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School Rover

Issue 12, July 31 , 2009

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"If you hit a road block, help someone else to the other side." Michelle Ustaszeki

Term 3 has brought with it a swathe of staff changes to both the Djarragun and Wangetti campuses. One could be forgiven for encountering a slight sensation of disorientation when confronted with a sea of new faces. Thankfully, a couple of days of rigorous staff inductions cracked the ice for both new and old hands to the school. Welcome all, to yet another exciting leaf of the Djarragun storybook.

Students seeped back onto the campus and on Day 1, some members of staff with a few attending students made courtesy visits to the various suburbs to post the gentle reminder that school had recommenced for the Term. In years past, the start for

the Term has always found a large number of our students willingly lured by the wiles of the Cairns Show. This year, the College break was extended to avoid the depletion of numbers.

Congratulations to the Primary School students who consistently front up with healthy class rolls from beginning to the end of each term.

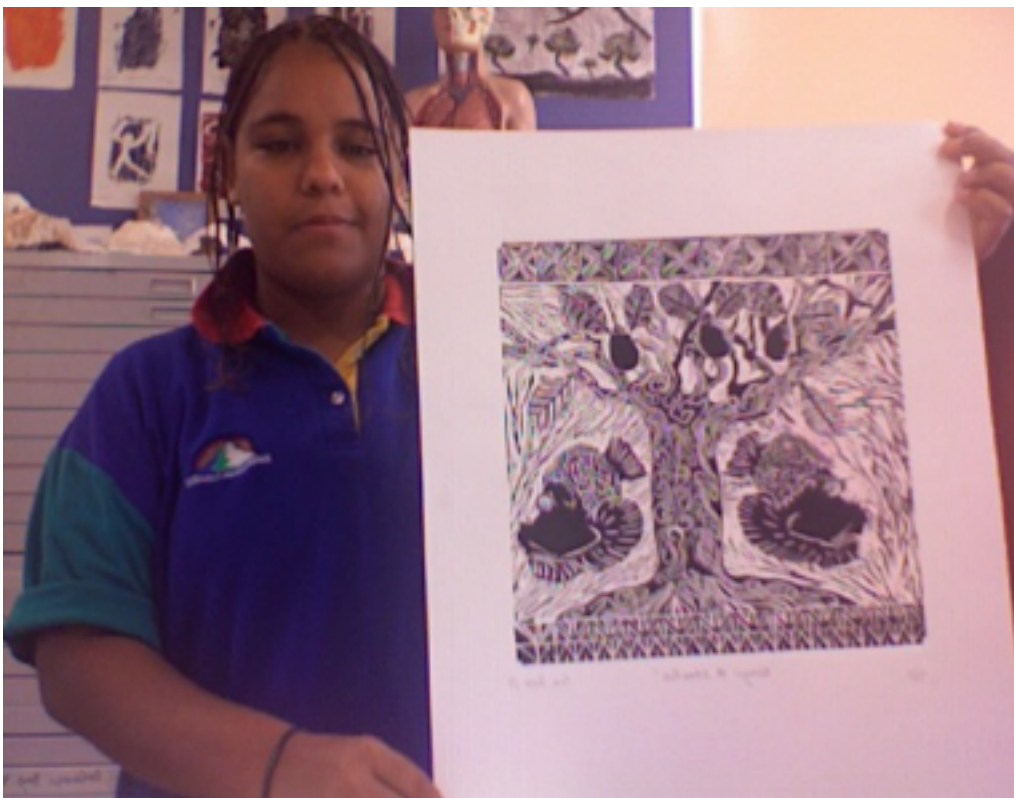
The programme kicked off in its unrelenting fashion and the football field saw three matches during the first week - one a Japanese schoolboy side, another from Innisfail and the third representing St. Andrew's College.

ART 'N' SOUL

Taicee Pearson :
Already the recipient of previous awards, **Taicee**, for her rap music and artistic flare, has successfully sold paintings she had exhibited in the Thursday Island Cultural Centre.

Her mentor, Mr. **Warren Eyre** commented on the recent success -

"Taicee entered a piece of art (lino print) titled "Wongai and Stonefish" in the Gab Titui Art Awards 2009 (covering the Torres Strait). Taicee was entered in the secondary schools section and received a high commendation. Her artwork subsequently went on to become one of the most popular amongst gallery visitors and Gab Titui have ordered 10 copies for immediate sale!"



MS JUNE CHAN

After having served a sentence which thankfully wasn't 'for the term of her natural life', Ms June spread the wings of freedom and fled the Djarragun nest.

Apparently, quite content to allow the dust to settle around her, **Ms June** surrendered life in the fast lane for comparative boredom, ease and, possibly, serendipitous leisure.

Gone are the days of calamitous voices, incessant telephone ringing, the rifling of papers and perennial clatter of the keyboards, scratching of fax machines and jingling of keys.

