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# School Rover

Issue 05 May 21, 2004

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**‘Be willing to risk failure in order to succeed’**

Welcome back to the confines of Djarragun College to all returning students and a special welcome to new students and staff to our busy campus.

Term 2 has taken off in giant strides despite all that the weather has thrown at us for the past month. The sounds of ‘busy’ echo as a healthy reminder of a happy and enthusiastic workplace and learning centre.

We trust everyone has had an enjoyable break.

The Rover has taken a slight hiccup into the Term owing to a combination of changes to the computer system and an editor with pseudo-IT overload. This issue will necessarily be a larger than usual production but subsequent editions should fall back towards the norm.



## BUSINESS MANAGER

Hello to everyone at Djarragun. My name is **Anthony Bonnici** but everyone can call me Tony. I am the new Business Manager at the College - that's right the guy with the tie. I must say I am very impressed with not only the help and support shown to me in settling in but the passion that everyone displays in their daily activities. It is really great to see and I must say a big thank you to the Administration staff and to Ms Jean Illingworth for helping to settle not only myself but also my family in.

As some of you may have guessed, I am a southerner who loves AFL, yes, that funny game that some northerners call aerial pingpong (sacrilege!!). My Aussie rules team is the mighty bombers (Essendon) and I look forward to seeing them win the flag this year from the Brisbane Lions.

My wife, Sharon and my son, David have accompanied me to this tropical paradise (when it stops raining). I hope that they will be able to meet as many of you as possible over the period. I have worked in Finance and Administration, well, for most of my life,



The pond feature at the School entrance is now guarded by an extremely crafted metal crane given to the school by artist, **Ralph Woodford**. Its coppery sheen offsets the brass plaque and the rock plinth on which it poses. After a few facelifts the pond itself now splashes the continuous gush and sprinkle for which it was designed. The water plants are sprouting vigorously and the fish culture is yet to make its appearance. After the recent heavy injection to the water table, last year's plantings are already providing luxuriant foliage.

having spent some time in Papua New Guinea and more recently, over the past ten years or so, working for Indigenous groups, in Native Title matters as well as Health, Aged Care, Housing and Welfare.

There is a lot to do at the college which is very challenging and I can see that we are still expanding. I know that you all have your wants, needs and desires that, at some stage, need to be accommodated. From talking with Ms Jean, I have understood that we try to provide for everyone as and when the budget allows. I can only hope that we can 'massage' the powers in Canberra and Brisbane to keep giving to this 'unique' college.

Part of my role is also looking after Workplace, Health and Safety. So if you notice anything that could become a potential problem, please let either the office or myself know so I can address the issue.

No doubt, I will be able to contribute to the newsletter on a regular basis but if any of you need to discuss any matter, please make yourself known to me. My door is always open and I am always ready for a coffee. I hope to come around to classrooms on a regular basis to say 'hello'.

Thank you once again, **Tony**

## **AUSTRALIAN HEARING**

Audiometrists from Australian Hearing attended the school on Thursday, April 29. Some students have had very measurable degrees of success as a result of the attention given to their difficulties.

One of the major successes has been **Sabai Elisala** who, after his operation, no longer needs the hearing aid. This is a prime example of how easily many of our students who suffer hearing problems can be freed from their disability. Sadly, there are others who have not been detected (and don't realize it themselves) who will proceed into adulthood with a growing impediment.

Ms Elwyn coordinates the liaison between the school students and Australian Hearing and it is an important feature in the school management of our students' health.

Ms Elwyn encourages other parents and guardians to assist towards detecting problems in this area which their children may be suffering. She also thanks the school staff and boarding managers who have to keep vigilant with the students who sometimes choose to not wear the aids out of forgetfulness or 'slackness'.

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## **COUNSELLOR**

As a result of Ms Elwyn's attendance of a training workshop in Townsville, she was able to access the services of a Student Counsellor, **Peter Johnson** from YETI. Peter will come once per week for a few hours to give counselling to the boys. Peter also attended the recent Rock and Water programme held at Djarragun towards the end of the Easter break.

