



ACN 063049669

Maher Road, P. O. Box 771, Gordonvale, North Queensland 4865

tel: (07) 40433777 fax: (07) 40566111 email: reception@djarragun.qld.edu.au

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

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School Rover

JERAYMAS MYNGHA SETS THE PACE

An emphatic compliment from a supervisor clearly articulates the level of commitment being given by one of our students. **Petrina Villafior** writes :-

I just wanted to take the time to share with you my admiration and pride that I have towards one of your students and one of our School Based Carpenters - Jeraymas Myngha.

When I first was introduced to Jeraymus last year when we commenced the program aimed to get Djarragun students into either a traineeship or apprenticeship in 4 identified areas, I remember Jeraymas as a very quiet young man whom I initially did wonder about how he would cope in a mainstream building worksite. That question has well and truly been put to rest!

After many visits and discussions with Jeraymas whilst he was part of the team who built the Remote Area Housing building, I watched the transformation of a school student into a young man who really wants to be part of the construction industry, working shoulder to shoulder with other like-minded trade people. It was during one of my visits with Jeraymas that I had a conversation with him. I told him if he really wanted to continue as a carpenter with me, he really needed to start going back into class and working again on his school subjects. Jeraymas did not hesitate when I put this request to him as I thought he may but came back with a very assured and positive "Yes Miss Petrina, I can do that". That was the moment that I believed that this young man is going places.

Since that day, Jeraymus has continued to be positive about the steps to ensure his position as an apprentice and has gone back into the classroom. This alone fills me with pride. At the beginning of this year, Mr. Leon Epong and Mr. Anthony Lupi had a discussion with me about offering a full-time position in Djarragun Enterprises for Jeraymas but when I put this to Jeraymas, he was very adamant that he wanted to complete Year 12 and get his Senior Certificate. Fantastic!!!!

I have worked to ensure Jeraymas's mum is happy with how things are progressing which is just as vital as Jeraymas's participation.

The main reason for my sending this email is due to wanting to give you feedback on how wonderful it was to see Jeraymas attend his first Training day with us here at Skill360 for a number of reasons.

Yesterday was the first time that Jeraymas was required to attend with a group of other first year carpenters from all other businesses in Cairns to complete Stage 1A of his block.

I really did not expect to see Jeraymas considering that it was still holidays for him but he arranged to be picked up from

Yarrabah and stayed at his mum's and to be dropped off and waiting for my arrival at work. This is even greater accomplishment as I am sure that there were a number of peers and family who would have still been in holiday mode when Jeraymas was organizing himself to get picked up from Yarrabah that it could have been just as easy for him to not bother attending but- he fulfilled his training commitment. With confidence, Jeraymas has then taken his seat in a training room of 10 other unknown young men and a trainer and got stuck straight into his training.

I did periodic checks on him yesterday and he was always listening intently and doing his workbooks with little assistance required from the trainer. Jeraymas provided his own lunch out of his own funds, I walked him to the TAFE cafeteria and then took him to Raintrees to get Chinese for lunch. At each check, he demonstrated a quiet keenness and engagement that I was just so impressed with. Here, we have a young indigenous man, still at school, who comes from Yarrabah and has been exposed to the social issues that come along with our mob in their respective communities, who was sitting quite comfortably shoulder to shoulder with other young men all wanting to become carpenters.

Jeraymas, not only needs to be commended for how he has carried himself but also for being a fantastic role model for his fellow students from Djarragun College. Importantly, he is a role model for other young Indigenous people, particularly the young men who are also interested in a trade career. Jeraymas not only organized his own transport, to and from training, he has thought about his own lunches and has kept to the times required for start and finish of class times. He has attended very well presented and has been respectful and engaged in the training. He is back in class as I write this for his second day of Block, which is mostly theory for this Stage - just as keen as previously, which is fantastic!!

Due to Jeraymas's fantastic display of commitment and attitude, I have arranged an interview with a senior project manager from Matrix here at Skill360. I have been raving about Jeraymas and they are keen to meet him as I am currently working with them. They are starting a big project soon and are looking to start some schoolbased kids. Therefore, Jeraymas may well be on his way to a great start in the construction industry with this successful company if he can show them how keen he is to be a carpenter.

I can't say enough good things about this young man and I just wanted to share his amazing progress and share my absolute joy in being able to be part of this young man's journey to this point via my involvement with the program we created with Djarragun last year.

