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School Rover

Issue 15, Sept. 11 , 2009

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."

Christopher Reeve

This school term is disappearing at a fast rate of knots. Keeping up with the news before it trickles into history has been like an intermittent dabble in a Time Machine.

The continuing throb of construction punctuates the atmosphere. The Music shell is now encased and finishing touches seem not too far away. New foundations for an Activities domain threaten to severely eclipse the present panoramic range from the library windows. One of the first day pupils to this campus, **Frank Charlie** remembers clearly when the first plants were thrust into a barren landscape. Progressively, the building industry established permanent residency and exponential expansion.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Edmund Nawakie
boards QANTAS

While airbuses are flitting the skies, **Edmund Nawakie** will be hitting airwaves with the rest of a troupe of singers rallied to to 'still call Australia home'.

Our Year 8 student recently sang his heart out in Sydney earning the attention of Australia's iconic Airline company.

Edmund was a passenger of QANTAS to various sites around Australia where he was photographed and filmed as part of the advertising campaign for the airline.

Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir

Formed in July 2008, the Gondwana National Indigenous Choir offers talented young Indigenous Australians from across the country the opportunity to come together and sing and share the voice of their generation with Australia and the world through unique education and performance opportunities.



Malieta Babia, Teneisha La Fragua, Teoini Aitkin, Nadelima Messa, Robin Swain/Kyuna, Jarrod Tabuai, Lielo Sammons

SUSHI

Happy faces packed around the SUSHI bar provided an unusual sight recently. **Aunty Stella Mara, Uncle Paul Garong and Jackson Baker** had this set of tiny fingerlings packing rice and chicken in seaweed wraps during a

Primary School cooking class. These little international tidbits didn't last too long on the plate. Anticipation for a tasty feed was gleaming from each pair of eyes and drooling mouths became a foregone conclusion.



The Home Economics Room is one of the hives of industry in the school. The wafting of muffin tangs, tantalizing coffee aroma and lingering herb and spice trails guarantee the steady flow of patrons each morning tea. **Ms Peggy Chigeza** is the patron saint of the cuisine corps in this little corner of Paradise. **Aunty Stella** (above) aka 'Chocolate Mudcake' and **Uncle Paul** aka 'Dark Forest' hold sway over their own distinct episodes of the 'Ilan Chefs' - and Jackson changes his name to 'Bakery'.





UNDER 18 RUGBY UNION CHAMPIONS

Progressing through the entire season undefeated, this manicured team managed to notch a victory that propels it to the order of historic. St. Augustine's has never before been beaten by a team from Djarragun. This was the day that changed the record book.



Captain **Paul Walit** (left) comments on the game - "The game was really tough. We lost the first half but made a recovery in the second. The score at halftime was 12 - 7 to Saints. At the halftime break **Mr. Shankaran** told us that we had to make the second half our game. We were to think of the score as Nil - all.

Jackson Wosomo and **Robert Amber** both scored one try each. **Iona Nawakie** was great defence despite his lean body frame. **Mark Akiba** was excellent as a tackler and was reliable when he was needed. **Freddy Fauid** made a few line breaks and was effective as a fullback.

Saul Geas (right) showed strong courage and was a solid player. Always a quiet worker, he effected fine breaks whenever the ball was in his possession. **Arthur Dau** made a good line break from the halfway mark to close reach of the try line.



I was able to make a handy pass to **Alex Namai** who ran from the halfway line all the way to the tryline to score.

The main strategy featured the speedy backline which throughout the season proved to be the main attacking force during the games.

The first break was made by **Frederick Fauid** after five minutes into the second half. He passed off to **Jackson Wosomo** who completed the sequence. This levelled the score until **Robert Amber** converted for the extra two points."

This team seems to relish playing under pressure and during this Grand Final, the speed, stamina, intent and characteristic flare locked into overdrive to provide the unflagging inertia towards victory. Officials and opposition players, as well as the spectators recognized the terrific sense of sportsmanship displayed by the boys. The combination of such a range of exemplary talents does not usually emerge with an automatic gauge of temperament, composure and focus.

The day seemed like the wrong time to patch together a prime team for such a challenging match. The start of the match suggested that history would simply be repeating itself as it has

always done in the past - but it didn't turn out that way. Final score - 19 : 12. 'Djarragun' is finally stamped on the shield.

FULL TIDE IN THE CREATIVE ARTS DEPARTMENT



Laptops have made their splash through the Creative Arts room recently and glowing screens beam back at inert faces.