Ensconced within the school for the majority of its primal evolutionary period, few know better the turbulent history of the College. Workers of her calibre simply take on challenges as daily bread and butter exercises which energize them to rapacious hunger for even more.

For her entire term of service, **Ms June** was always one of the 'hidden factors' to the College matrix. Originally, as one of the original crew familiarly referred to as 'The Three Musketeers' in the Administration Block, Ms June dabbled with the massive reams of paperwork. Requisition forms, pay slips, orders, payments, time sheets, notices, financial transactions, customer ledger documentation, statements and hopefully, at the end, balance. All of this was hoisted onto the capable shoulders of our all-round composite of Lady Luck, Madame Justice and Wonder Woman.

Nobody really can sustain such a gruelling workload unless endowed with an empowering passion. Thank you, **Ms June** for the years of unflappable devotion, the staunch application and unfailing availability - a living Anzac. There are some of us still remaining who stand to remember.



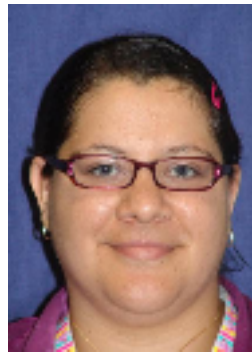
'LOST' IN THE HURLY BURLY

Almost as integral to the campus setting as the Djarragun hill, our revered Mr. Ludo remains an absent figure from his usual haunt in the Mac Lab. Our latest image of him reveals considerable development in the order of physicality and someone may need to speak to him about the dangers of steroid addiction. Supporting the weight of the Sydney Harbour Bridge on his shoulders might also prove a futile exercise.



MS JADE ALLGOOD

What's in a name? Our thoughts to **Ms Jade** who has taken refuge in a Hospital bed for an operation that will see her out of the normal fun and games at school for the beginning of this Term. Here's hoping for a speedy recovery and the return to the brighter side of the Medicare card.



SINGH FAMILY

Congratulations to Mr. **Rudra Singh** and his wife for the arrival for their new baby girl. With sombre irony, we proffer condolences for the sad loss of Mr. Rudra's mother who had been visiting from Fiji to welcome this same new grandchild into the Singh clan.



Ms Stella Mara, Tali Tabuai, Ned Ingui & Ms Peggy Chigeza strike a pose during their 'coffee break' under the new shop sign created by Mr. Joe Tamburini

HOSPITALITY

Tali Tabuai and **Ned Ingui** are stoked up to meet their next level of challenge in Sydney. Their traineeship in Hospitality has them committing themselves to working in a Motel Resort in the territory of the Manly Sea Eagles. Whether they are about to change allegiances remains to be seen but the opportunity is both slightly daunting but also exciting.

To date this year, both have been honing up their skills in the same College Coffee Shop that the Prime Minister's wife will be feting next month. Good luck to both.

RUGBY LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES - GIRLS

Philomena Fuid & Elaine Matthew trekked down to Townsville to contest in the trials for the Queensland Schoolgirls' side in Rugby League.

Elaine throws a bit of light on the weekend adventure.

"On Saturday, three students got selected for the Cairns side. **Philomena** got selected for the FNQ side. Only four girls from Cairns got into the side. Most of the others were from Townsville.

Our coach was Tania Davis."





(above) The teams pose for the occasional photo shoot
(below) Meiwa High School students at 'shake-a-leg'



MEIWA HIGH SCHOOL RUGBY UNION TEAMS

Taito Higashizake stirred the capillaries of his teammates when he led them through the first Japanese version of a haka on the Djarragun stage. Four teams engaged in two closely contested matches to entertain the available spectators and surprise each other with unexpected skills.

The under 16 match was snapped up by the gallant Meiwa side in a tantalizing close score of 14 - 12. The Djarragun Under 18 side eventually took control of an elegant tussle between equally persistent pacemen from either sides. Newcomer to the school, **Norman Akiba** stamped his presence with a hat-trick of tries which probably lifted the bar out of reach of the opposition players.

Level-pegging was the nature of the game for the predominant part of the match. The Japanese players showed a fine range of skills and were obviously well skilled in the general run of play in the rucks and line-outs. The really telling feature for the Djarragun side was its ability to take advantage of the loose ball and any semblance of a gap in the defence line. Both sides had the ability to strike at one end of the field and effect quick penetrative passages into the opposition half.

Alex Namai invariably poses a threat to the opponents and his loping gallop down the sideline or across field is a likely indication that the scoreboard is about to change.

The afternoon assembly treated the visitors with a welcome dance from our Aboriginal troupe and some Island dance routines by girls from the Top Western Torres Strait Islands.

Gifts were exchanged and the best players awards presented to winners in both teams. Sturdy looking body pads were also given as gifts to Djarragun and was a ready testament to why the Meiwa boys were a set of such powerful contestants. Hopefully, this is the first of a possible sporting tradition with Japanese teams.



(above) The Under 16s clinch a tight international tussle

School Clinic

The College Medical Centre is fully functioning.

