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School Rover

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Sometimes we miss the daisies because we are looking for roses; sometimes we miss contentment, because we are intent upon victory"

What a busy pace everyone seems to be engaged in. With the latest structures quickly taking shape and the hum of industry surrounding us, the close of another school year is well within sight.



21st BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to our College Receptionist
Ms Robyn Lui

who has now qualified for the Key of the Door. All the staff were able to gather for a few moments of Morning Tea to enjoy another celebration and also present Robyn with a small gift and the opportunity to slice and distribute wedges of calories.

TAFE Graduation Ceremony : The Djarragun Dance troupe entertained with five dances as part of the ceremony for graduates in the Education faculty of Cairns TAFE held on October 30. Thanks to **Saggi Eseg, Bablu Day, Koza Passi, Alfred Passi, Michael Billy, Vincent Wosomo, Iveno Elia, William Messa & Bradley Noah**. Singers were **Mapa Kudub, Uncle Phillip** and **Aunty Thelma Eseg & Aunty Mabel Adidi**.

WELCOME TO THE STAFF : Somehow overlooked after stepping into the 'fast lane' at Djarragun is our most recently appointed Assistant Teacher, **Sharon Cooney**. Sharon works closely with Ms Fidow in the Senior School sector. A happy, however belated, welcome !!

AISQ (Association of Independent Schools, Qld)

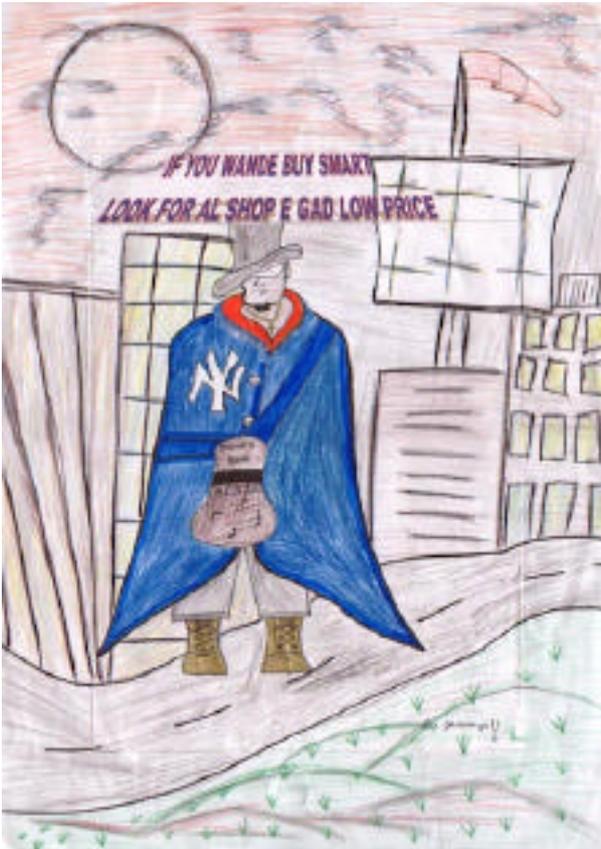
Thank you for the obliging visit by **Jenene Rosser** who met with some of the staff on October 30 to outline the policy being adopted by Government initiative about Bullying in Schools. Since this is now being tackled as an issue of high priority, the main purpose is to reinforce the notion that schools should be safe environments for students.

Whilst it is easy enough to sally forth with a blanket policy all schools will need to apply the practice to suit their own particular demands and situations.

MUSIC BEAT : As ever always the popular note around the school, Mr. John Grace is still plying his trade with an increasing swarm of music wannabes. Lunch break is usually just that - broken by the sounds of reggae, pop and rock. A couple of groups have featured at the school assembly on Fridays and entertained in their own way a readily appreciative audience. If any progress to the big time, we can all attest to their humble beginnings. **Mr. 'Gracie'** continues to promote a bevy of girls calling themselves the 'Purple Choir' and the persevering crop which has endured a host of name changes (currently 'The Underdogs').

Mr. & Mrs. Grace : A very warm welcome to our own

Mr. Gracie's parents, all the way from Tamworth NSW who attended one of the school assemblies recently. Obviously, worried whether or not we are treating their son well, they are spending some time in the North and took time to check out Djarragun for themselves. We wish them a happy stay.



HEALTH OFFICER : Elwyn Cameron

I am now engaged solely as the Health Officer for the school and have settled well and truly into the little 'medical base' for the school in a central part of the school.

We have recently been very busy with retesting of hearing for those who have been fitted with hearing aids and it is good to see the good response from the students. Care is necessary because the equipment for one of the state of the art aids is in the \$5000 range.

The WuChopperen Dentist is finishing off their attention to the Seniors at the Gordonvale High School caravan and also at St. Mary's Dental Caravan.

Meetings with the Health Officers from St. Augustine's College, Wangetti and Peace Lutheran College to discuss health issues have been very useful.

