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# School Rover

Issue 05, May 05, 2006

**“What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us..”**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

As quickly as it fell upon us, the Easter break dissolved with the tailings of Cyclone Larry and the advent of Monica. Congratulations to those students who honoured the official starting of our Term 2.

There were quite a few gaps amongst the ranks and some staff were sent out to the highways and byways to search out the lost faces.

At the first assembly for the term, **Ms Jean Illingworth** prompted students to knuckle down for a successful season albeit already intruded upon by Cyclone Monica.



## CYCLONE LARRY

With due respect, we acknowledge the dire straits that the residents of Innisfail have had imposed upon them with brutal force. Whilst not coming into close proximity to that level of devastation, the winds of change descended upon the school campus with more than comforting tenacity.

Plantlings which had struggled to the point of sizeable proportions and foliage shuddered into unceremonious dishevellement. Broken limbs and shredded canopies obliterated the customary serene look of the manicured acreage. We could be well assured, like Macbeth, that ‘Burnham Wood had come to Dunsinane’. The surrounding hills were covered with ghost gum lookalikes that threw their arms up in the air embarrassed by their nakedness.

The bulk of the clearance was left to the shoulders of the boarders and the staff. Some boarders even extended their services to a couple of staff homes in the vicinity.

Trees that were redeemable found caring hands that engineered them back to their normal perpendicular status. Strappings braced them against gravity in steady positions preparatory to the silent wait for Mother Nature to do her restoration.



**Eleanor Fourmile, Michelle Kynuna & Renartha Bounghi ‘raise the fallen’.**



Mr. Gracey & Mr. Daniel shows what happens - when the stakes are down, the trees are up.



## TEAM DRAGONS



WELCOME : Many new faces have appeared amongst the student body and the staff. Our feature person this week is Ms Nalisa.

**Ms Nalisa Neuendorf**

Hi, my name is Ms Nalisa and I'm a new Assistant Teacher in the Primary School. I currently assist in Team Dragons, Goannas and Team T-Rex.

I'm originally from Papua New Guinea. Along with being new to the school, I'm also new to Cairns.

I've been living in Brisbane and moved to Cairns recently. While in Brisbane, I started studying at Queensland University while also working parttime. I am enjoying being a part of school life and being a part of the staff at Djarragun College.

I was studying Environmental management. My interest is in teaching and I would like to pursue that career.



**TEAM TYRANNOSAURUS REX** is a group of students who love work and help each other a lot. In the middle of last term, we had some of the Year 6s join us and a few new students, as well. The team take a great effort to make friends with each other and help one another succeed.



I'm enjoying working with this group of students who are going to be great leaders one day. They like thinking and have a sense of humour. Here are some of the things

the students said about being part of this team and what they get from being in this class.

- Brianne Darkan** : Learning; **Elisa Mara** : I feel bright.
- Kara Jane Tabuai** : I feel old enough; It makes me feel light and happy. **Shariah Kynuna** : Leadership
- Eddie Epeg** : Good reading
- Enid David** : It is exciting and hard work. I have good attendance; **Grace Wunungmurra** : Thinking
- Sheldon Griven** : Education; **Gaylene Brown** : I feel happy.

I hope it continues, Team T. Rex. **Michelle Soans**

## EXHIBITION OF SCHOOL ART

The Gordonvale Library will house the display of artwork from Years 1 - 8 for the Schools Cultural Week held from Monday to Friday (May 8 - 12) which is being sponsored by the Cairns City Council.

Djarragun Band will perform in the Sound Shell and the Djarragun Dance Troupe will also feature as a part of the programme.

## STUDENT TEACHERS ON PRACTICUM

Welcome and thanks to **Ms Telani**, **Ms Adelle** who have launched themselves into the fray this Term. Ms Telani is operating in the Middle School assisting Mr. Daniel Hollis and Ms Adelle has her hands full supporting the overloaded shoulders of **Ms Louise Camden** down in the lowest ages of the school menacingly entitled with the cognomen, Dragons. (Bold speculation has suggested that the term might not necessarily be referring to the sweet-faced children) [opposite page].

## INTERNET DOWN

However, upmarket we are in the IT Department, there are always the glitches that demonize the world of high tech. Much like a yin and yang overhaul, one area of the school is thrust towards spectacular success and the opposite pole plunges a different sector into progress mediaevaldom.

Considering the devastating disappointment to certain members of the staff after learning of the demise of the Xpata programme, it has been another straw on the camel's back to find ourselves dislodged from the Internet forum. Disruption to our Telstra lines is considered the principal culprit and a full week of concentration is necessary to readjust all those thousands of optic fibres into suitable alignment.

All credit to the dogged **Mr. Ludo** who seems, at times, to be challenged with negotiating the Black Hole. However the amount of ergs he casts into the cauldron, the Time/Space dimensions reconvert those energies and there always is conjured up a different and more virulent 'faltergeist'.

