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# School Rover

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'Correction does work, but encouragement works wonders.' - Kay Gramm



Hello Good People,

This year our Djarragun Football players have shown remarkable tolerance. It's not easy running on a field knowing we will get another thrashing - but running on they have, and, above all, with good spirit. Both girls and boys are starting to understand the difficulty of this game and are doing their best to achieve an acceptable level.

The senior girls have won several games in the CISSA competition and were ecstatic. With **Monica Fourmile** in midfield and **Ruby Atu** in defense they developed the backbone of the team. Our regular players, **Patrina Gordon, Nadia Anau** and **Lavinia Dabah** also need a mention for always showing up. We have lost a few players over the last few months but Middle school students helped out, which is always appreciated.

The senior boys are also improving with every game and training session. **Ned, Lawrence, Justin, Saggi** and **Garrett**

(just to name a few) enjoy the game immensely and it shows in their enthusiasm.

Football is a game that needs a lot of experience. We can't produce excellent players just because of their strength and speed in just a few months. It needs time, time to understand the fundamentals and strategies. It's a game where thinking ahead is crucial. We've been trying to develop players with creativity, a sense of composure and, mainly, team co-ordination, which is to say that players need to show a lot of movement off the ball to support the ball-carrier.

Next semester, it will be the Middle school participating in CISSA and seniors will be attending Djarragun Sports Academy training and theory. We're looking forward to seeing you all there.

**Mr. Frank van Pamelan and Mr. Michael Lee**



# EDUCATION QUEENSLAND INITIATIVE



(Rowena Bullio, Carmen Gisu, Patrick Atu & Julia Gela)

Two members of the Cairns Branch FNQ Indigenous Schooling Support, **Julia Gela** and **Rowena Bullio** spend an hour each week with some of Torres Strait Islander boarders in Year 8 to discuss and support the transition from Primary to High School. Issues of homesickness, boarding hurdles are raised to help face the difficulties. Encouragement with what is already existing is promoted. The introductory sessions are being conducted during one of the first sessions of the day and later will transferred to lunch breaks.

Reports of the initiative have filtered through to BRACS and Torres News. Private schools are getting the advantage at this stage.

**Allena Tabuai** shows leadership skills during the meetings and is a good catalyst for the rest of the group. **Timothy Tipoti, Mauga Kepa** and **Sibra Baragud** have come out of their shell and revealed their interest in sport.

The boys and girls were separated on the last meeting and then they suggested things that they wanted to discuss. Health issues were prominent - diabetes, sugar diets, alcohol, body health as well as STIs.

Ear safety for the hearing-impaired, body safety, hygiene and also boat safety.

Attitudes have changed by the third week and students seemed to have newfound confidence and the willingness to participate.

**Murphy Tabuai** impressed the officers with his interest and change of attitudes. Enid Baira worked well in the small group and found her voice with the visitors.

Thanks to Julia and Rowena for their personal interest in our students.



## LibLab Fever

By now, we have all experienced the dynamic new Library block. Needless to say, it's a welcome addition to our fast growing College. LL2, where Mr. Franko also conducts his VET classes, is complete with its projector and sound system. Workers are still outside adding the final touches to the tranquil surroundings

The two new computer labs have been gainfully occupied to help cope with the demand of ICT being taught at all levels. Our new iMacs can run both Windows XP and Mac OS X, which can only be a step in the right direction for Apple computers.



In due time, with some driver updates, these machines should also be able to run Vista, the latest operating system from Microsoft. Windows Vista is essentially a warmed-over Windows XP with lots of eye candy and improved security. If you're currently happy with Windows XP SP2, I see no reason to upgrade yet. On the other hand, if you need a new computer right now, Windows Vista is preferable and stable enough for everyday use. However, only the most popular software has been written exclusively for Vista, but that will change soon enough.

This semester we have only seen Middle school and Senior Secondary using these new facilities. Hopefully, in the near future, the Primary section can be included in our busy timetable.

Mr. Frank (LL1) and Mr. Franko (LL2)





## FOOD - FOR THOUGHT

What a way to start off the new day than a breakfast pack that gives you the energy to sustain a productive session in the classroom. The initiative funded for the Breakfast Programme is a joint effort by the Hospitality VET class and the Primary Health classes.

Congratulations, to the Primary sector, for engaging in a comparatively rigorous campaign which has involved members of staff camping overnight for a pleasant 'sleepover' so that the children can avail of this unusual treat. Whilst the normal School Camp is taking on a different perspective this time round, the outcome cannot be overlooked for its efficacy.



