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School Rover

Issue 2, 28 February 2003



LEADERSHIP CAMP (SUNSHINE COAST) :

Four of our students were accompanied by Miss **Ana Fidow** down to the Sunshine Coast in South East Queensland. They were the only indigenous students in an assembly of 200 other students.

YEARS 11/12 CAMP: Students made the brief trek up to Tinaroo to develop skills in leadership and group dynamics. One of the goals during the sessions was to eventually nominate the prospective School Captains and Prefects.



BOARD MEETING : (February 14) - Members of the Board of Directors assembled at the College on Friday of last week.

BLOCK GRANT AUTHORITY : Wednesday, February 19 - A panel of members from the Block Grant Authority visited from Brisbane to inspect the amenities at the school and discuss the needs for the future. This department authorizes funding and commits available resources to the various schools within the Independent Schools Association of Queensland (AISQ).

TUBERCULOSIS : Cards and an explanatory leaflet have been given to the Year 8 students who are required to be tested by the Department of Health as part of a State-wide policy.

CONGRATULATIONS : Our Dormitory Supervisor from Zimbabwe recently received happy news that he was now the father of a little daughter. Congratulations to **Philemon Chizega** and to his wife who will be joining him here at Djarragun in the very near future.

JACINTA FIDOW : A warm welcome to Ms **Ana Fidow's** sister, **Jacinta**, who came out to look at Djarragun on Friday, February 21 of last week.

SCHOOL DANCERS : Thanks to the interest of **Rick Noble; Pinau Ghee & Julie Zaro;** Mrs. **Deo Adidi** and Mr. **Eddy Eseg.** Throbbing drums and stamping feet pulsate across the campus. A little shy and hesitant for the first sessions, students are gradually filling columns rather than single lines. It is good to watch the growing assembly.

HOME ECONOMICS : At least three groups have been seen busy in the Home Economics Kitchen whipping up 'munchies'. So far this Term, sausage rolls, pancakes and mini-pizzas have tantalized the saliva glands into overdrive. The upcoming menus should put Margaret Fulton on full alert. **Miss Lorraine** and **Miss Elwyn** keep busy sidestepping those extra nibbles.

STICKS AND STONES : Neatly piled in front of the Administration Block are sizeable paperweights that will



eventually become the ornamental rockery at the School entrance. Roland Reck and a troupe of very enthusiastic Atlases have concreted the base and sides of the future fishpond. Some speculation was evoked and it was a great relief to know that Miss Jean was not contemplating a chain-gang rock-crushing during detention sessions. The intention is for something much more aesthetic, though probably still requiring the same amount of honest perspiration.

HEAD LICE : All students were given green forms to take home for parental signatures. Head lice are the bane of any school and despite anyone's confidence that a child is clear of these pesky mites, it is very possible that others will transfer either the eggs or the animals.

Parents, please oblige by signing the form which requests the permission to use Natural Pyrethrum. This is a deliberate and positive initiative by the school to raise the health and personal care of your children.

BIRTHDAYS : **Mr. John Grace; Mrs. Linda McKeown** - Neither has opted to reveal the numbers of candles warranted for each cake but it has been suggested that the first one would have burnt out by the time the last candle was being lit.

TUCKSHOP COLLECTION :

Miss **Linda Biancotti** has requested the collection of logos from the Nestle or Nestle Peters School Promotion which is offering a possible \$20,000 CASH for the school in a nationwide competition.

TAFE : Various students are engaged in Courses in the Vocational Education Programme. The Music group has followed the Music teacher, **Mr. John Grace** to witness at first hand the wiles of Music lessons. Last week, a captive audience edged its way through a clever rendition of 'Waltzing Matilda'. As a part of the particular technique in teaching literacy through music, Mr. Grace prompted words and actions through word play, songs and popular lyrics.

Having played in a band himself starting way back in his

youth, Mr. Grace has more than a fair repertoire of songs. Packing his six-stringed acoustic plus plectrum tickler, **Mr. Grace** has hit instant success in particular with the Purple Numeracy class whose students latch on, almost intuitively, to any of his Hip-Hop, Reggae or Blues songs.

MARINE STUDIES : Classes began the semester studying the Great Barrier Reef (from the books, first) - and this will probably eventuate in a visit to Undersea World at Cairns Pier. About thirty students are engaged in this programme, both boys and girls; classifying the marine life into their scientific groupings; students will be taught some snorkelling skills and in Semester Two there may well be a trip out to the Reef for real.

