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School Rover

Issue 07, May 01, 2009

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"It's never too late to make something happen." Zimbabwe



FATHER TIME VISITS FATHER MAC

When prompted to reveal his age, Father Mac (alias Mr. Ludo Kuipers) cast lyrics to the assembly - the majority of whom was too young to register the song itself, let alone the name of the group who brought it to fame on the Top 40 charts almost as many years ago.

When i get older losing my hair,
Many years from now.
Will you still be sending me a valentine
Birthday greetings bottle of wine.
If i'd been out till quarter to three
Would you lock the door,
Will you still need me, will you still feed me,
When i'm sixty-four.



Ms Jean applies a few mentoring techniques to wrest a few crumbs from Father Mac's desktop

Never known to knock back a good reason to celebrate, Father Mac was feted with wares from the Hospitality factory under the careful instigation of Ms Peggy Chigeza and her skilful band of muffin-raisers and Con-quechadors.

Having your cake and eating it posed no quandary to Father Mac who, however, eventually succumbed to group pressure to share the tasty and elegant trophy.

TERM 2 KICKS IN - MAY DAY

Labour Day is an annual holiday celebrated all over the world that resulted from the labour union movement, to celebrate the economic and social achievements of workers. The majority of countries celebrate Labour Day on May 1. It is popularly known as May Day and International Workers' Day. The celebration of Labour Day has its origins in the Eight-hour day movement, which advocated eight hours for work, eight hours for recreation, and eight hours for rest

Welcome back all staff. Hoping all had a restful break over the Easter holidays and rearing to immerse themselves into Term 2. Also, a warm welcome to the new members of staff who have yet to fully comprehend their 'terms of engagement'.

Mr. Ken Duncan has been vigorously manipulating a daily timetable during the first week whilst the 'real thing' is being definitively digested in the Denbigh system.

Many students are making a slow recovery from hibernation and hopefully should regain full consciousness in the coming week. Congratulations to the predictable contingent who almost always honour the first day of each term with honest attendance.

STUDENT LEADERS 2009

Congratulations to all students who formed the elected body of leaders of the school for this year. Head Boy and Head Girl titles went to **Paul Walit** and **Shakira Thaiday**.

Along with the title comes the inevitable burden corollary to responsibility which will serve to reinforce the traits of character in our promising leaders of the future.

The College feted the induction of leaders with ceremony fit for Logie Award status.

Only time placed an unwarranted embargo upon the revelry. Along with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dancing, Hip Hop, Hula and variations of the famous Tahitian Tamoure materialized on the main stage.

PAUL WALIT

Paul has attended Djarragun since his Year 8 entry. An accomplished sportsperson, he has shown outstanding determination both in the classroom and on the sporting field. He is enthusiastic and leads by example. Willing to learn and ever keen for achievement, he is another praiseworthy exponent from Saibai Island in the Torres Strait.

Performing over the years for the school, he is evidenced in photographic records in full traditional regalia presenting various energetic dances from his Torres Strait Islander culture, in particular, his home, Saibai Island.

Paul has a naturally shy disposition and his role as Head Boy of College will be both a personal challenge and the crucible for tempering his latent qualities.



SHAKIRA THAIDAY

Shakira presents as a well-contained young woman whose quiet, composed demeanour invokes respect and confidence. She is articulate and responds positively to her future aims and current issues. In classes, Shakira is conscientious and employs her efforts to fullest advantage. She is genuinely proud of her heritage

and deeply concerned for the welfare of her fellow students and succeeding generations.

Shakira hails from Yarrabah and has attended Djarragun for Years 11 & 12.



LEADERS FOR 2009

Caretaker Head Boy : **Paul Walit**

Head Girl : **Shakira Thaiday**; Deputies : **Marcie Ambrym**; **Nikita Nicholson**

SPORTS CAPTAINS

Girls : **Philemona Faud**; **Tonya Ludwick** (Assistant)

Boys : **Paul Walit**; **Tom Mosby** (Assistant)

BOARDING CAPTAINS

Girls : **Laurianna Baira** (Head); **Serai Noah**; **Julia Thaiday** (Assistants)

Boys : **Tom Mosby** (Head); **Paul Walit**; **Neil McGreen** (Assistants)

SENIOR PREFECTS

Edetu Kane; **Tanita Allen**; **Kruby Neil**; **John Gabey**; **Ida Sam**; **Lynlie Costello**; **Shaun Waianga**; **Sterling Ludwick**; **Layla Dodd**; **Isobel Ware**; **Aston Wilson**; **Magina Ware**; **Angie Ware**; **Alex Namai**; **Raymond Cooktown**; **Kemuru Songoro**; **Florence Given**.

SENIOR STUDENT MENTORS (TAVE students)

James Akiba; **Gandy Buie**; **Maia Akiba**; **Marcus Satrick**; **Annie Mabo**; **Tali Tabuai**; **Karen Noah**; **Christina Baluz**; **Leroy Kris**; **Phillip Baragud**

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Tim China; **Naomi Cooktown**

PRIMARY SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Seiji Gabey & **Nakita McGregor**
Prefects -

Rachel Pau; **Loren Tabuai**;
Rubay Suli; **Vanessa Anau**

CULTURAL LEADERS

Aboriginal - **Alan Tranby** & **Naomi Cooktown**
Western Islands - **James Akiba** & **Lena Wosomo**
Eastern Islands - **Alick Passi** & **Karen Noah**
Central Islands - **Charlie David** & **April Mosby**
Near Western Islands - **Laurianna Baira**

SPORTS TEAM CAPTAINS

Australian Rules Football - **Alton Matthew**

Basketball - **Tim China** & **Ida Sam**

Netball - **Nikita Nicholson**

Soccer - **John Gabey** & **Roshzna Allen**

Touch Football (Boys) - **Paul Walit**

Touch Football (Girls) - **Philemona Faud**

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Knights : **Stirling Ludwick**; **Tonya Ludwick**

Vikings : **Paul Walit**; **Elaine Matthew**

Warriors : **Iona Nawakie**; **Laurianna Baira**



Student leaders at Wangetti Head Girls (equal)

Servanna Walker & Talika Greenwool



Head Boy
Garrett Hobson



Prefect
Aiden Hart



Speeches over and done with, it was in for 'young and old'. Beats changed; tempos varied but the 'Red, red, Rover. All come over' mentality struck the stage with ritualistic force and inspired exuberance.



