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School Rover

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THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR

The College staff gathered from Christmas hibernation to merge with new blood transfused seemingly again from a surplus stock from the League of Nations.

At the first assembly, the students were immediately challenged to identify the 'nations of origin' for the respective new members of staff. Some of the most unlikely combinations, emanations and evolutionary titrations are called into play that the prize will undoubtedly be credited only to the 'nearest to correct'. Without a doubt also, the staff and student numbers have succumbed to dramatic population explosions.

The mood of the school is bright and chirpy. Happy faces brandish equally happy voices ; the sentiment is infectious. The introductory period of new students and new staff prompted the season of 'getting to know you' and the urgent scramble across the memory board to fix names to faces cast the wrinkles of dilemma on many foreheads. It is amazing that once the activities set sail, many lost the initial inhibitions and became absorbed in their respective programmes.

In traditional form, the Northern children trudged their way through the flood deposits and continual rainbursts. The Wet Season has been so extended that one half expects plimsoll lines to appear on the lower legs.

LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION : High anticipation is being directed to what's at the end of the 'Red Oxide Road'. Despite the several days of monsoonal overcast and sound drenching, work has proceeded relentlessly towards the completion of the new Library and Facilities Complex. As well as computer rooms, it houses a neat auditorium, a staff resources room, toilets and a withdrawal area.. In the middle of the complex is a quadrangle with a duplicate pergola feature.

The need for more room is also being met by the closing in of minor verandahs at the ends of other buildings which can be used to greater advantage.

WELCOME, EARLY CHILDHOOD



Finally, it's official. The first leg of Djarragun now includes the Early Childhood stream. Such tiny individuals appear to have bounced out fresh from the humidicrib. Like geckoes with human faces, they defy gravity on their scale up the cold water fountain unit and form a scrum to open the toilet door.

All the play dough practice is put to busy use and the start of a career in school life for our enthusiastic youngsters is set in motion. Let's hope that



the future twelve years treats them well and we see them rise to individual success stories. (For any concerned, small steps are now installed to oblige the tiny and thirsty.)

UNCLE TONY EPSEG : One of our prodigious work horses from the Shed, Uncle Tony, was recently hospitalized and forced to spend time recuperating. We are glad to see his smiling face back on campus. Usually set like a vice to one of the workbenches, he often is seen guiding young woodcraftsmen to creativity.



FAREWELL TO MS KEREN

: For whatever reason, Ms Keren has crossed the Tasman Sea to the land of Kia Ora. Ostensibly, she has taken off to the Land of the Long White Cloud to further her studies although some have speculated a change of loyalty to the All Blacks or the Kiwi side of existence. Perhaps, she just wants to wake up just those

couple of hours before the rest of the Australian continent. Our good thoughts for your future.

All the best, Ms Keren. Thanks for your dedicated work at Djarragun and your always youthful, happy manner.

SCIENCE ROUND ROBIN : Kicking off to a good start this year has been the Science programme through the Middle School. **Mr. Daniel Hollis** has again stamped his trademark of excellence on an enterprising round of experimental stations around the classrooms each Friday.

The full group programme used last year proved far too cumbersome an exercise to reap optimal benefit and this more manageable small group round robin has shown immediate success.

Each teacher provides the same experiment and the groups rotate. Surprisingly, the results can be markedly different across the different groups and the small group dynamics add to the learning humour.

SCHOOL'S IN

A fly on the wall in the classrooms has revealed an array of activities engaging the students in profitable learning and research work. The classes called Comets and Suns are embarking on a study of China.. Although some have boarded the slow boat, there are enterprising ones who have given a good clean-out of the website cobwebs in their research endeavours. In addition to Chinese lanterns, red envelopes with greetings and good wishes were made and delivered by the Sun's class to younger students in Primary. **Mr. Ludo and Ms Deb Hancock** have supplied some of their books, brochures and Chinese artefacts to add to the Gung Hay Fat Choy!!! Happy New Year to those whose fortune is aligned to the Year of the Pig.

The 'Shed' has replenished its clientele with a set of hungry hands eager to tackle the hammers and saws. The steelcaps on some offered the 'Puss in Boots' image but it was the benchtop where the creations were appearing. New to Djarragun this year, **Mr. Michael Hansell**, engrossed his little workshop apprentices in constructing their own open toolboxes. Any onlooker would be impressed by the keen interest and intent focus shown by these Year 8 boys.