In our persistent effort to raise the attendance level and the attention spans of our students, this popular item to the school recipe is proving a successful serve. The objectives include not just the provision of meals but the awareness of and promotion of healthy, nutritious eating habits.

The proliferation of junk foods which often renders our students victims of inadequate nutrition is being countered on the table. As well as energy, students can activate the neurons to advantage. It becomes a case of eat better, live better, think better.



One can hope that the students have been wisened to the dietary chart and that their choices now include foods with the essential elements of protein, fibre and nutrition towards gastric wellbeing.

The normal school day is often gauged on the frenetic scale and 'burn-out' can be witnessed at the end of day when a noticeable number of tinytots are 'piggybacked' to the buslines. The right kinds of food should be a large part of the eventual solution. Eat well, everyone.



## AFL Brisbane Trip

The AFL boys headed off to Brisbane on the 26th of May to play in the A.F.L. Dream Time Round. The game was a curtain raiser to the Collingwood and Brisbane game at the 'Gabba. We flew down to Brisbane early Saturday morning to get ourselves ready for the big game against Narangba State School. It was a great opportunity for our school to participate and for the students to play at such a great venue and in front of a big crowd. The boys didn't disappoint anyone with the way they went about it.

We lead by 2 points at quarter time and were down by 4 goals at halftime. The third quarter saw Narangba take control and storm out to a 9 goal lead but it was the quarter time address by Coach Ben 'Sheedy' Tiller, which had the boys fired up and ready to mount a fighting comeback.

The Djarragun boys kicked the first 6 goals of the last quarter before Narangba goaled in the final minutes and the final margin was 4 goals. The highlight of the night was when the boys got to do a lap of honour at halftime of the main game in front of 30,000 people.

The disappointing part was we didn't get to see the number 11, Spike Cotton in action. He did his hamstring at our last training run and was not fit to play.

**Steven Daniel**



# BEACON FOUNDATION

Djarragun College has signed on as a Beacon Foundation 'No Dole' School. The Beacon Foundation was set up in Tasmania in 1988 with a single focus of addressing youth unemployment. The Beacon Foundation's approach is to trial new and innovative projects which build individual and community responsibility to support young people. Their vision is an Australia in which our young people have the desire, the motivation and the opportunity to reach their full potential. Their mission is to influence the attitudes and culture of Australians so that each young person develops an independent will to achieve personal success through gainful activities for themselves and their community.

The unemployment facts are:

Almost 40% of unemployed Australians are under the age of 25.

212,000 15 – 24 year olds are out of work.

There is a national shortage of skills and labour.

There are now over 80 schools nationally in the Beacon program.

Our year 10 students are invited to join the 'No Dole' Program.

Djarragun College will be holding a Charter Signing Event and a Business Launch on September the 18th 2007 where students will sign a pledge to make a personal effort to continue on to further Training, Education or Employment after leaving school. Local businesses will be targeted to provide opportunities for Work Experience Placements and job opportunities.

Ms. Francesca and Mr. Philimon will coordinate the Beacon program.

**Simon Cotton**

Deputy Principal

## CAN'T SEE THE WOOD FOR THE TREES

It's many a year since much of this property has hosted the canopy of stately trees. The canefields have given way to a school campus and the development of an urban symbiotic relationship.

Mr. **John Popham** has recently entered upon the scene to implement a few initiatives that include a substantial landscaping programme, training and employment strategies and inclusive, hands-on experience in nursery skills. **Ned Ingui, Jackson Baker** and **Samuel David** are the first turners of the soil. Allan Ambrym and Adam McGreen had an introductory phase earlier but have since gone to another programme.

The new Library complex has been landscaped with Desert Roses, a range of native and exotic trees including Mimosa, Syzigium (lilly-pillies) and a Tabebuia (Brazil) with extravagant golden flowers annually.

Skills that the boys have acquired -  
how to place plants in appropriate spaces;  
recognize different plants, trees and shrubs;  
planting, fertilizing  
pruning

marcotting - propagation technique

A visit to Mad About Plants Wholesale Nursery showed the boys how a nursery operated. The boys were able to talk to Torres Strait Islander employees and could see the prospects that could be available in future. The owner for the nursery was also supportive and keen to encourage the boys about future employment.

A trip to the Botanic Gardens showed the boys rare and beautiful plants which they had never seen before in their lives.

Mr. John is very pleased with the progress of all of the boys.