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School Rover

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KEAGAN SPRATT SIGNS ON THE DOTTED LINE....

As one of our highlights for the end of last term, we really rejoiced in the success of one of our students from Hopevale. The photo wasn't ready at the time of printing of the last Rover but

it's great to be able to show the moment of historic significance. Keagan Spratt signed his life away towards a promising career with the corporate giant CMC Constructions. Not many of these opportunities fall anybody's way and here we have a local lad making one of the biggest commitments in his life. All the best, Keagan, as you step into your future. Hopefully, others will follow suit.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Love is the strongest force the world possesses and yet it is the humblest imaginable" - *Mahatma Gandhi*

TERM 3 BEGINS

A warm welcome back to school to everyone despite the cooler end of the thermometer holding the shots. It's wonderful to glance out onto the campus decorated once again with lively bipeds on high adrenalin rushes. Mind you, there are apparently some reptileans that need to bask in the morning sunlight to bolster their solar panels for the day.

The emergence of the Djarragun redcoats might well suggest to the British that one of their longlost colonies has transported from the pages of history.

This promises to be another busy Term and some exciting initiatives have sprung into action to drop the jaw of tedium and open the eyes of awe. Subsequent pages will reveal the grind of productive industry that is promoting transformation in the students at Djarragun.

The arrival of a couple of new staff members and also the departure of others always predicates dynamic forces of change, adaptation and new resolve.

It is challenging and satisfying that we don't remain on the same level and the same dimension. Our present and future culminate from the past during our journey to become what potential has endowed upon us.

Isn't it great that we don't have to make our journeys alone? Cheers, fellow-travellers, through Term 3.

DEADLY AUSTRALIANS

Marc Dorse entertained the school once again with his idiosyncratic humour and the personalized presentation of the creatures for which most Australians share mixed feelings or phobias.

Tali Tabuai and **Mr Aaron Agius** shared quality time with the blue-tongued lizard and thankfully for the Winter shedding-of-skins period, all the venomous reptiles were safely enclosed in their glass tanks.

The tortoise was out for show to the audience and displayed its peculiar fashion for breathing; the redback spider and the box jellyfish were entombed each in an acrylic sarcophagus.

Having given an earnest reply to a rhetorical question, **Eathen Maas** acted the part of a live model for the bandage and sling segment.

Despite his almost casual approach to the reptilean world, **Mr. Dorse** exhibited his great love for this sector of earth creatures. His close call with one of the toxins left him incapacitated in a hospital ward for a couple of months and even after that recovery, some residual effects of paralysis remain over parts of his body.

FAREWELL

Ms Alana Cini spent a year in the Middle School here at Djarragun. Thanks for all your efforts for the students. We wish you well at your new appointment at Redlynch.

Mr Josphat Chapeyama recently celebrated his official residency in Australia but now has to gauge the length of the unemployment line. We trust that he will soon find a new position that will end the hiatus. Meanwhile, his son, **Rukudzo** still soldiers on at

Djarragun tackling a lengthy school day from 8 - 4.

Mr Mapa Kudub is in the recovery mode from time at the Cairns Base Hospital after intensive treatment. We encourage him during this period that requires endurance and solid perseverance. We all look forward to his back to normal cheery, sparkling personality.

Student, **Kennedy Chan Foon** was also spending part of the Cairns winter in at Cairns Base. A bout of appendicitis has been followed by other complications and he is confined to the Ward system while his recuperation is allowed to take place. He is duplicating a similar session that his father underwent albeit quite a few blue moons ago.

(Late suggestion : Don't be tackling escapades like the Red Arrow Walk too soon after an operation.)

WELCOME TO VISITORS

Maria Way : JCU student teacher who is spending three weeks practicum in the Middle School working with the Comets and Suns.

Maria's family own a cane farm on the Little Mulgrave River so she is luckily based very close to Djarragun. Part of the work Maria is helping to present in the literacy classes is material on India. The students are engaged in a study of the Ramayana, a Hindu epic. This is also being blended with the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi.

Kerry Smith has been shedding her expertise in the Primary precinct, in particular, with team Goannas . This class has been learning about the sugar cane industry - How Sugar goes from the soil to the table. They will be visiting the Mulgrave Sugar Mill and then produce a poster to explain the process. They have been doing a lot to improve their multiplication skills.