Parents should contact the school if they wish their child to access this opportunity for professional counselling.



### **NEW STAFF TO THE SPORTS ARENA**

Welcome to Kendall Green who has assumed the role of Sports Coordinator in the school. Even at the end of last Term, Ms Kendall was preparing our students for the Cross country which has taken place this Term for the Primary students.

**KENDALL GREEN**

I have recently graduated from James Cook University. I have been in the role of North Queensland Regional Coordinator for Sports Medicine Australia before taking up my position at Djarragun college as the Sports coordinator.

I have been in Cairns for five years and have come from Brisbane where my family still is.

I have represented Queensland in netball, basketball and swimming. I currently play netball, basketball and touch football. I have enjoyed the time I have been at Djarragun and am very excited about the potential and enthusiasm of the students at the school.

**Kendall Green**

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## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



Ludo Kuipers (somewhere amongst the gigabytes)

**ROCK & WATER PROGRAMME :**

Mr. Shankaran is taking tips on skills honed at the latest Rock and Water Programme held for the newer members of staff at the beginning of Term 2.

# WRITER'S CRAMP

Thanks to the efforts of students whose work is being utilized to engage them in the process of apprentice journalism. Some writings may be completed in subsequent issues of the newsletter. Below are a couple of perceptions of a visit by a prominent basketballer who provided a motivational talk to the students in the Secondary school sector.



## ERIC BAILEY

Today, a guest speaker came to talk to us about our schoolwork. His name was Eric Bailey. He's from Downtown Los Angeles in America. He told us about the things he went through from the age of 10. When he was only ten years of age, he was told he was not successful enough to finish school. He could not read or write but one night Eric decided he would go to a party he heard about, so he sneaked out of his house. While Eric was at the party the most coolest guy came up to Eric and said, "You're cool, man. You're going to play basketball with me." The cool guy's girlfriend walked into the room and started smiling at Eric. The cool guy told Eric to stand aside. ....

### Luanna de Jersey

On Thursday morning, Mr. Eric Bailey came to our school at Djarragun College. He was great at talking and he wasn't shamed at all. He was telling a story about himself and what he did in life and how people used to tell him off and put him down in all kinds of ways. His teacher used to tell him off and others used to beat him up nearly every day. Eric had his first game of basketball when he was 14 years of age. Then he played for the NBL and after that, he got dropped from the team and then he came to Tasmania to Hobart because some man rang him up and told him that Hobart was a Paradise. Then he came to Queensland.....

### Kirri Blarrey

Eric Bailey was sponsored by Queensland Teachers' Credit Union and was accompanied by Vicky Kezilas and Leonie Jensen. We thank QTCU for the initiative and the opportunity to take advantage of an impressive speaker.

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## +++++ PARENTLINE 1300 30 1300

Any parent  
Any Issue  
Confidential & Anonymous  
Professional Counselling  
Triple P Parenting Programs  
(07) 3369 1588  
[www.parentline.com.au](http://www.parentline.com.au)  
email: [parentline@kidshelp.com.au](mailto:parentline@kidshelp.com.au)

Parentline is a professional, anonymous, confidential telephone counselling service for Queensland parents available from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. for the cost of a local call. Parentline has been available as a State-wide service since the 28th April, 1996 and is a joint initiative of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care and BoysTown National Community Projects. The service currently provides over 300 hours of counselling to approximately 250 parents each week.

## MISSION AUSTRALIA VOLUNTEER GROUP

**Erna Burnett** (from Edmonton) comes in each Thursday and Friday to help in Ms Riona's Team Starfish class as a voluntary Assistant Teacher.

Ms Erna grew up in Cairns around the Whiterock area and moved to Edmonton in 1993. She went to Hambledon Primary School and then Gordonvale High School.

