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# School Rover

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## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

***“Come to Me all who labour and are heavy-burdened and I will give you rest.***

**Matthew 11: 28**

**NEW FACES ON THE CAMPUS :** A very warm welcome to **Leigh and Penny Douglas** who have come all the way (from Gordonvale) to tackle challenges of the Dormitory life. Lee was a long time worker at the local sugar mill and previously operated the milk run in the region - in a sense, we could say that he comes from the ‘land of milk and sugar’.

A fortuitous meeting with some of our students following a church meeting last Term has led Lee and Penny to our door - up the stairs, into the kitchen rounds and the hectic corridors of fun and games. Welcome to you both.

Replacement teacher for Elizabeth Myers is **Riona Delargy** who has stepped out of her University campus shoes to don the gravity boots needed in the Year 1/2 class. Miss Riona says a few words of her own :-

“My name is **Riona Delargy**. I am the new Grade 1/2 teacher. I live at Smithfield and take the long drive in everyday. I don’t mind though because I think that Djarragun is a lovely school and the people here have made me feel very welcome. I am looking forward to the rest of the Term and getting to know everyone.” **Riona**

## ROCK & WATER PROGRAMME

Just to top off the end of last Term, Djarragun staff and some other interested people from the community and inter-state were involved in a most engaging programme called Rock and Water Programme. We had one visitor who even defied the time line and trekked across from Western Australia. Another came up from Yeppoon and others trickled from Innisfail and Cairns.

**Freerk Ykema** (try saying that when you’re sober) was our illustrious programme conductor. Hailing from the

Netherlands, Freerk set the pace from group dynamics, personal assessment, confidence building and social psychology. His methodology was drawn, apart from a lifetime of experience, from Eastern religious disciplines, Western sociology, modern psychology and human development. Both the physical and psychic elements were brought into play. Control in breathing, balance and behaviour became simultaneous prerequisites. The cerebral aspects of the programme was more than amply complemented with physical fun and games.



Essentially, the Rock and Water concepts are the defining elements. The main target is the education of boys especially when society has undergone such a massive metamorphosis and the time-tested curricula have become more and more irrelevant. While girls are quite content with simply ‘being’, boys are frenetically involved with ‘doing’. The dimension of language comes more readily to girls; physical communication is more the domain comfortable to the boys.

When the dosage of testosterone is added to the equation, then the mechanics begin to work in overdrive.

A fly on the wall would have had its work cut out for it trying to decipher the antics of this esoteric group that switched tack, assembled in puzzling combinations, assumed odd postures and sometimes bedecked

themselves with tackling shields. A Tai Chi class seemed to evolve and from early in the piece it was evident that there were not too many Libras in the crowd. Exercises included nagging, taunting and verbally pestering some unsuspecting victim as well as a communal show of support and encouragement.

Group dynamics are powerful within all our lives but the initial grounding has to be from a personal internalization of all of the values which promote personal growth. There is the prompting for each person to offer to the rest of society what he or she can activate from within.

Thanks to John Grace and Yeshim Ali who jointly produced a very worthwhile set of notes for those of us who were far too busy working our way towards karate chopping our first plank into splinters.

Thanks to the organizers of this unforgettable event in the School Calendar. Mr. **Brian Dowling** took on the challenge to advertize and draw attention to the program and orchestrated the various activities for smooth running. **Paula Brougham** satisfied appetites in fine style with dishes and delights issuing from the School Canteen at the appropriate times. It was said that some were really 'centred and grounded' in this arena and the deep breathing became more apparent.



### WORDS FROM AFAR

Dear Djarragun College,  
Hello ! How are you?. I'm just writing to say 'Hi' again and I might not be down for show this year but if I do I will drop in at the school and say hi. I'll be going back to school on the 14th (July) Can you please say hi to all of my classes and teachers. Oh, please say hello to Mrs. Lorraine for me for sure. OK, that's all - I don't know what else to say but I did go horse riding. A week later, we moved into our new house. It was fantastic. I fell off once but then I got back on again and then jumped over the ramps but the ramps weren't that high so don't worry.

