn't go shopping because we kept on playing around and wetting each other with water and throwing things at each other. So we got caught by Mr. Mapa and Mr. John. They asked us who thought of that idea of playing these games and I came downstairs and told the boys to be honest and tell the truth.

So Michael Kerry took the blame and Mr. Mapa and Mr. John continuously told Michael off and he tried to make crocodile tears but Mr. John knew that he was trying to make them forgive him and not punish him.

When all the rest of the students went to late night shopping, we came up and had a game of touch; then all of a sudden, we heard a roaring sound. When we looked over, all we could see was a big petrol remote control car coming straight towards us. So we tried to run away from it but it came to a complete stop. When we looked down the footpath, we saw Mr. Allan and his brother standing over at the far end of the footpath. So we ran over and started to ask all of these questions about the car. Then we asked them to

jump the ramp going up to the tuckshop. He revved it. Then the car was burning rubber. When he put it in gear, the car cleared the ramp; he went to the undercover area and did donuts on the concrete and we could smell the rubber from the small tyres. After a while, he took the car right at the back and he did 180 km per hour and it took him about one minute to get to the other side of the field and back again.

Then after that, we all had a big game of touch at the undercover area – Bottom floor of C block against the Top Floor boys of the C Block. It was a really tight game against the Bottom Floor boys.

**Michael Wailu**

## BOYS' RUGBY UNION UNDER 14

A beautiful sunny afternoon didn't bear down quite so kindly upon our stolid neophytes to this code. Despite the relentless effort by Djarragun boys, the organization and skills in the St. Mary's side was far too much to quell.

**Ned Ingui** made a promising break to take the ball about 50 metres upfield but the cover attack was effective. **Wilfred Bermister** also made a stunning break down along the wing before he was swamped by the opposition. The diminutive figure of **Michael Kerry** was several times seen clinging like a leech on the back of one of his opposition's front row players. **Neil McGreen** showed that he could easily turn his skills from League to Union at the blow of a whistle. From the start to the finish of the game, players limped off in quick succession but their enthusiasm wasn't dented at all. The medico for the day must have had some potent painkiller that sidelined the ailments almost as soon as the carrier reached the off-field area.

**Alex Namai** was our only contender of comparable size but even he was outgunned by superior teamwork from the St. Mary's side. Great going, boys, for fronting up so keenly and persisting against the very decisive talents of the St. Mary's team.

## GIRLS' RUGBY UNION

This must be the Year of the Girls. Outstanding display of skills and a mounting record of achievements is falling into the laps of our girls. Their effort saw them annihilate Bentley Park's team to the tune of 86 – 0.

Several girls (**Karen Noah, Pado Kaworo, Melian AhKit, Christina Waianga, Lily Nomoa, Jessie Dau, Natasha**) have earned possible representative status which means that next year might see them touring New Zealand testing out the All Blackettes.

## TRANSITION CLASS

Mr. Liam has landed the role of Co-ordinator for this latest initiative. The main aim is to develop 'good learning behaviour'. So far, this has applied only to the boys. A handful of students is selected to focus on how they can assume positive learning attitudes.

# ELECTIVES WORKSHOPS

Senior School students have spent a week on elective studies. This is the second time the programme has been arranged after the successful venture initiated in Term 2. A range of activities include Marine Studies, Hospitality, Fashion, Music, Outdoor Recreation, Sports Medicine, Hairdressing, Multi-Media and Visual Art.





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A new Chairman of the Board of Directors has been elected. In thanking **Bishop Arthur Malcolm** for his years of devoted service to Djarragun College over many years, we welcome **Mr. Gavin Lui** as the incumbent Chairperson.

## SPECIAL THOUGHTS

A very warm welcome back to the resilient Mr. Gracey who put our minds to rest (and for some) turned the stomachs - with his graphic exposition of his recent misadventure with the angle grinder. His head-on collision earned him a second entry to his mouth, an unobstructed profile of his teeth and some three hours of microsurgery.

With his usual selfless disposition, Mr. Gracey used the incident as a real-to-life lesson on Workplace, Health and Safety. With assistance from Mr. Joe (of Workshop fame), Mr. Gracey made a plausible re-enactment, highlighting the insignificance of the task he was performing at the time, the lack of appropriate safety gear and the danger of underestimating the danger of high powered tools.