Mr. Aaron Agius, Mr. Rob Allery & Mr. Warren Eyre roam around the room like robotic cursors while students intent upon the images before them let their 'fingers do the talking'. Some of the new programmes that have been passed by them include Google Sketch Up, Adobe Illustrator and the Graphics Tablet.

Mr. Warren confirmed that Adobe Illustrator was big hit amongst the students who have taken to it like ducks to water.

Recently, a mentor associated with Lendlease Springboard programme was astounded that one of the students suggested the use of 'Sketch Up' during a design session for a proposed project. The mentor himself had been associated with architects responsible for the construction of the world's tallest building in Kuala Lumpur.



WELCOME BACK

Ms Jade Allgood has resurfaced from her few weeks of enforced hibernation in the recovery ward after an operation. Though expected to ease herself slowly and quietly into her normal routine, **Ms Jade** has been spotted deeply entrenched with squads of Year 12 girls plotting their way through finishing touches to the upcoming Senior Conference that takes place on Friday, September 11.



QUEENSLAND CORE SKILLS TEST

All the skills of blogging, twittering, surfing and internetting surfaced for a cerebral rendezvous over the desks of the QCST.

'The QSA Core Skills Test was undertaken by 10 Djarragun College students in 2009 who produced some excellent responses to the test papers.

The exam was held under closed conditions in the D block boarding house with community representatives supervising strict exam rules and conditions.

It is pleasing to note the Djarragun College students behaviour, aptitude and attitude were first class and the exam went off without a hitch. Congratulations to all students who took part as they gained the experience of sitting under tight test conditions and producing excellent results. The students were selected on their academic ability and willingness to participate in the simultaneous State-wide exam. Well done on a top effort.' **Mr. Mathew Curtis**

Mathina Clermont
Israel Sales
Tomalena Matthew
Debbie Messer
Kiane-Jean Mosby
Shakira Thaiday
Philemona Faud
Elizabeth Gebadi
Edetu Kane
Isobel Ware



(top) Tina Clermont, Israel Sales & Shakira Thaiday lead the three-prong attack.

(above) Shakira's line - Debbie Messa, Isobel Ware & Philemona Faud

(left) Officials for the two days - Chief Community Supervisor Mr. Mathew Curtis (r) and his two sidekicks -

(l) Mr. Philemon Chigeza & (c) Ms Marilyn McKee



Students who sat for the test were so deserving of a reward that **Mr. Mathew Curtis** treated the group to morning tea at Djarragun Coffee Shop. Mr. Mathew was highly impressed with the level of focus and concentration shown by the ten students and he presented a glowing report to the Principal. Hopefully, this augurs well for a stronger campaign next year. **MS**

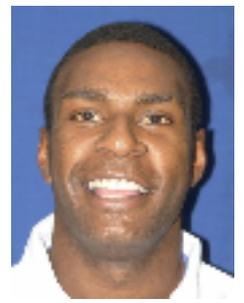
LINDA McKEOWN

Flung somewhere in the tropical regions of South east Asia, our chronic chronicler of statistical minutiae should be lounging in the laps of luxury. Having been manacled to the helm during the Easter break, her hard work has paid out big time. Well before the monsoon season plays havoc with her destination plans, **Ms Linda** and her husband, **Eddy** embarked on another of their Asiatic treks in search of stir-fries from the Golden Triangle. Chopsticks and happy wokking to both !!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Veteran students at the college recently notched another year to their respective ages to bring them that one step closer to the Pension bracket.



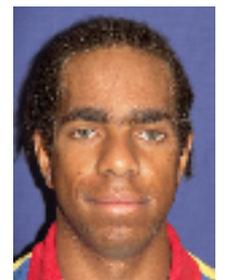
Many happy returns to **Mia Akiba** and **Tali Tabuai** who are reputed to be enrolled in Year 19 or 20.

CSR Sugar Refinery

Maia Akiba, Gandy Buie(l) & Con John



Matthew (r) head south to Lucinda Mill in Ingham to take up apprenticeships in mechanics. This opportunity has



been on the cards for a few months and these young men are set to further their careers another notch.



DRIVER'S EDUCATION

EDWARD NAWAKIE : Edward recently achieved his Learner's permit and may soon be burning rubber on the highways. Congratulations to another of our quiet achievers who pays credit to instructor, **Mr. Harry Tenni**.

GEODOME

The Business Development Manager for K-12 at AARNet, Nick Cross, has offered us the opportunity to take the geodome to Djarragun College. The timing would be late in term four and the space required to house the geodome is 15m x 15m and 4m high.

The Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet), who is a long term customer and partner of Cisco, is currently touring the 'geodome' around schools and conferences in Australia. On the outside the geodome is a large inflatable dome, however on the inside it is a fully immersive exploration of the universe and all its wonder. Apparently the experience is truly amazing. A wonderful example of the power of technology bringing science and astrology to life.

