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# School Rover

Issue 16 Dec. 01, 2003

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*"Sometimes the greatest love comes from the ones we don't think about much"*

**YEAR 12 GRADUATION :** This year the Seniors celebrated their graduation with a function held at Brothers Club. In usual style, the event was something of a fashion extravaganza when both girls and boys were able to show themselves dressed to the nines. Congratulations to each of our graduating students for reaching this milestone in your lives. May it be a forerunner for many wonderful things and the cause for many great memories. Ms. **Ana Fidow** has been richly rewarded with the success of yet another contingent of creditable students. Go now with confidence, graduates, and put all of your preparations to the test.

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## ABSTUDY 2004

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**BIRTHDAYS RECENTLY :** Kura Dau, Gloria Standen, Steven Savo. They were treated with a special whole school rendition of 'Happy Birthday' at the school assembly.



**YEAR 11 CAMP : Lake Tinaroo :** What a great rap was given to the students who returned from the few days of leadership Camp last week. Principal Ms Jean commented on how thrilled she was after coming from one of the camp sessions. She gave very encouraging words about the quality of leadership which we can expect for the coming year. Higherground facilitator, Steve, was presented with a College jumper and a small gift in appreciation for the time and effort he has afforded the students in their preparation as prospective leaders for 2004. Steve reiterated his two 'ps' - proud and privileged - as the summation of his sentiments of the camp. He too had witnessed the growth and development of the students during the time he has been able to work with them. Congratulations to the Year 11 students for attracting such praise upon yourselves. The time is coming for your stars to shine during your Senior year.

**CONGRATULATIONS :** James Cook University Special mention of **Ben Richard** (Year 12) who sat his JCU entrance exam this week. Ben passed his exam and will join **Naomi Cook-Thompson** and **Saggi Epseg** next year at JCU, making them the first three students from Djarragun to go on to University.

At a recent School assembly, Ms Fidow gave credit to Benjamin for attempting the test earlier during the year and despite being unsuccessful on that occasion, applied himself throughout the rest of the year and achieved a very deserved successful result.

## GEDEM

1. I've heard of people 'biting the dust' but recently someone bit the ice at skating and lost a tooth.
2. Two staff members harvesting coconut leaves were reported recently being harassed by cattle.

### LITERACY AND NUMERACY

#### What Parents can do

Parents' and carers' support and encouragement are vital to their child's education. There are everyday ways that parents can help their children improve their literacy and numeracy skills. Parents can

- \* draw attention to the literacy and numeracy that happens in daily life
- \* be positive about learning mathematics
- \* read with their child - from books and magazines to maps and timetables
- \* encourage their child to talk about their experiences
- \* value books and learning
- \* encourage their child to use the library for pleasure as well as to find information
- \* stay in touch with their child's school and school activities - at both primary and secondary school
- \* focus on literacy and numeracy development in talks with classroom teachers
- \* be positive about school and learning.

**SKATING ON ICE :** For two Monday afternoons, the students from the Middle School have slid across the rink at Skate World. While inelegance might have been the governing term, there were signs and promises of a few swans on the frozen lake. Maybe their skateboarding skills were able to spill over to the ice rink.

**YARRABAH EXCURSION :** The Upper Primary classes spent the day over the range at Yarrabah on Friday, November 21.

**MARINE STINGERS :** November 24 - The students had the opportunity to have a presentation by **Glenda Seymour**, a representative from James Cook University about the dangers of Australian marine stingers. Now that the season is upon us, swimming can be a hazardous activity if the necessary care isn't taken. Glenda advised about the small jellyfish which can still get through the stinger nets. One person had died this year from suffering stings across the body and going into shock.

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**ROCK AND WATER PROGRAMME :** A pupil-free day was observed on Friday, November 14 and the staff settled into a neat 'reviver' session with the originator of the Rock and Water programme, Freerk Ykema. If the name stuns you - it's all the way from the Netherlands. It is always an experience to gather thoughts and words

from the Master's voice. 'Thank you ' to Freerk for adding us to his list for a one day visit during his busy schedule. Staff members were able to recogitate upon events and provide anecdotes of successes and perceived failures. Probably most invigorating is the enthusiasm which Freerk generates as an obvious extension of himself.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL PICNIC DAY :** For the end of Term, the Middle School changed plans to visit Mullyden on the Mulgrave River because of the massive pall of smoke that has smothered the region in the past few days. Djarragun hill had been smouldering for two days and this spread to the contingent hills and ranges. The picnic day was then spent at Lake Placid.



**AASPA COMMITTEE :** Last week, Mrs. **Hahine McCaskill** visited the school to meet the ASSPA Committee. Hahine outlined the ways for proper administration for the ASSPA funds. Our thanks for the assistance during the year and the friendly negotiations over this important area of funding.

**WELCOME :** Recently, Ms **Gladys Atkins** revisited Djarragun where she had been working until the end of last year. Gladys is now living and working in Sydney and was very happy to inform us that another little 'Atkins' (albeit a New South Welshperson) is presently on the way. Congratulations and thanks for the kind visit.

**END OF TERM PREPARATIONS :** Almost without saying, the tempo around the school has reached fever pitch. Practices for the Presentation Day have been notched into the programme and busy hands and

fingers have been seen moulding, sewing, shaping, hammering, attaching, printing, advising and directing. Dress rehearsals were safely negotiated and order plied into a neat programme for the Presentation Day. The Kup Mari pit was prepared and the decorations hauled into place. A festive look pervades the property with the feeling of anticipation hanging in the air.



**SENIOR GRADUATION  
Djarragun College  
at Brothers League Club  
on  
Friday, November 28**



**SEASON'S  
GREETINGS**

*Warmest regards and best  
wishes for a happy and safe  
Christmas  
and a  
prosperous New Year.*

*From all of us at Djarragun*

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**SCHOOL ASSEMBLY** : One of the features of the school programme is the school assembly where all matter of things can occur.

This quick display grasp some of the special things that have happened.

**TOP LEFT**

Sometimes known as the 'Purple Angels', these girls hammer out their vocal cords around the microphone.

**MIDDLE LEFT**

Ms Jean accepts a cheque and certificates of commendation for students who were successful in winning an art competition

**BOTTOM LEFT**

Our budding musicians are getting the hang of the keyboards - Brian Sam & Samuel Gela

**TOP RIGHT**

Rock and Water players in the 'chinese wrestling'

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