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# School Rover

Issue 13, Aug. 14 , 2009

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." Abraham Lincoln

## TORRES STRAIT TREK

Recruitment, Reporting & Promotion



(above) - Charlie David ( 2nd from right) with a nest of D C students (Christina Baluz, Ladda Samuel, Jacob Lui, Latoya Kebisu, Lucky Samuel & Chris Lee on Yam Island  
(left) - Leroy Kris hosts Mr. Vimal & Uncle Paul on Masig  
(lower left - Mr. Tekoa, Ray Noah & Mr. Vimal on Murray Island



Mr. Vimal Shankaran, Mr. Tekoa Tafea & Uncle Paul Garong made the annual flying visit to various islands to meet with the parents and students on home soil.

With nothing better to do during the School Break, our 'Three Wise Men from the East' (Mr. Tekoa Tafea, Mr. Vimal Shankaran & Uncle Paul Garong) took to a small spate of Island hopping through the Torres Strait. Meeting parents and children from the school on their home grounds, delivering reports and liaising with relevant departmental and educational agents, they enjoyed the specific camaraderie within each community and returned with glowing reports of satisfaction with the contribution by the school towards the welfare of the students. This has long been a successful way to forge strong personal ties with the parents and children attending Djarragun.

Fast on the heels of the Laura Festival, participants were brimming with enthusiasm and the eagerness to engage in future programmes prompted a few more enrolments and the desire by others to return onto the register.

The staff was treated with a powerpoint presentation coverage of the tour of duty and one of the satisfying elements of the report was the success by some students to enter the workforce in their respective communities. Some worked through the holiday break and showed both initiative and enthusiasm which is a certain indication that the installation of work ethics has leaked into the consciences of attentive students.

Paul Walit was spotted in the Saibai Island store stacking supplies and Laurianna Baira was taking in an early whiff of Administrative powers at the Badu Island Council Office.

The trekking trio thank the many wonderful people for the fine welcomes and cordial hospitality shown on each of the islands.



## LUKE REYMENT

Success stories of this type come few and far between and the unassuming character who features in this one places for tune-telling outside of its regular domain.

Congratulations to the 'quiet achiever' who has driven himself into racetrack stardom at such an early age. **Luke Reyment** recently filtered into the Djarragun scene after sustaining a spate of victimization at his previous school. Amazingly, Luke slotted into school routine at Djarragun so well that, despite moving residence across town, he continues to make the trek daily bypassing several other schools on the way. However, he is not yet to the stage of driving himself.

Somewhere in the order of things, Luke must have been injected with high octane fuel and he has become the superb controller of speedway roadsters.

Recently in the junior division for drivers 17 years and under, Luke won the feature race in his second outing. In his heats, he won a second place and two third places but continued his campaign to take home the glory of the checkered flag in the final.

## Rachel Bailetti

### Memo to Staff -

My role here within the school is to provide and promote social and emotional wellbeing services to students and staff. This includes facilitation of therapeutic group work, mediation and outreach support and counselling to families.



If you would like to refer any students please do so, along with any information about the student.

My mobile is available to staff and students. I am also available after hours for emergencies. I hope to be getting involved with some classes in term 3 so students (and staff) can become more familiar with me. If you could please advise me on any classes you are happy for me to sit in or/participate in, I would greatly appreciate it.



## Greenwich Hockey Academy Visit

A girls' hockey team from USA filled another line in the Djarragun Book of Records. The girls offered a coaching clinic session for the Primary school around the middle of the day and then took the circuitous tour around the campus with the aid of host students.

The afternoon assembly showed the evidence of their cultural exchange when Uncle Aurie Marou had the team in a circle with Primary school students participating in play dance and songs from the Torres Strait.



(above) Barbara Kaigey & Annie Mabo host their guests



## Dee Wells - teacher

Hi all, my name is **Dee Wells** and I am very pleased to be part of the team at Djarragun College. I will be teaching in the Senior School, focusing on English, Maths and Health. My family and I have recently moved to Cairns from Newcastle in NSW. We have been waiting for a long time for

the opportunity to live in this beautiful part of Australia.

