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School Rover

Issue 04, March 13, 2009

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A bird does not sing because he has an answer, he sings because he has a song. ~ Chinese proverb

DRIVE 4 LIFE

STRUCTURED LEARNING PROGRAM

Congratulations to **Martina Sands** who completed her Learn to Drive course with an impressive 99% score. To add to her credit, Martina drove in the point by achieving her goal on the very first attempt. Who's sitting in the driver's seat now?



An added bonus to the College's facilities is the addition to the small fleet of Learn to Drive hardware. The demure piece of car assembly is about to enter another phase of its existence. Probably quite unforeseen from the time it left the assembly line, our Suzuki Swift is about to get its fair share of sweaty hands, trembling bodies and indecisive footwork shunting it into every inconceivable manner of motion, stall and suspension.

Who knows? Maybe one of the future instructors is already at our doorstep!!



Leroy Kris & Mr. Harry Tenni present wry grins of confidence to console the unsuspecting Suzuki Swift

International Women's Day (IWD)

IWD Colours: Purple = Dignity; Green = Hope;

White = Purity of purpose

Purple, green and white streamers and balloons, a wonderful breakfast and a room full of women and girls, add to this an inspirational speaker and the celebration of IWD at Djarragun was a great success.

The speaker was Fiona Doyle Oochunung, a writer, performer and teacher educator. Her traditional affiliation is Wik (Apalich), Alngith/Wikwaya, Mbaiwum/Trotj nations of Western Cape. Fiona spoke to the Yr 10-13 girls about her own background and challenged them not to let anything stop them achieving their goals in life. She also reminded us older women that it is never too late to do what you want to do. Many thanks to Fiona for giving us her time and wonderful energy.

Congratulations to **Tyson Smiler** of Year 8 for winning the IWD quiz held in the Middle School which required the names of the above colours and their meanings. Now, isn't it amazing the areas of knowledge our boys have tucked away! Tyson received a Tuckshop voucher for one of our now famous meals.



YOUTH FORUM

Last month, nine Years 11 & 12 students attended the Australian Youth Forum at the Cairns Central Cinema.

Elizabeth Gebadi and **John Gabey** take to the drawing board

during one of the brainstorming sessions. This forum gave the opportunity to speak about violence and safety in our community and have our opinions heard by the Minister for Youth. On the day, they were linked via satellite to the other forums that were occurring simultaneously all over the country.



SENIORS TO THE POLL

PAUL WALIT : Good morning, fellow Senior students and teachers. My name is **Paul Walit** and I am a Senior student this year. I am running for Head Boy's position.

WHY VOTE FOR ME?

I am responsible, reliable, trustworthy, honest with a positive attitude.

I have been a Sports Captain in Touch Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union already.

As you know, I have talents in cultural dancing too.

Vote for me and I will try my best to be the change needed in this campus.

Thank you.



MARCIE AMBRYM : Good morning, my fellow students and staff. My name is

Marcie Ambrym and I come from Yarrabah. Before I go on, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land we stand on today. My journey at Djarragun College began in 2005. I was in Year 8 at the time. I was young and all of my primary years were spent in NSW, mostly around non-indigenous people.



When I came to Djarragun, I had never seen so many different indigenous people learning together in one school. Over those 5 years, I have seen this school change, getting better every year. All the staff at the school do a tremendous job at helping us to succeed in life everyday.

I hope I can get the change to help too if you choose me to be Head Girl. My values are responsibility, loyalty, manners, respect and acceptance.

I know if I do get the chance to be Head Girl for 2009, my mentors and teachers would have high expectations of me to give every challenge that comes my way 100%. However, remember, I am not in this school alone. You, all my fellow students could help a lending hand and we can all do it together and make the environment around us a healthy, happy place so we can all show everyone how great our school is. I will do my best and try to fulfil your needs and help. For example, I would like to bring more variety of food in the canteen, more sitting areas, a big playground for all of Primary and heaps more. Just tell me what you would like and I promise to you I will try my best to make it happen.

