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# School Rover

Issue 11, Sept. 21, 2007

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

*"The same hammer that breaks the glass forges the steel." - Italian Proverb*

## BISHOP JACK SPONG

An eventful visit by **Bishop Spong** from Canada prompted an energetic showcasing of the school. In an effort to present the full gamut of the Djarragun curriculum, students and staff presented a hive in action. **Bishop Spong** commented that in his nine visits to Australia, this was the first occasion that he'd ever heard the Australian National Anthem which our students blared in full gusto. His wife, **Ms Christine**, wished happiness and a wholesome life to everyone. She, too, was highly impressed by the look, feel and the vibes in the school. Once again, the natural charm of the DC students exuded the joyful, polite and happy dispositions that characterize the place. This combined with the perfect Spring weather provided a memorable day of delight both for the esteemed visitors and also for enthusiastic students.



Decked with his Rugby jersey, **Bishop Spong** posed the stature not unlike one of our retired internationals. With a mitre and sceptre to hand, he would well pose



a force with which to be reckoned cautiously. Ned Ingui (Yr. 11) presented the bishop with his gift which he donned immediately.

Congratulations to the crowd pleasers, **Shadrack & Cadmus Mundraby** whose inclusion into the Aboriginal Dance troupe throws depth into the performances. The emergence of such 'young blood' into the system assures a healthy future for cultural representation.

The 'little Australians' left shame backstage and did well to bring attention to their sector of the school spectrum. Others who also brandished the Djarragun colours in a delightful display of courage and pride were **Brad Baird, Sharkiem Cedric & Lielo Torney**.



Other 'new blood' hatched from the Djarragun nest emerged in the form of **Paolina Shankaran** - startling evidence of the far-reaching range of the bush turkey. Older performers cramped a neat routine into the busy schedule and the appearance of the girls in greater force also notched a new height to the tide level. The members of the troupe were **Alan Tranby, Branxton Dick, Aiden Taiters, Adam McGreen, Israel Graham, Chulkul Neal** with the girls, **Dale Edmund, Alynta-Jo Murphy, Rhiannon Hill, Layla Dodd, Naomi Cooktown & Tesla Walsh.**

## SCIENCE PROGRAMME APPROVAL

Congratulations to **Mr. Philemon Chigeza** who has just completed the work programme for Science 21 to introduce to Senior students in 2008. This is a Senior Authority Registered subject and will be offered to academically inclined students only. Mr. Philemon has put many hours into developing this pilot programme and the QSA has accepted it as he has presented it. An excellent job! **Ms Jean**

## COWBOYS, TOWNSVILLE

Recently, boarders travelled down to Townsville on Friday, August 31 to attend the Cowboys vs Bulldogs Rugby League match. They left from school at 2 p.m. and after the thrilling match made the return journey to reach home around 3:00 a.m.

**Laurianna Baira, Selma David, Monica Fauman, Alphi Hosea, Seba Bourne, Annie Mabo, Sainty Mabo, Daisy Noah, Karen Noah, Rittia Tapim, James Akiba, Dalton Cowley, Benjamin Ingui, Ned Ingui, Adam McGreen, Adric Morris, Alick Passi, Andrew Passi, Kareem Tabuai and Toshie Wigness.** Many thanks, Mr. Kris & the support staff for the occasion.

## A MAN OF HIGH DEGREE

When people we really cherish surrender to the rigours of time, it demands the welling of inner strength to sustain the awesome dilemma. We may well have lost one we respected but we are struck more with the hankering reminder that he showed an explicit regard towards all of us.

In this arena, he was our version of a 'man for all seasons'. Equally, at ease, with the young and the old, he held the great capacity of genuine concern and ready support. "No worries" - his stock phrase when presented with a task or a request. He was one who bothered. He bothered to spend copious hours training dancers, encouraging performers and guiding the future carriers of his culture.

"Do to others what you would have them do to you." This Gospel maxim confronts us simply because it was a practice clearly evident in the actions of a revered person who engaged his life with us. Uncle Phillip made this sentiment so patently manifest in his existence. He fully embraced others - 'Puwar - amisir, amisir' - like the creeping vine, giving protection, comfort and support, coiling, coiling, always striving, reaching higher and higher.

It is not just the loss that tempers our sadness; it is more the irrevocable fact that we are, to our deaths, held to him in an historic debt. We are never able to repay his kindnesses, his attention and his delicate regard.