Adele Lindsay has her work cut out for her with Ms Louise and the Dragons. This bubbly group wends its way to the school assembly not unlike a meandering caterpillar. The Dragon's lair hasn't been too healthy an environment for the residents of the fish tank but a couple of more sturdy aquarium dwellers have been seconded in for the fish rally of the season.

Amy Wockner : Camouflaged in with the Team Geckos, Ms Amy has learnt all the wiles of a seasoned chameleon and has helped Ms Michelle Garside contain the creatures that can crawl on the floor, walls and ceiling.

Dr Hilary Whitehouse : visited Djarragun to connect with the JCU students who are engaged in their month long teaching practice programme.

"Djarragun College has been a wonderful supporter of pre-service teacher education, taking third and fourth year JCU Education students from the Cairns campus for a number of years. The professional experience staff at the School of Education at JCU would like to thank all staff for their willingness to help train local teachers."

CAIRNS SHOW

Already, history on this year's calendar is the Cairns Show. The sideshow thrill rides attract even some of the Djarragun dare-devils like moths to the flame. Those who went are still sporting the familiar top hats and furry caps peculiar to the Show ethos.

A note of thanks to the houseparents and supervisors who accompanied the boarders for this annual drawcard activity.

DARE TO ACHIEVE PROGRAMME

On one of the initiatives that have surfaced at Djarragun is the Dare to Achieve programme. A series of activities that are directed towards containing the testosterone levels of Middle School males has been masterminded by teachers, Daniel Hollis and Gio Douven. Both are busily engaged in nurturing the aspirations of a collection of rabid teenagers. Activities will include hiking challenges, first aid practice, cooking in the outdoors, orienteering, raft-building and communication.



YEAR 10 BOYS ASSEMBLY

Every now and then, a glimmer of hope surfaces from the tedium of ordinary life. Overcoming the typical dread of adolescence for public scrutiny, our Year 10 boys disentangled themselves from their scrum of peer group security and marched onto the Middle School assembly beaming with confidence and gallant despatch.

It took the mandatory long minute to exorcise latent demons of disquiet and to absorb the cosmic energies precipitating 'oneness' and singular intent. With a little bit of moral support from Marsella Matthew and a receptive audience, the Year 10 boys dispelled any suggestion of a link between themselves and the world of apprehension.

Along the lines of a 'Believe it or Not' episode, this team organized and executed the assembly that was both entertaining and inspiring.

There were no signs of the 'two left feet' which reportedly are the bane of the universal teenager. The regular smiles lent instant corroboration to their conscious effort. They had not lapsed into reverie nor slumped into panic pause. To sustain a respectable composure for fifteen minutes is remarkable. Congratulations, boys, for transforming a 'Motley Crew' into a 'Few Good Men.'



Athletics Day 07-08-2006 - Primary Report.



The excitement was building for weeks leading up to the whole school athletics day at Johnson Park. The primary school had been in training for weeks under the watchful eye of Ms Kendall and Mr Walsh. The training had involved daily fitness, ball games, relays, shot put, high jump and long jump.

The big day had arrived and the Primary students were primed for action and the spirit of fair competition and sportsmanship.

From the opening sprints of the day there was some real stand out competitors. For the 11-year-old girls 100-meter sprint, **Lowanna Noble** and **Nikki Dotoi** were running so fast that the grass was scorched behind them. The 12-year-old boys 800m race was also very close with **Comrie Tabuai** and **Frank Charlie** snapping close at the heels of **Isaac Tabo**.

In the long Jump pit the young girls and boys could be seen charging down the runway and leaping with all their strength. In the under 9 boys, **Daniel Mundraby** grimaced and strained with all his might as he leapt from the board into the sand pit. **Phillipa Uidaldum** and **Vanessa Anau** were also stand out jumpers in the girls' 9 and 11 yrs long jump competition.



It was a very rewarding day for all the Djarragun College Primary Students and they all proudly pinned the ribbons they had won onto their school uniforms.



