



ACN 063 049 669

Maher Road, P.O. Box 771, Gordonvale, North Queensland 4865
tel. (07) 4043 3777 fax (07) 4056 6111 email admin@djarragun.qld.edu.au

website: <http://www.djarraguncollege.qld.edu.au>

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School Rover

Issue 02, March 07, 2008

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.”

Albert Schweitzer

INTERCONTINENTAL SPORTS EXPERIENCE



To a continent that is steeped in social and political upheaval, an ambassador from an obscure part of northern Australia ventured forward, brandishing a proud smile and an Aussie Rules football. As part of an Australian Indigenous youth team contingent, **Kieran Johnson** from Lockhart River had the

talents that gave him the opportunity to trample across some of the sporting turf of South Africa. It's rather a quantum leap from the days when a sporting venture was a trip from a remote community to the closest city when the stage is set nowadays for our athletes needing to be holders of a passport.

We all like to take pride over successes and grasp a little of the kudos but the best taste of elation should spring from the mouth of the man of the moment himself.

“We first went to Melbourne for the Indigenous Camp in late 2007 and four others from the Far North (Anzac Newman, Thomas Holland, Rex Liddy and Peter Yagmoor) were included in the team.

This was my first time overseas. I was a bit frightened but my family supported me and the Academy staff at school.

When I first saw a sight in South Africa, we went to see poor areas around Alexandra and the AIDS victims. We had to do clinics with all the South African kids. Later, we did our own training. We made friends with the other boys. We played three games against the same opposition team. We won all three. They had never played Australian Rules before.

We went to the Wildlife tour at night in four wheel drive vehicles. We saw rhinos, zebras, elephants, giraffes, baboons, wild dogs and hyenas.

Their meals were like ours here in Australia but their juices were different. They had to put all their used bottles back into the recycle.

We slept in the hotels in Johannesburg and Durban. We had to overnight with a Zulu family.

The best highlight for my trip was doing the clinics with the South African kids.”

Kieran Johnson

HOSPITALITY GRADUATION

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, five students from Djarragun College graduated from Rydges School of Hospitality with a Certificate III (Operations).

The students began their training in February 2007, attending Rydges Hotel every Tuesday during School terms. Every Tuesday, the school would provide these girls transport to and from Rydges. The girls would start at 1:00 p.m. and finish at 5:00 p.m.

After Rydges, they would be dropped off at their homes straight after their traineeship. These 5 indigenous girls were - **Cathy Joe, Marcella Matthew, Alphi Warriia, Monica Fourmile** and **Anai Ganaia**. The last four of these girls have continued and are studying Certificate IV.

Their commitments entail Practical Work, Assignments and Theory. They will continue to learn how to do table setting for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. In addition, they learn how to use coffee machines, carry three plates at a time and co-work with other students.
Marcella Matthew

WRITER'S CRAMP

Deadly Novel? By Leslie Sailor

Deadly Unna? is a novel written by Phillip Gwynne that has many Indigenous characters. I believe this makes the novel appealing not only for Indigenous youth but for adults as well. Deadly Unna? is a suitable novel for Indigenous students to read. The first reason is because it shows in the novel that friendship can overcome any barriers. The second reason is that it has a lot of slang words that are used by the author. Another reason is that Dumby Red, one of the main characters, does not care about all the racism that is going around. The last reason is no matter what their differences are, Blacky and Dumby are still loyal to each other and the footy team.

The reason why Blacky and Dumby had such a good friendship is because they had loved footy and didn't care as long as they were happy. They didn't care if one was black and the other was white because they knew no matter what people said they were good friends. The reason why it is good for Indigenous students to read about these types of friendships is because it helps them to understand that you don't have to be the same skin colour or come from the same background to be good friends.

Another reason I would recommend this novel to Indigenous students is because it has a lot of slang words used in it. The slang used in the novel makes it easy for us as Indigenous to understand because many of us use slang ourselves. Another reason why the slang words are good is because they are everyday words used in remote communities in Australia. Today in the world almost two thirds of Earth's population uses slang words.

The reason why racism is a really bad thing is because it is discriminating to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people living in Australia. In the novel a lot of racism is used but it doesn't seem to have an effect on Blacky or Dumby Red. The one thing in the whole book that really got me thinking about racism is the way that there are hardly any Indigenous people living in the Port but heaps out at Point, which is not an actual town but a mission. It was a good thing to start thinking of all the things that are lacking in a mission compared to a town and see the things that need to be changed.

Loyalty in the novel is the other reason I believe the novel is suitable for Indigenous students. Loyalty is such a good thing because if you are loyal and respectful to others then they will do the same to you. As for Indigenous students, some of whom are still learning to be loyal and trustworthy, it is hard because of what happened to their families many years ago. The stolen generation is the reason why some Indigenous students aren't loyal nor trustworthy of non-Indigenous students but not many Indigenous students are like that because no matter if they live in remote communities they have good teachers teaching them that are non-Indigenous.

