



ACN 063 049 669

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

tel: (07) 4056 3555 fax: (07) 4056 6111

[admin@djarragun.qld.edu.au](mailto:admin@djarragun.qld.edu.au)

# School Rover

Issue 5 April 11 2003

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

***The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches but to reveal to him his own.***

Benjamin Disraeli

## TERM 2 : WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

### To All Parents and Guardians

As much as you might be tempted to keep your loving sons and daughters at home for an extra Easter treat, it would be appreciated if students resume their schooling on the date mentioned above.

Every best wish for a happy and restful Easter Holiday. May the joys of this Christian Season fall upon each and everyone. May your homes be happy and safe.



Range was an intrepid squad of our Outdoor Recreation class. Perhaps a little late for an April's Fool joke, teacher **Gavin Daly** led the group into part of Australia's Great Outdoors.

All the modern equipment was gloriously displayed outside the canteen before departure and whilst, the swags and multi-faceted dixies were obvious accoutrements, special attention was raised about the tins of Smoked Oysters. This was obviously not a sequel to television's "Survival".



### Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation Camp

The camp took place on April 3rd and 4th. Off we set, eight intrepid wanderers laden with packs filled with all the comforts we could jam in. After eight undulating kilometres we were there - the Mulgrave River Causeway - and home for the night. A quick swim, a swing and it was time to make camp. Tents were set up, a toilet dug, and down to the business of cooking tea. For five students from the Outdoor Rec. Course (and one blow-in) Mr. Phillip Epseg and I, this was our afternoon walk, swim, camp, tough eh?

**TAKE A HIKE !!** Literally, taking on the challenge of an overnight haul across a part of the Great Dividing

On Thursday, the 3rd of April, after a slight delay, the Outdoor Rec. class held its first (of many) overnight

camps. The students involved were **Charmaine Akiba, Mavis Sipi, Harriet Dau, Tom Dau, Bobby Salee and Saggi Epseg**. It was a gentle introduction to the word of expeditions. The group did a fantastic job of getting the campsite organized, cooked a fabulous tea, so good we had no room for dessert.

A campfire was lit and we settled into an evening of stories, games and conundrums. The mood was jubilant, especially in comparison to earlier half was up a hill with a heavy pack on and everyone seemed comfortable with their surroundings. Mr. Epseg and I retired for the night and left the students to enjoy each others' company and the beautiful surroundings.

Come morning, well rested and after a quick swim and some breakfast, we returned to our starting point at Goldsborough Camp Ground where **Michael Groundwater** was waiting with the bus to return us to the college. All the students carried themselves fantastically and enjoyed themselves, as did **Mr. Epseg** and I; we are looking forward to next Term's trip already. **Gavin Daly**

**IESIP** (Indigenous Educational Strategic Initiatives Programme) : **Fiona Barrett & Hahine McCaskill** visited the school on Tuesday (April 01) to discuss the educational outcomes of the school and to project the intended course of action for the coming year. Funding from this Department is crucial and it is both encouraging and comforting that our Liaison persons from DEST can make their contribution by way of guidance and support. One of the other elements towards funding is the ASSPA entitlements.

**KENETI GALO** : Back onto the school scene is Keneti who will be heavily involved in the Dormitory supervision. As before, he will also take an active part in the training of the Djarragun footballers and sporting teams. Very much a welcomed asset to the staff to alleviate the giant load falling on the shoulders of Mr. **Tekoa Tafea**, who, at this stage of the Term probably needs some Kinetic energy.

#### **EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL :**

At a time when parts of the world are embroiled in turmoil and war, we could do well to reflect upon the happiness that we are still able to enjoy. News reports are riddled with sad and horrible events - things that we hope will never happen to us.

During the Term, students at our school have been reminded about the need for strong, positive and Christian values - respect, gentleness, perseverance, obedience and forgiveness.

A part of our Christian responsibility is to share the gifts we have and allow others to grow and reveal and express their gifts and talents. Our Christian message is one of life and light; in a period of history which is so bleak and dark for many others, we should be active in spreading the light of hope to the rest of the world.

Environmental issues hassle the earth and the El Nino effect is spreading disaster to many; primary industries are hampered by drought; crops fail to grow for harvesting; animals starve and die. Displaced people are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries; existence is

more than a challenge; for some, it is a terrible burden. In the same way that Joseph of Aramathea assisted Jesus in carrying the cross to Calvary, we, as Christians ought be taking up the challenge as willing helpers. Our family instincts must come to the fore - children helping parents, parents helping children; community members supporting one another.

Easter Holidays should not be treated just as a break from school; we should be acknowledging the Risen Lord as essential to our Christian commitment so that others can truthfully exclaim, "Behold the light of Christ." God bless us all.

**TAFE** : Fifteen students underwent Entrance Tests for the Course Components which they will be completing at Djarragun under the supervision of **Roland Reck & Tony Epseg**.