I've been fortunate enough to work all over this country, having served for 20 years in the Royal Australian Air Force before moving on to work for the Australian Customs Service. More recently, I decided to return to University to retrain as a School Teacher, which I am loving. In my spare time I like to go out with friends, go shopping and spend time with my family exploring Cairns. I look forward to getting to know everyone at Djarragun and hope to be a part of the school's ongoing success.



## Sewing at the Cairns Show

**Ms Mbongaleni Chigeza** entered some of the work created by some of her workers in the Sewing Circle at Djarragun. At the School assembly, she presented certificates to students who received commendations.

**Tala Morseu, Lane Ingui (Yr. 11), Terrie Riley (Yr. 10) and Christina Baluz (Yr. 13)** kept the flag flying this year in the Arts and Crafts section of the Cairns Show. It's great to see that both the boys and girls are willing to venture into the possible opportunity of entering a lucrative industry.

**Do your clothes need repair or alteration?**

**Do not throw them away!!**

**Bring them to our Clothing Production Workshop.**

**The DC Designs will give them a NEW LOOK!!**

**Our team also makes :- Bridal and Formal wear; traditional costumes and Soft furnishing**

**Location: Next to the Uniform Shop**

**Our team : Esther Asai, Frisjina, Tala Morseu, Roselyn Asai, Lisa Peter, Lane Ingui, Terrie Riley, Aileen, Teena Baluz & Ms. Chigeza.**

## Staff Induction programme - Term 3

A sizeable influx of new faces to the Djarragun and Wangetti campuses was countered with a relatively rigorous series of presentations and meetings. Making staff familiar with each other and then digesting the import of changes to programmes and timetables is a sobering process especially when it is the prelude to an imminent start of Term.

Staff was thus drawn together with the intention by the administrative sector -

*"...to help staff gain a sense of belonging, security and an understanding of the College's expectations, goals, structure and conditions of employment. We believe that effective induction and ongoing support and development of staff is critical for the staff themselves, the school, the communities in which they play a significant role, and for the students whose futures they shape. All experienced staff can play an influential role in establishing and supporting teacher and VET tutor development as a process of continuous improvement and learning for which the profession as a whole is responsible.*

*The induction programme was not presented at the beginning of 2009 and we aim to redress this by including all staff in this orientation over the next few days and not just new staff. Djarragun has recently taken over Wangetti and as the organisation grows we need to improve our systems and management structures. This induction will help all staff understand their role in ensuring that the organisation continues to grow and improve and that we remain at the cutting edge of Indigenous education in Australia."*

Staff was prompted to action by the prospects of the new technology being thrust at them. The massive injection of CISCO communications catapults Djarragun into state of the art systems. Mr. **Anthony Lupi** is spending about six weeks foraging out the hiccups and restoring order and manageability to the networking at both Djarragun and Wangetti campuses.

As an interesting aside, "**Mr. Anthony**" has also taken on "**Uncle**" status by taking under wing our law student, **Rosemary Tabuai**, who is presently viewing life as a Sydney-sider.

Parts of the induction programme covered areas such as liability for children under care, legal, mandatory powers and responsibilities. Other aspects of new technologies in the classroom dynamics, the impact of the computer age and mobile phone access to knowledge accessed by the modern-age student entrenched in a global intelligence matrix.

Staff was reminded of the nature and the vagaries of our particular Indigenous clientele and that the school was enjoined by policy to 'do whatever it takes' to lead students towards successful and meaningful lives. The cultural aspect to the school is integral to an educational backdrop. Maintaining rules and high standards cannot be compromised; there is no short cut to integrity which is the heritage that is meant to be relayed.

Djarragun prides itself in providing the ultimate in opportunities to the students. Behavioural issues have to be dealt with in terms of 'restorative justice' rather than penal retribution. Staff members are encouraged to 'relate' to the students as persons, not to view them as 'problems' in which they may be entangled. Always see the child.

A bit of the history of the College added perspective to the direction headed. Staff was made aware of the huge network that underpinned the day-to-day functioning of the College. In any terms, the composite delivery over a comprehensive range of topics which related intrinsically to the school and its workings was a feast of information for newcomers and 'oldhands' alike. What has become something of a tradition was yet another gourmet meal provided by **Grant Dutton** and his kitchen cohorts, **Jayne Crandell and Shirley Brown**.