LORETO COLLEGE, NORMANHURST, SYDNEY

An eighty strong gaggle of Year 9 girls from an elite Sydney College took a day tour of Djarragun during its schedule in the North. This visit was organized nearly one year ago and some 160 girls trekked north and this first contingent was treated with an astounding display of colour and local pageantry by none other than the students from Djarragun. The Seniors were the prime vendors and hosts for the busy programme.

Activities included stations which featured spear-throwing, damper cooking, traditional dancing, art, hairdressing, music, sport, weaving and Information Technology



(L) Middle School girls colour the landscape;
Above : Shane Mimi & Chulkul Neal poised & ready;
Below ; 'Hula is for **any** body,' wobbles Uriel



A Week in Hopevale

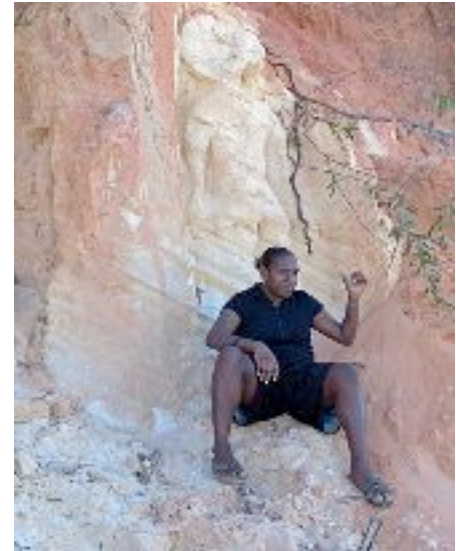


Sunday 23 July 2006 : two rented Hyundai Tucson FWDs set out from Djarragun College to Hopevale Community, north of Cooktown for a project in which five of Djarragun's students (**Rosemary Tabuai, Emily McGreen, Clevanna Fagan, Jessie Dau and Helen Billy**) would be working with five young women from there. The venture was taking place at the Cape York Digital Network (CYDN) building in Hopevale, opposite the Council Office. Available were 5 PCs with Windows 2000 and XP installed, but I had brought along five Macminis with our students' Home Folder containing their work of this year, movies and PowerPoint presentations made over the years and also booklets made by those students to show the people in Hopevale what could be done. CYDN had nominated five girls from there and we had a meeting in which we randomly allocated each girl to one of our students. They then sat down at their computers and our students showed them what could be done, suggesting projects to do: make a poster, use photographs to be taken by digital

cameras (we'd brought two new Samsung cameras), make a PowerPoint presentation about Hopevale, use own photos and material from the internet.



Two girls who worked with **Helen** and **Clevanna** were painfully shy and didn't come back the next day. Another girl, **Chevonne Bowen**, who lived in an outstation and had to be picked up in the morning, seemed to be going fine with **Emily**, who made an attractive Keynote presentation with photos taken in the community and text from the internet, but after two days the girl stopped coming. **Rosemary**, however, had a very serious and interested partner in **Letisha Spratt** and they soon made a poster and a business card, while they explored internet and set her up with an email address. **Jessie Dau** too worked very well with **Fiona Bowen**, who arrived each day and, after they had explored some projects like PowerPoint presentations, settled on making two sets of business cards; Jessie asked me to give her another crash course in the evening and **Fiona** impressed her uncle by making a business card for him.



On day two, Paul, the technician, installed the Macromedia suite and Adobe Photoshop on the five PCs; it just grew out of what our girls were showing on the Macminis. We then copied files produced so far onto a flash drive and transferred to the PCs, which we worked on from there on. **Rosemary** and **Jessie** worked with their two partners, who arrived reasonably on time but the other three had to content themselves sending messages to each other, check their emails and especially doing messaging on their mobile phones. It was really unfortunate they couldn't do more. Halfway through the week, the Hopevale girls got their email addresses from CYDN and our girls taught them to attach pictures to emails, send and receive



them, and this was a great success. They also looked at various internet sites and used Google Earth, but it became clear that internet bandwidth in Hopevale was not such that all could be at sites involving downloads simultaneously, especially since the Council is on the same line. **Bob Magid** arranged to pay for a year's free internet for those girls. We set all up with Skype internet telephone as well, demonstrating it by ringing each other; our girls promised the Hopevale students that they would keep in touch with email and then set up a time they could talk to each other; however, now our girls are back into their normal daily routines, it remains to be seen if this can take place.

Ludo Kuipers