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School Rover

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

‘The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.’

Marcel Proust

Having sustained several weeks of constitutional ennui interrupted, no doubt, by odd bouts of withdrawal symptoms, Djarragun staff was once again back to the drawing board planning the strategies for 2006.

On January 23, many new faces arrived on campus as well as returnees from a prior era. Despite the smothering of cloud overhead, a distinct glow of anticipation was discernible on most dials - although it could have been fear, nervous tension or disguised bamboozlement.

However, the elements of common opinion are that this is a wonderful environment to work in and it is an impressive amalgam of staff members.

Week One was eerily devoid of the student body allowing those more patriotic ones the privilege of being on the homefront to celebrate Australia Day.

The construction work continues and yet again we have more corners to turn on the campus. The dining room and kitchen facility are stamping their significance on the property line showing good promise of a worthy B & B to feed a multitude. The exhaust chimneys with minarets at the top don't exactly upstage the Indian temple across the road - except they might harbour 'a hungrier flock'. It's purely speculative whether much fasting will ever feature in this establishment.

Yet another donga has nuzzled its way alongside the Hairdressing Salon - an additional outstation for one of the VET disciplines. Ms Sharon was witnessed hauling her goods and chattels on a 'stolen vehicle' much sought after by someone in the IT department.

The skeletal skyline of the Stockyard Hall of frames have slowly diminished and currently stand as restructured dormitory and activities area up at the School Farm.

Ready congratulations were given to the members of staff who added to their households by way of newborns



- Mr. Gracey & Ms Yeshim; Mr. Philemon & Ms Grace

WE'RE HAPPY LITTLE VEGGIE MITES

What a neat little way to set the ball rolling for the start of school and healthy eating. Thrust into prominence by way of Cairns Post coverage on Saturday, February 11, a couple of our Primary students drew attention to the latest drive towards healthy eating. A \$1500 grant will enable the class groups to endorse their campaign for positive and nutritious meals.

The previous programme "Making Friends with Fruit" was an outstanding success. The School Curriculum has reinforced the healthy attitudes by practical and purposeful planning within the Home Economic classes and the Hospitality Course with VET students.

Especially during these days of 'fast foods', synthetic tastes and added preservatives, many other ailments are becoming prevalent amongst our youth - obesity, respiratory problems and diabetes.

Ms **Louise Camden** is helping to co-ordinate the initiative by feeding the 'multitude' with fruits and vegetables and developing a healthy attitude to eating 'healthy, well and wise.'



Amanda Chigeza, Di-Wallum Neil, Taya Salmon take time out for the taste test.



WELCOME ABOARD



Tau Tokerau :
The name says it all!!! The South Sea Islands notches up another one to join ranks with earlier representatives. Mr. Tau works with the students in the Recreation and Sport programme particularly with the boarders.

Theresa Forster & Cheryl Edwards : Neither is new to the scene but are currently taking on the cleaning services to the school in their own right. Perhaps also tightening their clan domination to the

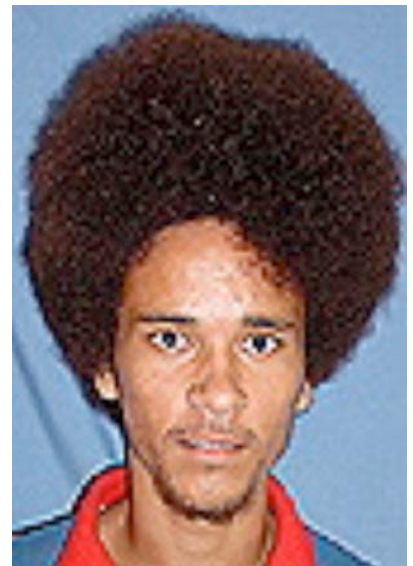
system to something like dynasty proportion, they are the sister and wife respectively to one of our long-serving henchmen of the grounds, buses and maintenance department, **Sir Alan Edwards.**

Aaron Agius : Unbelievably, also a resident of our thriving satellite city of Alooomba. There's food for thought about the neighbourhood watch in that Naked City when all three members of staff from that same locus were still unacquainted with each other. Big Brother has obviously given this area a wide berth. Mr Aaron is working in the IT sector and has already mesmerized classes with his lessons on 'Animation' on the computer. Also, recently beknighted with the "Happiest Face in the School" title notwithstanding the "Most Unusual Hairstyle" cognomen.

John & Jan Campbell : Obviously keen to achieve recognition in the "Bravehearts' Society", this demure couple has sidled into the saddle of the Dormitory Rodeo circuit. Trusting that houseparenting blood is in their veins, they have not yet sought any transfusion.