Regards

Petrina Villafior

Employment Co-ordinator

Skill360 Australia

MANY HAPPY RETURNS

Congratulations to our staff member, Ms **Sherral Aird** of whom it was announced a shared birth date with none other than Leonardo da Vinci. Nobody believes that you had 558 candles this year to blow out on your celebratory cake.

It must be the flouride in the water. You don't look a day over 100. Cheers for 2010.



Maia Akiba, Gandy Buie, Conjohn Matthew and Ray Tamwoy all made extremely diligent, prolonged and consistent efforts with their study and achieved extremely good results. Gandy had to leave a week early to be with his wife in Cairns for the birth of their first baby, and as such, did not complete all of the subjects. The other 3 completed 16 stage 1 subjects, which leaves just one more to be arranged. I hope that Eros may be able to help out by completing this subject with them at Victoria mill.

Len Wright and I, as teachers of the group, were continually amazed at their will to succeed and application to the study at hand. This was no small feat on their behalf as they were studying what is essentially their 3rd language.



APPRENTICED TO SUCCESS

It's great to reveal a success story where our past students are receiving accolades from their workplace supervisors. Mr. John Bullock posted well-earned praise about our first set of apprentices sent down to the Mill in Ingham.

"I would like to make a few congratulatory comments regarding the 4 Indigenous apprentices and how they conducted themselves while studying their stage 1 block here at BRIT-Burdekin college recently.



They are all extremely good ambassadors for any apprentice group and for their employer, Sucrogen.

I wish these young men all good fortune in their quest to gain a valuable and recognised qualification, which will increase their standing in the Australian community significantly.

I also congratulate the staff from Sucrogen who proposed and proceeded with this bold and progressive program.

You can be assured of our continued support."

John Bullock

BRIT-Burdekin Campus Manager

It is obvious that even the domestic side of life has to fit into the agenda for these busy workaholics.

MS MBONGELENI CHIGEZA

Ms **Mbongeleni** is a quiet achiever who works in Learning Support in a part-time capacity. She works with the I Can Read program, the Precision Academics Program and tests students when necessary. Mbongeleni's 'quiet achieving' became a very 'loud achievement' this week, as she graduated from JCU with a Master's Degree in Counselling and Guidance.

Over the duration of a few years now, her skills also as a teacher of Fabric Design and Clothing Production have seen many students successfully entering competitions and preparing work for Fashion shows and exhibits.



MS CHRYSTELLE ANTHONY

Adding further to her trail of academic achievements is Ms **Chrystelle** who has been associated with Djarragun for the past couple of years. Ms Chrystelle has started her own medical practice at 74 Norman Street, Gordonvale and is hopeful that she will be able to continue her association with Djarragun students and staff at her new clinic.

Ms Chrystelle is an amazing student and her latest graduation is for a BA majoring in Anthropology (including subjects like Criminology, Child Safety, Sociology and Indigenous Australian studies).

Congratulations from us all at Djarragun.



(above) Ms Mbongeleni and proud family

EYE TO EYE

Eyedentity Optometrists have now completed their vision testing and assessments of students here at Djarragun. All assessment reports were sent home to parents and copies of the assessment reports were given to Heads of Departments.

A number of students do require glasses and there are two ways to access these. Glasses will be **FREE** only if the child is on a parents' Health Care Card or Pension Card. If a parent does not have a HCC or Pension Card, they will be required to pay for the glasses.

Firstly: Mike and Cameron from Eyedentity will be returning to the school (at a date to be determined) with a range of "free" glasses frames. Students will be able to try on frames and decide what they would like. Parents are welcome to attend. A HCC or Pension Card must be produced to Eyedentity.

Secondly: Students may be taken by their parents to Eyedentity at Stockland Earlville - they will have all the information there and will be shown the range of free frames. Again a HCC or Pension Card must be produced.

ATALIEA BIN DORAHO

Though she is practically a veteran at the College, Ms Ataliea enrolled her son at Djarragun in Term 1 and soon found herself being scooped up from the voluntary tuition she was doing into full time work in the school. Ms Ataliea is busy in the Enrolments Department and Uniform Distribution where she is teamed up with Ms Naomi Anglin.



Almost the remake of a new Jackson 5, this upbeat team twist and gyrate to a pulsating beat. The lines on their shirts never seem to stop undulating as they wriggle their way around like manuscripts in motion.

Elisa Mara (below) trades shakes and wriggles that belong to a blending machine.

The one who raises the squeals is Titus Tamwoy. His moves are electric; speed is demonic. His shadow has to catch up with him. His hips don't hop; they literally shudder and syncopate crazily.