OVERNEWTON

Teacher **Susan Andrews** accompanied the students from Victoria and explained: 'In our mission statement, we try to engage our students with another Anglican ethos.'

Cast into the Djarragun boarding crucible this week were twenty six Middle School students from Kielor, Victoria. In its quest for cultural immersion, this band of students from a double campus college called Overnewton (boasting some two and a half thousand enrolments) has ventured three thousand kilometres northward. Overnewton is named after an area of significance in Scotland that would put an extra discord to the repertoire of bagpipes for those of us harbouring Caledonian sentiments.

A lucky affiliation with Overnewton emerged after initial contact was made by our previous Vice Principal, Mr. **Simon Cotton**. Later, our Director of the Sports Academy, Mr. **Stephen Daniel** sallied south with Djarragun players who got their first taste of AFL in the region where it all began.

So it came to pass (as they say in the classics), Overnewton came to Djarragun where the students were absorbed into the boarding school routine for a whole week. Day excursions occurred and the Djarragun hosts provided company and recuperation factors to show the guests how to enjoy boarding school life in the Tropics.

Hopefully, this is the beginning of another tradition.

TUTORIAL GROUPS

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 3 - 4 p.m., a few students have taken advantage of tutorial sessions with teachers to catch up on and complete assignments.

A few students have found themselves heavily committed with TAVE courses and traineeships and the extra tuition is a handy opportunity to bridge the gaps.

Strong on the agenda is the upcoming Year 12 Conference with the theme - My Life - my Passion.



HOLLYWOOD? BOLLYWOOD? FOLLYWOOD???

The tremors of stagefright for the camera-shy shook the foundations of the Middle School as our prime actor and actresses filled the frames for Friday's shoot for a documentary about successful teaching strategies being implemented at Djarragun. **Mr. Gio Douven (l)** and his sultry, accomplices, **Ms Holly Kennedy (bl) & Ms**



Francesca Shankaran (r) had their chances to shoot to stardom. It's not expected to tip the billing office of last year's 'Australia' but it is believed that Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman are casting eyes of suspicion and concern. Who knows where the limelight will appear next?

Mr. Gio explained that the exercise was an initiative by Australian Independent Schools which is promoting best practices in education. The filming featured classes undertaking reading for context and eliciting meaning from text. It shows students how to meaningfully analyse words, phrases and ideas to correlate ideas. Some words and notions may easily contrive different responses to each individual depending upon perspectives and varied life experiences.

BEATIN' ROUND THE BUSH



Mr. Music **John Grace (Gracey)** has recently been hiking off up the coastal highway once per week at this stage of the school year to establish a band of plucky keen musicians out at Wangetti. The new crew may well top its repertoire to maybe include

'Crocodile Rock', 'Band on the Run' and 'Down by the River'. Pictured here before they become famous in the Rock arena are **Robinson Gibuma, Branden Yougie, Marcus Christie & Gesa Dau**.

CONDOLENCES TO KUIPERS FAMILY, HOLLAND

Mr. Ludo has taken leave to attend his mother's funeral in the Netherlands. We respectfully convey condolences to him and the rest of his family for the sad loss.

LISA PETER



This term, one of Djarragun College's hardest working artists, **Lisa Peter**, has been rewarded for her creative efforts by having two of Lino prints from her 'Shark Totem' series taken to Sydney by Mr. Simon to be exhibited at the International College of Management in Manly.

Well done, Lisa. We look forward to more of your beautiful art in Term 4.

PHILLIP BROWN EARNS HIS CERTIFICATE III TOURISM

An evening of success was celebrated on Thursday, September 10 for **Phillip Brown** who received his Certificate III Hospitality.

Looking particularly effulgent in his striped suit and tie, Phillip later dressed down slightly to join in with the more casual crowd that surrounded him.

The supportive little band of Djarragun staff consisted of :- **Aunty Stella Mara, Ms Peggy**



Chigeza, Mr. Leon Epong, Uncle Paul Garong & Mr. Mathew Curtis

Edward Nawakie, Patricia Tom, Conjohn Matthew,



Fredson Akiba, Jason Akiba & Tim China get ready to storm the Esplanade

DC BAND GOING WITH THE FLOW

Mr. Gracey, Mr. Michael Lee, Ms Larina Lee, Ms Peggy Chigeza in addition to some of the boarding staff supported the Middle School band on the Esplanade on Friday night, Sept. 04.