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY PROGRAM

The James Cook University Program is starting next term. We have enrolled 40 students (from grade 2 to grade 10) in the following courses: JCU Maths and Science Excellence Program, JCU Juniors, JCU Engineering and Design, JCU Creative Writing, JCU Art, JCU Food Science, JCU Music Recording and Production, JCU Fashion Design and JCU Computing and Multimedia. JCU has kindly offered us 10 scholarships.

CLEAN-UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Djarragun students repeated their effort at Giangurra Park to help clean up Australia.. Teacher, Mr. Daniel Hollis, organized the Dash for Trash at one of the beach hideaways along the Yarrabah Road. Thanks to the most



cooperative students who applied a liberal supply of enthusiasm and prompt service to effect a work detail that the Army would be proud to boast.

The little convoy of white buses snaked its way down Pine Creek Road and despite the steamy conditions, the contingent of energized collectors paraded the vicinity and amassed 16 large garbage bags of assorted trash and refuse.

Part of the exercise was to itemize the range and numbers of articles reclaimed from the region. Later, the mathematicians will correlate the statistics and graph their findings for a genuine study assessment.

The hot-dog scenario was a popular finish to the exercise and produced only one casualty when **Mr. Michael Lee** sustained minor burns to his cooking hand. It is understood that he eventually forced the offending sausage into total submission - and chewed it out of existence.

The flock soon congregated around the fiery altar when **Mr. Gio** (sounding like the local muezzin chanting from the minaret during prayer hours) rallied the troops for a simple, but enticing barbecue.

As a fitting tribute, a neat article with pictures endorsed the efforts by the students in the Cairns Post.





TRAINEESHIPS

On February 20, together with 45 other students from various high schools, five students from Djarragun College began their Certificate 111 in Hospitality at Rydges Hotel in Cairns.

Year 13 student, **Cathy Joe** and Year 11 students **Monica Fourmile, Marcella Matthew, Alphi Warria** and **Anai Ganaia** attend the Hotel every Tuesday afternoon for 4 hours of training. The course continues for the whole year, after which, the girls will easily secure work within the industry. After the initial training, the students will have the opportunity to get paid work at functions within the Hotel.

We are proud of these students and wish them well in their studies and practice this year. Here are some comments from the students about the course -

Marcella,

What do you like about doing the traineeship at Rydges?

I get to learn stuff that I haven't experienced; meet other girls and boys; communicate with them and our teacher and manager. It's really fun and I'm looking forward to finishing this course.

Monica,

What do you like about doing the traineeship at Rydges?

Well, so far, I've only had two classes of my traineeship. I've learnt how to make coffee in one and the other, how to carry three plates in one hand. I'm enjoying every moment learning new things. I am looking forward to experiencing more at Rydges.

Anai,

What do you like about doing the traineeship at Rydges?

I liked the way we did coffee making. That's the thing. I've always wanted to learn. The trainer is really fun and every Tuesday, I always look forward to going to Rydges

Cathy,

What do you like about doing the traineeship at Rydges?

I like doing the prac. work. Start of the session, we basically do some theory in our booklets. To finish off our day at Rydges, we get to do prac. work. It's fun and exciting. On our first day at Rydges, we learned how to handle plates when serving and taking plates from customers. In the room where we did our training, it was full of joy, laughter and students talking amongst each other.

Alphi,

What do you like about doing the traineeship at Rydges?

I like meeting new people and communicating with them. It's a good start for me in getting my career as a chef. It has been my long-term goal.

HOSPITALITY

On a cloudy wet Thursday, 1st March, 7 Hospitality students (Yrs10,11, 12) visited the Flecker Botanic Gardens in Cairns.

We went to see the Aboriginal Plant-use Garden. Mr Peter Shanahan explained all about the plants. Many plants were toxic but Indigenous people knew how to process/cook them. Some plants were for medicine, others for living (canoes, bags, mats, houses). Others were for food.

One interesting tree was the blue Quondong, (see picture).It was very high. You can eat the fruit and use the tree to make a canoe.

We took lots of photos to use for our assignment. It was a great morning under our umbrellas in the rain.

Pamela Aruba and Vida Getawan (Grade 12)

ooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo.