Thank you for listening to my speech and considering me as Head Girl for 2009.

SHAKIRA THAIDAY : Good morning, Ms Jean, teachers and my fellow students. Before I start, I would like to take a minute to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land we are gathered on here today. Hi, my name is Shakira Thaiday and I am running for Head Girl. I am an Aboriginal a& Torres Strait Islander and I live over the range in Yarrabah.

I feel I would be a good leader because I have experienced being a leader at my previous school, Yarrabah State High School aka Yarrie High. I am an honest reliable person and I am respectful to all students and staff. I am also committed to Djarragun College and my education. This makes me a good role model for students as I will encourage others to attend school, focus on their goals and find employment.

If you elect me, I will do whatever I can to make our school safer, healthier, enjoyable and more deadly. My first goal is to create more shady places around the school where students can relax and enjoy their maiyee or in other words, lunch with their friends. I would also like to raise enough money for Seniors to have lockers for their books and bags. My final goal is to ensure there is more of a variety of healthy food at the dining hall.

I will also make sure that all students problems are heard and addressed. One problem I would like to address in the school is the issues with buses. I would like to ensure that each bus has at least one student monitor to monitor and report on behaviour and ensure the safety of students and the driver. I would also like to propose harsher consequences for students who make the buses unsafe, like community service.

As Head girl, I will always represent my fellow students and help in whatever ways I can I will be available to help students with their school at home problems and give advice to those who may not feel comfortable talking to a teacher. I will be happy to take your suggestions and ideas to student council meetings and make them happen.

A vote for me is a vote for action. Thank you. **Shakira Thaiday**



TONYA LUDWICK : Good morning, staff and fellow students. Before I begin my speech, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land which we are gathered on here today. Hi. My name is Tonya Ludwick. I'm a Senior student and this is my second and graduate year at Djarragun College. During my time here, I have enjoyed studying with my peers and making new friends.

I live and travel from Yarrabah each day by bus and this takes about half an hour to get to school. On this bus trip, I think about all my responsibility during the day and things I would like to accomplish.

I want to be a leader because I want to show an example to my fellow students. To help them make right decisions, help them with their problems they may face at school and to help them build a better future by thinking about positive things.

The important thing I would like to accomplish is to further my education and succeed. I would also like to be a good role model towards my fellow students during and after school.

If I get elected as your Head Girl, I would like to improve the attendance of all students at his college. I would do this by encouraging students to attend more often and talk to them about the problems that are affecting them from their learning.

I also would like to help create more opportunities for families and parents to be involved in their child's education. By having more open cultural activity days and involving parents when doing fundraising.

For students, I will do my best to provide more lunch time activities games and have more choices of healthy variety at the tuckshop.

I know that I have the knowledge and skills to help make Djarragun a fun and learning environment for all of us. I would like you all to consider voting for me to be your Head Girl for this college because I have good leadership skills. I'm a respectful, well-mannered person and committed to being a good student.

I have past experience in leadership roles and I know what is expected of me. If you're wanting a good leader to represent you and this school, vote for me. **Tonya Ludwick**



ISOBEL WARE : Good morning Ms Jean staff and students, my name is Isobel Ware, I am from Moa Island, Mabuiag and Mer Island. I have been a student here for 15 months. I would like to be Head Girl because I can show many good leadership skills and attributes. I would be a good leader for this school because I can help my fellow students and teachers with anything and stand up for what is right. Before I start my leadership speech,, I acknowledge the traditional land owners of this land that we stand on today.

If I am elected as Head Girl, I promise students I will help and encourage them to finish what they have started, be a good friend, be an example and do what is best for them in many aspects. I will also get involved with academic studies, sports and school programs that are offered. I'd like to change the Senior students to be the best that they can be, so we all can be leaders in our different ways that we show leadership skills and attributes. Some leaders can show the leadership in culture, sports, school/classes , academic challenges and in many other aspects.