Brian Dowling

In particular, the Aboriginal group of dancers, mainly from Yarrabah, have shown more interest and hopefully, they will overcome some of the initial reluctance.

Ricko Noble is doing the teaching for the mens' dances and his sister, **Glenis Noble (Murgha)** is tutoring the women's dances. Ricko Noble has in the past organized a team of dancers from Yarrabah to attend the Laura Festival.

This is the first time that the Aboriginal dance team is making a move towards establishing a school troupe. Way to go, kids !!!

VISUAL ARTS CLASS : On Friday afternoons, a class assembles in the Art Room with Miss **Linda McKeown** to try its hands at Visual Arts projects. We're hopeful of a few colourful pieces adorning the notice boards around the school soon.

LANDSCAPE GARDENING : The spreading of mulch around the garden areas provided a somewhat heady aroma for some of the classes. This led to a tidy observation from one of the students :-

MANURE : BOY! What a day!! The manure smelled so bad it made me sick. I wanted to run to the toilet and spew up.

The tractors scooped the manure up and put it around the plants as fertilizer and they made a loud noise while doing it.

Suddenly outside our classroom, we saw a big tractor coming with more. When I saw it, I felt badder (sic) than before. As I walked past to the table to eat my lunch, I smelt it. It turned me off from eating my lunch.

Kimberley Noble

QUEENSLAND RAIL : **Phil Barnett** visited the school and made a presentation to the students on assembly about the Cairns to Brisbane Tilt Train. Phil stressed the importance of Rail Safety and detailed some of the features of the trains, particularly in its quietness and speed. It will cut out about eight hours off the current travel time between Brisbane and Cairns. Phil mentioned the case of a Brisbane State High School student to inadvertently stepped into the path of one of these types of trains and was lucky enough to survive. However, it is not a recommended exercise. Phil visits all schools between Cairns and Rockhampton that are within a two kilometre radius of the railway track.

Phil will make presentations to the classrooms in the following two days.

From Queensland Rail a man named Phil
Warned Djarragun students that trains can kill
At 160 kilometres per hour
It takes twenty oval lengths to stop its power
Look both ways! Stop! Listen! - That's the drill.

Composed by Blue Literacy Class

MIDDLE SCHOOL : CAMP TINAROO

Three white buses bubbling with students edged their way to the top of the Gillies Range with heavy dose of anticipation and its accompanying element, adrenalin.

Little did the teachers realize that they themselves needed to resort to copious amounts of Nature's nerve glands in order to survive.

Hyperactivity best describes the euphoria of Day One, remembered more if not only, because it is one that will hardly ever be forgotten. Decibels was invented to measure sound but there is need for a much heavier gauge - because we know students who can produce ultrasonics.

The busy traffic of moving bodies was a constant feature of the Camp as various groups oscillated between the different activities taking place here and there. Students were able to participate in canoeing, raft-making, High and Low Rope Courses, Orienteering and the rather innocent-sounding Milk Crate Building which orchestrates the unlikely association of Lego blocks and vertigo. Anyway, it was inspiring to see intrepid land legs kickboxing ten feet in the air to the accompaniment of excited screams of encouragement and enjoyment.

Karen Noah had this to write : - "We went on the Milk Crate Building and the girls were starting to build that Milk crate and 4 persons needed to stand at the tree with their ropes on their belts. All the girls were feeling scared when they went up on the Milk Crate but when I went up all the girls were yelling to me and my mate - but I made it up there."

The Camp was presented as the opportunity for 'Challenge' and each could take the plunge insofar as he or she was comfortable. Some of the impressive performances occurred at the High Ropes discipline particularly when some took the expression 'suspended animation' quite literally. In these moments, some of the unexpected characters took on the role as heroes of the day.

For particular mention is the fact that the Year 7/8 Boys was successful in devising a way to removed intact a large can of water from the middle of a circle using a couple of pieces of rope. Professor Sumner Miller would be ecstatic !!

It is rumoured that girls are noisier than boys but the plaintive voice of Miss Yeshim managed to appeal eventually to the soft palates of the gentle gender and order crept in at auspicious moments. The boys applied their force to the hall wooden floor which managed to sustain a few dance routines lead by **Mapa Kudub** who drummed steel knife handles onto a plastic chair. Here, in its infant stage, is the making of a convincing dance troupe.

