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School Rover

Issue 11, Sept. 01, 2006

"Nearly everything you do is of no importance but it is important that you do it" - *Mahatma Gandhi*



CRUSADER CUP : COOKTOWN

Juggling its way through a heavy schedule as it is in school, a group launched itself into the Crusader Cup campaign held in Cooktown in early August. The team comprised both boys and girls who participated in this event which is the culmination of an Australian Rules campaign into the Cape and Gulf areas.

A few Djarragun players showed immediate talents and were selected for further competition with the Crusader Cats that will compete with other teams from the Torres Strait and the Northern parts of the Cape communities.

Four boys were selected **Daniel Dau, Repu Kris, Alton Matthews and Frank Charlie**. **Shane Mimi** was selected for his age group to go on the AFL Camp being held in Weipa. **Avril Omeenyo** and **Elaine Moses** were selected to represent Djarragun for the Girls U13. They will be competing on the Gold Coast Cup in November.

Mr. Tekoa Tafea, Ms Nalissa Neuendorf and **Ms Nancy Baker** supervised the students during the trip.

Our team was unbeaten during the preliminary rounds but was beaten in the Grand Final against Yarrabah. AFL has only recently been introduced to Djarragun. Yarrabah has been involved for the past seven years.

Paul Walit went to Melbourne representing the Queensland Country team in the U15 division.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL : ANNOUNCED

Mr. **Spike** will be welcomed during this week when he arrives from South Australia with his wife and son. Hauling their way by car across the continent will prove a testing exercise but they will be greeted by the lush tropical green of our northern climate. Welcome.



LITERACY WITH PLAYDOUGH

What will they think of next? The latest catalyst for the literacy scheme is the humble lump of playdough. Students in the Primary are letting their 'fingers do the talking' and shaping words to spell by resurrecting the ancient art of plasticene modelling. Head of Primary, Ms Michelle Garside spoke encouragingly of the success some of the students were achieving with this hands-on method. Recent photos will attest to some colourful words appearing on the desks. Let's just hope that none decides to eat his or her words.

This has been the most enthusiastically received programme and to date 18/22 of the Years 2,3 & 4, in the practice spelling test were able to spell, 'hieroglyphics' correctly. The group has developed reading comprehension to unprecedented levels. Reading circles, attendance levels and completion of homework exercises have contributed to the students' success, their confidence and exponential progress.

ACADEMIC CHALLENGE



Primed for the challenge with a difference, the Senior Secondary students pummelled each other in the battle of the gut feelings. In addition to the conventional quiz, students were thrown on the spot by representing their respective House teams by performing a piece of rap beat and also impromptu dance to music they considered 'prehistoric'.

In events like this, it is nearly always surprising to acknowledge the obvious talents and also see what comes out of the woodwork. Coordinator for the event, Mr. **Vimal Shankaran** commented along these lines - "It embodies a combination of academic, school-related learning with fun, musical games and quixotic challenges. The competition was interhouse but there also was a particularly gallant gesture made by Ned Ingui who with his brother, Benjamin enacted a performance on behalf of another House. A lot of enthusiasm was shown by the participants and students demanded another challenge which will be held next Friday. Lots of fantastic prizes were distributed in the highly interactive opportunity for interesting learning."

The Middle School staff is also considering a challenge of its own for the students in the sector to expose their share of latent skills. This will take place sometime before the close of the term and will provide an extra string to the hype machine that has been getting regular airplay recently.

GARDEN SHOW : Darragun College came third in the recent Garden Show. Congratulations to our regular manicurists **Alan Edwards, Michael Groundwater, David Smith** and **Laupisi Asi**. The grounds is particularly sizeable and growing by each term as another facility spreads across the terrain. The pinebark chips and the associated fertilizing agents gave a few heady moments during the afternoon heat but that may be the compounds that keep our landscapists on permanent personal highs.

BOARDING PARENTS : **John & Elaine** have finally decided to retire to a more sedate lifestyle after sustaining the rigours of boarding school. Always the quiet, towers of strength to bolster the burdens of diverse challenges and situations that crop up in dormitories everywhere. It's always easy to drop a note of thanks but to comprehend the vast range of duties and personal contributions made is often a revelation. We provide this tribute and trust that happy memories continue to haunt them into smiles of worthy nostalgia.

DINING IN STYLE

It's great to have unbiased samplers who intermittently pass through our dining room and come out with the satisfied smile of the proverbial Cheshire cat.

The range of food offered at lunch for a meagre \$3.00 is tantalizing, appetizing and satisfying. The variety is appealing and the options gauged for vegetarians to the most bloodlusting carnivore.