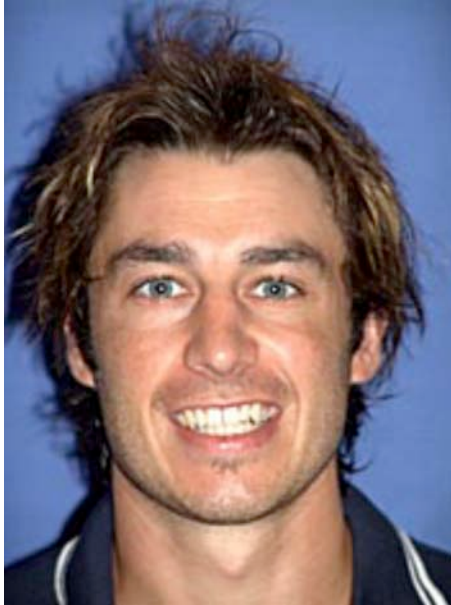
Michelle Soans : Another unusual profile recently emerged from the clutches of the remote Aboriginal community of Wadeye, N. T. One has to ponder how an Anglo-Indian looking for a fixed place of residence can still blithely traverse the continent at will and still afford to be daily decked out in 'party clothes'. Welcome to the Australian eastern seaboard!

Saggi Epseg : The college has come of age when its former clients cross the floor and join the staff. Welcome to **Junior Epseg!!!** It should throw the message loud and clear to the former generation members of that clan still grappling with the day to day grind. We also stand to gain from the incredible talent that Saggi possesses.



Cecelia Davern : A return on a more permanent basis for Ms Cecilia who is turning her skills to Literacy and apparently is heading Thesaurus-wards to a Djarragun Living Language compendium. Ms Cecelia is working with the Senior classes. Her bright, enthusiastic nature is enough to move lethargy off the map so the Peace train is likely to pick up a good head of steam under her guidance. Already hyped up with the 'animation skills' of Mr Aaron and the 'Powerpoint expertise' of Mr. Gio, Ms Cecelia has the force of the IT leaning towards her advantage.

Matt Walsh : Evidently, Mr. Matt has a couple of skills in Aussie Rules code and has been described as the male version of Ms Kendall (whatever that means). Reputedly endowed with winning demeanour (though he coyly dismisses same), Mr Matt does quite a few



circuits of the campus working in the Boarding sector after school on a couple of days as well as a sporting agenda within the curriculum with Seniors and the Middle School.

Mr Matt escaped the cold and damp of Ballarat somewhere down in our southern extremes and plays for one of our local clubs in Cairns. Mr Matt looks comfortably happy working with the sporting elements of our school and can be seen proudly decked out in the options of Staff uniforms that will soon be available to the rest of his coworkers.

YOUTH SUPPORT COORDINATION PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

New Programmes

This year, we have two new programmes running. The first is a Pregnant or Parenting Students programme which aims to keep students who are pregnant or parenting in school by giving them extra support and opportunities to network with others who have had the same experience. Students will meet every three weeks as a group where they will be informed by guest speakers about various topics, such as TAFE courses, domestic violence, maternal and infant health and much more.

The second programme is called SWITCH (Students with inspiration to change). This programme is for students who have very low motivation and no future goals or direction. It involves initial goal-setting sessions with the students. Once the students' interests are known, we can organize site visits to various industries according to the students' interests. The idea of the programme is to inspire the students to work towards a better future. Reward days are part of the programme for those students who show improvement in areas such as attendance, classwork or personal attitudes (these can be negotiated by the YSC and student and their teacher(s) or counsellor.

Referrals can be made through the normal referral process through Otman.

Looking forward to a great year.

Cate Robins (YSC)

AIRCONDITIONERS : Welcome additions to the Middle School and Primary classrooms are the split systems which should keep the temperatures down many degrees below sweat level. Imagine all those furrowed brows working even more arduously without the discomfort of a single bead of perspiration !!

It has been commented already that the students' level of composure has made a demonstrable difference to the Yin & Yang balance.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Off to a good start in 2006 is a programme of activities to focus on five distinct groups within the school :-

Aboriginal (Groote Eylandt - Bundaberg)

Top Western Islands - Torres Strait : Saibai, Boigu, Dauan)

Central Islands - Torres Strait (Yam, Warraber, Puruma, Yorke, Badu, Moa)

Eastern Islands - Torres Strait (Mer, Erub, Ugar)

Multicultural group (Samoa, Cook Is., PNG)

All groups will be paced through a round robin exercise during the Term that will see each group focus specifically upon the Music (songs/dance), Sport, Cooking, Art & Craft, History/Stories of the particular geographical areas.

The Aboriginal contingent was by far the largest group. Its composition is richly endowed with representatives extending from Groote Eylandt to Bundaberg. Central Islands Torres Strait has a comfortable group of about twenty.

