



DJARRAGUN COLLEGE

ACN 063 049 669

Maher Road, P.O. Box 771, Gordonvale, North Queensland 4865  
tel. (07) 4043 3777 fax (07) 4056 6111 email [admin@djarragun.qld.edu.au](mailto:admin@djarragun.qld.edu.au)

website: <http://www.djarraguncollege.qld.edu.au>

*You can download this and past issues from our website!*

# School Rover

Issue 06, May 19, 2006

**"There are a lot of things happening that show us that this, right now, is a time to love"**

**Stevie Wonder**



**Sean Dewar** : Indigenous Dancer is solidly ensconced in his role as performing artist from the local region. To no degree negating his Scottish ancestry, Sean is proud to project his aboriginal heritage and publicly announced his relationship with the Fourmile clan of Yarrabah and Cairns. Over the years, Sean has dedicated years

to learning and adopting the culturally significant aspects of his mother's culture. In so doing, he has entered into the Arts world both locally and internationally. His choice was a deliberate one and a valid one. He maintained the facility and personal acumen to confidently expose the world to his perceptions and learning. He continues to do this with great vigour. Then comes his breakdance.



**LEUKAEMIA DAY** : All for a good cause, hair colour struck the waves and locks on some of the staff whilst the shears bared other skulls to the follicle level. Mr **Frank Van Pamelan** had his crop shimmering like an Indian peacock whilst Mr. **Joe Tamburan** relived St Patrick's Day and sported a leprechaun green for the entire day.

**Mr. Aaron Agius** (above left) entered the school as a toss-up between a Jesus look-alike or a desperate runaway from a Jain temple. He firstly, lopped his beard for a near to perfect Tiny Tim impression and then allowed the clippers to claim his last strands, making him Sigourney Weaver's possible co-star if ever another sequel to Aliens hits the box-office.

Mr. Ben Tiller was next to allow his hairline to recede back past the continental shelf and beyond the horizon. Hot on his tailings, the irrepressible Mr. **Gio Douven** added to the impassioned moments of 'skullduggery'. For some reason, his cranium is the only one which actually features isobars.

Thanks to the expertise of Ms Pam's Hairdressing Salon girls, the generosity of the coingivers and the good will of those underneath the naked skulls.



### **DJARRAGUN CROSS COUNTRY**

Traditionally remembered as a hot, sweaty and bothersome date on any school calendar, 2006 chose to break from the rules. Insalubriously referred to as the 'Dead Oval' was one of the checkpoints for the Spartan track. Holding position on that relatively minor outpost allowed me the opportunity to view runners sludging through the bogs and onto a firmer concourse. Some etched firm determination on their faces but most fluttered by with the air of nonchalance significantly removed from a Commonwealth Games grimace.

The tiny tots bounced through the long grass almost their same height; a few were urged along by encouragement from a staff member on a bicycle. On one occasion, the student was riding the bicycle. The overcast conditions dispensed with the need for copious amounts of liquid at every checkpoint and there were no occasions of flagging spirits or convulsive collapse of fatigued bodies.



**ENGAGEMENT** : **ANDREW ADIDI & MEKER** at the Freemason Hall in Cairns on April 22. A colourful display of local pageantry accompanied the occasion of solemn vows that marked the engagement of one of our past teacher assistants, **Andrew Adidi** to **Meker**. The more to tradition style of ceremony was exercised and the pictures speak for themselves about the rapturous event that ensued. Congratulations , Andrew and family.

**Ben Tiller**

My name is Ben Tiller. I have just started in term 2 as a tutor working in the IT department.

I have a wife, **Madeleine**, and two children, **Gabriel** (4) and **Claire** (21 months). They are currently in Toowoomba, but will be moving to Cairns in the next few weeks. I am greatly looking forward to them



I moved to Cairns in April from Toowoomba, where I was working at WIN Television in Production before I took up this position at Djarragun. I spent my high-school years in Toowoomba, and studied my Bachelor of Arts and Science combined degree there.

My interests include Aussie rules, computers, photography, and hanging out with my family!

**DARE TO LEAD PRINCIPALS’ VISIT** : A troupe of special guests plied their way briefly through the school to see just what happens in this neck of the canefields. The principals came from as far away as Perth, El Dorado in Victoria and Adelaide.

Their particular interest was in exploring strategies that work for educating Australian indigenous students. At the Friday School assembly, Principal, Ms Jean Illingworth announced how proud she was from the comments made by the visitors regarding the conduct and demeanour of the Djarragun students.

**HOMEWORK CAMPAIGN** : Congratulations to many students who are taking serious efforts to apply themselves to our Homework Programme.

The boarders have their time allotted for Homework and are being supervised by Mr. **Brian Marthick**. Teachers set work for the students every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Students (boarders and day) are all equipped with a Homework book into which all their assignments are documented. Ideally, parents and guardians should be signing the work as a further instrument of scrutiny and to bolster the level of application.