Ms Erna said that she like helping out with the students and perhaps in the future might be interested in administration work. Right now she is happy being a Teacher's Aide and is enjoying life at Djarragun College.

## STUDENT PREFECTS

Welcome to the ranks of Prefects to two students who were presented badges at the School Assembly on Monday, May 10 by Ms Jean Illingworth, the Principal. Congratulations to **Trevor Wosomo and Michael Billy** for earning the badges of higher responsibility.

**MS LORRAINE HARTLEY** : Staff and students were treated to a surprise visit by **Ms Lorraine** on Friday, May 07. Ms Lorraine is now living in Harvey Bay in South East Queensland and came up to Cairns for a couple of days to attend the graduation ceremony for one of her sons who has been studying Environmental Science.



## SCHIZOPHRENIA AWARENESS WEEK

MAY 16 - 22

**ACTION : Schizophrenia will affect between one and three percent of the population with one in every seven dying in the first five years of the illness. It is an illness that affects the cognitive processes and distorts reality. It can be devastating yet it is treatable and people can recover with the right services.**



**DJARRAGUN INDIGENOUS HAIR SALON** Sporting their distinctive uniforms, Jessie Aruba, Mavis Sippi, Matilda Gibas are members of a promising group of the 'Year 13' contingent which have taken on various components of TAFE courses through the school. They have produced their own newsletter and recently established contacts at Mooroolbark and Manunda where the Community Hall will be the base for haircutting, colours and hairdressing services on a fortnightly basis.

Any support that can be offered would be welcomed. The students need the opportunity to be exposed to a range of skills that the coordinator plans to instil. All services are properly and professionally operated by the teacher and the hairdressing students have the advantage of witnessing on the job demonstrations lessons.

There are 24 students enrolled for this current course being conducted by a trained hairdresser, Ms Gloria Standen.

The school has set up its own salon in the Science block; all furniture was made on the property by Mr. Joe Tamburin and the engineering students. All the facilities for a good operation has been installed and we encourage the students and staff at the College to provide the custom that any business venture needs in order to really make its mark. All services will be provided for base costs.

Ms. **Gloria Standen**



I am still mystified as to how 52 students can all keep a big secret from Mama Bear and Papa Bear.

# Boarding House News

Article 1/Term 2, 2004

Welcome Back!

Following a lovely Easter holiday our boarders have all returned happy, rested and rearing to fling themselves into term 2. Our regular round of football has already commenced. But just to bring everyone up to date.... Last term, 6 DC boarders played the curtain raiser game at Townsville prior to the Cowboys and Bronco's game. Although our team lost the match, the lads had a very memorable experience and Vincent made several really good intercepts and completed the effort with 3 tries. Well done to all the boys.

Congratulations **Vincent Wosomo**.

Vincent went to Innisfail for regional football trials and was chosen as a Peninsular Representative player. There is a raffle circulating around the school to help finance him and the team. If you would like a ticket just see Sila or Vincent and your support will be appreciated.

Congratulation also to **Luanna De Jersey** who has been chosen as a Peninsular representative to play netball. Djarragun knows how to produce champions!

Surprise! Surprise! Just before the holidays something really special happened. The students had been planning and plotting a very special 'esso' for all the boarding staff. First there was a lovely assembly, followed by some fantastic hula dancing from the girls led by **Lily Nomoa**. Next came the cultural dancers and drummers who provided great entertainment with their routines.

We were then escorted to a surprise dinner. And what a surprise! Set out like a wedding banquet. White covered tables, flowers; candles (I was told the boarders made the lovely candle holders) foil party shapes sprinkled everywhere. Balloons filled the room and a banner set the scene. Even the white board was covered in art works telling a story of 'esso'. All this set the scene for a wonderful meal cooked by **Ms Saraima**. Papa Bear and Mama Bear were presented with photos of our boarding 'family' set in a beautifully crafted frame made in the woodwork shed.

The picture will eventually have a place of pride hanging in the girls common room.