Deadly Unna? Is a wonderful novel and I would recommend this novel to a lot of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. I like the way he has created the characters in the novel because they can relate to a lot of Indigenous students all across the country. In the book, Phillip Gwynne shows that there are a lot of problems in Australia, especially racism which many people face each day; but it can be overcome.

It's very satisfying to receive writings from students that give ready credit for their efforts. Congratulations, Leslie, for your contribution. Let's see others follow your penmanship.

ON THE GOOD SHIP, LOLLIPOP



Sandra Hunt in the school office administration has well and truly completed her probationary period. Welcome, Ms Sandra, to the land of the soft-shoe shuffle and the dervish skirmish.

Term 1 in any school is, by long tradition, the crazy season behind the Administration Reception desk. Now for the period of smooth sailing.

GYM EQUIPMENT & PROGRAMME

Congratulations to Mr. Steve who has been the driving force (and the hands on designer and builder) of the gym. He has cleaned and painted the floor (with some paint he managed to catch as it fell off the back of a truck) and new gym equipment arrived to refurbish the facility.

Unfortunately, in the past, the gym has been subject to hefty blows to the 'sola plexus'

MEASLES OUTBREAK

There has been a Measles outbreak in Cairns – at least, 3 people have been infected and have been to Cairns Central and Smithfield Shopping Centres amongst other places.

Please make sure your children are up to date with their vaccinations.

YOUTH SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR



My name is Molly Saunders and I am the Youth Support Co-ordinator at Djarragun College. My role is to inform, support and refer young people in high school who are at risk of disengaging from the senior phases of learning. This disengagement can be due to many issues including self esteem, family conflict, financial difficulty, low literacy/numeracy skills,

history of behavioural problems or problems with the police.

Support can be provided by: **Individual assistance**; one on one sessions with the young person; **Group Work**: a group of young people facing the same barriers to education participating in a program together to overcome these obstacles or: **Community Project**; community members/organisations working alongside young people to promote participation in education.

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact me either by phone - 0438 199 883

Or email – molly.saunders@centacarecairns.org

DJARRAGUN SPORTS ACADEMY

Hello to students, parents and staff.

My name is **Chelsea Thomas** and I would like to introduce myself as a new member of the Djarragun College Sports Academy.



I have joined the staff in the Academy as a qualified personal trainer to further develop interest and participation in sport and general fitness.

Currently, I am actively involved in a program called PEAR where I assist three other colleagues in promoting well-being and encourage student to be involved in physical activity such as pilates, gym circuits and general sports.

My other roles include working with the senior students as a senior net ball coach, fitness classes with the boarding school on Saturday mornings and assisting other colleagues at Djarragun College with my services.

I look forward to a wonderful year working with the students and staff and hope to pass on enthusiasm to all.

MAYORESS OF CAIRNS AWARDS

On Friday, 7th March, 2008, 3 Djarragun College students were awarded with Cairns Youth scholarships by the Mayoress of Cairns, Amanda Byrne, in a ceremony held at the Cairns City council chamber.

Marcella Matthew, Dale Edmond and Patrina Gordon were the happy recipients of these awards. The official ceremony lasted for about 40 minutes. The students received their scholarships in the presence of different school principals, Heads of Departments and parents. Later on, our winners were interviewed by 7 News and the Cairns Post.

There were 16 award winners from different schools around Cairns altogether totalling the sum of \$26,000 in scholarships. These scholarships are to assist in students' further education.

Mr. Shankaran was accompanied by **Ms Rowena, Mr & Mrs Matthew and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon** for this special presentation .

It was the first time that 3 Djarragun College students at the same time have won this award. Ms Byrne said that 185 scholarships had been handed out since the award was first established in 1993.

Congratulations to Marcella, Dale and Patrina. The staff and students of Djarragun College will witness a second presentation of their awards at the student leaders' induction ceremony on Tuesday, March 11.

OPENS RUGBY LEAGUE

The Djarragun College Opens Rugby League team sits atop their respective pool guaranteed a spot in the looming semi-finals. The boys have shown tremendous conduct and discipline during their games and have truly represented the college with esteem. They are led on the park superbly by **Patrick Vandenbroek, Toshie Wigness, Robert Amber and Alex Namai** while **Neil McGreen and Gareth Hobson** deserve a mention with recent head turning performances. Keep up the good work boys. Remember training on Mondays after the big lunch bell and lets keep things positive and ride the momentum all the way through the finals.

Andrew Hislop

SPORTING HEROES VISIT

A Rugby League contingent which included Matt Rogers and other Titans team players made a promotional visit to Djarragun on Friday 22nd Feb. between 9.30 - 10.30 a.m. (Photos next page)



**PREFECT INDUCTION
CEREMONY
TUESDAY, MARCH 11
ALL WELCOME
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

YEAR 10 LEADERS

The boys have elected **Alton Matthew** as Middle School captain and **John Gabey** as his vice captain. The girls' captain is **Lane Ingui** and the vice captain is **Zelma Kynuna**.



(L) **Matt Rodgers** meets **Lielo Torney**
Above - **Namai Passi** presented a football
Keen fans collect autographs
Neil McGreen receives his football