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# School Rover

Issue 6 May 16 2003

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*Reverence for the past is important; but so is regard for the future.*

**WELCOME** back to Term 2 everyone. A sizable number of the School Roll turned up on Wednesday, April 30) to start off the Term, albeit a short week for the first two weeks. Staff returned on Monday and Tuesday for the student-free days meetings and preparatory work.

**NUMERACY & LITERACY SEMINAR** : No sooner



had the children and the dust settled last Term, twelve of the Djarragun staff flocked off to the Tradewinds Motel to savour the presentation of even more strategies for next Term. The promotion for Rigby publications was accompanied by spirited presentations that largely included game strategies for the down-to-earth teacher. Two hours were packed with exciting and provocative puzzles, mental gymnastics and the rolling of dice to reveal who was the 'Greedy Pig'.

**Ms Rose Marie** beat **Mr. Ross** in the twenty-five square game of naughts and crosses, which prompted him to think that she has been applying the Biofeedback

to herself on the sly during a major part of the Term.

**FATHER CHRISTIAN** (Mossman) : addressed the staff on April 10 to outline a system of catechesis which operates for 5 - 7 year-olds. A Montessori style approach is used to encourage children to discover the messages contained in Christian parables.

**HOLIDAY PROGRAMME** : During the Easter break, a programme of activities was provided for interested students.

**ANA FIDOW IN NEW MEXICO** : What exciting times we live in. Spending a week on one of the Americas is **Ms Ana** who earned a trip during a Language Course that she was enrolled in some time back. Rumour has it that **Ms Ana** is particularly interested in perfecting the Mexican Wave

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JUNE 25, 26, 27

DJARRAGUN COLLEGE

presents

**THE ROCK AND WATER SEMINAR**  
in conjunction with **Freerk Ykema**  
(teacher and trainer from the Netherlands)  
representing the  
**GADAKU INSTITUTE**

**VOCATIONAL EDUCATION SEMINAR** : On Monday, April 28, **Roland Reck** spent the day in

Brisbane soaking in the information about Vocational Education Courses being conducted in other schools throughout Queensland.

**LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP (Melbourne)** During the holidays, two of the students **Kassie Dotoi & Paul Pearson** were fortunate to have the opportunity to attend a workshop in Melbourne for Youth Leadership. It lasted four days at the Melbourne University. Paul throws together some memories of the highlights of the trip -

"We were picked by **Helen Sykes** in Melbourne by showing good leadership potential at school and our **Principal, Ms Jean** selected us as the representatives of Djarragun. I think it was for all Independent School students from Melbourne.

We stayed at Helen's place in Melbourne. We had a forum for one day and three days with other organizers. We had plenty of free time and got to go to the MCG to watch Richmond Tigers and Hawthorn. We went shopping at Myers, the Nike Factory where we bought clothes and also we went to the movies to see Jon English.

I learnt what it means to be a future leader by organizing ourselves, by living out our dreams and getting people to work together." **Paul Pearson**

**WELCOME** : Every best wish for a happy time here at Djarragun for **Mr. Faifua T** (we'd put in his full name but it sends the Spell Check into fibrillation); so for convenience, we have settled for "Mr. T"

Mr. T. has taken on the Year 6 class in the wake of **Ms Kathy Waia** who has relocated to Brisbane.

Mr T previously was teaching at Ferguson Intermediate School in Auckland, New Zealand. He was teaching Maths, English and Social Studies. Mr. T likes sports and can coach Rugby League, Volleyball and Touch.

His family is still in Auckland and hopefully will make a move later in the year.

So far, Djarragun has been a pleasant introduction to the country for him though he has been more used to the older students in the Middle School bracket in his previous appointments.

**SYMPATHY** : Here's hoping to a speedy recovery to our Dormitory Supervisor who sustained a fractured arm in a car accident last weekend. At the moment, **Mapa Kudub** looks like he's just stepped out of the ranks of Pharoah's bodyguards and we hope that he quickly reverses all the signs of mummification.

He decided to spend his weekend under varying degrees of anaesthesia after sustaining his arm fracture in a car accident. He underwent surgery on Saturday, May 03 and now is considered "arm-our plated". All the best, Mapa.

Best wishes also to Mr **Phillip Epsag** who also needed to take advantage of our hospital system recently and is presently at home recuperating.

**AUDIOLOGY DEPARTMENT** : WuChopperen Medical Centre have organized experts to screen as

many of our students as possible for hearing. Because many of our indigenous youth are subject to a high risk factor for hearing impairment, we are fortunate to be given the opportunity to take advantage of the available service. Not all students can be screened as the process is time-consuming so students whom we can readily identify will be selected for priority. The Hearing Tests will be conducted on Monday, May 12.