**DJARRAGUN DANCERS AT SCHOOLS’ CULTURAL WEEK** : CAIRNS - The strong tradition carries on with our musicians and dancers taking the opportunity to entertain the milling crowd at the Cairns City Mall.

Also making it in colour in the Cairns Post, the DC Band and four of the dancers make good a ready pose to transfix themselves into the history of Cairns civic and cultural activities.

**Team Dragons head to Tjapukai Cultural Centre for the day**



**Aden Noble-Neal; Shane Bulmer; Di-Wallum Neal firing up**

**Team Dragon accompanied by two parents Glennis Murgha & Samantha Noble & JCU student teachers Adele Lindsay & Sarah**

**Otman Majda:** Baby **Aidan** took to the starting blocks at the Majda household earlier this year. Planted with a Berber name (notice the double dotted 'i') and his Moroccan ancestry, we might have him making regular spot checks on father, Otman, our resident census censor. Who knows, if he locks acquaintance with young Garside, Casablanca might make a local rerun with its version of 'Play it again, Sam.'

**FIRST AID COURSE :** 23 Seniors recently undertook a First Aid Course with Ms **Kendall Green**

#### **PENINSULA REPRESENTATIVE SIDE**

**Thomas Reuben** flew to Brisbane on Wednesday to take part in the Australian Rules Under 15 carnival.

**ANTI-LITTER CD PLAYER PRIZE :** Winner for the Week - **Adam McGreen**

**THE FARM :** By the depletion of the supply of wood and materials from the oval area, it must be a fair indication that the School 'Farm' up in the Mulgrave Valley has taken on substantial building and facilities development.

Some of the Outdoor Education students from Years 8 and 9 spent an afternoon helping with the clean-up of the property.

### **Focus on Assessment Project**

Djarragun college made a successful submission to the Association of Independent Schools Queensland (AISQ), received a grant of \$10, 000 to design an alternative assessment culture in the school and share the effective practice with other schools. The project, initially involving the middle school, involves unpacking and implementing an explicit scaffolded teaching practice, as well as using rubrics to support indigenous students' learning and assessment. The project kick-started early May when Mr Philemon and Mr Daniel attended a workshop in Brisbane, and it is expected to run for a year.

### **WITH THEIR FEET ON THE GROUND**

It's always great to hear of the achievements of past students who have taken on the challenges of independent lives and ensconced in career paths that are meaningful, satisfying, useful and inspiring.

Congratulations to the following students who are currently active members of the work force.

**Talofa Baudu** - working as Rural Fire Service for Yam Island council;

**Pado Kaworo** - working with her dad in the Crayfish Seafood industry

**Trevor Wosomo** - working as a Teacher Aide at Yam Island State Primary School;

**Isaac Kaworo** - working as a Police Liaison Officer in Yam Island



### **THOUGHTS FROM THE HEAD GIRL PREFECT**

The return to their families of two groups of people from completely opposite dilemmas hit the news recently in Australia. Two miners were trapped underground for two weeks in Tasmania and three

Murray Islanders were missing at sea for three weeks in the Torres Strait.

This should give us a better understanding about safety and how we take care of each other.

Congratulations to all the survivors, their families and rescuers. On behalf of the Djarragun students, I wish you God's blessings and happiness in being reunited after a frightening experience. **Rosemary Tabuai**

#### **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

James Cook University Public Lecture Invitation  
The Faculty of Science, Engineering and Information Technology

Title: Volcanoes

By: Mr Peter Whitehead

Date: Wednesday, 7th June, 2006

Place: James Cook University Crowther Lecture Theatre

Time: The lecture start at 6.00 pm, but come along at 5.30pm and enjoy some light refreshments

Please R.S.V.P before Tuesday 6th June to Melissa on 4042 1208 or by email to [Melissa.Varoy@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Melissa.Varoy@jcu.edu.au)

This is a great lecture for anybody who is interested in earth sciences, geology and volcanoes! If you have an interest in volcanoes, this talk will be particularly interesting because Peter will discuss the types of volcanoes that have occurred in the Atherton region.

A summary:

Most of the world's volcanism can be divided into two broad categories: powerful, explosive and dangerous eruptions associated with the collision zones of the Earth's tectonic plates, and quiet, gentle eruptions of effusive lava associated with either the separation of tectonic plates or with eruptions far removed from plate boundaries. The basalts of the Atherton Tableland belong to the latter type.

This presentation will give a brief overview of volcanism in general, then will concentrate on the development of the Atherton Basalt Province, looking at each of the different styles of eruption, showing how they are formed, where they occur and when.

Please contact Melissa on 4042 1208 or by email to [Melissa.Varoy@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Melissa.Varoy@jcu.edu.au) for more information.