- o Clinic hours are from 0800 - 1600 hours Monday-Friday
- o Appointments can be made from 0815 onwards
- o The first appointment time will be at 0845
- o The last appointment is 2.45p.m.
- o The centre will be closed for lunch from 1pm -1.30 p.m.
- o A message bank will be implemented for messages outside these times



The clinic will take emergencies as a priority, and other appointments may be delayed or be required to be rescheduled for the following day.

ALL day students are to attend class first and be signed off on the roll. The heads of departments can then schedule appointments at their discretion, by phoning the clinic. Boarding parents can make appointments on behalf of their clients.

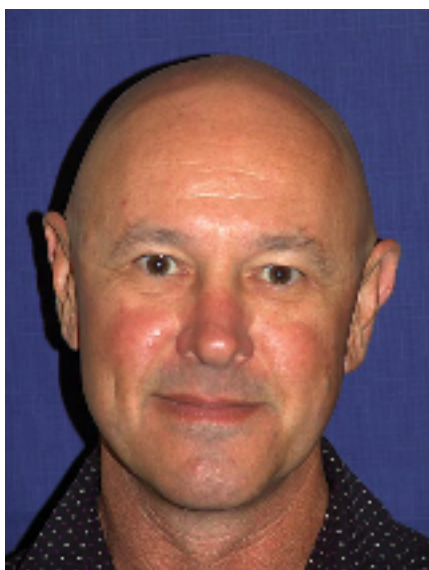
All students are to have an appointment. We are hoping that this will enable the medical centre to see students in an orderly manner.

Sue Rayner

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF

Peter Bachelor – Head of Djarragun Campus
Mathew Curtis – Assistant Principal of Secondary (including VET)
Dee Wells – English/ Health teacher Senior School
Frances Graham – Business teacher/work place literacy
Daniel Costigan – Furniture Making teacher
Kim Van Kempen – Middle School teacher
Michelle Hill – Learning Support teacher – Middle and Senior School
Paul Kebble – Manager of the Cyber Lab and New Technologies in the Curriculum including Learning Support
Donna Turnbull -psychologist/counsellor
Dan Niemerg – Head of Wangetti Campus
Mark Shrimpton – Manager in Boarding
Richard Savage – Boarding Supervisor
Nindra Samrai - Nurse Manager Wangetti Health Centre
Sue Rayner - Nurse Manager who is based in the Health Centre
Rachel Bailetti - school counsellor who is based in the Middle School block counselling rooms.
Donna Turnbull - school psychologist based in the Health Centre.
Angela Whitehead - Volunteers every Monday in the Primary school as counsellor.
Anthony Lupi - Voluntarily giving us six weeks of his time to get the 21st Century school really working and supporting College leadership programmes.
Ian and Edith Davenport - new boarding supervisors
Nic Hoogenbosch - Guidance Officer for Djarragun secondary - Truancy/ attendance/youth - justice/ABSTUDY
Adam Piszczuk - Guidance Officer Wangetti
Vicky Thomas - Boarding Supervisor Wangetti
Mark Shrimpton - Boarding Manager Wangetti
Richard Savage - Boarding Supervisor Wangetti

We farewell and wish the following staff all the best -
Ken Duncan, Laura Steel, Irene Whelan, Paula Burns and **Leanne Standen** from Djarragun and **Simon Cotton, Lorraine and Ned Gabey** from Wangetti.
Uncle Tony Eseg has taken leave for the rest of this term.



Mr. Simon Cotton

Now taking the path of the mountain goat each day, **Mr. Simon** has crossed Trinity Inlet and head across to Yarrabah where he had taken up the position of Principal.

We thank “Mr. Spike” for his time spent at Djarragun and then the brief spell at Wangetti and we wish him well in the new role on the other side of the Yarrabah Ranges.



DJARRAGUN MUSIC ROOM

The long-awaited Djarragun Music Room has finally risen a few octaves above ground zero. Progressive bands over the years have had to suffer the annual game of ‘musical wheres’. Like the wandering troubadours of old, the moved nearly as often as the change of G-strings. Now, the musos have scored a piece of quaver land, basically for the price of a song or two.

The added metal reinforcements, we understand, is one method of effecting a different type of sound barrier.



CISCO

Mr. Anthony Lupi (CISCO): Welcome to **Mr. Anthony Lupi** who is on site for the next six or so weeks to harness the communication system installed in the school through the generous support of the CISCO company. Access to the state of the art technologies in computer and communication facilities projects Djarragun into the School of the Future arena. At an induction address to the staff last week, **Mr. Anthony** revealed that the system appeared to work during the weekend when he was testing it and surmised that it did so in the absence of the students and the staff. He is currently applying other strategies and seeking out an acceptable alternative arrangement.

Wuchopperen Community Family Fun Day celebrating the
National Aboriginal & Islander Children's Day

and also the launch of our newest service,

the **Australian Nurse Family Partnerships Program.**

Friday 7th August
10am - 3pm

@ Wuchopperen Health Service