



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

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

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School Rover

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work." - Emile Zola

COMRIE TABUAI ON THE MOVE



Many of our students are practically installed with personal odometers. One such globetrotter is **Comrie Tabuai** who managed to traverse the whole length of the Queensland seaboard in the same week.

A Brisbane visit for an award was followed by an overland trek with his confreres in the AFL league to Bamaga at the tip of Cape York Peninsula.

In Brisbane, Comrie was accompanied by Mr. **Dean Garside**. They represented the school at a function for the

Green & Healthy Schools State Awards. This programme highlighted the efforts that schools had initiated to raise the awareness of healthy eating and personal wellness. During the year, Djarragun staff implemented a campaign targeting the eating habits and consumption by our students.

A breakfast drive tried to reduce the occasions of some students who arrived at school with empty stomachs. Home Economics classes amongst the Primary students focussed on healthy products and balanced eating practices. Lunches were provided for those students who were at a disadvantage and even the boarding students were placed under scrutiny for their poor choice of foods and encouraged to adopt healthier options.

Immediately from his southern journey, Comrie didn't let the grass grow between his feet. The compass lead him northwards to Bamaga into the rigours of a regional challenge within the Sports Academy agenda. Girls were also included in this scheme and have shown that the unisex flag is flying high and strong in the Aussie Rules arena.

Congratulations to Comrie for his ability to show a sense of purpose in different fields in such meaningful enterprises.

GIRRINGUN FESTIVAL CARDWELL

Once again, the festive spirit has struck the troupe of Djarragun dancers and performers. An awesome team of stage veterans descended upon the Cardwell scene for this prime Australian Indigenous event. The programme had our performers cited for routines in a fairly tight programme but our students found many more occasions to take the limelight when other performers did not meet commitments.

The whole exercise from the Djarragun perspective was a gargantuan group activity. It required exhaustive planning and the need to overcome the logistics of travel, accommodation, rehearsals, feeding, libations, encouragement and control.

A team of 80 students took to the field and a support staff of 30 wedged themselves into the action to keep the ship afloat. The excursion fell hot on the heels of the Laura Festival and some of the staff should well be feeling like participants in the travelling Show circuit.

Needless to say, the whole venture was a stunning success enjoyed by staff and students alike. The Torres Strait Islander dancers and the Aboriginal performers strutted their style to appreciative audiences, great and small. Even during the hot afternoons, their performances maintained strong definition and dedicated focus.

The band enjoyed its share of the ovations and the newly moulded beat box team modulated its delivery of staccati to promote the school with subliminal advertising. The composition of the singers underscored the composition itself. There was an evident pact between individuals from diverse backgrounds, and indeterminate futures. They cast themselves as a present expression of youth in musical corroboration.

Setting up camp (above) to 'feed an army'.



Congratulations to this significant segment of the college for representing, not just the school but their respective cultures as well. A sizeable number of staff members supported the



Many behind the scenes workers plied their skills and efforts to keep the operation moving smoothly. Feeding the multitude doesn't happen as miraculously as narrated in the Bible. Bus drivers, cooks, supervisors, equipment carriers, camera recorders, dance tutors and support singers and dancers. Past student, **Saggi Epsag** and his mum, **Aunty Thelma**, are virtual mainstays to the Murray Island dance troupe.



weekend excursion which included additional sleepover day student clients who spent Friday night in the dorms so that an early start on Saturday was possible. Outside helpers in the form of dance tutors and singers also sacrificed their weekend leisure hours to support our students. It is often overlooked that these extracurricular activities by volunteers are unpaid services that these staff members have contributed towards looking after other peoples' children. It is this kind of self-giving that rekindles the ANZAC sentiment - 'Lest we forget'.



In particular, key organizers like Mr. **Vimal Shankaran** and Music co-ordinator, Mr. **John Grace** assumed the challenge despite the disruption to their own families. Others have made similar



sacrifices as well but are not prone to the constant enticement to action in fields that demand time and personal attendance. Perhaps, ironically for them, 'the show must go on.'

There was an element of pageantry about the Giringun Festival. Students were fortunate to have an occasion for great memories to savour. The adventure of an active weekend, dawn to dusk and later entertainment and a keen sense of community living huddled in tents is a dream for many who are looking for a break from routine. Marquees were primed with a stunning range of artefacts, paintings and information depicting tribal groups from both near and far regions.



From within the Djarragun contingent emerged its own array of representatives - the Aboriginal performers, the Torres Strait Islands - Eastern, Top Western, Central dancers. The DC Band took to the stage and in its special modern vogue comeuppance in the music industry, the Djarragun Rappers. In its own right, this small vocal combination is a force with hypnotic magnetism. **Aidan Hart, George Mara, Israel Graham, Douglas Graham and Alan Tranby** mesmerized the audience with confident Hip Hop glottal shock.

The contrast with traditional and contemporary routines added to the glamour of the productions by some versatile individuals who really endorse the fact that they span two worlds.



Resilient **Chulkul Neal** bounced back from the grip of a debilitating overnight mystery illness to shed his share of the spectacular upon the crowd. The other half of the dynamic duo, **Shane Mimi**, never failed to produce the goods each time he was required to engage the spectators.

As is customarily required, the Islander girls fronted up in strong numbers to provide the support singing and dancing. Spectacular dresses and costumes attests to the preparatory efforts provided by unseen seamstresses and resources managers.



The Aboriginal girls had the ideal opportunity to parade their increasingly competent routines. From what appeared for years as a predominantly male domain, dance performers amongst the girls is a going concern and prospective participants will be able to look back at these young stalwarts as the initial icebreakers to the shame barrier.



The boys have already trodden a well-worn, familiar track and have, in some cases, diverted their circular breathing into a microphone instead of the didgeridoo. In any case, they will still raise a song and dance and be renowned for it.

It was great to hear glowing reports about the conduct of our students - worthy ambassadors for our school.