The Eastern Islands is a strong component as also is the Top Western Torres Strait sector. Small but significant is the group representing Pacific Island heritage.

EYE SPY

Quick attention given to the classroom teacher who left the airconditioner on all night following first day of operation.

One teacher was stymied by the mystery initials "M.K." with whom she was sharing copious teaching hours.

Very efficient cleaner had a teacher rummaging to retrieve lunch leftovers and containers.

OPERATION DANIEL

Our thoughts go to Mr. Daniel Hollis who decided to spend one of his Fridays this year in the Operation Theatre removing a sizeable pin from his leg which was inserted a year ago after his horrific accident on a motor cycle. The first part of the story was chilling so the sequel will most likely prove a worthy development. Walk tall, Mr. Daniel !!

YEAR 8 BOYS COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Congratulations to the boys who were elected by their peers onto the Form Class committee.

President : **Kennedy Chan Foon**

Vice President : **Eathen Maas**

Secretary : **Eliza Jacksonia**

Treasurer : **Gesa Dau**



WELCOME TO 'THE SHED'

Fresh from the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean is **Aaron Barroda** who is extending his already high competence with woodwork in our famous 'Shed'. Despite his profound deafness, he is fitting in well with our workmen in the workshop.

A timely return by **Ms Rosemarie Noakes-Tafea** whose qualification and expertise with specifically teaching the deaf may well be a godsend for Aaron to learn sign language to assist with his communication skills. True to usual form, his support workmate is former student turned employee of Djarragun, **Saggi Epsag** who is also taking lessons with Ms. Rosemarie to skill himself with sign language gestures.

Commendations to Aaron's parents, **Bernard and Bernadette Barroda** whose dutiful concern for their son has propitiously brought them to Djarragun hopefully to mutual benefit.

GIDEON SOCIETY : Three men from the Gideon Society (**Rod Meakin, Allan Cummins & Carl Lauridsen**) addressed the School Assembly on Monday, Feb. 06 and announced their annual visitation to Djarragun. The Year 8 students were presented with their own personal pocket Bibles. We thank the representatives for the Gideon Society for their kind consideration.

CLASS PROGRAMMES

A few teething problems (of the grinding type) have been experienced during the first two weeks of the Term. An amazing number of new faces have hit all of the class groups and, particularly in the Middle School, rearrangement of classes had to be effected to avoid excessive numbers in some of the classes.

The Years 8 & 9 are mixed and then split into ability groups. Names have been allocated to the groups - Comets, Suns, Stars and Asteroids.

Primary numbers also have swelled with Ms Louise's class exploding to the order of 16 in the Year 1 class.

Students for the Year 13 component are gathering numbers in the early stages of the year and already notch up six. In the VET Hairdressing department, Ms Pam has nearly 30 students involved with two full time students going through the paces.

Perhaps even faster than a Commonwealth Games runner, Ms Shankaran took a running dive through

Brisbane for the first of her seminars for the year about the proposed Queensland Year 9 Tests. Djarragun College will be one of the schools monitored to pilot the Assessment schema.

GOOGLE EARTH : Receiving high popularity on the computer screens this year already is the programme called Google Earth. Students are relishing the opportunity to study their own home locations via the satellite view available from this service. The old geography books and the rolls of cartography have taken a decided backbench with the introduction of Google Earth. In the haunting words of the now ageing Star Trek script, "Beam me up, Scotty."

NEW FACE TO RECEPTION



By no means new to the scene but here's our official welcome to the Administration Receptionist, Ms Jocelyn Kahawai who late last year had to cast herself into the slipstream of our mercurial Ms Lyndell Quaid.

***** AUSSIE RULES DRAWS KEEN INTEREST

A highly energized group of nearly fifty students (both boys and girls) were enthusiastically engaged in a busy clinic organized by Mr. Matt Walsh. The clinic was manned by several players from a Papua New Guinea team who are currently in Cairns. With the precision of an army manoeuvre, tactics and positional play were demonstrated and exercised almost flawlessly.

On Monday the 13th of February, 35 middle school students participated in a football clinic that was conducted by AFL Cairns. This clinic was quite unique as the group from AFL Cairns consisted of six players visiting from PNG. It also included three local players.

Throughout the session, students' were put through their paces with a series of skill exercises and modified games. The group from AFL Cairns did an excellent job and this was highlighted through the clear enjoyment the students' got out of the session.

Djarragun College would like to thank AFL Cairns for conducting the fantastic session and more importantly, we would like to thank Amos, Ali, Trevor, Elijah, Peter and Donald who travelled from PNG and the three players from the Cairns AFL, Cameron, Mark and Daniel. **Matt Walsh**