Parents and guardians will be sent a Permission Form in order to sign their consent.

**EXCURSION** : **Mr. Rick** had his Enterprise Education troupe of dancers perform at Pelicans in the Park on Tuesday, May 06. The dancers were comprised of Years 11 & 12 with a couple of Year 10s for support. The venture was successful. The performances were well received and the audience of tiny tots joined in some of the play dances and songs by the end of the session.

**ENTERPRISE EDUCATION :ASX SHAREGAME**  
Our two sharmarket syndicates "Kaikai" and "Dugong" have improved their overall position. "Kaikai" is now in the tip 45% and "Dugong" is in the top 30% of all syndicates playing nationally. They are both making a profit and considering they didn't know that a share was three months ago, are doing exceptionally well.

#### **Djarragun Dancers**

**TREE PLANTING** : (May 08) After much speculation last Term, we finally got to the stage of implanting a few hundred saplings. The plant seeds had been collected from this region and nurtured in a Nursery up in Lake Eacham. Thank you to **Peter Dellow** and the other two rangers from the nursery for Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

The trees have all sorts of food and 'bush tucker' as well as medicinal qualities. That will be an interesting follow-up for later projects. In any case, the barren strip at the Maher Road frontage of the school is now set to regain some of its original bush appearance with this enterprising makeover.

Students had the opportunity to plant three saplings each and learn some valuable hints from the rangers about the trees and the need for proper tending.

Some of our reporters (at the grassroots level) put words together to describe their experiences :-

Hi, My name is Claudette (Barlow) and on Thursday the 8th of May, we had to plant trees. I was really looking towards today but it really was very disgusting and the fertilizer stunk like goona. I didn't rally like tree-planting at all but it was fun and exciting for me. I don't know if it was good for the other people because they were saying bad things like "yuck, gross" and those things. Anyway, I like it but one thing - we got dirty. The soil felt like clay or maybe harder like rocks, even though we had to crush it all up into soil.

Step 1 : We had to mix the soil and fertilizer.

Step 2: We had to measure the plant.

Step 3: We had to make the 'peace' sign and squeeze the tube.

Step 4: Take the plant out

Step 5: We had to plant it.

### **Claudette Barlow**

Dear Diary, Today, we were given tasks to plant trees. Two park rangers from the Tablelands came up and showed us. When Peter who was one of the rangers explained everything to us, I was thinking 'Yuck!' Chook Manure. Oh no! I don't want to touch that. As I put my hand in the hole, the ground was very damp. Then I started to mix the manure and soil together. When it was time, I squeezed the tube to get the plant out. Andrew, Godfrey and I saw a spider. Andrew and I wanted to run but thanks to Godfrey, he chased it away. When Loretta and I were planting our last tree, just as we finished, we saw an earthworm and I was thinking how gross. I ran out to wash my hands. I was so scared of the worm.

### **Roseline Day**

Dear Diary, Today, we went to the front of the schoolyard to plant some young trees with Warren and Peter. First, Peter explained to us what we had to do. Then he told us what was mixed with the fertilizer. Peter said there was chicken poo mixed with it as well. I did not want to touch it. It made me feel sick that I did not want to do it at all but when Heidi came up to me and told me to team up with her, I said yes because she was encouraging me to do it with her. When it was time to go back into the classroom with Mr Dowling, he told us to write down in our journal what we did. I felt good about what I did today.

### **Peah Tabuai**

**WOODWORK WORKSHOP** : Students are making moves already in preparation for the Cairns Show where



their handicrafts will be entered for exhibition and competition. During Term 1, quite a lot of impressive work has emanated from the work-benches by students who have shown talent and natural ability. Both boys and girls have carved out picture and mirror frames as well as small tables. The consistent attention and guidance from Mr. Roland Reck and Mr. Tony Eseg are bringing out the desired effect - students becoming involved and enjoying it.

Three of the older students, **Koza Passi**, **Benjamin Richard** and **Saggi Eseg** are on special projects which will culminate in articles for the Cairns Show. Later on in the year, they will also prepare work for the Arts Festival held up in Yungaburra.

Already completed on the production line are two benches for a local Retirement Village. These represent the first commissioned works from the School

Workshop. As a convincing show of what can be possible initiatives within the workshop, **Roland Reck & Tony Eseg** literally manufacture their own benchmarks towards success.

**NEW OFFICE** : **Ms Sharlene Campbell** has been given a make-over to her office courtesy of Mr. **Tony**



**Eseg** and Mr. **Joe Tambourin**. Some clever reshaping and designing hopefully have made her daily surrounds more pleasant as a workplace.