Professional standards, Code of Conduct and Ethics, Enterprise Bargaining and Roles and Responsibilities were all cast into the crucible of thought waves. Mundane matters that often become the bane of life were also attributed their status of importance in the larger scheme of things - vehicle use, roll marking, requisition forms, photocopying, graffiti, etc.

Health is high priority and the massive build-up to the support mechanism in the School Clinic plays ready witness to the vast range of ailments and the need for timely intervention. The school fundamentally ascribes to the belief - "**A healthy mind in a healthy body.**"



## BEYOND DJARRAGUN

Real threats emerge when our graduating students pass beyond the comfort shadow of the classroom and college buildings. Cast into an abrasive society and scrutinized by indifferent eyes, indigenous youth can oftentimes wilt under the pressure to perform. Such instances call for the hope of a supportive haven, a springboard into another reality.

One small enclave is up and running in Sydney and **Anthony Lupi** and **Louise Redmond** are the support pillars to this 'new' Sydney bridge for some of our students' futures. **Ms Louise** is currently at Djarragun to contribute further assistance over a mixed portfolio to assist Ms Jean and to ensure the completion of projects which have been in the pipeline for varying durations. One on the list to which special invaluable attention is the 'Beyond Djarragun' concept where Ms Louise will "continue to develop it to a point where we have some structure and policies around this programme which has sprung out of the needs identified by the students at ICMS and Uni of NSW."



**Louise and Anthony** have taken all of these students under wing. They have cared for them, had them over for weekends, run fund-raising events with, and for them, spent days and nights helping them with academic assignments, given them crash courses in essay writing, disciplined them, shown them love and care, taken them shopping, and the list goes on and on.

Imagine suddenly finding yourself with five extra teenage and young adult children with whom you have to start from scratch!

Not only have they done this but they are single handedly responsible for persuading CISCO to invest in Djarragun and Wangetti, as well as personally working overtime to run fund raising events to raise money for the PEAR programme.

### Louise Redmond

Ø Work with **Ms Jean, Vimal Shankaran, Tekoa Tafea, Dan Neuberg, Peggy Chigeza and Monika Duggan** on organizing the visit from Loreto students. This will be a huge logistical exercise as this year we have cut down the number of days we can give to this school to one.

Ø Work with **Peter Batchelor, Aaron Agius** and other interested people on designing the Cybrary, identifying the resources and furniture needed and ensuring that the IT infrastructure is in place and suits the needs of the users of the Cybrary.

Ø Draw up some policies and procedures around all of the outside agencies that the College has links and communication with and arrange all of these groups and individuals into manageable sections – link visits and requests for visits to College vision, etc.

Ø Work on certain elements of the new business venture planned for next year – Djarragun Enterprises

Ø Act as a taxi for **Flora Charlie** in her new job in retail with Coles until Flora finds accommodation that is closer to a reliable bus service.

Ø Support the executive leadership team (**Ms Jean, Peter Batchelor, Dan Neuberg, Tekoa Tafea and Vimal Shankaran**) in developing a vision as a leadership team and how to implement that vision.

Ø Help **Ms Jean** with the preparations for the visit by **Ms Rein and the First Ladies** on 6th August

Ø Help **Ms Jean** in hosting a visit by Hon. **Chris Bryant MP**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State on Wednesday 5th August and **Robert Willmet** from the Indigenous Coordinating Council.

....and a partridge in a pear tree. Good luck.

## SENIOR STUDENTS - CALL TO ACTION

**Ms Jean** recently addressed the Senior School students to commend those who have been giving honest application to their educational commitments. Unfortunately, the laxity by a considerable number of students is a sore and sorry indictment upon their integrity. This is such a crucial time for any slackness to be allowed to undermine the finishing touch to a prominent benchmark to any educational history.

## AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE EXPO

**Naomi Cooktown, Cheyenne Panuel and Camille Pearson** went down to Canberra, Albury and Wagga Wagga from Tuesday Aug. 04 - 07 to take part in a national expo by the Defence Forces for Years 10 - 12 groups. Naomi Cooktown reports :-

*"Our Flight was Cairns - Sydney - Canberra; we lived in at the base at Canberra with about 60 indigenous students from all around Australia. Mr. Harry Tenni accompanied our students from Djarragun.*

*We learnt how to load guns and drove some of the trucks (troop carriers). I was excited but also nervous and scared. I was taken out for the test drive by an officer called Cody.*

*Waking up at 4:30 a.m. and having a bath and making beds sort of cut short my dream hours. It was freezing cold and the ice seemed to go straight through me. I couldn't wear thongs or shorts because of the cold. We had a drill march with the rest of platoon just after lunch right round the base property for about twenty minutes. I learnt that army life could be tough. One thing I remember that they said was, 'The Navy looks at the stars, the army sleeps under the stars and the Air Force looks for 5 star hotels.'*

*During our stay in Canberra, we went to the War Museum and spent two hours. I found the jet plane display very interesting. We went to Wagga Wagga where the Air Force was based and also to Albury where the Army base is.*

*I would like to thank the members of the Australian Defence Force (Peter and Carol) who came from their normal business life to inform us during the four days. There was one man from Badu Island called Roy who is a sergeant. He organized for us to look at all the guns.*

*I recommend the lifestyle for those people who are fit. They seem to do sports everyday."*

**Naomi Cooktown**

# Hail, Rein & Shine !

## & First Ladies of the Pacific

High anticipation is a ready description for the tenor of this historic event at the College on August 06. The constant flow of visitors to the campus is a customary feature and this one drew more than ordinary attention to flavour the day with traditional culture, civic honour and nationalistic prominence.

An outstanding feature to this event and the pivotal catalyst to the visit by the First Ladies of the Pacific was our very own Centre of the Caffeine Daily Fix - the DC Coffee Shop. Fresh from her hike from Mount Kilimanjaro, Ms Therese Rein planted her feet at the base of Djarragun Pyramid.

It is surmised that the aroma of possibly more than the touted '43 beans' has filtered down into the realms of the National Capital and settled squarely upon the olfactories of Therese Rein. It seems her own set of chemoreceptors are responsible for drawing Ms Rein inevitably towards our percolators and the seductive allures of resident Queen Bean herself, our own Ms Peggy Chigeza.

Congratulations, to the Coffee Shop and the capable handlers of the precious mugs and muffin tubs. The feast was undeniably fit for a royal retinue - and whatever about 'blackbirds' in the Nursery Rhyme Utube version, all partakers could equally sing - "Wasnt' it was a dainty dish to set before the King."

Obviously having dined their respective partners at the Pacific Forum being held in Cairns, for a bite of their own agenda, the first Ladies accompanied Ms Therese on her small coffee break. These ladies came from Papua New Guinea, Tonga, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Cook Island, Kiribati, Tuvalu, the Federal States of Micronesia, Palau, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Niue and Nauru. Included in the group was the wife of the Indian High Commissioner.

The First Ladies were individually escorted to the College Assembly area by a neat fleet of Primary school girls decked out in Island dresses. Whether from nerves or from awe of the moment, some of the grips by the little hostesses were as compelling as the Fifth Amendment to the Australian Constitution.

The special guests were treated with a medley of performances that was tantamount to a traditional NQ march-past. Student dancers representing Kunggandji and Idinji clans performed welcome dances with the inclusion of some modern choreography that might have the Chippendales claiming plagiarism.

Very precise dancing from Saibai and Mer proved the tantalizing feature. The startling thwacks during the Bow and Arrow dances might well have sent some of the First Ladies to the coffee table reaching for a tablet or two to reduce the heart palpitations.

This was such a wonderfully embroidered event. It drew the attention of the whole school. Hopefully, it will carry on in the memories of the visitors for more than the cup of coffee and the quick jaunt around the premises. Just to put defence to our advantage, it is stongly denied that Ms Rein's subsequent visit to Cairns Base Hospital for an upset stomach is in any way related to her muffins and quaff of coffee on Djarragun grounds.