Fredson Akiba, Patricia Tom, Iona Nawakie, Mia Akiba, Conjohn Matthew, Ida Sam, Edward Nawakie & Paul Walit at Tjapukai Later, Mr. Gracey, Ms Stella Mara, Ms Peggy Chigeza, Mr. Mike Tupper & Ms Chrystelle Anthony attended the Reggae Town function at Tjapukai Cultural Centre where our own DC band also performed.

SPRINGBOARD PROJECT

After two visits by the Lendlease Springboard team - the Primary School Playground ' project is beginning to take shape.

The schoolbased team of **Grayson Hart, Barbo Gibson, Clinton Sullivan, Issac Mait, Jamie Benjamin and Craig Waldon** has come up with spectacular vision for the playground including a bicycle track, flower garden and cubby house and our friends from Springboard have been helping tirelessly on the planning and implementation side of things.

Watch this space!!

Warren Eyre

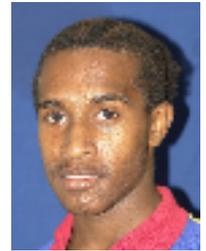
PENINSULA ATHLETICS REPRESENTATIVES



Under 13 - **Ralph Daniel** won the sprints for 100metres & 200 metres ; he broke the records in both;

Under 14 - **Solomon Faid** - won the Triple Jump and broke the record;

Under 16 - **Mark Akiba** won the sprints for 100metres & 200 metres ; he broke the records in both;



Darren Banu won the sprints for 100metres & 200metres - he broke the record in 100metres;

Mary David won the sprints for 200metres;



Stirling Ludwick came 2nd in 200metres sprint but qualified for the Peninsula team because of his time.



VOLUNTEER TEAM

Djarragun College is trialling a new communication system called VolunteerTeam or vTeam for short. The system is based around Social Networking for Teams and uses modern communication tools like sms and emails.

Things you can do on the site with your team:

1. You can post a shout out to the team in the team shoutbox, you can post a shout out to a member on your team by selecting the person and posting some comments in their shoutbox.
2. You can send an email to a person by selecting their picture then you will see 'send name a message.' Enter a subject and message and send. If someone has sent you a message you will see a (1) next to your inbox at the top.
3. You can send an email to all the team members by creating a Bulletin, again put in a heading and then the message and send. This will create separate emails to each team members. The best part of a bulletin is to ask for feedback as comments to the bulletin so you can have all the information about one topic in the same place.
4. Upload documents onto the TeamSpace so other team members can download and view.
5. Send sms to the team or an individual (this will not work if the staff do not load their mobile numbers). Select 'send sms to team' enter the message and select the members you want to receive the message then send.
6. After you have read the Quick Reference Guide you will learn how to add new teams and much more.

As part of the trial the College will be accessing the value of the system not only for the staff but for all the children.

Les Hornery

Occupational, Health & Safety/Emergency Planning Committee.

A meeting of the OH&S and Emergency Planning Committee was held on 4 September.

Present were **Harry Tenni, Shayne Pitout, Peter Bachelor, Francesca Shankaran, Matthew Curtis**. Apologies from **Aaron Selsby; Michelle Garside**.

The following decisions were agreed upon:

1. Assembly points in the case of an emergency to be reduced to the playing field in the case of the primary school students, and the grassed area between the boarding house and administration building for middle school, senior school and VET students.
2. Emergency warning sirens to be checked and upgraded as necessary in order to cover all areas of the campus.
3. Note. The Gordonvale police intend to conduct a surprise Bomb drill in the near future.
4. An all school fire drill will be scheduled close to 15 October.
5. Teachers to keep an accurate register for each class. This register will form the basis for confirming the safety of each student at the assembly point. Staff, before you leave the classroom/workshop, remember to take your class register, you should be the last one to leave, on the way out shut the door, but do not lock it. Ensure all students move quickly and quietly to the assembly area. Check your register to ensure all of your students are accounted for. Supervise your students and await further instructions.

Meeting ended 1045.

King Marong : African Performers

On Friday, September 04, 2009, the air waves in and around the school were inundated with a tattoo of percussion instruments. The vibrant sounds of Africa filtered through the stolid walls and selected students were given the chance to 'play to the beat of different drums' for the morning.

After lunch, the African performers entertained the students on assembly and our resident performers joined the duo on stage to add fervour to the pulses, humming, chants and echoes.

The African duo came from Senegal and Gambia and were one of the features for the Cairns Festival. They performed at the Reggaetown programme held at Tjapukai Cultural Centre.



Tim China, Patricia Tom, Mia Akiba & Ida Sam

(r) Fredson Aki a finds his way around the keyboard.

(below) Drummers on the Roll at the College Friday afternoon dismissal