LEUKAEMIA AWARENESS

Friday, March 16 provided the whole school with an unusual entertainment for a worthy cause. Luxuriant growths of head-cover fell victim to the clippers and other manes assumed spectacular colours and patterns that the rest of the animal world would kill for. Mr. Aaron Agius's Ned Kelly look was transformed into a reasonable Doctor Evil resemblance. Ms Maree Cotton shed her wavy locks to a severe operation that left one thinking that only the saffron robe was missing. Meanwhile, on the other side of the mercury curtain, Ms Linda McKeown allowed herself to be subjected to the blonde shock treatment.



DARE TO ACHIEVE

This very successful programme which began last year from the inspiration of our own notorious homegrown conspirators, Mr. **Dan Hollis** and Mr. **Gio Douven**, has set sail again this year. With their feet, firmly on the ground and working just slightly below the surface, our students have been busily manicuring

the earth and planting a variety of vegetable stock. The Farm is having its 'makeover' extended with the help of a new growth of edibles.

What an incredible array of new faces to hit the campus at the same time!! The Term managed to two-step its way to conclusion at an incredible rate - someone has a finger on the Fast Forward button.

Probably all feeling well-worn into the system by now, these smiles, taken early in the term, well might have endorsed 'Used by' dates and are now re-emerging to welcome a well-earned break.

Most parents would be unaware of the vast range of help and assistance that has to be provided for the children in the care of this school. An astounding spread of talent, experience and expertise is brought to bear upon the range of challenges that beset our students. The staff below are some of those forces in the school which add their lustre to creative, inspirational and downright hard yakka that permeates the whole school programme.



Mr. **Michael Hansen (l)** has carpentry as his skills area and has his hands full with the multiple building schemes that involve the campus as well as the Farm. The new faces amongst the Year 8 boys come under his wing for one session each week and were set tasks to produce a wooden toolbox (the faster ones went on to create a wooden boat).

Ms. **Leanne Standen (r)** is no stranger to the Djarragun scene.

Living only walking distance from the school, she has spent some of her University life intertwined with her second home here at DC. She now hones her skills with the Year 8 girls in Literacy pluckily keeping tabs with the hardened classroom veteran, Mr. Gio Douven and keeping Middle School Coordinator, Mrs. Shankaran happily satisfied with the occasional mudcake and pancakes.



James Koroma (the Gentle Giant) has a huge impact on the boarding sector in the after-school programme. He has been invaluable as a tutor in Maths and an instant mentor for the B Block boys.

Rob Hodge is the striking figure who coaches our young League aspirants towards personal

development on and off the field. His reassuring manner creates ready responses from the students.



Ms Deb Hancock (l) is busily crafting the Literacy skills and artistic endeavours of the Senior School. As well as her passion for equestrian pursuits, Ms Deb philanders through the odd Chinese calligraphic characters with astounding aplomb. Reading Japanese seems to be a casual affair for her and her journey through parts of Japan has provided even greater cause for edification. What she knows about horses is enough to give Phar Lap

stagefright.

Mr. Neil Fourmile (r) No stranger to the vicinity, Mr. Neil is obviously a Yarrabah connection who assumes a gentle role as Teacher Assistant at Djarragun. His same generous smile is a perpetual feature to the campus and he provides a welcomed liaison for our Yarrabah clientele.



DJARRAGUN SPORTS ACADEMY

One of the exciting enterprises emanating from Term 1 is the Sports Academy. This programme is enticing promising sports achievers to engage in specific grooming towards their chosen sport discipline. The choice of sports are - Rugby League, Basketball, Australian Rules Football, Soccer and Volleyball. Heavy emphasis has been placed on honesty, integrity, focus and commitment.

The promotional brochure attests - 'Attitude is Everything' : "We believe that with the right attitude anyone can succeed and this is why we want to focus on student who do show the right attitude. Therefore, students who do not attend school regularly, who are constantly breaking school rules and who show no commitment to their education, will not be selected even if they are fantastic sports people."

Students who opt for the challenge and who merit selection will be considered against strict criteria . They will need to present a past record of good behaviour and the same positive prospects for the future. Needless to say, those who espouse a lifestyle which includes drugs, cigarettes, alcohol and their associated anti-social behaviours automatically eliminate themselves from contention.

Students will undertake a regimen of skills development and also a study of the theory of the chosen sport. "A busy schedule of competitive games will be planned and at least once during the year, students will play away from home in other centres both in Queensland and interstate." Working feverishly through a selection process,

Mr. **Virgil Gill** and Mr. **Gareth Hose** titrated an encouraging number of applicants to settle on an elite band of prospective achievers. The quota for this year will be 100 which will be extended in 2008.



Read out during a recent School Assembly were the following successful applicants.



A FAMILY AFFAIR - The Neal quintet looks as if it has a lengthy future secured at Djarragun in the years to come. (top) Munde, Chulkul, (bottom) Jessie, Wejun, Sharkiem

Mundrabny : Cadmus, Daniel, Shadrach **Gordon** : Ian, Zakeil, Jordan



Cousins (above) : **Andrew Oui, Obadiah Kris & TJ Gisu**

We can honestly revel in the extensive internal make-up of the school and the multi-cultural additives that compound the mixture. Within that blend are also heavy accents of clan groups - both nuclear families and the extended arms of tribal, totemic moieties.

An intriguing cosmopolitan society has been drawn together with an many a combination that time and imagination can afford. Throw into the circle a few set of twins, siblings amongst the staff and students alike and those who swap modalities from teacher by day to mother at night.

A being from a far, distant galaxy would press the emergency button trying to confirm identification to this motley crew. Youth at this school benefit from the actual interaction that occurs from a wide set of cultural values and practices. That it derives from a distinctly acknowledged minority highlights the unique, delicate but consolidated human tangram.



ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

The Knights won the overall challenge but a good time was had by all. Lots of different skills and knowledge were tested in the key learning areas - Maths, English, IT, Science and General Knowledge.

The Human Pyramid and Beat Box competition together with modern dancing kept the flow of humour going.

Ben Ingui and **George Mara**; **Phillip Brown** conducted the music for the whole affair and assumed the role of DC DJ.



SCHOOL LEADERS INDUCTION CEREMONY

"Seven Little Australians" took on added sentiments when a brave newly-formed troupe of our Aboriginal dancers opened the ceremony proceedings for the induction of school leaders. Congratulations to **Jared Fourmile, Kenneth Graham, Israel Graham, Noel Omeeny, Chulkul Neal, David O'Burns and Branxton Dick**. They were capably accompanied by didgeridoo-player, Alfred Pierce.



Others took the initiative to take advantage of the music and threw their efforts around in the Hip HOP Flip flop.

Djarragun Board of Directors : 2007

Mr Ted Scott - Chairman
Mr David Cantwell
Mr Brent Kelly
Mr Barry Osborne
Mr Daryl Martin
Ms Ruth Fagan
Mr John Wenitong
Ms Jean Illingworth

A warm welcome to members of the Board who convened for another meeting during the last week of the first term.

Given the amount of action that is continually taking place on campus, it is often overlooked that a dynamic group is behind the scene lending assistance and applying their individual forms of expertise to successful planning and construction projects.

Who would have known?

Someone on our staff has the blood of horses and bulls charging through the arteries.

Darwin rodeos drafted this dynamo for the bull rides. Station-owners installed the name of this bravado to their family histories. Wide open spaces are the kingdom for this master of the bovine world and secrets are almost as secure as the Bat Cave whereabouts.

Horses gave wide quarter but the bulls were unsuspecting victims to Rastus. The Man from Snowy River is reputed to have searched for this famous mentor but it is uncertain if paths ever crossed. Wild Bill Hickok fortunately closed down his operations in time for the entrance of this interloper. Unfortunately, this prospective candidate for bush ballad folklore had unloosed the sliprails and trotted towards anonymity, evidently finding greener pastures in a faraway agistment package and out of the public gaze. Until now.

The newly-inducted leaders included the Primary school office bearers, **Ralph Daniel** and **Patricia Tom** and the Head Boy and Head Girl of the Secondary School, **Uriel Matthew** and **Seba Bourne** and the respective Vice Captains, **James Akiba** and **Sophie Billy**. Other elected bearers are as follows :-

PREFECTS

George Mara; **Dennis Salee**; **Raymond Sagigi**, **Alick Passi**
Monica Fourmile (Yr. 11); **Kathrine Epsseg**; **Irene Daniel**;
Egana Daniel; **Esther Asai** (Yr. 11)

BOARDING

Boy Captain: **Benjamin Ingui** Vice Captain : **James Akiba**
Girl Captain : **Seba Bourne** Vice Captain : **Karen Noah**

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Boy Captain - **Jafar Croker**; Vice Captain - **Israel Graham**
Girl Captain - **Marcie Ambrym**; Vice Captain - **Alynta Murphy**

SPORTS

Captain : **Charlie Dau** Vice Captain : **Toshie Wigness**
Girls' Sport Captain : **Sainty Mabo**

YEAR 13 YOUTH MENTORS

Gandi Buie; **Maia Akiba**; **Alfred Pierce**; **Cathy Joe**

During her address, Principal **Ms Jean Illingworth** congratulated the recipients of the elected positions. She emphasized the necessity for the leaders to 'give from the heart' and to really understand the trust that has been afforded them.

