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School Rover

Issue 08, August 10, 2007

THE GRASS IS GREENER

Laying of the turf on the oval was literally working at the grassroots level. Many sets of hands unravelled the rolls of ground cover to establish a spectacular pitch of manicured verdure. Such a vast expanse met the eyes that one was half-expecting the sight of a flagged stick in the middle of a putting range somewhere in the middle distance.

The football field has now been turned to run in North - South directions to accommodate the planned positioning for the new Primary School building that will soon cast its shadow on the western perimeter.

Mr. Harry Tenni was the main overseer prompting hands to the unrolling of the new green carpet.

It won't be ready for some time for the inevitable onslaught of pounding feet but the future is definitely shaping up for this area to host a new set of 'wallabies'.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Nothing is more terrible than activity without insight"
Thomas Carlyle

CRY IN SHAME

Newspaper headlines! Shame at our door
Child abuse rampant and problems galore
Each side guilty of not doing more

Accusations of racism and overkill
Counter claims about responsibility and little goodwill

Adults grandstanding and getting the fame
No-one addressing those who are to blame
Who speaks for the children and watches their back?
When safe homes and full bellies are what they lack

No-one has asked the children their views
About drugs and grog and shadows passing through
When they huddle in cupboards and under beds
Trying to drown out yelling and blood flowing red

When babies are crying in empty rooms
As music blares and tempers boom
When blows are rained on tender skin
They close out the world and turn outside in

Then we all ask why in a few years hence
Their escapades make all of us wince
As they storm and rage and mirror their past
Rushing through childhood they knew wouldn't last
So while we read and watch and hear
Remember its happening to a child that's near

CRY IN SHAME

Margaret Hornagold
26th July 2007

DEADLY AUSTRALIANS



Another visit from Marc Dorse this term establishes that once again another year has turned full cycle. Almost as regular as the colourful creatures he embellishes on for our emulation, Mr. Marc applies his

characteristic humour and wealth of knowledge about the venomous creatures of our continent.

Passi Namai was the obliging volunteer for the bandaging demonstration and the first victim to be tested with the fear threshold.

Whilst the lethal agents in his small menagerie were kept safe and secure behind their glass cages, a Children's python was able to share the centre stage and share a few friendly coils with those comfortable enough



rubbing scales with serpents.

Mr. Gazir obviously is an experienced veteran at handling the armless but the sight of this seemingly friendly reptile was enough to set other skins crawling as well.



Some of the Primary students carried a bit of the Steve Irwin bravado with them and formed a sizeable queue that snaked its way towards a close encounter.

Rhiannon Hill shook aside her initial reluctance to start off on a single strand Medusa extension. Showing calibre to set herself up for the next Indiana Jones epic, Ms Maree exhibited the handling skills of a latent snake charmer.



Ms Maree didn't bat an eyelid and looks accustomed to snakes since Adam was a boy.



ATHLETICS DAY DC

Congratulations to **Mr. Tekoa** for co-ordinating the Sports team which effected a smoothly-run Athletics day on Wednesday, July 25 at Johnson Park in Gordonvale. Thanks also to the Athletics Association which provided the equipment and the canteen service. The weather gave us a favourable turn and deviated from its unpredictable and unseasonable pattern.



Hair-raising starts by hair-raising starter

Most students entered into the spirit of the event and obviously enjoyed themselves in the fun. Some were content to be dragged along in the vortex of the enthusiastic. However, commendations to quite a few who showed that sometimes elusive quality of ardent determination.

In disciplines to which this was their initial introduction, some students threw aside laziness, shame and reluctance and earned the odd point or two for their respective teams. Others pressed their accelerators to the floor in the effort to challenge inevitable winners in their divisions. What was most impressive were the straggling bodies that finished the events, not as losers but as the most dedicated participants. These are the ones who offered what they had in the knowledge that their efforts would



be clearly overshadowed. Congratulations for showing and providing examples of courageous sportsmanship.



Lone roadside stall manageress, Ms Mbongaleni trading team t-shirts

Mr. Virgil kept the microphone busy encouraging players to the events. The spirit of ‘the Friendly Games’ promoted by the Commonwealth nations is probably an accurate description of the carnival. The small committee pocketed away to collect the tiles from the winners and placegetters plodded away like secret service collaborators keeping a steady tally of results and scores. Various stations had, at least, a pair of supervisors measuring and recording valid attempts. Mr. Gracey maintained a regular beat on the subwoofers. Things kept moving and bodies migrated in a constant



swirl as particular events became the centre of attention.

Inclusion of ‘the little people’ kept the whole day a family affair. Words will not effectively portray the glimpses of happy eruptions but the pictures will.

Unassuming characters like

Isaac Tabo emerged from their quiet reserve to ply natural talents and obvious potential. His lithe figure stood the test of the 800 metre race and promptly undertook the challenges at the Broad Jump, High Jump and sprints. **Murphy Tabuai** burst his way along the speed zone with gritty definition that could not be improvised. High competition was observed between **Passi Namai** and **Bradley Miller**. The chalk and cheese competitors covered ground with sizzling speed. It’s a wonder that the track didn’t catch fire. Preparation for the upcoming interschool athletics is part of the intention





15th & 16th September, 2007

FISHING CHALLENGE

Interschool Trophy

\$5.00 Entry Fee

BBQ Lunch Available

Registrations Open

20th August, 2007

First 150 Child entries receive a free sample bag
Registration kits available from Gordonvale Video

Shop and Aloomba State School



CONGRATULATIONS

Saggi & Harriet, proud new parents of son,
Bladen Phillip Meshach Epsag
Dad can add another feather to his dhoeri
Enrolment forms are in the mail.

FIRE & RESCUE EXPO

Students in the Middle School spent a couple of hours at Munro Martin Park to ramble through the Expo set up to highlight safety and rescue points and emergency services.

Displays of firefighting equipment and video presentations of rescue operations and current safety practices were brought to focus. Live demonstrations of a burning saucepan of cooking oil clearly accentuated the danger of a mundane situation that has occurred in many kitchens.

Students and adults alike were astounded by the 15 metre flame that flared out of the demonstration caravan.

Another demonstration exhibited the characteristic behaviour of bushfires. The model clearly showed the usefulness of firebreaks around houses and buildings and the typical mobility of fires up slopes and down ridges.

Smoke alarms in homes are now a compulsory item of safety by law. Students could avail themselves of many brochures that promoted safety in many different facets of their lives.

Resuscitation and rescue procedures were promoted as the responsibility of all. Even the very young can recognize a dangerous situation and have the means to inform an adult or older sibling. Raising the alarm is our very first option.

The range of 'protectors' who can be called into action is amazing. We often are aware of the Police, the Fire Brigade and the Ambulance services. However, other branches include Quarantine, Fisheries, Mining, Explosives and Devices, Customs, Armed Services, SAS and Volunteer Medical and Technical Units.

FREE workshops!

City Library, Meeting Room 1

Drawing with Mary Serenc:

- 5-7 years - 26th Sept, 10-11am
- 8-12 years - 27th Sept, 10-11am

Storytelling with Mary Serenc:

- 5-8 years - 25th Sept, 10-11am

Writing with Trudi Trewin:

- 8-12 years - 24th Sept, 10-11am

Bookings: 4044 3727

Information: 4057 2214