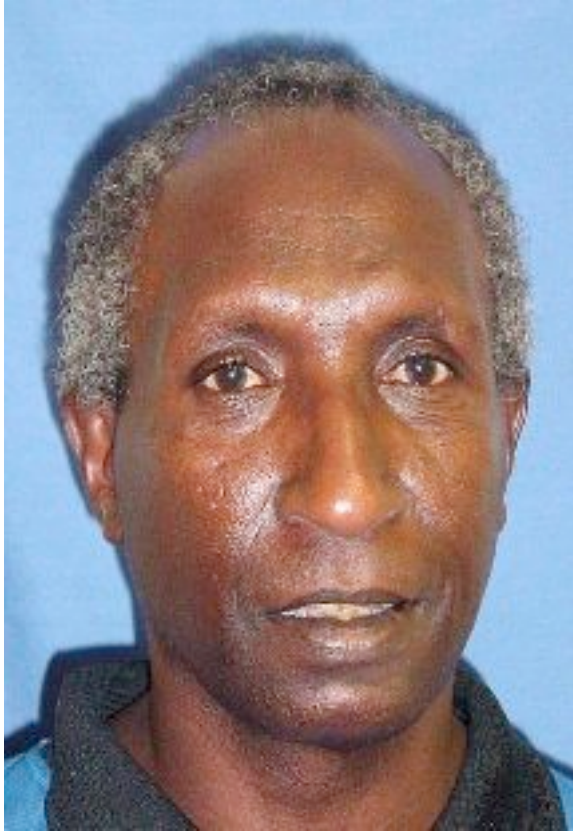
We rejoice in his life knowing that, in some way or other, we have come to benefit from the gift that he was. It is holiness in someone who can draw out the humanity in others. It is his selflessness that summoned a deep-seated friendliness which characterized his nature. His nature put language to his actions. His actions spoke with gentle persuasion.

Steeped in the culture of the Eastern Torres Strait, he sauntered with easy style to the haunting drums of Mer and the spicy beats of the modern city. This songman just as easily chanted out, "Zogob ged, mena bharuk-le.." (The wind that blows has not died down..) as he recanted, "Summer breeze, makes me feel fine; Blowing through the jasmine in my mind." Neither overbearing nor demanding, Uncle Phillip influenced his acquaintances with his flashing smile, twinkling eyes and quiet serenity.

His fatherly instincts served to advantage many youth in addition to his own children. The dance troupes who formed and developed under his patient tutelage are creditable tributes to his benign patronage. He subdued a rowdy class group with the efficacy of Olive-leaf extract and the quiet resolve of a social antigen.

The longer his association with the school and education, the greater was the conviction for Uncle Phillip to pass on the values of the Torres Strait culture that he had absorbed from youth. From his tiny minions at Parramatta State School to his more established veterans at Djarragun, Uncle Phillip applied his characteristic, cogent philosophy, "Lissen por lahn" (Listen to learn). There was nothing verbose about instructions. He was master to the economy of words.

Uncle Phillip was unrelenting in his passion for fishing. He could spend hours hunting, with the patience of Job an integral aspect to his personality. Sleep overtook one companion who woke to find Uncle Phillip still stolidly enticing the fish. He could outlast any form of tedium and persevered through the



most mundane tasks with noble resignation.

Through the daunting period of treatment and temporary recuperation, complaint never surfaced as an option. The severity of his pain never escaped his lips. He was champion to this kind of endurance and victor over travail. He did not assume a victim role but summoned the mettle of gallantry.

It is fair to say that he was a man of quality and his many qualifications remained tactfully undercover. His own 'secret service' underscored the majority of his operative deliberations. Gratuitous acts followed as a matter of consequence. He was not drawn to glamour, celebrity or shallow gratification. His gentle reserve harboured a subtle resilience and his form of support could evolve by his simply being there.

Youthful exuberance never drained from him. Uncle Phillip's reserves of fun and frivolity entangled him with a rambunctious squad of high-spirited teenagers whose mentors, in particular, dubbed him with the disquieting cognomen - "Wild Horse". Like one totem, Irrwapaup - the Hammerhead Shark- he ranged at depth and, ironically, could be more powerful than the Tiger Shark. His second totem, Puwar (the creeping vine) wrapped its host tree from the base to the top - in a close and secure, symbiotic embrace.

A man of simplicity, he placed priority on essentials; he was not addicted to acquisition and he was entirely self-effacing. A humble and patient man, Uncle Phillip counts amongst that company of august people about whom we each can attest, "When I count my blessings, I always count you, twice."

At this time, we remorsefully contemplate the passing of a man of deep significance but, yet more, the loss of an 'irreplaceable'.