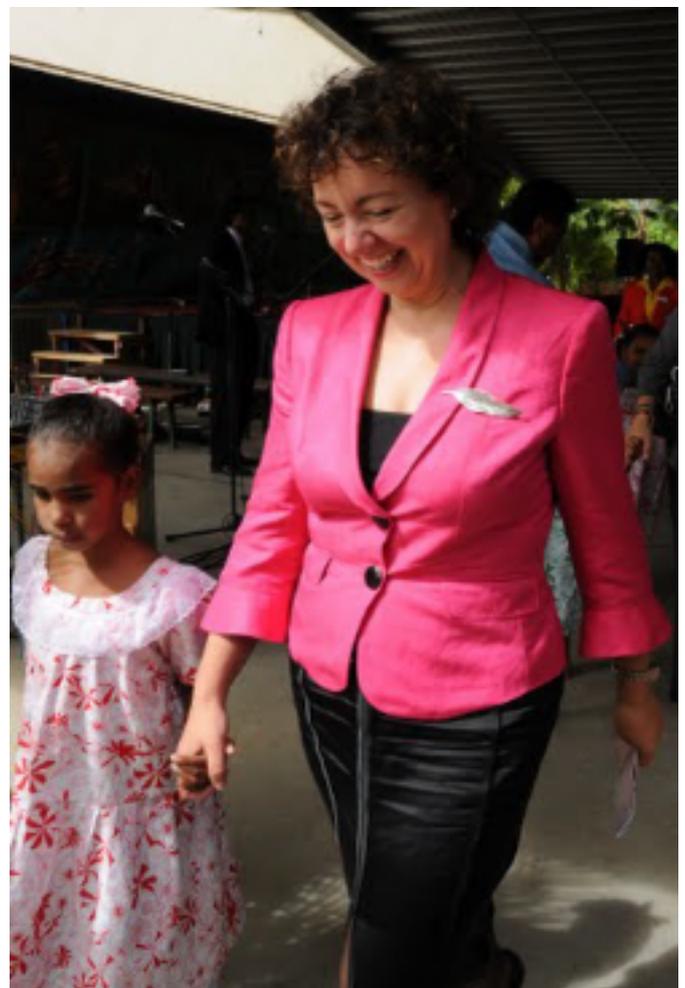


(above) Ms Jean Illingworth & Ms Therese Rein

(right) Ida Sam & Lane Ingui MCs for the day



(below) Christina Messa & Therese Rein stride into a memorable piece of D.C. history





(above) Emma Matthew, Jessie May Neal, Devanna Neal Angel Tom, Nyrie Sam form a human floret



(above) Jessie May Neal & First Lady of Tuvalu Gabrielle Hart & First Lady of Palau



(above) Amber Torney and the first Lady of Samoa



(above right) Loretta Messa, Nancy Matthew, Leota Munro-Tom & Vanessa Anau

(right) First Lady of Tonga and her Djarragun scrum

second row - Tom, Alex, Di-Wallum Neal, Rubay Suli

front row - Shane Bulmer, John Ambrym, Shaun Miller, ... Leilo Torney, Shauntay Murgha.





(left) Edetu Kane welcomes the First Ladies to the Djarragan campus when they arrive for the Assembly.

(right) Solomon Dau - just looking good !!

(left below) Kaleisha Bounghi, Alyson Woodley, Ruby Ludwick, Justice Beard

(below right) Latoya Tom & Nikki Dotoi



(right) Cindy Cooktown was one of the 'Glamour Team' that rocked the stage with fabulous coiffure fresh out of Ms Estelle Nielsen's College Salon.

Haute couture with the theme of Conservation & Recycling pranced the catwalk at Djarragan; Colour, flare and bon vivant assembled for a salacious mid-morning escapade.

(right & below) Something only the camera is quick enough to capture. The 'centre of attention' seems to be a certain man in blue who has taken on the Alfred Hitchcock role

Ms Francesca (below) gives a slightly different interpretation to 'staff supervision', whilst we can only surmise Raymond Cooktown's focus is the same.





(above) Raymond Cooktown, Kenneth Graham, Branxton Dick & Israel Sales in the 'Welcoming Dance'

Isiah Cooktown - warming up



(above) ... & Marcus Satrick - the conjurers !!



(above) Uncle Aurie Marou sets the tone  
(below) 'Kab Kar' - dance from Murray Island