In light of the scandals and intrigue that beset those who operate in political circles, it is an absolute commitment that each leader has chosen in the service of others.

Ms Jean also stressed how long it had taken this year for leaders to emerge and that each leader will still need to be vigilant against the ever-present influences of drugs, alcohol and crass, irresponsible behaviour. Djarragun College upholds vigorously the basic notion of 'Respect'



READING PROGRAMME - MIDDLE SCHOOL

A colossal task has been undertaken by Ms Jade Allgood to test the reading levels of all of the students in the Middle School. With quiet efficiency, Ms Jade had every student undertake the Neale test instrument so that

class groups could be developed with optimal results. Form Classes have engaged in a concerted effort to raise the reading levels of all with stimulating materials and an engaging process of reading dynamics. Reading circles are the order of the day and the established routine has shown benefits to the strugglers and impetus to the competent monitors in the class.



COMPUTERS

It's almost like 24 pause buttons, held in tight synchronization, are waiting to be released on the phalanx of flat-screen monitors just waiting to blink into action in the new term.

The IT sector has earned itself another workstation to which the Primary School can set up its 200 metre dash each lunch break. Land-speed records are set to topple this term, once lunch has been devoured and noses have logged into the covert scent of optic fibre cables.

It is said that some of our students have developed the homing capacities akin to migratory birds, and, at various lunch breaks, one can watch the flock swarm across the campus, unerringly negotiate its path through a touch football game in progress, and, deftly settle with studied concentration in front of computer screens. By the wild freak of nature, the phenomenon does not seem to entertain a reciprocal migration.

Traffic will soon necessitate strict pathway regulations and eventually the issue of official landing rights.

BOARDING MANAGER:

Mr. Kris Wheeler has taken to the task in fine style. He probably had it before Twinkle Toes got the name. Brandishing the most intricate set of footwork feints ever seen on a remodified cane paddock, Mr. Kris entrained mesmerized spectators to action that only Pele would exhibit if he joined the Harlem Globetrotters. Mind you, this was just a friendly game of staff versus students one sultry afternoon at school. What he does for real games can only be wondered. Welcome to our side, Mr. Kris.



MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT & ALIGNED DUTIES



Mr. Harry Tenni 'walks the walk and talks the talk' as far as the bus fleet goes. Keeping tabs on a demanding industry in its own right, Mr. Harry is partially busy with maintaining the good conditions and use of the College vehicles and, as well, he oversees the VET

programmes that operate through the school curriculum. So it's safe to quip that Mr. Harry has duties that are 'aligned' and 'maligned'.

The wear and tear on vehicles is part and parcel of the usage game. Whether it's graffiti, breakages or mystery dents, it is a difficult department to manage and not a job for which anyone would run a mile, but he's taken it on.

Some staff have been able to undertake the instructions to acquire Bus licences under his tutelage and direction. Mr. Harry - despite his constant, in-the-face distractions with the vehicle management- is still able to maintain that soft, gentle smile - one that one wouldn't quite trust on the face of Mr. Allan Edwards.

SCHOOL TEAMS - KNIGHTS, VIKINGS, WARRIORS

Late in the term, students were allocated positions into one of the above-mentioned teams for the friendly competitions that occur through the school year.

The ranks were subject to a major re-shuffle in order to make teams even. Family members were also divided to avoid sometimes very obvious sibling stranglehold of talents in particular fields of discipline.

The team competitions are not only in sporting contests but include other events such as Academic Challenge, cultural activities and Fun Day games.

START THE TERM PREPARED

FULL UNIFORMS

SCHOOL BAG

PEN / PENCIL POUCH

LEAVE JEWELLERY AT HOME

LEAVE MOBILE TELEPHONES AT HOME



The dancers generally are the focus of attention. Here are some of the accompanying singers (above). Kungandji dancers (below) face the crowd with confidence and determination.



Pick the cake!!

Seba Bourne and Uriel Matthew slice into the traditional sponge decorated with the College logo.