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

"...in the event of a conflict or problem in the classroom, or observing one in a corridor or

playground (school yard), the restorative teacher would ensure that she ASKS rather than TELLS. She enquires of those involved what they believe to have happened, what their thoughts were during the incident (and not their opinions - an inflammatory question which can exacerbate conflict), the feelings arising from those thoughts, who they think has been affected and what they believe needs to happen to put things right. Faced with any given situation in a school, the restorative teacher does not rush to take sides or make assumptions. Her curiosity encourages those involved to become accountable for what has happened but also to feel empathy for others, and it also empowers them to take responsibility for putting things right."

Mr. Tekoa Tafea, Mr. Harry Tenni, Mr. Simon Cotton, Ms Francesca Shankaran, Ms Linda McKeown, Ms Peggy Chigeza, Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Michelle Garside, Ms Michelle Soans, Ms Jade Allgood, Mr. Ross Walters, Mr. Warren Eyre, Ms Harriet Tapim, Mr. Philemon Chigeza, Mr. Rob Hodge, Mr. Otman Majda, Mr. Kris Wheeler and Ms Cate Robinson.

Nearly twenty members of staff including two counsellors from Brisbane Boys College in Brisbane attended a three-day workshop at the College on Restorative Justice. The sessions were conducted by Margaret Thorsborne who manipulated a series of role-playing sequences between the doses of theory to reinforce important concepts.

This concerted effort underpins the policy at the school to supply the supportive infrastructure that endorses our Disciplinary and Pastoral care practices.

Today's society presents our youth with a wide range of challenging situations that are rife with crippling repercussions - practical, legal and criminal. The law may impose mandatory sentencing as a serious form of penal clout but there are moves afoot to apply an added dimension to societal salvage.

The process is not regarded as reconciliation nor remuneration and definitely not repudiation. It engages the wrongdoer into an examine of conscience prompted by the genuine revelations from others affected by the perpetrator's action.

## WRITER'S CRAMP

### Rona - A Maori Legend

**One day, there was a girl. She was the daughter of the Sea god, Tangaroa. She was the tide controller. At night, she went to the stream to get fresh water for the kids. When the path became dark, she tripped on a root on the ground. She was upset. Then she made remarks about the Moon. The Moon heard the unkind remarks so he put a curse on the Maori people and grabbed the girl. today, the people believe that Rona is up on the Moon with her bucket and when she tips the bucket, the rain falls down.** by Ralph Daniel

## BOOK FAIR

**Congratulations** to Kerry who had an extremely successful book fair. She took \$2133.25 and, of this, the school is able to choose books to the value of \$545.70. This is an incredible effort by our students and also, the fact that it is the first book fair we have had.

Well done, Kerry.

Ms Jean

## PEAR PROGRAMME FOR GIRLS

After morning tea on Tuesdays, the Years 8/9 girls

have started a new programme called PEAR. It's a programme where young girls meet new experiences - good ones. We were divided into three different groups. I was in the Hibiscus group with **Ms Jade**. We went to Ms Jade's class. When we got there, we made a front cover for a portfolio. Then six by six went to the library computer lab to make a name tag for each other. It was lunch time and Lane and I went down to the tuckshop. We had our lunch and then went to the computer room again.

After lunch, I went back to Ms Jade's class with Lane. When we got there, **Ms Jade** read a mantra to us. It was about sharing, loving and caring. Then we finished our front cover. When I finished, Shirleen and I went onto the computers. Shirleen went into her email. I emailed **Shirleen**. I said, "What are you doing?" She replied, "Nothing. What for?"

I played the Marble Blast game for a while. When I finished playing, I went onto the Internet but I wasn't allowed on there. I looked at the photos of the girls who went down to play in Brisbane. ... **Lara Gibson**

**Trade Prevocational Information Evening**

I would like to remind you that our Trade Prevocational Information Evening is being held on Wednesday 17 October from 6pm to 8pm at the Cairns Campus of TNQ TAFE. This evening will include information on both the full time and TAFESEC prevocational programs. I have attached the promotional flyer for your information.

You may wish to consider placing this information in your school newsletters so that parents can be informed. It is an extremely valuable way of finding out more information about the different trades and the programs that are available and it includes an opportunity to have a look at our facilities.

**Mandy Mayers**



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**TOWNSVILLE RUGBY LEAGUE TRIP**

(Above : **Ralph Daniel & Chulkul Neal**)  
(Below : The Team)  
OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO



**SCHOOL RESUMES : TERM**