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School Rover

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER:

"How far you go in life depends on you being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these."

"HOUSE THAT !!"

Imagine the challenge - Build a house in fifteen working days. Consider the manpower - thirteen adolescents. Calculate the immensities - indigenous youth, trade skills, concerted effort, professional standards, manual labour, precision assembly, time management and team endeavour.

A structure materialized out in the middle distance where horses and wallabies grazed. A house took shape with the unbelievable aim of completion set at a fortnight. This project itself attracts a fairytale dimension because the prodigious workers are none other than our boys from the Back on Track programme.

"BACK ON TRACK" is emblazoned on their T-shirt front and "EXPRESS LANE" could well complete the theme on the back.



They are probably better known for operating largely out of sight and are usually lumped under the mysterious acronym of BOT Construction team -

Alan Tranby, Jeraymas Myngha, Raymond Cooktown, Wusang Guligo, Tim Tipoti, Leroy Kris, Edward Nawakie, Allan Ambrym, Newman Billy, Glen Gibson, Arthur Ludwick, Clifford Ambrym & Keith Ambrym.

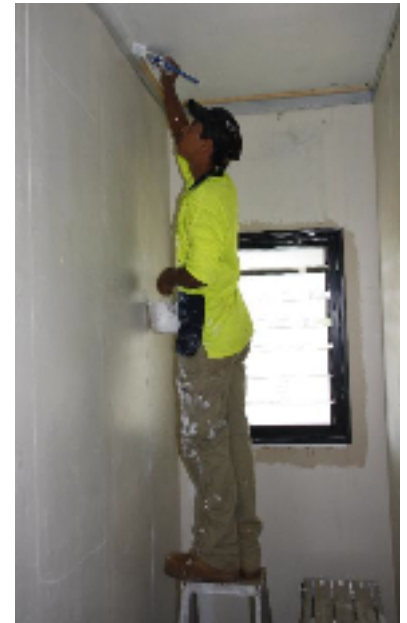


These guys have already earned considerable praise by previously expediting projects around town and up at the College Wilderness Centre. They beat hands-on tasks hands down. The tested and proven calibre of these guys rendered passe the current ambitious challenge.

Almost in the blink of an eye, the prototype of future possibilities stood staunchly to brave the elements of the approaching tropical summer.

(above) Standing proud - some of the team : Jeraymas Myngha, Glen Gibson, Mr. Rob McBride, Alan Tranby & Raymond Cooktown.

(left) Remote Housing is set to receive a major makeover with the introduction of instant homes



(above & clockwise) Wusang Guligo setting a stable paint platform; 2 The decking gets decked for the official opening; 3 Alan Tranby putting the finishing touches; 4 Raymond Cooktown & Alan Tranby settle for a bit of 'in-house' talking with Petrina Villaflor.



(above) Local resident, 'Bronco' succumbed to a couple of our Horse Whisperers and allowed Alan Tranby a cheap ride in return for the excellent stall that was being thrown together for him.

The boys kept up a strict regimen of committed work to assemble the various components of this kit house. Days extended to normal work hours rather than school periods. One could justifiably surmise that homework became an all-day affair. Some reckon that when things

came to a crunch, the BOT boys could get all their information straight from the horse's mouth. Since all their other horses were wooden, it was a welcome break for the equine-minded to dally around a pack of real horsepower at horseplay time.



Mr. Rob McBride, Mr. Shane Cockerell & Mr. David Taylor-Booth - 'Three Coins in the Fountain' - and their wishes came true. Crew supervisors for this scheme took to the project with a passion. Such ventures always are successful when those at the helm are job-driven, focussed and committed. Their personable natures provided the necessary magnetism that melded the group. The building was a labour of love because this was one major contract in which the BOT boys could showcase their skills and create a trophy for themselves in the process.

The whole project filtered from the approach by Mr. **John Benson**, (left) Manager of Remote Housing, Australia, who sought the recruitment of a team of workers who could learn to assemble kit homes. These homes were designed for remote area communities in the Cape and Torres Strait Islands.



The scheme was to induct a team which could then supervise the erection of homes



in the remote communities. **Mr Rob McBride** enthusiastically welcomed the opportunity vouching that Djarragun had students with the skills to successfully tackle such a project.

Ms **Petrina Villaflor** (Skills 360) facilitated the indigenous Schoolbased Apprenticeship programme. She works in conjunction with Mr. Rob McBride at Djarragun by employing **Raymond Cooktown, Alan Tranby & Jeraymas Myngha** as apprentices who then are based at the school for the first year of the apprenticeship. After that, they are transferred out into mainstream construction work with another employer.



"This has been the most fantastic project that I have been associated with. The boys not only gained construction skills but life skills and by the end of the programme, they were standing ten feet tall," commented a proud Mr Rob.