Take care. Lots of love. Heidi Stafford and this is my number - 074053891850 or 0415386566

Bye, see you some time next year. My address - 37 Lochiel St., DIMBOOLA VIC 3414 Have a great weekend and term back to school. **Heidi Stafford**

### MULGRAVE CENTRAL MILL CO.LTD CIRCULAR TO PARENTS/TEACHERS SAFETY ON THE SUGAR CANE RAILWAY

The 2003 crushing season is planned to start the week Monday 16 June and from that date cane will be hauled 24 hours a day from Monday to Sunday morning each week of the crushing season, along the cane railway network which extends from the Smithfield area in the north of Fishery Falls in the south.

Several accidents have occurred over the years as a result of children playing on cane railway bridges, joy-riding on cane bins or riding trail-bikes along the cane railway. As you will appreciate, all these practices are extremely dangerous and your assistance in keeping children away from the cane railway line could prevent a serious injury.

Mulgrave Central Mill will be prepromoting its "Cane Train Awareness 2003 programme by way of a distribution Press Advertising and a Radio and Television campaign throughout the 2003 crushing which will extend from June to November.

We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**R. T. McDowall** (General Manager)

## WRITERS' CRAMP

Last Term, mention was made of one of our students who won a place in a Youth Forum being held in Brisbane during the Semester break. **Charmaine** can fill you in for herself in her report to the Principal -

### Why I should be selected for the Queensland Space Youth Forum :

My name is Charmaine Akiba. I am from the Torres Strait and I attend Djarragun College, an indigenous school in Gordonvale. I'd like to be considered for a scholarship for students from a poor background.

I want to be a pilot but it's too expensive and I don't know anyone who could help me. When I heard about the Forum and that you give chances to people who are poor, well, I thought that this might be my chance.

I'm passing all my subjects - numeracy, literacy, computers and last of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. I study two TAFE subjects - Outdoor Recreation Cert 1 and Cert 1 in Information Technology. I enjoy cultural dancing and all sports.

I don't know where the space industry is headed. Three things that I would have in my hotted-up space shuttle is a family photo to always remind me of my land. I'd have a reverse cycle split system air-con so when the ship is burning up on re-entry, my ship and I will stay cool. Lastly, I would have a battery operated life support system because if the whole system fails and I have no power then I can still breathe with the



battery suit as long as the batteries are Duracell but if I have Black and Gold batteries, well, I'll be dead by the time I get the suit on.

**Charmaine Akiba, Gr. 12 Djarragun College**

Dear Ms Jean

I am writing this letter to let you know about the fabulous week I had down in Brisbane as a delegate with the Youth Space Forum. Firstly, I'd like to say thank you for helping me and encouraging me to apply for this experience.

At first, in the plane I was thinking if I was doing the right thing for me, my family and my school. I was nervous to leave Cairns and to meet other people. There were 43 students in total and I was the only indigenous person so I was proud to be there.

We attended lectures all through the week about Space law, NASA, the Russian Space station and ADFA. Our practical work involved scuba diving and different group work seminars. These were to build team spirit and to teach us about zero gravity.

I learnt a lot of new things and about the experiments that the scientists are doing for the future. Our special guest speaker was an American astronaut. I had never met one before. This experience was much fun for me and I learnt about things I had never thought about before. I have started watching videos about space too. I was pleased to represent Djarragun College and will never forget my trip to Brisbane. Thank you very much. I have attached some photos for you to look at.

**Charmaine Akiba**

#### **WORDS OF SYMPATHY**

We pass on our condolences to two families suffering the loss of recently deceased members.

**Mr. Joseph McGinness** (after whom one of the Aboriginal Hostels in Cairns is named) : prominent leader

and activist who worked strenuously towards fairness and equal opportunity for Indigenous Australians). "Uncle Joe" was one of those who were instrumental in organizing the 1967 Referendum - an historic event in the establishing citizenship for Indigenous Australians. His work reached into the higher spectrum of Public Service in the State and in Canberra.

Uncle Joe was born of the Kungarakan tribe whose traditional lands include Rum Jungle south of Darwin.

**Mrs. Rebecca David** (grandmother : Maluka & Tinus) after a lengthy illness and major operation in Cairns Base Hospital.

#### **BUSINESS BOOST FOR YOUTH**

An article in the Cairns Post (May 13)

IT'S business as usual for the students of Djarragun College and Bentley Park College who have taken up the challenge of forming their own real company.