Nyree Sam ruffled her lei with the same vigour as **Mr. Tekoa** shuffled 'his way' as the Polynesian theme developed from one thing to another. Sometimes the relatively gentle welcome dance by the Aboriginal troupe is a prelude to an awesome display of inspirational frivolity. Congratulations to students who have devoted practice into routines.



Frolicsome sarongs tampered with the forces of gravity and the tenuous strings of formality well and truly lost grips. Hip Hop figures dropped their humanoid characteristics to transform into bundles of cartilage that can moonwalk. Tim China and Gandy Buie raised the stakes even further. Clever combinations of moves and syncopated gyrations reconstructed a Michael Jackson theatrical. Singers in the wing stretched vocal cords toward convulsion level and still brandished the smiles.



As ever, stunning in the vibrant colours of the College elite, leaders were most conspicuous within the assembled crowd. Principal, Ms Jean Illingworth, congratulated the elected contingent reminding each of them of the tasks that lay ahead within those assumed roles. These leaders are projected into the working dynamism of the school and success will depend upon their honest application to the challenges set before them.

Later, the Seniors carved their way through the special cake made in honour of their accomplishment in the leadership stakes.





Armadillo

Code-named 'Armadillo' by one of the teachers, Mr. **Andrew Hislop**, this new battering ram rolled out of the "Shed" at the end of last term. While prams were gently plying their way along the walkways, this new contraption was considered the possible receptacle for wayward students being wheeled to justice. As clever as his wicked mind has proved its worth, Mr. **Joe Tamburin** (during a fitful night's sleep) concocted this compact mobile to house the many computer laptops which service all the other little brains that frequent the campus. His first creation was quickly given company with a second and presumably, Nature took its course, and Number 3 is already on the scene.



John Gunnawarra Making a good impression in the Dormitories recently, **John Gunnawarra** was presented with a laptop computer.

What an exciting fashion to enter into the new Term - armed with a modern day piece of technology.

EVERY DONALD



An inconspicuous figure, like a probing cursor, has been furtively roaming across the campus desktops for information. From Pennsylvania, USA, Ms **Avery Donald** was totally absorbed in a personal educational quest. As part of her assessment, Ms Avery is undertaking a case study of Djarragun College. Her keen enthusiasm, pleasant personality and unintrusive demeanour give promise to an insightful and erudite appraisal.

It is somewhat propitious that this same week has seen the televising of a national ABC programme - 7:30 Report - featuring the College,

expounding on its successes and rise in educational distinction for indigenous students in this country.

THE DIRECTION TO EXCELLENCE

Djarragun College is proud to have many of its students engaged in meaningful and satisfying program. Too many of our students retain a frightening malaise to add to the dilemma. "I feel slack" is used as a reason to shy off the application. "I'm bored" stalls the engine to automatic shutdown. With so many facilities manoeuvred to their advantage, our students have progressively fewer obstacles to being part of the Smart State. So it's at times like these mes. However, there is always the need for continual support and patient prompts from not only the school but from parents and the wider community.

Parents and teachers, alike, may well take encouragement from educationist, **Chris Sarra**, who was recorded by the ABC News for the following :-

An education expert says teachers are being "bamboozled" by mysticism surrounding Aboriginal children and letting educational standards slip.

Dr Chris Sarra, director of the Indigenous Education Leadership Institute in Queensland, was in Darwin this week addressing 200 principals and senior education department figures.

He says he told the conference teachers should demand high standards of Aboriginal children, instead of making allowances for cultural differences.

"There is the potential and I believe this absolutely, that the Territory education system can move from one that is perhaps been guilty of creating an underclass to becoming a world class education system," he said.

Dr Sarra says he read a paper last year directing educators "not to look Aboriginal children in the eyes" because it might somehow damage their psyche.

He says there is an impression that being culturally sensitive means accepting second rate outcomes from Aboriginal students, but that this approach does the students no favours.

"It presented Aboriginal children as being so mystical and so culturally different and so exotic, to the extent that lots of teachers were overwhelmed by that sort of information and forgot these are actually just kids in schools who deserve an education as much as anybody," he said.

"We can't get to a point where we just cannot see the kids for the black faces.

"We've got to take Aboriginal children as high-potential learners, high-calibre learners with tremendous potential."

WELCOME TO MEMBERS OF STAFF

Irene Whelan to Djarragun College. She is appointed Manager of Health and Well Being; in addition to this, Ms Irene will also slot into the mentoring groups and Literacy classes.

Robert Allery who is appointed to teach in the senior school, particularly in Information Technology.

We say **goodbye** and wish **Radhika Wagh** all the best for the future after just a brief stint at Djarragun.



Entered for posterity into the Rover are staff members, Mr. **John McGrath** and Ms **Jan Clothier**. Both recently hosted international student, **Avery Donald** during her study tour of Djarragun.