Thankfully for the expertise of the micro-surgeon, only the faintest scar line enhances his facial topography and he is still able to smile grandly with the natural orifice.

The original 'Scarface' has been upstaged in the process and with the healing, the prospects of singing a duet all by himself remains an unfulfilled dream.

## JAMES COOK MATHS & SCIENCE EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

Mr. Philemon proudly endorses the success by twelve of our students in this programme.

Newcomers entered the scene and joined the members of the old guard.

Grade 5 : **Brody Lamport; Helen Walit**

Grade 6 : **Vivian Baker; Comrie Tabuai; Tara Rockett; Eddie Epsag**

Grade 7 : **Kennedy Chan Foon; Renartha Bounghi; Lane Ingui**

Grade 8 : **Amy Lamport; Monica Asi; Robert Cooktown.**

Of particular note, Kennedy Chan Foon received a Distinction for his effort in solving one of the problems.

## COMPUTER MAC LAB SYSTEM

Mr. Ludo has his hands full at the present time re-establishing normalcy to his domain. The need for a newer Server facility has created unforeseen problems with accessing files.

## CECELIA DAVERN

Thanks to Ms Cecelia who spent a week at Djarragun College replacing Ms Fidow who attended a wedding in Florida Keys, U.S.A. Her whirlwind trip preceded another natural disaster, 'Katrina', which ripped through the upmarket tourist Mecca.

## NAVY WEEK CHALLENGE

Selected Year 9 students had the opportunity to attend the Tobruk Pool recently to join in the fun and activities of the day. **Ned Ingui** and **Jackson Baker** reported the following :-

The Navy Seals presented a series of pool activities which included tug-a-war challenge, freestyle, backstroke and side-stroke races.

Only the Djarragun students participated on this day. At the end, there was a presentation of a trophy. Ned Ingui won the trophy and the newspapers took a photo which appeared in the Cairns Post.

## DEADLY AUSSIES

Mark Dorge entertained the school with his programme with a neat cryptic title - 'Deadly Australians'. Unfortunately for those whose frequencies oscillate between the 'Big Brother' television series and 'Australian Idol', 'Deadly Australians' in this instance packed a few more punches of venom than the sitcoms. Mark's presentation was a superb one-man piece of showmanship, information, teaching, engagement and psychological phobia search.

In this particular field, Mr. Mark's knowledge is encyclopaedic. He could rattle off the information about spiders, snakes, lizards, tortoises and marine stingers.

His two metre long live python writhed lethargically around a shoulder or two and on nervous arms. Some of us learned that tortoises breathe underwater through their tails - Believe it or not !! (At least, that's what I think he said)

The Rainbow Serpent has a lot to answer for and it seems Mr. **Mark Dorge** must have received a direct commission from Reptiles Anonymous to spread the better news about the creatures of suspect history and scurrilous heritage.

Although admitting to his being bitten in the past by some of his serpentine friends, Mr. Mark continued upon his intent to remove the fear of snakes from others. Whilst he had decided success with many, there were still some stalwarts who still believe that Noah should have been more discriminating on which creatures he allowed to slither onto the Ark. Despite his assurance that the creature in hand was 'armless', **Richard Kris** provided the example of raw courage and onstage entertainment for the audience, raising the level of anticipation to sweat gland overdrive. **Tali Tabuai** was the first to volunteer his assistance as the 'apprentice snake-handler'- even the snake seemed not to mind. **Ms Kendall** didn't escape attention and eventually succumbed to strong encouragement to introduce herself to the serpent world. Later, the 'brave' (**Mr. Liam, Ms Linda, Ms Francesca & Mr. Remy**) edged their way towards membership in the Snake Charmers' Guild and managed to nurse an equally perplexed python.

**Mr. Mark** sprinkled his session with dry humour and the odd political joke. What he didn't know about reptiles, Steve Irwin wouldn't know also. We thank him for a totally engrossing session, the trip to hidden phobias and the pleasant entertainment.

**JOHN PAUL WOBOTAI (picture front page)**

After his success with our Music students prior to the Battle of the Bands, John Paul from the Congo returned to ply his trade again during the electives week for the Senior students. Naturally, ideas are to upmarket the outcomes and really set sail towards achieving another musical milestone.