As a student here for over a year, I see the need for technology in the classrooms, so when the teachers have classes they could switch on the projectors to teach the students then go down to the auditorium. I will make sure that we fundraise so it'll be possible to have four projectors - one for each Senior classroom. I notice there are teachers that need help with fundraising, activities, school work or anything that they are in need of a help. As Head Girl, I will co-ordinate a group of students to be a helping hand for the teachers in any big event or just to help the teachers in any way. One problem I would like to address in the school is the punctuality. Well, in regards to school uniform and the bus lines of the students, with myself as Head Girl and the new student council, we can fix this by making a group of students to go out into classes to checklist the students in incorrect uniform, those who are late and ask the leaders of the school to make a roster duty so we all can take turns sorting out the bus lines. So that way, everyone can go on the bus safely rather than to push past in the little Prep kids.

In conclusion, I would like to say that if you vote for me, I will do my best to be a great representative for my fellow students and the college.



CERTIFICATE III in HEALTH SERVICE ASSISTANCE

Ms Barbara is currently conducting this course :-
My name is **Barbara Deery** and this year, I am excited to bring a new skills training package to Djarragun. This course is Certificate III in Health Service Assistance and provides a range of essential skills and knowledge for healthcare workers who provide support to the staff who care for clients/patients in the hospital environment.

Working as a healthcare assistant

Healthcare assistants can work within hospital or community settings under the guidance of a qualified healthcare professional. The role can be very varied depending upon the area in which the person is employed. There are many employment opportunities for health support staff in public and private hospitals, health care services and aged care facilities. Job roles include health support worker, patient services assistant/attendant, ward assistant and orderly.

The course will provide the foundations of health care, anatomy and physiology, medical terminology and client/patient care. With this foundation, students may then move on to further studies in the health industry. Already, without meeting the full class, the wonderful students that I have met include 2 x future doctors, 2 x future nurses; 2 x future midwives; 2 x future indigenous Health Workers wanting to take their knowledge home to their islands and communities and 1 x future neuro (brain) surgeon. WOW !! how exciting is that? so, I'm sure we can look forward to an exciting and fun filled year of new beginnings and I look forward to getting to know you all better and being part of the Djarragun team.

Barbara Deery, TAFE teacher
Health Services Assistance

Company: Heulab PTY LTD

Mark Christensen recently visited the school to provide some workshopping and support service for the implementation of his software into our school programme :-

"I have been doing PD sessions with teachers involved in the ISQ Math program. Teachers incorporate the math continuum and our software "Fun With Construction" complements this. The software is non-content based so it encourages students to create their own knowledge and represent problems in a graphical manner. The students find answers and solutions through exploratory learning.

Another advantage of this particular type of software is that it allows teachers to use it as a demonstration tool and as it is non-content based and manipulatable, the teacher is not restricted a set of answer types. They are free to use the tools to explain the concept in their own way.

We hope by using the software in conjunction with the ISQ Math Continuum, students will increase their ability in open ended thinking and tackle problems at a higher cognitive level. They will gain the ability to think about problems in new ways and construct their own knowledge and methods of solving problems."
mark@heulab.com

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NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK IS ON THE MOVE

It's time to celebrate our local young people!

This year the Cairns Youth Network is presenting ON THE MOVE, a series of arts and cultural events as part of National Youth Week 2009. National Youth Week is the single largest celebration of young people in Australia. Thousands of young people aged 12-25 all across Australia get involved in NYW each year. NYW 2009 will take place from 28 March to 5 April 2009.

This community initiative, sponsored by VPG and Centacare, provides young people from across the Cairns region, opportunities to participate in a variety of arts and cultural activities where they can have lots of fun, share ideas and also have their voices heard on issues of concern to them. Activities include:

- Devising their own Hip Hop routines and Beat Boxing tunes with Bert Anderson and James Elmer
- Developing visual arts skills with the REACH Team
- Participating in Creative Writing with Victoria Carless
- Interacting in Circus workshops with 'Northern Circus Alliance'
- Participating in acoustic Drumming with 'Drum Up Big'
- Interacting in Body Percussion and Street Theatre with The Young Company
- Participating in Skateboarding demos with Adam Walker

The events will also give young people from across the region an opportunity to have their voices heard on issues of concern to them through The Young Company's, Think Tank which will be facilitated by young people for young people.