## What do boarders do on a wet weekend?

Well, we go out in the rain and play! One weekend it was quite wet and we decided to go to Ross and Locke, which is a local swimming place on the river. We KNEW we would be the only people out and about because of the miserable conditions. Wrong! There was the 'Cairns Off Road Club', anyone and everyone who owned a 4 wheel motorbike, motor bikes and even people on horseback. All having fun in the rain and enjoying our beautiful region. And we had a hoot!

On Monday we went to Bramston Beach for another rainy day outing. The weather was rough. It blew a gale and rained a storm; but we had fun. Most of us went swimming in the stinger enclosure and generally getting wetter.

Next weekend we are going on a camp. Next issue of the Rover we will tell you about our camping experience.

Our boarding house is nearly fully occupied. We just welcomed Adam McGreen's sister Emily. We are still waiting for Jellicoe and as soon as **Trevor Wosomo** can travel through the flooded road from Townsville we will have a 'full house' of 54 boarders.

### RAIN

It rained and rained and rained and rained.  
The average rain was well maintained  
And when the tracks were simply bogs,  
It started raining cats and dogs.  
After a drought of \_ an hour  
We had a most refreshing shower.  
And then the most curious thing of all-  
A gentle rain began to fall.  
Next day but one was fairly dry  
Save for one deluge from the sky  
Which wetted the party to the skin  
And then at last the rain set in!

Anon.

*The Boarders send all the readers of the Rover.....  
'A Swarm of B's'*

***B Hopeful...B Happy...B Cheerful...B Kind,  
B Busy of Body...B Modest of Mind,  
B Earnest...B Truthful...B Firm and B Good,  
B sure your B haviour B all that it should.  
B Sharp in the morning, and never B Flat,  
B ware most of all that you never B that,  
B all of these things and whatever B fall,  
B sure you'll B happy and B loved By us all!  
Mama Bear and Boarding Family***



**Tali Tabuai, Sabai Elisala, Shaun Waianga & Peter Wosomo test the pressure of the balls before they take on their training schedule**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SHUFFLE

Students have been reallocated to a different system from the Term 1 arrangement when classes were formed on the basis of ability of the students. This was useful at the time because of the numbers; however, because of the influx to the roll, it is possible to engage students on chronological terms. In addition, this allows the Year 10 students to maintain a meaningful autonomy that allows them the status as leaders of the Middle School sector.

## BOYS FROM THE BUSH PROGRAMME

Welcome to the Djarragun scene to the coordinator of this programme, Mr **Milton James**. The Boys from the Bush initiative was created by Mr James to engage youth in meaningful activities which focussed on behaviour management and self-motivation, self esteem, work ethics and financial independence. The programme operates under the aegis of Cape York Partnerships with significant liaison and support from Mr. **Noel Pearson**.

Mr. Pearson visited the school recently to visit the Principal to discuss the programme and other related matters. Mr. Tim Jaffer from the office of Cape York Partnerships also visited the school. C.Y. Partnerships is based at Cairns TAFE.

A few boys have been selected as precursors for the Djarragun contingent and they are **Kirri Blarrey, Andrew Murrungun, Noel Mamarika, Benjamin Akiba, Ronald Addo, Godfrey Kerry, Murphy Tabuai & Rymaan Gebadi**.

Boys from the Bush have operated at other centres in Mossman, Wangetti, Aurukun and Cairns.

Their activities include the production of Teatree Oils, soaps and sprays which are sold at the Markets in Cairns, Kuranda and Port Douglas. The boys are coached through this process and get the opportunity to make regular camps to various sites on Cape York region and on the Atherton Tableland where the leaves are harvested and distilled.

Previous participants emerged from the Legal Court system and Youth Justice programmes and the BFTB managed the placement of many boys onto other

communities where they could be encouraged to adopt healthier options for their lifestyles.

One of the supervisors in the BFTB is **Abia 'Casper' Ingui** who progressed through the system and gained various skills and qualifications such as chain saw certificates, a boat licence and currently a car licence.