Congratulations to the Spotless crew which operates under the hood of Grant who manages to keep the bain marie dazzling with scrumptious items that would turn Jenny Craig's head back and forth a few times.

RUGBY UNION

Under 14 Boys enjoyed a deserved win on Friday last (Sept. 01) against an organized team from St. Mary's College. This game was quite intense; it teetered for the entire duration. St. Mary's could have won with their superiority in size, ability and tactical play and their team held on to the lead for most of the time.

Spasms of runaway breaks emerged from both sides and it was apparent that each side harboured thoughts of final success.

The Djarragun players were hampered by basic flaws and failed to challenge seriously for ball possession and lacked the necessary drive during the scrums. They played with Rugby League style but their saving grace was tenacity. St. Mary's threatened on several occasions to establish an overwhelming lead but the last ten metres proved the battleline for the Djarragun defence.

The mercurial skills of **Neil McGreen** were kept tidily contained but he managed to slip through for a try and it depended on the rabbit dashes by **Wayne Kelly** to spearhead a path through the jostling melee to bring the ball past the sturdy St. Mary's defence line. **Daniel Woibo** featured in some sporadic episodes and Paul Walit played more than his one assigned position on field. **Jayed Phineasa** has his moments of opportunity thrust in front of him and notched his try. Congratulations on the win, boys. Now is the time to prime up the skills and game knowledge.

THE SHED

Our affectionate term for a major hive of industry on the campus is 'The Shed'. Here, beads of sweat are often the prelude to another masterpiece of creativity.



Despite his Italian heritage and not unlike Hephaestus, the Greek smith god, Mr. Joe Tamburin plies his skills with perduring industry. A quick glance through the workshop widens the eyes to a range of items, practical and aesthetic, that have been forged into shape and act as trophies to previous creative endeavours.

It's not difficult for students to catch a wisp of enthusiasm from his example. Though he would sometimes share doubts about the efficacy of his efforts, there is plenty of evidence to hand that renders credence a more than fair share of the credit. Just take a look at what some of the students have dabbled in during the year.



Burning with concentration, **Gesa Dau** etches out his design. Workplace, Health and Safety might allude to his conscientiousness over his seriously, noisy scorching.



It's all in the eyes. With the advantage of older boys working in close proximity, it falls to the age-old adage, "Monkey see, monkey do." Some apply subtlety to their workmanship and a keen eye is a prerequisite for the master craftsman. **Eathen Maas** keeps his piece under wraps and sleight of hand perhaps, will reveal his magic. (Here's looking at you, Mrs. Shankaran.!!!)

"This is the one that didn't get away," boasts a triumphant **Brandon Noble**.

The range of possible projects isn't endless but it is enterprising. Students cultivate an active enjoyment for the Arts and Crafts avenue. Materials are economic and the projects practical.

Uncle **Tony Epseg** beams with pride at the outcomes of a number of his Monday afternoon charges who have proceeded from tea towel racks and are currently churning out jewellery boxes. The more adventurous ones like **Paul Walit** and **Thomas Wigness** are shaping model boats while **Alex Namai** is putting his hands around a clock. Santa's apprentice is **Elijah Tapim** who has taken upon himself to go around to assist others to complete their projects.



Mr. **Joe Tamburin** readily heaped praise on **Assa Satrick** and **Isaiah Tom** who respectively crafted a television table and a corner unit. Each concocted the project task and it has been something useful and necessary for themselves. Incorporated with the planning was the necessary competencies required to reach assessment demands.

As a combined effort, the whole Engineering Group completed a round table and seven chair set made with turned steel rod frames and ceramic mosaic top and seats. They obviously had in mind a quiet card game or a sumptuous tea party.



Isaiah Tom poses beside an inventor's parade - bike, trailer and mini-scooter.

One of the major tasks completed has been construction of doors for the buildings up on the School Farm.



WELCOME DANCE TO CHAIRPERSON, TED SCOTT

This morning, people were over the moon when the dancers were performing on stage. There were dances from the Top Western group, the Eastern group, the Aboriginal group and Dosena Mabo, Jessie Dau and Lilliah Gabey were dancing a Cook Island dance. There were all sorts of dances. There was one dance where the Murray Island girl told me that it would only happen once in a blue moon. People were running amok in a really fun way, where everybody was laughing. My cousin brother, Maia, told me yesterday that he was going to dance but today, he took a back seat. He wasn't dancing. He was hitting the Island beat drum. We thought the hula dance was going to take donkey's years to be done. I looked at the Seniors faces and they looked really keen as mustard. When the hula dance ended, Wacada told me that she felt like she was on top of the world. **Sunema Gizu**