"Boys like **Jeraymas Myngha, Raymond Cooktown, Glen Gibson, Alan Tranby & Wusang Guligo** were the shining lights to the project. They were there for the complete duration - start to finish. Wusang beaming face showed how proud he was of the complete operation."

The rest is now history and by mid-November, Santa had another chimney to climb down for the festive season.



BARRAMUNDI SCHOOL DAYS ARE OVER

Barramundi farmed by students at Djarragun College as part of a TAFE aquaculture training program was harvested on Tuesday, December 01. Principal, Ms Jean Illingworth (right) held out her special fish finger for the first catch of the day that will make its way to a gourmet meal. The barra were grown from hatchlings by Year 10, 11 and 12 students undertaking

Certificate II in Seafood Industry (Aquaculture) training delivered on-site at the Indigenous school under a partnership with Tropical North Queensland TAFE. The harvest is bound for the training restaurants of TAFE which will use the barra in a cooking competition for apprentice chefs.



Mr. Joe Coco (tutor), Branxton Dick, Luke Reyment, Mr. Shane Cockerell, Craig Waldon, Thomas Mundraby, Grayson Hart & Ms Jean Illingworth pose at the attached hydroponics station.

As part of the aquaculture plant, the filtration is assisted by channelling the water through a hydroponics set-up. The plants remove the nutrients and the water returns to the fish ponds.



Grayson Hart, Branxton Dick, Luke Reyment, Mr. Shane Cockerell, Thomas Mundraby & Craig Waldon set up the ice slurry to chill the fish

TAFE proudly works in partnership with Djarragun College to offer the aquaculture training program to students. The aquaculture training program aimed to provide students with vocational skills and qualifications which could help find employment. This training will make the students more employable and also gives them the opportunity to contribute to community aquaculture enterprises when they return home.

TAFE has been delivering aquaculture training at Djarragun College using a \$100,000 mobile facility, one of the first of its type in Australia. The facility can be disassembled and packed into two shipping containers for transportation.

Students who have been keenly engaged in this special task force probably were in two minds about parting from their carefully nurtured clients. Some, like Luke Reyment and Branxton Dick (right) had the look of stunned mullets themselves at the prospects of netting their charges for an imminent demise.



Mr. Joe Coco shows the thermometer reading for the ice slurry. At the fish harvest, Mr. Joe Coco explained the practice of forming an ice slurry so that the captured fish would be 'anaesthetized'. This is a humane procedure that reduces any amount of stress to the fish.



It's all smiles above as Luke Reyment, Craig Waldon & Thomas Mundraby proudly display one that didn't get away under the watchful eye of Mr. Shane Cockerell. Congratulations, guys. This is the success end of a project that had its setbacks along the way, namely, a fire in the fuse box and then a mystery bacterial infection in the water.



SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER

Well-wishing the residents at the Gordonvale Retirement Village, Djarragun Primary students spread their brand of Christmas cheer. Our band of choristers chortled its way into the ears and hearts of our elderly neighbours.

George Dorante (left) flashes his wait-awhile smile to deadly effect



Head of Primary(**top right**), **Ms Michelle Garside** put the 45 strong student choir through its Yuletide paces once again in perfect readiness for Donner und Blitzen, Dasher und Dancer.....

Photoshop maestro, **Mr. Ludo Kuipers** was, as ever, ready and waiting in the wings (so to speak) to capture the sources of those angelic strains.

The choir sang 'The Music is Everything' which was part of a nationwide competition called Music - Count Us In.

Students presented hand-made cards and joined the residents with refreshments of cake and a drink. Ms Michelle was so proud of the students because they sang so energetically and were so well received by an appreciative audience.

(**above**) **Jessie Neal** chats confidently with one of her admirers

(**below left**) **Michelle Daniel & Agnes Babia** settle into deep conversation with one of the residents

(**below right**) **Annie Mabo** is primed, ready and waiting for the cue





PRIMARY INDUSTRY

Like the proverbial can of worms, the Primary school is still squirming with energy from irrepressible tiny bodies. Lunch breaks are captured serial instances of perpetual motion. Toss and tumble continues to monopolize the outdoor activities and despite padded play things, Occupational health and safety is still given a good run for its money.



Round-the-table formal sessions are still in vogue where the serious ends of pens and crayons are employed in various writing styles, colours and artful communication. Otherwise, as the photo below shows - it's all in the eyes!!



Computers are the compulsive attractions in the classroom while the sandpit is subjected to the most comprehensive sifting equal in intensity to that by impassioned gold-miners or treasure hunters.



NAOMI ANGLIN

Ms Naomi has joined the staff recently and is deeply entrenched in the world of administration. She has joined Ms **Linda McKeown** in the Senior Administration Office where all files and paperwork documenting various courses are sorted out to ascertain which ones are currently operating. Records of the progress by students are collated here on a capture data system that, on a regular basis, is used to inform the Education Department in Brisbane.