### **THAT'S NOT MY JOB**

This is the story of four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Everybody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have.

Author Unknown

**YEAR 10 CAMP** : Ten days of excitement are in store for our Year 10 students who are currently up at Lake Tinaroo for their Camp (May 13 - 22).

**HOMEWORK FOLDERS** : The Primary School earlier had earlier implemented a system called the 'Communication Book' which has prompted some very good results by way of regular monitoring of the students' application to work.

The Middle School has followed that initiative and established the Homework Folder in order to encourage both the doing of homework by students and parental involvement by way of home monitoring.

**HOME ECONOMICS CLASSES** : These classes have been slightly hampered for the Years 8/9 Boys because their Monday schedule was victim to public holidays for the fortnight. However, the Years 7/8 Boys have sailed into the kitchen and produced the gourmet delights of Satay Sausages in the first week and then Fishhead and Mussel Soup, Baked Fish and Rice for the main dish. During the third week, all the boys in the Middle School learnt to make a Breakfast setting,

including cereals, yoghurt, juices, a sausage and egg and toast and tea. Let's hope they're putting in some practice at home!!



**Ms Jean welcomes Philemon's wife, Grace and newborn daughter, Phillipa - both newly arrived from Zimbabwe.**

**GET ACTIVE : SPORT & RECREATION QLD**

The school was visited by a small troupe from Get Active which is a Queensland Government Initiative in schools and part of the Sport and Recreation Department.

Thank you to the convenors of the programme :

**Brooke Wilkins** (Softball player - 2 x Olympic Bronze);

**Dave Bylett** (Baseball - Australian team);

**Mirinda Carfrae** (Triathlete - World Championship Silver medalist);

**Angela Loveday** : Coordinator - Cairns Office

The group is travelling throughout Queensland schools and was programmed to conduct a clinic at Djarragun on Tuesday, May 13. It was a very active and wholesome series of sessions where our students were busy jumping ropes, hoops and mini-hurdles, throwing, running, stepping and catching.

**STORY REVIEW** : One of the classes has been diligently working on one of Oscar Wilde's stories. Here is a summary provided by a student -

**"The Happy Prince" -**

Long ago in Sans-Souci in France, there was a king and queen who had five children. The eldest got sick and died. The people loved the prince so much that they built a statue.

A swallow had fallen in love with a reed so he stayed behind while his friends flew to Egypt. Now it was getting cold, so the swallow flew off. While he was flying, he was getting tired so he stopped to rest on the statue and felt water dripping on him. He looked up and saw the statue was crying.

The statue prince asked the swallow to take the ruby from his sword hilt to give to a poor seamstress and to take the sapphires (from his eyes) to the playwright and the match-girl.

One day the swallow told the prince that it was going to die and when the swallow died, the prince's heart broke. Then the mayor and the councillors came past and decided to melt the statue but the leaden heart didn't melt.

So they threw the leaden heart and the dead swallow onto the rubbish heap. When God asked the angels to bring him the two precious things from the city, the angels brought back the leaden heart and the dead swallow.

**Jilara Rodgers**

**VIRTUES PROGRAMME : HONESTY**

The theme for the past fortnight has been 'honesty'. It is good to see that students are applying themselves honestly enough to deserve public recognition. Congratulations to those below who earned certificates :

**Years 7/8 Boys**

**James Akiba**

**Years 7/8 Girls**

**Servanna Walker**

**Year 9 Boys**

**Jack Geoffrey**

**Year 9 Girls**

**Alice David**

**MUSIC MACHINE** : As part of the Friday afternoon school assembly is a committed band of budding musicians. Seen now establishing themselves as a force to be reckoned with are the likes of **Maia Akiba, Geoffrey Jack, Paul Pearson, George Mara and Ray Noah**. Mr John Grace, in spite of his recent tussle with an errant virus, still plods a purposeful path with our talented 'musos'. At the latest assembly, the roof virtually lifted with the supporting singers at the microphone and the sea of voices from the audience. Monki ana Tortol chanted its way back onto the Djarragun Top of the Charts. Perhaps 'wimmoway' has been finally relegated back to the 'peaceful village'. Equally enthralling to finish off the week was a dance performance by the Torres Strait Islander troupe in front of the rest of the school. This group has been practising each Thursday with dance teacher **Pinau Ghee & Julie Zaro**.

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**PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS**  
 will be conducted at Raintrees Tavern on  
**Sunday, June 01 from 2:00 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**PLEASE FEEL WELCOME TO ATTEND**