Sexual Health Lessons : students have been participating well; asking questions and a tad embarrassed here and there. The down to earth presentations - the "Doll's House" from Cairns Base Hospital will be immensely appreciated now and especially in the future.

I would encourage parents and guardians to contact me at the school if there are health issues with their children that need to be addressed and I can assist towards it.

Students seem to appreciate the routine that has now been established.

Elwyn Cameron

Ms Elwyn and the students are all very happy and grateful for the bright, comfortable, air-conditioned room which has been provided for First Aid and students who do not feel well. Ms Elwyn is now the full time School Health Officer and is able to properly monitor and maintain the health and wellbeing of our students.

This Term has been a busy one with many students receiving dental treatment and gorgeous new smiles! As well, several hearing problems have been discovered and as a result, students have been fitted with hearing aids which have greatly assisted their learning skills and general quality of life.

Ms Elwyn would like to express her appreciation to the teachers for their cooperation as students have had to leave classes for their medical and dental appointments. Ms Elwyn would particularly like to draw attention to the fact that recently, six students who were taken to the Hearing Specialist, had to wait for three and a half hours while hearing tests were carried out. The good behaviour and patience shown by every student was excellent and needs to be applauded. In their Djarragun uniforms, the students, John Wigness, Samuel Gela, Maureen Aki, Edward Nawakie, Comrie Tabuai and Edmund Nawakie quietly and politely amused themselves without a fuss. Comrie's and Edmund's wait was for four and a half hours which deserves particular praise. Well done, students. Your families would think you are super; Djarragun certainly does. **Sherral Aird**

HEARING AUSTRALIA : A few of our students who recently underwent the tests for hearing have progressed to the next step of acquiring aids.

A couple of staff, Ms Elwyn & Ms Sherral accompanied those students to the Hearing Australia Clinic and reported on really well-behaved young people. Some of them had to endure hours of waiting and did so enough to do their school proud.

We mention by way of thanks to Hearing Australia staff and also our own staff members who are performing valuable services towards the welfare of our students.

We should make the important reminder that within the Indigenous population of Australia, there is an inordinate occurrence of hearing loss particularly with children. We can do something about it to minimize disadvantages.

BOYS AND LITERACY

How can parents help?

- * Be a model parent reader. children copy the behaviour and attitudes of their parents.
- * Use every opportunity to change a boy's perception that fiction books are only for girls.
- * Acknowledge boys' and girls' abilities and strengths in all of their literacy endeavours.
- * Encourage children to read aloud in their early years and read aloud to them.
- * Don't correct every reading error. Praise even the smallest reading achievement.
- * Set realistic goals appropriate to your child's maturity.
- * Let children choose the books they read.
- * Provide easy access to reading material by joining a library and sharing literacy material/computer games, with friends.



Debe Gerger! (G'day!) My name is **Merwez Whaleboat** and I come from Murray island in the Torres Strait. I am currently in the third year of completing a double degree in Education/Arts at Deakin University, Victoria. I am majoring in Literature (English) and Dramatic Arts (Drama). Over the next two weeks I will be doing my teaching prac at Djarragun College. So far, it's been great getting to know the students and staff at the college, I find working with the kids very rewarding.

My father, **Donald Whaleboat**, is the principal of Mer Island State School. At the moment he is on long service leave due to twenty years in Queensland Education. The principal, Ms **Jean Illingworth**, was very kind in showing us around the grounds and introducing us to the staff. Mr Whaleboat was very happy to see his past students doing well at Djarragun college and the impressive campus which included two big boarding houses. We can see the kids from our community, and other remote areas, are being well cared for and their education is important in achieving the best outcomes for their future and the future development of our communities.

Merwez Whaleboat

BOARD MEETING : Members of the Board of Directors met at the School on October 30. Thanks again to all particularly those who have to negotiate long distances in order to attend.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSOCIATION : Five members of staff (**Linda McKeown, Rose Marie Tafea, David Scott, Yeshim Ali and Ross Walters**) attended a meeting held at St. Mary's College, Woree on Wednesday, October 29. Ms Linda presented a profile of the school to other teachers outlining what was being offered for Indigenous students at Djarragun. Ms Yeshim and Ms Rose Marie gave a brief description and display of the Rock and Water Programme.

TORRES STRAIT RECRUITMENT TRIP : October 19 - 25) Mr. **Ludo Kuipers** and Mr. **Tekoa Tafea** made one of their annual trips to the outer islands of the Torres Strait. They were able to report and liaise with the parents of the present students and also promote the school for prospective students. Both of them came back with glowing reports of their successful journey to the remote communities. Mr. Tekoa recorded how pleased many parents were in

the improvement they had seen in their children. Many of the children had become more active in their home communities and this was very comforting and reassuring for the future.