As part of Young Achievement Australia's entrepreneurial business skills program, these students will design, manufacture, market and sell a product of their choice as well as conduct their own board meetings, operate company finances and attend a trade expo.

Liquidation of the company, with dividends being paid to shareholders, will occur in October. Meanwhile, participating students from all over North Queensland will converge on Townsville this Saturday for the YAA management skills seminar.

Prominent Townsville business people will share with students their experiences of company life. Students will attend workshops for managing director, company secretary and directors of finance, environment, human resources, marketing and manufacturing.

"The depth of knowledge and experience gained by participating in YAA's enterprising business programs is unparalleled," North Queensland Regional Manager Kerrin Cridland said. "Without the support of sponsoring companies, our future business leaders would be denied this remarkable experience."

YAA's mission is to develop business enterprise skills, capacities and understanding in Young Australians through partnerships with business, education and the community.

**\* For more details on YAA's business programs, contact the YAA North Queensland Regional Office on 4772 5682.**

**CAIRNS SHOW :** Our carvers and artisans reaped the rewards for their skill and effort. Whilst he has every right to be proud of the results his students have achieved, the School Workshop Manual Arts Coordinator, **Roland Reck**, is a bit bemused that his own work was awarded a Third Prize certificate. It might be a case of teaching his proteges too much. **Kura Dau, Koza Passi** and **Ben Richard** are strong contenders for the Workshop crown. **Ben** took First Prize, **Kura** claimed the Second Prize and **Koza** earned himself the Third Prize. Congratulations, boys (and Roland!!)

#### **SUPPORTING BOYS' LEARNING**

An article prompted from a study by John Cresswell, Ken

Rowe and Graeme Withers suggests some Practical Strategies -

- \* early diagnosis and intervention for those 'at-risk' of literacy underachievement;
- \* curriculum content and resources which will interest both boys and girls;
- \* highly structured instructions and lessons;
- \* greater emphasis on teacher-directed work in the classroom in preference to group work;
- \* clear objectives, detailed instructions and explicit criteria for presentation;
- \* short term, challenging tasks with frequent changes of activity;
- \* phrases and techniques like 'work attack skills' which appeal to boys' sense of competition;
- \* positive reinforcement;
- \* opportunities for extra tuition and revision;
- \* meaningful work experience informing students about changing roles in adult and working life; and
- \* explaining to parents the importance of their role as listeners and readers, especially the importance of fathers reading with their sons and role modelling.

## ROCK AND WATER

The Rock and Water program is now fully underway in the Middle and Senior School. Freerk Ykema's presentation of the program, including the theory behind it and the activities that reinforce those principles, was excellent.

It is an excellent and innovative approach bringing to the students the discovery of their personal path towards becoming a genuine person.

Teachers have now begun the program with the various groups - secondary in the mornings, Middle School in the afternoons. While it was originally suited for the boys, we have introduced it to the girls as the staff see the advantages that the program offers for both genders.

The teachers are furiously studying the manual and lesson plans. They are also involved in occasional meetings to offer support, encouragement and feedback. In this way, we are learning what works with the students and what is the best approach.

**Brian Dowling**



## ROCK AND WATER

*Sometimes it's in such moments  
When we are left in limbo  
When avoirdupois fights gravity  
Legs shake and arms akimbo.*

*We really think as teachers  
That we're a balanced lot  
Our equilibrium gets the jitters  
And our muscles form a knot.*

*Looking round the circle  
At the range of disarray  
There is perhaps a sequence  
But synchronism's not on display.*

*It definitely put some order  
When we introduced - "Chi Ai !!"  
But premature calls could still be heard  
From one man from T. J.*

*If Martial Arts and Self Defence  
Went knocking door to door,  
Which would be well received  
By clients asking for more?*

*It only takes a little fist  
To split a piece of pine  
It's enough to pump adrenalin  
And send tingles down your spine.*

*Freerk Ykema is hard to say  
Let alone to put to rhyme  
But it might disengage the obnoxious  
Or those predisposed towards crime.*

*The Chinese wrestling, sticky fingers,  
The Chi-Ai and Chi-Ow!!  
Are all part and parcel of the small extremes  
That we endured before the final bow.*



Thanks to all members of staff and other participants who entered into the spirit of the very busy schedule so wholesomely.

**CHI - AI**