**OUTDOOR COOKING**

Years 7/8 boys have been cooking up a storm in our own makeshift scullery behind the ‘Shed’. After a few cat and mouse episodes with the weather, the boys eventually acquired the knack of raising firebrands from the timber heap. These were reduced to coals onto which were set the camp ovens that did the rest of the job

Our small team of ‘firebrands’ are fast earning the title of “Island Chefs”. Though not yet about to oust the Japanese version of “Iron Chefs”, there are the few oddities in similarity between the two culinary orders.

Our ‘backyarders’ are governed strictly also by time, otherwise it is only the boarders who get to make a meal of the day’s goodies. Day students are sent packing on empty stomachs for the buses to swallow them up and dispatch them somewhere close to home. So, on occasions, it has been the case of growling stomachs and growling mouths.

The menus are varied and have assumed states ranging from undercooked, char grill to scorched earth embers. The boys have skilled themselves towards a more than moderate ability in fire-making and in the future, traditional firestick ignition will be attempted as part of the in-house competition amongst budding arsonists. One of the competitions for which we are establishing a record is ‘boiling the billy’. Starting time is taken from scratch – preparing and igniting the fire until boiling water overflows from the billy. Presently, the record stands at 12 minutes something.

Three camp ovens have turned out tasty meals of lamb stew and dumplings. The odd damper successfully appears in edible form and other delicacies like fish, sweet potatoes, yam and cassava have been thrown into the cauldron at one stage or another.

A few of the trailblazers have shown prior skills – **Woibo Lakefield** knows how to rustle up dumplings; **Gregory Bulmer** is a useful kitchenhand; **Neville Shaw** is the fastest firemaker; **Joel Omeeny** is damper king; **Alex Namai** is Axeman 1; **Neil McGreen** is head of the Coals Department; Camp Oven Overseer is **Paul Walit**; Expert Can-Opener is **Jayed Phineasa**;

The large boys contingent is split into two groups which alternate on Monday and Tuesday of each week between the Home Ec. Room and the Outdoor Cooking camp. Ms Rosemary and Ms Peggy apply the more subtle touches to established recipes and menus. Tacos, muffins, pizzas and pastry dishes are generally the tasteful outcomes. In addition, familiarity and use of equipment, utensils and scales are etched into their knowledge banks. Eat well; play well; live well.

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**Picture 1 : Robert Asi begins his rope-down off the cliff face at Aeroglen.**

**Picture 2 : Nemo’s greatest FEAR!!!**

**Picture 3: The Marine Studies flotilla braces itself for one of its campaigns.**



# TERM 4

## RESUMES

# THURSDAY

# SEPTEMBER

# 29

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### DAVID HUDSON

Internationally known, indigenous, local singer, dancer, didgeridoo player, artist and musician, David Hudson, spent the morning addressing the students in two presentations during Monday, September 5. Playing a guitar and the didgeridoo simultaneously is a rare skill and David Hudson is someone who has developed that ability.

## PRIMARY

## PREPARE FOR

## BATTLE

One could have thought that MGM studios had rented part of the Djarragun campus last week. A cohort of brilliantly coloured Roman soldiers was putting pay to equally resplendent barbarians. But for the menacing weapons, the display could well be mistaken for a fashion parade.

However, the war correspondent last week was able to ascertain that the pitch battle was a cleverly orchestrated campaign to complete their study of Roman soldiers and the Roman Empire.

Not satisfied with his usual daily battles in a classroom with bulging numbers, Mr. G decided to resurrect historical events possibly to satiate his passion for blood sports.

The Roman conquest of the Gauls was a foregone conclusion but the panoplied warriors on the Djarragun fields were a closer match.

This was a full term study on ancient Rome. Students had to manually forge their weapons and shields from cardboard, foil and coloured paper.

Roman standards decorated the battlefield; brooches, togas and mosaics in the classroom. The study included democracy, the beginnings and endings of the Empire, life in the Roman army, the Emperors of Rome, Hannibal (the real one), Roman way of life, Pompeii and Queen Boudicca of Britannia.

The students had to write an information report on some aspect of ancient Rome.



## DON'T FORGET

## SUNDAY

## SEPTEMBER 11

at City Place

The Djarragun College band  
will be accompanying

Jean Paul Wobotai

from 7 - 11 p.m.

**FREE FREE FREE**

**Come and support our  
students.**