One night session was particularly enjoyable. **Mr. Dowling** had two teams numbered and sitting on

opposite sides of the hall. At the call of a number, two competitors scrambled to the middle to hockey (made of a roll of newspaper) a soft ball through chair goals at either ends of the hall.

One of the students, Guy Aden pens a few words :-

"The Tinaroo Camp was about challenge. First, we had orienteering, high ropes, low ropes and canoeing. Maia and I were in one yellow canoe and I was up the front and Maia was down the back. We were trying to get the ball on the side of us in the water. Maia tried to get it but he couldn't. We went one side and tipped over.

For the night search, I was with Andrew first but when we went in the bush a bit further, I went on my own with no torch but I wasn't scared. I saw a torchlight and I went to that team. It was Mr. Dowling and I went to Matt's team. Kumi and I sneaked up on the girls and gave them a big fright. They screamed and Kumi and I ran up to the camp and waited for the teams to come back. **Guy Aden**

Ron and Lyn Joseph ran the kitchen with ultimate ease. Their happy and helpful nature contributed to the ethos of the camp and the sumptuous meals were neither neglected nor unappreciated. Of course, they noticed oddities such as students scomping down their baked beans and toast before lunging into the cereals. However, who cares when it's all heading for the same destinations. To retain the family spirit during Camp, **Ron and Lyn** presented a cake to **Mapa Kudub** for his birthday when his age turned to 'two little ducks'.

Our triumvirate facilitators, **Johnno, Dan** and **Matt** kept alive a wonderful spirit. However power-packed their sessions, each was able to maintain a good momentum although there were some moments of near frustration when a few students pushed tolerance to its limits.

A visit by **Mr. Tekoa** conveniently brought scrutiny upon some who were opting for the fringe-group mentality.

At the end of the day, it is good to be able to observe through the tiredness the many glimmers of hope, the obvious growth in maturity, manners and proper concern for each other that students had assumed.

Is it any wonder that on the way home in my bus, most had fallen asleep? It was such a relief !!

ON THE HOMEFRONT : For a few students in the Middle School, classes went on - not perhaps as normal but with consistent importance. Thanks to those parents and guardians who managed to maintain that sense of priority and prompted their children to attend.

It has been reported that **Miss Lorraine** introduced the Lemonade scones into the Home Economics class raising more than a few 'doubting Thomases'. However, the scones met with a serious demise from very quick converts.

Some very impressive art sketches were produced during this time and Miss Lorraine claims that it was a very good group to have. Plenty of worksheets were completed and profitable reading sessions enjoyed. On one occasion, a swim at Ross and Loche cooled down the neurons in the brain so that even more work could be undertaken.

Some of the newer students were able to take the

opportunity for one-to-one music lessons from **Mr. Grace**.

The Music Department is growing and in its infancy stage is showing promise of exciting times ahead.

Ludo from the Computer Room was concerned about the strange noise haunting the campus until, with great relief, he realized it was Mr. Grace and one of the classes moaning Wimm-o-way in a convincing rendition of 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight'. Ludo considers somehow that certain lion didn't get any sleep that particular night !!

Miss Fay's class (Turtles) has been concentrating on 'Conversations' - who are speakers and listeners and the ways of conducting themselves when talking with others. One of the strategies every Friday is the Buddy System in which the Blue Class from the Middle School spends a period helping the little Turtles in the Literacy programme. So far it is enjoyable for both parties.



COMPUTER/VISUAL ARTS ROOM

Ludo Kuipers, Linda McKeown and Steve Pardey have been working on the floor plans of this proposed building and also considering the fittings. This building should be completed before the end of this year. It will comprise a computer room, server room for the computers and a storage/computer maintenance room, an art classroom and storeroom, boys' and girls' toilets for the Senior Secondary School students and also a staffroom. There will be a wet area outside of the artroom for activities like pottery and painting. That area will be equipped with sinks.



TIMETABLES : A rhythm of normalcy has begun to pervade the school as the adjustments and resetting of programmes and events settles. As with any dynamic organization, there will always be fluctuations. Students seem to have taken in their stride what is expected of them and taken the challenges presented to them. New staff have had the time to meld into the system and enmesh a school staff with sustainable fibre.

I SAY !!! What was the name of the Swagman in 'Waltzing Matilda'? **Andy!! - Andy sang..Andy watched..Andy waited for his billy boil.. I say !**