A note of thanks to all the parents who met with Mr. Ludo and Mr. Tekoa and for the hospitality shown them during their stays at respective island communities -

OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING : At the School Assembly on Friday, October 31, Mr. Warren Pitt MP presented to the Principal, Ms Jean Illingworth a certificate and the winning cheque from a recent competition. Four students were presented certificates for their artwork - postcards in Torres Strait Creole promoting proper buying and spending. Mr. Pitt also congratulated the generosity of the students who chose to donate their portion of the prize to the school. Students who received certificates from Mr. Pitt were **Mavis Sipi, Bablu Day, Koza Passi & Ben Richard**.

BOARDING HOUSE

Houseparents Leigh and Penny reflect on - Making a Positive Difference in Boarding

At Djarragun, boarding is fun and we try to offer a variety of activities to stimulate and interest our 'family'.

* **Flying Fish Point**Whilst the near famous 'Djarragun Dancers' were entertaining the public in Townsville, the thirty-three remaining boarding residents packed our gear and went camping at Flying Fish Point near Innisfail. The park offered a good variety of activities to suit each of our requirements.

- some students enjoyed the eight-ball facilities with the television playing in the background;
- others enjoyed lounging in the swimming pool on the inner-tubes;
- some people just enjoyed relaxing and chatting together;
- some people went looking for 'serious fun' fishing, swimming and just floating on the Coral Sea on inner-tubes.

One special highlight of the weekend was a concert provided by the students to an audience of the other park campers. The singing was fantastic, the drumming deafening and the dancing which came later in the evening was spontaneous and fun.

Thank you, students, for making our camp a memorable and successful event.

Prawn Night : One Sunday evening, our travelling Djarragun boarders set out for 'Dinner by the Sea', where we enjoyed a serve of fresh prawns, swimming and fun at Palm Cove.

Lake Eacham : Twice, now, we have braved the Gillies Highway to luxuriate in the cool waters of Lake Eacham. We take several inner-tyre tubes and swimming noodles to float around the lake and everyone has fun bomb-diving off the pontoon. We take a picnic lunch and everyone has a great time enjoying the beautiful green tree-edged lake.

Island Night : Each Wednesday night, we have Island Night at Boarding where we dress for the occasion in suitable Island clothes, flowers in the girls' hair and dine

on Island style food, followed by singing, dancing and much fun. Certificates are issued to deserving students who put in an effort to contribute to the success of the evening.

Yarrabah Christian Fellowship : On Sunday, November 02, we journeyed to Yarrabah to join with church groups from Cairns, the Tablelands and Mossman to unite in singing praises. Djarragun students joined in the fun and sang several choruses and enjoyed watching all the other groups winging their songs. The junior boys from Yarrabah provided Aboriginal Cultural dance which was fantastic. We enjoyed a meal together and then Djarragun came alive with Mr. **Mapa Kudub** on the electric guitar and several boys taking turns on the drums and singing echoed around the bay at Yarrabah. Many thanks, boarders, for making this a very special day and one to remember and tell about to your families at home.

Leigh & Penny Douglas



MS KATHY WAIA : Visiting the school for a day recently was **Ms Kathy Waia**, a past teacher at Djarragun who is now resident in one of Brisbane's Moreton Bay suburbs, Wynnum.

CAIRNS POST : Monday 3rd October, 2003 printed a Letter to the Editor which went as follows :-

Student an inspiration

GOOD on you Saggi Epsag for taking a look at what life can reward you with when making the choices you have ("Student turns from dropout to dux" 28-10-03). Showing the maturity it takes to mould your own life into what you want it to be.

Nothing is ever out of reach if you try, and I have no doubt your story will inspire and encourage other young people to do the same.

Deciding to put a loved sport aside to concentrate on your education is an outstanding acknowledgement of what is important for a young man.

Good luck for the future and know that, inadvertently, you will have changed in some way how other young people think about their lives.

We need more people like you in our communities.

- **Veronica French, Balaclava Rd, Earlville**

INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS' DAY

Djarragun College representatives presented their teachers on an assembly with badges in honour of this international acknowledgement for the profession.

Badges were also set aside for distribution to the Seniors who also hold the responsibility for role modelling in the school.

As a light aside, the Principal, Ms Jean Illingworth, reversed the roles and asked the student body to place scrutiny upon the parade of teachers up on the stage : Who would be the best behaved? Who would be in trouble? Who would be suspended?

For the last question, we all wonder why the IT teacher, Mr. Ludo, attracted almost a unanimous 'thumbs down'.

GEDEM

1. Someone was overheard recently committing a faux pas - referring to the dormitory as the 'nursing home'.

2. So who are the students banned from access to the Internet ?? One too many dot coms, maybe !!

3. Who had a birthday on November 01 - and tried to keep it a secret??



PRESENTATION DAY 2003 DJARRAGUN COLLEGE on

Monday, December 01

**Parents, Friends,
Past students,
Supporters & Associates
are cordially invited to
this year's
Presentation of awards
11:00 a.m.**

**at
Djarragun College**