The practical elements will be only too obvious around the school as they hone their skills on multiple projects around the campus. Already set into the ground at the front of the Administration Block is a fishpond with an inbuilt fountain. Cement paving will complete the end of the basketball court which edges onto the back of the School canteen. Mentioned in the previous issue was the construction of the mobile stage. This structure becomes more awesome as time elapses. The stage got its first real use when the African Dancers arrived at the school on April 08.

**BISHOP MABO** : Hailing from Murray Island (Mer) in the Torres Strait, Bishop Mabo made a brief visit to the school on Thursday, April 03. He was able to catch up with his nephews, **Ray and Bradley Noah** who are boarders at Djarragun. Other relatives are **Karen Noah** and **Ada Thaiday**.

**SEMINARS** : Teachers from the Middle School will be busy on April 12 at seminars for Numeracy and Literacy being held at the Trade Winds Resort in Cairns. The upper Secondary teachers had the opportunity to attend the same seminar on Wednesday, April 09.

#### **FRIDAY AFTERNOON ASSEMBLY :**

The last assembly for the Term was held on Friday April 04. Mr. **John Grace** set up the speaker system and awards were given to deserving students for achievements and acknowledgements of behaviour. Mr. Mark won the Orange Award for Perseverance in his teaching during the Term. Later, Mr. **Gavin Daly** presented an Apple Award to one of the students who showed enthusiasm and initiative prior to the Outdoor Education Camp; the winner was **Bobby Salee**.

**VOLUNTARY WORKERS** : New on the scene recently are **Ann Brown** who is working with **Michelle Foxhall** with the younger set in the school. Ann is originally from Wagga Wagga in New South Wales with a Torres Strait Islander mother who comes from Stephen Island. Ann will be with us maybe for six months.

**Patison Larry** came in on Monday and has an indefinite time frame at the school. Patison is uncle to Tinus and Maluka so they will have an extra watchguard

on them when they don't expect. At the moment, Patison will be helping out the Maintenance men in the gardening and landscaping area.

We pass on a warm word of welcome to both Anne and Patison and hope they enjoy their time at Djarragun.

#### **AFRICAN DANCERS : (April 08)**

Students were treated to an afternoon of superb music performed by a trio from Ghana in West Africa. **Afla**, **Tuza** and **Odai** captured the attention of the students with drumming, vocals and clever harmonizing. Afla was the principal dancer and his gyrations tickled the humour of everyone. Some brave volunteers joined him on the newly built mobile stage including staff members, Mr. **Tekoa** and Mr. **Keneti**. **Lala Tom** was drawn from her safe haven in the last row of spectators and moved her hips as well as anyone on the African continent. **Dennis Salee** was one of the early volunteers who hasn't learnt what stagefright is just yet.

Afla changed costumes which were more traditionally based by way of a grass skirt and he was flanked by Tuza and Adai who were decked in an iridescent lime green national costumes called bubu.

The Wala band has been performing for nearly four years and come to Australia each year on a six month tour through the country. The local manager, **Jay McDonnell**, from Mission Beach introduced them to the school and organized their North Queensland itinerary.

#### **COWBOYS versus BRONCOS**

On Saturday, April 05, some of the boarding kids went to Townsville to see Broncos and Cowboys. When we got there, we went to see St. Patrick's College and had a swim at the Rock Pool. Later, we went and had a shower then jumped in the bus and went to the Dairy Farmers' Stadium. When we got there, we saw the Abergowrie bus and some other school kids. Roseline went and followed her cousin while Sophie and I went to see our aunties and uncles. When the game finished, we came back to Gordonvale.

**Ada Thaiday**

**FOOTBALL :** On Saturday, I went to football with my cousin and aunty. My cousin was Number 4. When he got the ball, there was a bigger boy than he was. My cousin tried to step him but the big fellow got him by the shirt and lifted him up like a baby, walked back with him but the teammates pushed the big boy back with my cousin still in his arms.. After the game, we went to the Pier. Yarrabah Under 13 won the game.

**Jermaine Stafford**

**CRAYFISH HUNTING :** On Saturday, I went diving on the reef over at Yarrabah to get crayfish right out in the blue with my uncle Horace. I had a red speargun; it was mine that my big cousin bought for me. When we got there in a boat, I went under myself until I saw the two big, fat, juicy crayfish together side by side. I was thinking if I could get the two until I pulled the trigger and got two of them but I cut my finger on one by his nerves.

**Peter Willmot**

#### **OPENING : ESPLANADE LAGOON -**

On Saturday, all the Boarding students went to the opening of the Esplanade lagoon. When we got up, we had to make our lunch before we went. First we walked to the Train Station to catch the free train to the Esplanade. We waited for the train until it got there. We all jumped in the train and had to look for a seat but all the seats at the front were taken so we all rushed .....

**Sophie Billy**

#### **BEST WISHES TO MS KATHY WAIA :**

As happens from time, people have to drift apart to take up other commitments and fulfill dreams. We wish every blessing on Ms **Kathy Waia** when she moves to Brisbane so that she can better support her son who attends school down in the State Capital city.

Left behind her will be her band of lusty singers who have several times entertained the school assembly.

Ms Kathy has been at Djarragun for the past two years. Hailing from Queensland's most northern reaches, Saibai Island, in the Torres Strait, Kathy completed her studies at James Cook University (Cairns Campus) and graduated in May 2002. She was quickly snapped up by the **Principal Jean Illingworth** who recognized a teacher with outstanding qualities. Ms Kathy with her guitar and very happy disposition will be missed by students and staff. We hope Brisbane will add to her joyful experiences. Here are a few words from the lady herself : -



Koey Eso, Big Thank You to Djarragun College for giving me the opportunity to teach Year 5/6 Classes of 2002 and Term 1/2003. It has been an honour to work with friendly and considerate staff, respectful and joyful students in beautiful surroundings. I will always treasure all that I have experienced close to my heart. This was my very first teaching experience and I am happy to say that Djarragun provided me with essential teaching and learning tools which I will use in my future teaching career. I hope and pray that the life experiences that I have shared here at Djarragun are like seeds that will sprout, be nurtured by adults and grow into fine trees (students with beautiful values and character traits). I'd like to share my two favourite quotes about education:

"A child is as a young plant: it will grow in whatever way you train it. If you rear it to be truthful, and kind, and righteous, it will grow straight, it will be fresh and tender, and will flourish. But if not, then from faulty training it will grow bent, and stand awry, and there will be no hope of changing it.".....Abdu'l-Baha

"The Great Being saith: Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom." ...Baha'u'llah

I hope to return to see the Year 5/6 students graduate from Djarragun. Once again Koey Eso and Kapu Yawo.

.....**Kathy Waia**

As a further tribute to her friend and colleague, Ms **Fay Sangster** added her words in an acrostic poem :-

**K**athy Waia  
**A**lways an inspirational friend and work colleague  
**T**here when I need her  
**H**ears all my problems and self-doubts  
**Y**et while saying little, manages to solve them all.

**W**hat a lady! I wish you well as you go  
**A**nd your family too  
**I**ntensely missable but look forward to your return  
**A**ppreciate the gift of having known you.

As the teacher next door, I have relied on Kathy in different ways at different times and she always inspires the answer from within. Kathy is dignity, kindness, "tell-it-how-it-is", genuine, beautiful, sexy chick-babe, inspiring, thorough, caring, professional, humorous, unforgettable, courageous. Kathy, you will always be remembered with affection and I sincerely wish you well.

**Fay Sangster**

#### **HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES :**

Some of our staff will be running holiday activities at Mann St. There will be coaching for Rugby League and other games for those who do not want to play Rugby League. Students will need to find their own way to Mann Street as the School buses **cannot** pick them up. They will have to bring their own food and drink. The first activities will be on Tuesday, April 15 at 10:00 a.m. Please feel free to come along and join in with your children. To cover the cost of hiring the sportsground, each student is asked to contribute **\$1.00** each time they come.

#### **TIMETABLE for MANN STREET**

**Tuesday, April 15 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m**

**Thursday, April 17 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m**

**Tuesday, April 22 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m**

**Thursday, April 24 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m**

**BREAK UP DAY :** What a marvellous expenditure of energy was exercised on the last day of Term for the students on Wednesday, April 9. The signs of silent distress had inevitably been developing on the faces of departing friends. In noticeable segments, the dormitory was being divested of its human cargo and the flying

foxes regained ascendancy over their territorial boundaries. Soon, only those creatures will be seen hanging about the property for a couple of weeks.

After morning tea, Mr. Tekoa sectioned off the school populace into six teams which immediately set flight into a battery of games, starting off with doughnut races which required those with big mouths and gargantuan capacity to swallow the doughnuts that were dangling on string from an overhead line. To add to the fun, participants were not to use hands. No one choked!!

Next were the ball games - old favourites - tunnel ball, sack race and three-legged race. Isn't it wonderful that amidst all the jive of computer technology, some of these ancient practices can still raise their heads to lift the competitive spirits of modern youth.

Basketball was the next major highlight and this too proved highly attractive. Students versus the Staff makes a ready spectacle and the opportunity to 'pay back' is an enticing prospect - either way.

Mr. John Grace set up his Master Blaster Machine on the Canteen verandah and pumped out the latest in the disco scene. Background music is unavoidable these days and one can almost feel like living on a movie set. As the final hissing fades from the Sausage Sizzle, the laughter, noise and chattering departs from a happy part of this city to brighten up other places for a while. To everyone, a Happy Easter.



The new Cairns Lagoon attracts water sprites.

Hands for peace and unity: beginning the project.