For those true pundits of the computer arena, FTPs and mobile accounts have become the jargon of the day. Another seeming misnomer, the Bright Box still manages to cast shadows, eclipses and Houdini tricks with the odd newsletter and vital snippets of information that must be stored somewhere that only forensics might be able to uncover.

## A NOTE FROM MS ADELE

Hi, my name is **Adele Lindsay**. I am a fourth year Education student at James Cook University. I'm undertaking my final year of professional teaching experience at Djarragun College. I have recently finished a two week block with Ms Louise's class - team Dragon. Exciting things are happening in Team Dragon this term. A highlight has been Team Dragon's integrated unit - the First People of Australia. Students are investigating what it means to be an Indigenous Australian.

A special thanks to **Ms Louise**, **Ms Sara** and Team Dragon (**Aden**, **Alfred**, **Amanda**, **Ambah**, **Antonio**, **Beau**, **Brad**, **Darren**, **Di-Wallum**, **Isaiah**, **Jahlese**, **Jessie**, **Malik**, **Naysharn**, **Patrick Rukudzo**, **Ryan**, **Sara**, **Stella**, **Sylvanus**, **Tayha** and **Waireg**) for making my time at Djarragun a fantastic learning and teaching experience. Great things are happening all over at Djarragun College - keep up the good work.

# AN ARMY MOVES ON ITS STOMACH

A memorable start for the Term other than Cyclone Larry's aftermath was the first unofficial use of the new Dining Room facility. The members of the staff were treated with a sample of the tastes to come in a rather spectacularly outfitted kitchen and refectory.

Entrance to the new Meals domain is bowered by an artistic open-sided structure stylized by metal digging sticks acting as rafters and a ceramic paving inlaid with a gecko design. This may act as a deterrent for the real ones to locate themselves elsewhere.

The gaping amphitheatre showers down massive amounts of natural candle power and the raised transparent roller doors opened out upon a deck not unlike that of an oceanliner. The only things missing were the deckchairs. In this instant, the seascape was replaced by waves of verdant green glistening with the drops of the latest downpour. Were this a real ship, there would be passengers basking in the luxury who would be quite content to go down with the vessel.

The staff in the kitchen (until now restricted to the soft shoe shuffle in the previous domain) can now throw themselves around in the cavernous expanse that would easily accommodate a ballroom routine.

High ceilings allow for the collection of tantalizing aromas and the expanse of glass and perspex suggests a notion of a submarine aquarium. The upbeat scullery won't ever find a Cinderella slaving away in tedium but if you venture out, lean out over the railing and close your eyes, you never know but you may fantasize the piccolo strains of Celine Dion.

Bon appetit.

## DJARRAGUN 'OASIS OF HEALTH'

The School Tuckshop no longer operates in its former style. Meals for students are available from the Dining Room and staff and students (other than the boarders) will need to pay a nominal cost to access the opportunity of a gourmet's delight.

Prices are \$2.00 for Morning Tea and \$3.00 for Lunch. If a day student requires both meals, it will cost \$5.00 total.

In its continued effort towards encouraging healthy and nutritious meals, Djarragun College has laid its Tuckshop to rest, with no certainty ever of a tombstone opening.

It goes almost without saying that all junk food, suspect diets and modern high calorie forage packs will not be available at the school. The Dining room will be providing the same fare that keeps all the boarders energetic, robust and full of vitality.

A solemn reminder to all - Australian children have now taken second place on the ladder after the United States for the state and associated problems of obesity.

Eat for your life at the Djarragun Oasis of Health.



(above) **Mr. Philemon Chigeza** has both hands full keeping **Flynn and Floyd** 'centred and focussed' during this 'lean of trust' exercise.

Year 10 Maths teacher, Mr. Philemon shares the first official public photos of his Australian-born twins. Just to help dad distinguish one from the other, a colour scheme has been applied to the boys' garments. Rumour holds that their Uncle Chris might not be yet accustomed to a daily resident duet and has recently moved a couple of suburbs distance to establish his own zone of silence.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Ms **Melinda Schmitzer** who also now is enjoying maternity leave with her daughter, **Holly**.

Regular weekly haunt to the campus is bright-eyed **Paula Tafea** who seems to be keeping her mother, **Rose Marie**, in tow and, at the same time, her father, **Tekoa**, on his toes.

Also making popular intrusions to his father's workplace is young **Robin Ali-Grace** whose mother, **Yeshim**, is relegated to the backseat driving while they careen through their tour of duty. Meanwhile, father John, just faces the music, as usual.

Veteran to the cradle-critters is the blue-eyed, **Sam Garside**, who surveys the Primary precincts with the virtual status of 'Little Brother'. Parents, **Dean** and **Michelle** are uncertain whether their son should be categorized to the Recovery or the Resource Room.

Not to be overridden in this hectic pitter-patter of tiny feet, Principal, **Ms Jean** has also thrust her stakes deeper into aka-dom (grandmotherhood) with the recent arrival of another grandson, **James**. Congratulations and best wishes to parents, **Michelle** and **Damien**.

# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY