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# School Rover

Issue 5 Friday, 23 August 2002

**A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD :** This is our first newsletter that covers the latest news from across the whole school. My thanks and appreciation goes to Mr Ross Walters who has taken the initiative to get this going. Thanks also go to Mr Ludo Kuipers who has managed to squeeze yet more time out of his busy day to format the newsletter. Congratulations must go to Mr Ross Walters for winning an international prize for poetry. He has gone to the U.S.A. for a week to an awards ceremony. Replacing him during this time is Ms Hazel Howard.

My thanks and appreciation also goes to all our students. You are all contributing to making this College a place of excellence. You all look smart in your school uniforms, your attitude to school work is commendable and your behaviour improves daily. There are still a few of you who could improve your attendance, but by far the majority of students attend regularly. I am proud of you all and the huge effort you have all made.

Jean Illingworth.

**OPEN DAY :** September 10 has been slotted in for the School Open Day. This day will feature display work from the classes and the presentation of concert items. Mr. John Gregg is the coordinator who is building up the 'vibes' for another enthralling episode of the school agenda. John hopes to have a couple of performances at different times. It allows for more participants in the roles and the generation of greater interest. Let's all 'get into the act' and make it happen.

**ACCELERATED READING/MATHS :** This programme is available on the computers and is being put into action by Rosemarie. Later on we will get some feedback on the success stories. Learning Support materials have been transferred to the Administration Block and this will allow better overseeing of the PACE programme as well.

**NEW PA system :** Guarded securely in the Office is the new PA system. It hasn't yet made its maiden voyage to

the Assembly area yet but Open Day is a probable debut.

**KITCHEN :** Seen around the ridges lately was Brad Jewell from Spotless Catering. Brad was busily conferring with the Djarragun Cook, Roderick Murray. Happy faces and satisfied looks seem to emanate from the Dining Room each morning so we'll need to send in a roving mouth to test the molars and taste buds.

**BURNING BURNING :** Well, we've heard of 'burning bridges', burning fingers' and 'burning hearts' but the present occupation seems to be burning turtles, sharks and snake designs. The workshop is seeing a crop of new talents trying its hand at this form of artwork.

Also seen on the rounds are the creations of wooden boats. Happy artisans are busily putting the finishing touches to proudly shaved products.

**HOMEWORK CENTRE :** It is encouraging to see the older students continuing to set a standard by taking up the challenge of doing extra study each afternoon. Though there may be the odd occasion where some might want to skip out of a good opportunity, only they

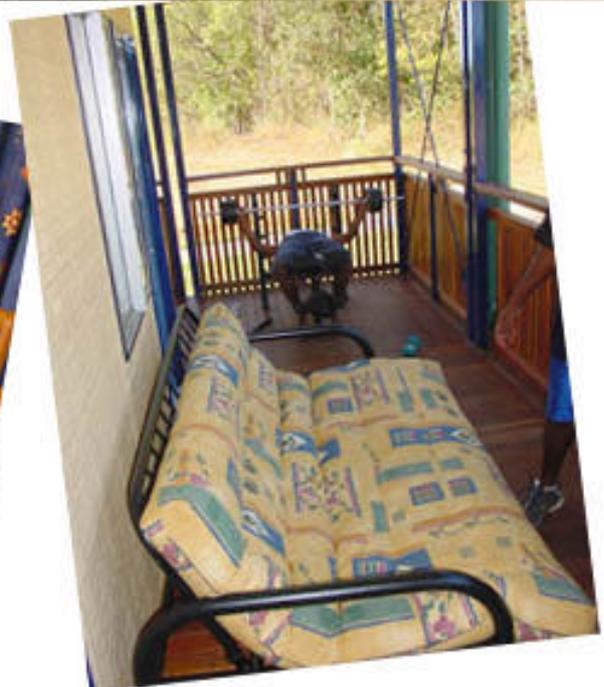


will be the losers. Others seem content to make good the opportunity provided and are helpful to their mates by encouraging each other in the special time being set aside for them. It will turn out that those with the self-discipline will be the successful ones. Thanks must also go to the teachers and staff who are prepared to offer their time and assistance towards the development of our youth. This is one good opportunity towards improving intellects and coping with the demands of schoolwork. Keep it up.

**THRASS PROGRAMME** : Several members of staff will be occupied with a seminar held in Atherton and the rest of staff will also take the opportunity have its own workshops at school which will focus on Biofeedback. I will not attempt to comment on what all of that entails but a power-greater-than-I might take up the challenge after the workshop has been completed. It has been hinted that things cerebral will be involved. Let's just wait and see what turns up.  
In any event, Friday, August 23, will be a student-free day.



## The new Boarding House



**PRIMARY TESTS :** Attending students have gone through the exercise of a Practice Test for the Years 3, 5 and 7 tests which were held during the week just past.



**STUDENT TEACHERS :** Three weeks flitted by with astounding speed and our visiting teachers on practicum have headed back across the border to return to Batchelor College in the Northern Territory. Thank you to both Daudai and Ses for choosing to make your study block at Djarragun. We trust you take good memories with you. Good luck for the future and hopefully, we get to meet again.

My name is Ses Zaro I was born in Ayr and I am studying education. I am of Torres Strait (Murray) and South Sea Islander (Tanna) descent. I did most of my learning in Ayr, then after secondary school, I went and furthered my education at the Burdekin TAFE College and did courses there that would give me skills and qualifications to gain employment.

I completed my courses at TAFE and then heard about an Institute called Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) which is in the NT in a small township called Batchelor. This Institute is a great place to go to, if you want to further yourself, and get a good education. This institute is mainly Indigenous focused (like Djarragun College). I am now in my second year of study and doing my practicum here at Djarragun College, which has been a challenge, but mostly an enjoyable experience with friendly teachers and staff that encouraged me and helped me through my learning experience. I hope that through this short story I have encouraged someone else to go out there and get a qualification and an education because, it is an essential part of our life. Ses Zaro

#### **CHOICE GAMES FOR LIFE by Joe**

On the 14th of August, I took seven Year 10 students to the Choice Games for Life competition at the Bundaberg Stadium. It was a great day consisting of both physical and mental activities. Djarragun came third on the day after putting in a mighty effort. Our students were a great advertisement for the school and said they enjoyed themselves and would like to do it again (even though they were very tired by the end of the day). It was great to see our school compete with other High

Schools.

Our afternoon sessions for Orange group have mainly been taken up with a model boat building project which is to be extended into propulsion for science.

The students will have completed the boats by the time the paper goes to print and will be allowed to keep them – Yes, they do float. Also so far this semester, the students have done some practical work with electrical circuits – a shocking experience for some.

Students who competed in Choice Games for Life Harriet Dau; Christina Waianga; Nelson Dotoi; Zui Gara; Sila Guligo; Isach Kaworo; Annalina Richard.

#### **CONDOLENCES :**

We extend our words of sympathy to the family and friends of a Yarrabah prominent person, Mr. Vincent Schreiber, who passed away recently.

#### **ANGLICAN SCHOOLS' INDIGENOUS GAMES :**

A small band of students from Years 7 – 10 has been nominated to represent Djarragun at an Indigenous Games Event being held at Bald Hills in Brisbane. This is the first time that our students have been involved in this.

#### **BENTLEY PARK SPORTS**

A representative group will be chosen to participate in a Sporting competition at Bentley School.

#### **CLEANING TEAMS**

Every day we happily open our classroom doors to immaculately clean rooms. Very seldom do we get to catch sight and meet those who whisk through the building during the afterschool hours to provide the service. This is just a note to register some appreciation for your efforts.

#### **YEAR SEVEN**

The class has settled into a sensible working mode. Each student has a binder into which a lot of completed work is being collated. While some have been attending regularly, there are a few whose appearances in the class could be improved.

I have been very pleased with the dramatic change in attitudes and the application to assigned work. Students are not teasing each other as much and concentrate in class lessons more readily.

This week the Year 7 Test will have been conducted; students last week went through a trial run in preparation. Years 3 & 5 also will have their own tests.

**COMPUTER PLUG :** Mention has been made before about a certain computer whizz whom we are lucky to have at our disposal. Whenever you have the extra thirty thousand megabytes of memory, just strike up a casual conversation with our illustrious Ludo in the Computer Room. In fact, you don't need to be in the computer room, it can happen anywhere.

Being new on the scene, I can only offer the perceptions of a computer dabbler. What is immediately astounding in the computer arena of the school is the availability of an enormous range of facilities. Ludo is best qualified to explain the details and hopefully he will

so that everyone becomes aware of the range of possibilities he has made available to us at Djarragun. For my part, I am impressed and thankful for the ready array of photographic records that can easily decorate the Newsletters and the prompt efficiency of the system in place. So while I might feel like the odd pixel in the wider picture, it is developing into an interesting game of Ludo (or maybe, Mousetrap).



**GO-KARTING** Students last week had the opportunity to test their driving skills at the circuit near Thomatis Creek. A few students earned prizes that will be presented at a Special Assembly. Joe and Stanley raced for PCYC and made it to the finals.

The Go-karting was arranged by Idinji Youth Centre as part of the Alcohol and Drug free programme. Just the Seniors who had completed their work and who had been attending regularly had the opportunity to take part. Ms Ana and Mr. Epsag accompanied the group.

Everyone had a go on the karts and when that was finished we had a free pass to the Minigolf next door. We had to avoid bumping into the other karts. Special mention to the 'slow drivers' of the week – Saggi Epsag and Benjamin Richards. Some drivers were more the speedsters and they fled around the course. Everyone had a good time. A thank you to the Go-Kart Company and Idinji Centre for providing the opportunity. Simon Fidow

**CONCERT :** Mr. John Gregg has been busy coordinating a concert for the end of this Term.. Other members in the team are Clara, Barry, Ken and Ross. This will be an amalgam of items provided by each of the classes. Performances for parents and interested family members will be held on Open Day, Tuesday, September 10.

**MR. SCOTT :** We send our thoughts for a speedy recovery to Mr. Scott who has been admitted into the Cairns Base Hospital. The latest news is that Mr. Scott has been discharged and that is a good sign for recovery.

**WHO AM I??** One of the members of staff is due for a personality stabilizer. During the past fortnight, Ms Michelle has 'been' Ms Liz, Ms Fay and currently, Mr. Scott. Whilst this might be straight-forward in the thinking of any practised parapsychologist, the rest of us might begin to wonder how it is affecting her. Anyway, doing a good job under trying circumstances is a commendable thing to do and here we are to say that it is being appreciated. If ever you forget who you are, Ms Michelle, just ask one of us and we'll remind you – just in case we have two of the same persons on the property at the same time.

#### YEAR SEVEN DAY EXCURSION

On August 08. 2002

I went on excursion with some of you;  
At Deeral Landing, we stopped to fish  
But dinner time found no mullet on the dish.  
At Goldsborough Valley we had our lunch;  
An apple, a popper and a sandwich munch,  
A muffin with butter and plenty of eggs  
Our bellies were full and we strained our legs.

#### THE DORMITORY HAS RISEN

The long awaited dream has become a reality; students are now living in dormitories on the school campus. The landscaping is in development and the addition of turf and decorative plants will enhance the tropical and homely look. The Pyramid peeks down in solemn vigil.