Abia has attended a meeting in Canberra to promote the programme and is a veteran of many camping/harvesting expeditions on the Cape and a salesman in the markets. It is hoped that our students will develop individual skills in leadership and self-determination. This is, at least, one more opportunity to take to advantage.

## GEDEM

**Is it true that one of the members of staff took off home - minus a spouse??**

**Who said there were still problems with the computer system ..? %9\*^!1#++@&!)==%^#@ (all with a mild Dutch accent)**

**Whom can Jennifer Lopez break in half ??**

**When did 'Garfield' join the staff??**

**Who is called the 'Unicorn' ?**

**Who leaves messages on an answering machine and later corrects the messages but on the wrong telephone number in the first place??**

### TINAROO CAMP : MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students are eagerly anticipating the next camp up at a replenished Lake Tinaroo. the Middle School students from Years 7, 8 & 9 will spend Monday - Thursday up on the Camp site on a programme coordinated by the Higher Ground organization.

Mr. **Brian Dowling** has had his leisure time seriously dented during the past couple of months organizing and liaising with the Higher Ground facilitators and ensuring that the Permission forms are accounted for and that the necessary fees have been collected.

It is worth mentioning that the school takes great pride in providing as many meaningful programmes and events for the students in their path of personal and social development.

The school camps can be a drain on the financial resources available to the school and costs for the students are kept to nominal figures.

Some essential educational services cannot be provided at home : that is why students are sent to school. Other educational experiences can be better incorporated outside of the school environment : that is why the camps and the especially trained and qualified Outdoor Education coordinators are enlisted. Don't miss the opportunities which are valuable but also scarce.

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djarragun college principal, staff and  
students wish to express sincere  
condolences to the family of former board  
member, the late reverend  
George langston nai



### PACIFIC RIM INTERNATIONAL CAMP

What is today's connection between Yam Island, Torres Strait and Shibuya, Japan? In August 2004, it will be Talofar Baudu. The Year 12 Djarragun college student boarder has been selected from nominations all across the country to represent Australia in the Pacific Rim International Camp held in Shibuya, Tokyo. Talofar will be our Australian ambassador from August 08 - 23.

The Pacific Rim International Camp is an initiative from Japan emanating in 1985 from a previous programme called the All Japan Student Camp which itself was founded in 1951. Talofar is the fortunate choice from Australia and he will join another ten representatives from nations and countries in, and around the Pacific region, including, Thailand, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Philippines, Canada and the United States of America.

The participants are treated to a variety of experiences which include a brief time of orientation, homestay with a Japanese family, a six day camp in a Japanese forest, a programme of sight-seeing and the opportunity for cultural exchange and learning.

The purpose of the Camp is to promote cultural appreciation, fellowship and international friendship, leadership, learning and understanding. It encourages active involvement in the development of society and personal contributions to complex multinational affairs. That might all sound a mouthful and allude to a high-flying aspiration. However, we have great confidence that Talofar will capably 'fit the bill' as he presents the rich and esoteric culture of the Torres Strait. This is one of the criteria that earned his selection. The fact that he takes on the challenge as a 'lone ranger' adds to the measure of kudos.

Talofar is representing his home Island and his school; he is representing his country in this extraordinary opportunity to showcase his own culture and learn those of other diverse societies. He has set a precedent that will be difficult for others to match and worthy of high emulation. The thoughts of all of us are with Talofar as he gears up for an incredible chapter in his school life.

## CAIRNS SHOW EXHIBITS

There is no doubt about the intentions of our artisans in the 'Djarragun Tech'. The proverbial Santa's Workshop in the North Pole is being seriously challenged by the woodchip, carving and woodburn design industry taking place in the 'house of windows'.