William Amber (centre left) makes tripping look like a fluid defiance of gravity. Moonwalking is a natural motion and the glide, slide elide with perfect ease.

Travis Shwarz-Mara moves like a single piece of cartilage. His mother was probably short of calcium at the time and he never managed to develop solid bones since birth.

Eric Whap is looking to turn the tables on his fellow turntable dance floor wrigglers and his horizontal stripes will soon assume the role of a television test pattern.

This little troupe with the scintillating moves is set to wriggle and shake during the festivals which Djarragun will attend this year. First up, Weipa !!!



Titus Tamwoy (left) is about to peel out of his long sleeve clothes like a snake shedding skin.

HIP HOP SHOP

Startling shimmy shammy provided by our flexible corp of spine contortionists has grown in popularity during the past couple of years. Some of the deft movements create a sensation of vertigo and a slight touch of hypnotism to the viewers.





19th March

As you may be aware the ADF/DIDP Program commenced on the 15th March at the Djarragun Wilderness Centre. This program aims to develop/assist young Indigenous people prepare for the Defence Force in particular, the Navy. The ADF interviewed and shortlisted 35 young Indigenous people throughout Torres Strait and Cape York and Djarragun were fortunate to have 9 participants accepted. They are Jane Sagigi, Andrea Kebisu, Malu Waianga, Walter Ware, Aston Wilson, Shakira Thaiday, Newman Billy, Tom Mosby and Paul Walit. By all reports, all are enjoying the experience and performing well.

ACCOR TRAINING FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

***See if you can spot our 3
senior students!!!***

Knowledge is not enough, alone. We should apply our knowledge by doing. We need our minds to be at work to create change. We believe this gave the 3 TAVE students (Anai Ganaia, Bonnie Toby and Debbie Messa insight of what is expected in the Industry. Debbie Messa was the best student of the week at the training. On behalf of the College I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to ACCOR TRAINING and REEF CASINO and everyone who made this training possible. The students benefited a lot from this work experience week.



Ms Peggy Uncle Paul and Aunt Stella.

Academy Names Term 2, 2010

<i>Union</i>	<i>AFL</i>	<i>Soccer</i>	<i>Basketball</i>	<i>Rugby League</i>
Fredson Akiba	Tyson Smiler	Naomi Cooktown	Danella Ware	Chris Lei
Daniel Gibuma	Zengrey Nona	Sharume Geesu	Tim China	Paiwan Gaidan
Alu Amini	Jeraymas Myngha	Loretta Messa	Nora Geas	Charlie David
Jimmy Dau	Mark Akiba	Elisa Mara	Eddie Mau	Jacob Lui
Mark Tafili	Steven Tom	Vanessa Anau	Raymond Morrison	Jordal Bana
Ben Anau	Sawea Wosomo	Leesa Baira		Tala Morseu
Douglas Kaigey	Fury Salee	Harley Thaiday		Robert Amber
Sheldon Griven	Joseph Kebisu	Telita Stewart		Paul Walit
Trent Lawson	Willy Wosomo	Melody Kabai		James Wosomo
Rodney Gesa	Ian Dick	Travis Schwarz		Ali Dau
John Gunnawarra	Jordan Dick	Ishmael Banning		Solomom Faid
Jamie Ludwick	Ralph Daniel	Issac Mait		Ronji Mosby
Rhys Murgha	Derek Ingui	John Gabey		Koza Coburn
Saint Sagigi	Clinton Sullivan	Zebathy Allen		Wusang Guligo
Henry Reckenberg	Sibra Baragud	Branxton Dick		
David Tafili	Harry Keppel	William Amber		
Phillip Whap	Wayne Stafford	Brian Fourmile		
	Joel Dangar	Grayson Hart		
	Edmond Nawakie	Frank Amini		
	Andrew Garrett	Patrina Yeatman		
	Alex Namai			

DJARRAGUN ACADEMY

Congratulations to the students named above for selection into the Academy. All these students earn their way into this programme because each has shown exemplary behaviour involving application, attendance and good attitude in their academic social and sporting endeavours.

Selection is critical and restricted to 175 students :

Sporting Chance Programme	100
Cultural Celebration Programme	56
Academic Tutorial Support & Accelerated Learning Programme	175
Leadership Development Programme	175
Pathways to Work Programme	100

OUR VISION:

To improve academic outcomes for Indigenous students to enable them to choose a future they have reason to value.

OUR PURPOSE:

Our purpose is to ensure the five A's are achieved among all Academy students: Attendance, Attitude, Academic Outcomes, Aspirational Leadership and Access to Traineeships and Jobs.