The Cairns Youth Network's, ON THE MOVE, National Youth Week event will run from 30 March 2009 – 5 April 2009 with events in South Cairns, West Cairns, Northern Beaches and Cairns City:

On the Move South Cairns

Ravizza Park , Ravizza Road Edmonton
Monday 30th March from 4pm – 6pm.

On the Move West Cairns

Shang Park Shang St, Mooroolool
Tuesday 31 March from 4pm – 6pm.

On the Move Northern Beaches

Coast Watchers Park Trinity Beach
Wednesday 1 April from 4pm – 6pm.

On the Move Cairns City

City Place
Sunday 5 April from 2pm – 5pm.

The Cairns Youth Network actively promotes the participation of young people in their communities and in local government and encourages all Queenslanders to participate in Youth Week by attending one of the many events planned throughout the region.

Further details for ON THE MOVE can be found on The Young Company's website www.theyoungcompany.com.au.

Leigh Boswell and Sarah Boule

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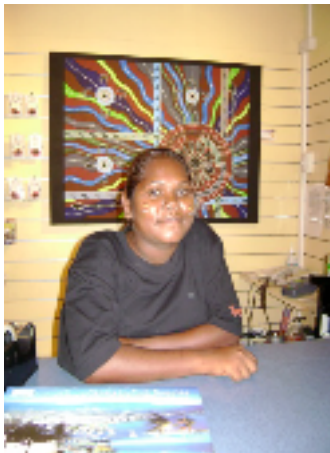
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Tjapukai Trainees



(above) Florence Griven makes a sale to a happy customer;
(below centre) Leonie Sands seems very comfortable in the Retail



February 10th saw 13 Djarragun Grade 11 students at Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park for an Orientation Day. These students had been selected to be part of a school-based traineeship in Tourism. They have instruction for their Certificate on site for 2 hours / week and the remainder of the day is spent in participation in the many aspects of running this Award Winning tourist park. This is a joint venture between Tjapukai, National Institute of Training (RTO) and QLD Apprenticeship



(above) Harley Thaiday has something to sizzle;
(top r.) Jamie Patterson & Layla Dodd keep the cutlery and china shining;
(r.) Pauletta Yeatman with a feed for Aust. Post



Services (QAS) to give Senior students a head start in the world of work.

The students were excited to see the different operations of the park and wondered where they would be placed. We had time to feed the turtles floating peacefully in the lake, watch the Skyrail bubbles passing overhead and try our hand at boomerang and spear throwing! The afternoon was spent completing paperwork, applying for keycards, receiving uniforms and digesting the many aspects and ethics of this new work environment. We left excited and anxious about our first day next week.

The following week saw the students in uniform and placed in various locations around the park: **Zelma Kynuna** - Operations; **Pauletta Yeatman** - Administration; **Christine Noble**; **Douglas Graham**; **Francelle Fourmile** - Bookings; **Hayley Thaiday** - Kitchen; **Florence Griven**; **Leonie Sands & Jahnesta Beard** - Retail; **Layla Dodd**; **Jamie Patterson**; **Kiarni Sexton** - Restaurant; **Brittany Stallwood** (down with dengue fever).

Every five weeks the students change departments to learn skills for multiple roles. Tjapukai takes ten of the students on Tuesdays and the other three on Fridays. This is a 12 month placement and we look forward to seeing all of them graduate at the end of the year.

(l) Harley Thaiday, Florence Griven; Layla Dodd; Jamie Patterson; Christine Noble & Zelma Kynuna gather round the table to settle their plan of action for the day.

