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School Rover

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it. - Edith Wharton

SCHOOL'S IN

A swathe of new faces on the school assembly holds ready conjecture towards a successful start to the year. Lively animations of the human species that appear only recently to have shed their halves of the umbilical cord pitter patter about on the concrete verges or emerge pixie-like amidst the garden foliage; some seem oblivious to the immensity of their entry to the world of formal education; others bear just that haunting realization of sudden separation from their mothers and the familiar confines of home.



Ms Riona holds the invisible reins on some feisty characters emerging from individual wonderlands. Now ensconced in the converted staff room that possesses the Prep grade teacher's greatest wish (not one, but two toilet commodes), life has taken on a more comfortable aspect and freed the



consciences from the prospects of a considerable number of accidental other 'numbers'.

A dozen on the roll has kick-started the year and already in the first three weeks, Ms Riona records a positive report on the play base operations. This year, the girls outnumber the boys and seem to maintain a calm group. Numbers and letters

are introduced earlier and numeracy and literacy are engaged through play. Some have progressed from the individual play and parallel play to be engrossed in social interplay. Social skilling is well on its way. The sometime hurdle of ESL status seems to take second fiddle in this orchestra and the fly on the wall will witness prolonged interactions taking place simultaneously ranging from chalk drawing, painting, play dough and computer exercises.



A kitchenette, as a resource, serves many advantages. Meals can be enjoyed in private comfort and removed from the hustle and bustle of the main College refectory. This self-sufficient capsule operates in the inner sanctum of the mother

ship; its members secretly spinning its own web until the time comes when each of them will yet be spinning yarns of their own.

Faces of the Future - (l>r) Wejun Neal, Charles Fourmile, Joanne Taylor & Didymus Sunai.



SORRY DAY

An assembly on this historic day (Feb. 13) was quickly



staged to mark the occasion when the nation would hear from the Parliamentary chambers a meaningful apology from the Prime Minister to all victims and sufferers of the Stolen Generation.

At a later date, Djarragun College will celebrate officially in its programme this momentous event. Settled in front of the school gathering were children with the same likenesses that would have, in the past, threatened them with the likelihood of removal from their kin, birthplace and heritage.

Media still presents some areas of discontent from those who object to the principle of representative apology. Some fear the possibilities of monetary compensation and loss of land tenure. This may well continue as a 'sorrier' aspect to what should ostensibly be a restorative process.

Our human body responds to an injured part. The brain automatically transmits the necessary messages to counteract any invasion, disruption or debility. It seeks to remedy, to protect, nurture and resuscitate. It definitely does not consider amputation as the final solution. This apology from the head of the nation, at least, begins the process of rehabilitation, reinvigorating an element of the body that was once consigned to atrophy.

As ANZAC is solidly entrenched into mainstream Australian psyche, so too can we parallel those lost in battle, the unknown soldier and the removal of the innocents. Australian indigenous people are thus able to endorse its ranks of "Lest we forget".

Djarragun College also pays tribute to sufferers of the past who will retain not only their anonymity but also their ancestral right to memorial. We have the privilege to spread hope and the commission to do so. Maybe the sufferings of antiquity can best be converted to earnest and honest reconciliation.

Education is a long time companion to freedom and social enlightenment. We have an expectation upon following generations that they do not fall prey to the delusions of the past. The future will have learnt from the past and not remained with it.

It becomes incumbent on all of us not just to 'know better' but to 'do better'.

NEW FACES TO DC

We extend a very warm welcome : **Abbie Caterall** (School Social worker) >



Luke Mulder > (student teacher) from the Netherlands to New Holland

< **Andrew Hislop** to the Middle School



< **Andrea Watters** to the Senior/TAVE section

Robert McBride to the VET section >



<**Chelsea Thomas** to the Sports Academy;

Julie Ogier as the newly appointed school nurse >



HOSPITALITY III

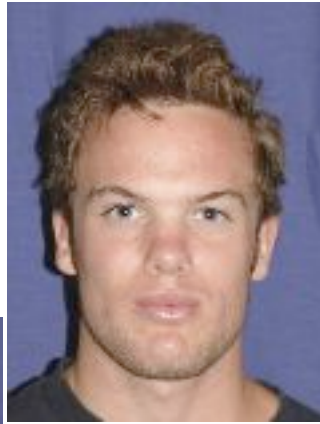


Amongst thirty-four school-based trainees in the Certificate III in Hospitality at Rydges Esplanade was a contingent of Djarragun students. Alphi Hosea, Monica Fourmile, Cathy Joe and Anai Ganaia probably nurtured nervous excitement at reaching this significant stage of their development. Mayor of Cairns, Kevin Byrne made the official presentations and along with the upmarket style in dress and attire by the young women, a parochial crowd promoted the glamour and celebrity to the special occasion.





< **Kelly Wilson** and **Nick Wheeler** > as new boarding supervisor assistants



< **Bernie O'Halloran** as the Manager of the DC Sports Academy.



PRIMARY SCHOOL

Peeping well over the fence line, the building on the Primary campus continues to rise skyward providing a silent greeting to the daily Sunlander or the sleek tilt train. The central support is not unlike the framework from Sideshow Alley but the early stages don't reveal whether a Merry-go-round or the Giant Dipper was the cause for inspiration.

Shedding his grip of the 'In loco parentis' role for the moment, Mr. Dean Garside has opted to withdraw to the 'real deal' at home where his catchphrase may well be, "Play it again, Sam." Even though reduced, appearances of the trio present a charming picture with a very mobile Sam choosing to trail along in the middle distance with the stolid disposition of an independent backpacker.

Welcome to Ms Jemma who has just started with the Primary team as a Learning Support teacher. We hope you enjoy your work at Djarragun College.

GIDEON SOCIETY

Thanks again for the representatives, **Alan Cummins & Carl Lauridsen** of the Gideon Bible Society who took time after the morning assembly on Feb. 18 to distribute to the Year 8 students the pocket size scriptures. This has been done annually and is a great tribute to the Society members who keep the welfare of the school and the students to heart.

HEALTH

Forms for the Hepatitis B Vaccination and Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccination have been distributed to the students in Year 8. Simultaneously, forms for the Mobile Dental Clinic currently on the campus has sought out clients for follow-up treatments and initial scanning. A new nurse has also joined the staff to administer even greater service to an extensive and growing number of needs. Welcome to Nurse Julie

SCHOOL HOUSES

Vikings - Warriors - Knights

The Sports Academy held an assembly for ALL students one Tuesday morning. This assembly enabled the organizers to split students into their House teams and then elect appropriate captains. During the year, the students participate in several House competitions which include Swimming, Athletics, Academic Challenges and Fun Activities.

GOOD BEHAVIOUR

A deliberate campaign to set the tone at the start of the year has pounced on the subject of 'appropriate behaviour'. New students have been introduced to the system operating at the College. Most basic to the conduct of all, staff and students alike, are respect and a happy disposition.

Whether weather-borne or as a result of unfortunate lapses of good standards, the behaviour of a few has resulted in quick removal from the College. The school is currently subject to an influx in student numbers. This is commendable in terms of educational outcomes like attendance but can bring with it greater demands for scrutiny and really careful strategies. The hard yards begin on campus in the classrooms. Maintaining focus and direction can be elusive targets and perennial challenges.

The healthy interest in school again is a welcome turn of the tide. Hopefully, the "Earn or Learn" policy will prompt the surge of positive responses that can make real our aspiration for being a 'smart State'.

BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR A BUSY TERM START.