It is striking enough when even the signs for the stall are masterpieces in their own right. Adept scrutineers will be awed by the appearance of handicraft that could be attributed to the creativity of an 'old hand in the trade'. Congratulations to the teenage fingers and inspiration which have crafted some magnificent pieces of artwork, including wooden coasters, letter holders, hot pot stands, photo frames, boomerangs, clap sticks, clocks, jig saw puzzles and coffee tables. It has to be seen to be believed. Other works include large decorated garden pavers, carved signs and wooden spoons.

Master craftsman, Roland Reck and student, **Joey Gibuma**, also have a stained glass panel on the final stages of completion and this too will add to the lustre of



the Djarragun stall planned for the Cairns Show.

## GRADUATES JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY, CAIRNS

Congratulations to members of staff who recently notched up milestones in their own professional paths. Bachelor of Education degrees were awarded to **Dean Garside, Riona Delargy, Louise Camden and Kendall Green**. In addition, Michelle Foxhall earned mention for her further studies in Physics. The ceremony was held at the Cairns Convention Centre. Some of the parents and children of the graduates travelled to Cairns for the occasion. Congratulations, as well, from us at Djarragun.

## REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL SELECTIONS

Congratulations to the following :-

**Rugby Union : Vincent Wosomo** playing last week in the Peninsula team down in Brisbane

**Australian Rules : Charlie Dau** - who has been selected to play in the Cape District Under 14 team contesting down on the Gold Coast in June.

## FOOTBALL MATCHES

### Djarragun versus Smithfield State High School

Under 15 : The final break-through occurred when a determined team battled its way to its first victory for the season. Congratulations to the courageous efforts from both teams which seemed hellbent upon stamping their superiority against each other.

Djarragun was hampered by regular periods of indecisive action but the general inertia headed in the direction of the try line. Smithfield was just as determined and the game maintained an ebb and flow pattern which added to the suspension if not to the scoreboard.

The second half prodded much more desperation and the physical element prevailed but not without its toll.

**Tali Tabuai** sustained a broken collar bone and was ambalanced to Cairns Base after the game. **Kirri Blarrey** earned some rib soreness attesting to the degree of commitment. Both sides provided sporadic instances of thrilling play and suspense was in plentiful supply as either side intruded deep into the opposition half of the field only to be regularly halted by clever doorstops on the brink of the try lines. One particular passage of play saw the ball passed along the entire back line and finally into the arms of a determined **Maia Akiba** who eventually was hauled to the ground by four of the Smithfield players. **Kumi Abua** planted his distinctive penetrating style of play into the game and was rewarded with two tries. **Toshie Wigness** tackled his heart out and kept a regular guard over his territory.

**Ted Richard** and **Sabai Elisala** scored a try each and **Kumi Abua** crossed over the line twice. **Edward Namai, Sabai Elisala and Ted Richard** converted. The final score was 18 - 8. Player of the Match was **Jacob Akiba** and the Most Improved was **Edward Namai**.

Open team : Despite the strong determination posted by Smithfield High School players, Djarragun stamped its intent from the very early moments of the game. Deft ball passing and almost intuitive play resulted in individual tries with a little more pizzazz than usual by players such as **Isach Kaworo, Michael Billy** and **Bradley Noah**. **Joey Gibuma** played his distinctive style - speed combined with elusiveness - earning him three tries for the match (and the right to adopt a limp after the game). Masked with his headgear, Isach took on the look of a medieval knight weaving his way clinically through the fray to deliver his finishing touch. **Johnathan Thompson** featured often during the game, chipping the ball and chasing deep into the opposition territory. **Samuel Guligo** threw himself gallantly into quite a few exceptional tackles.

The flamboyant **Michael Billy** robbed himself of one try by 'counting his chicken' and his premature celebratory gestures resulted in a knock-on in the in-goal area. He later retrieved respectability by producing a more conventional try to add to the mounting scoreline. The final score was 30 - nil which does not reflect the earnest effort by the tenacious Smithfield players but whilst the dusk developed into the inevitable darkness, the Djarragun team continued to shine.