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School Rover

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The longest journey of any person is the journey inward." - Dag Hammarskjold

Familiar faces were hard-pressed to find each other in the wave of new personalities to the staff this year. A gentle tumble-turn at one end of the campus still left one swimming in wonderment. It seemed that we had discovered a new reef and the array of species deranged from the bright and colourful to the outright spectacular.

A cursory glance at the Induction Workshop agenda revealed a confronting phylum to the Administration schema. Layer upon layer of systemic management strata, tidy corpuscles of faculties with branched ancillaries replicated an anatomy of an intricate life form or the engineering of an entirely new periodic table.

The influx of new blood infuses the staff with a flush of instant dynamism. The flights of fancy turn stratospheric at the revelation of the litany of 'previous lives' that almost seem impossible existences. It's an absorbing exercise just to listen to the extraordinary tales of people who have heaps to offer to those who haven't had the time and opportunity to engage in one more spellbinding adventure. 'People from all walks of life' precipitates into a sober understatement.

The fact that Djarragun effectually is spread over three distinct loci emphasizes the extent of growth to the once compact outstation tenuously clinging to the outskirts of Gordonvale. The Djarragun Triangle includes Gordonvale campus, Wangetti and Wilderness Centre.

People have emerged from the remotest spots of the Northern Territory and from the frigid corners of Victoria. The range of experiences, the degrees of angst, ardour and adventure, the panoply of exotic and esoteric lifestyles and the dust from diverse geographies under errant shoes converged upon Djarragun grounds. From this heady, yet steady corporate coagulation emerges one unique team that we recognize as Djarragun.

One new staff member ventured to confess that she had recently married and devoted herself to David Beckham. Normal breathing was restored to the baited breath of the assembled staff once she revealed international football stardom did not accentuate the kudos of her spouse. He is a Yorkey's Knob Beckham - with no known association with anything Spice Girls or suchlike.



(above Ms Tegan Beckham)

You know the sand is passing through the hourglass when the next generation is turning up with adult faces. A face two decades apart was provided when **Juan Huddleston** was introduced to the rest of the staff. Hailing from Numbulwar in the Northern Territory, Juan was first captured on camera by our illustrious



photographer, **Mr. Ludo Kuipers**, who himself has the habit of being in places far-fetched and even further astray. In this case, it may well be the reunification of soulmates or just the outright irony of pure karma. Juan has his work cut out in the Djarragun dormitories. Good Luck.



There's a Pied Piper element to the scenario but we're never ever told what educational facility was provided to accommodate the needs of the entire (bar one) juvenile population, which mysteriously disappeared into the side of a mountain. However could a 'lone player' entertain for eternity the manic urgency of toddlers, sprites and adolescents? What happened to the school system of Hamelin? Were the teachers querying "Who moved the Cheese?" - after all the rats had been well and truly eliminated?

Legendary tells us that Djarragun is the giant nest of the scrub hen and this mighty hatchery is well expanding into titanic proportions by the exponential increase in enrolments to each successive year.

Catering for this particular phenomena demands the relative increase to staff, facilities and resources. Some students seem to have developed a territorial fixation to the school and the increase in Courses to the upper sector prompts work stations that will accommodate this educational renaissance.



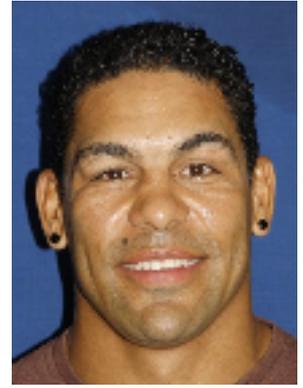
Djarragun Senior School students taking time to find out where to direct their attention for this year's busy programme



Head of Senior School, Mr. Matthew Curtis, met up with some of the Years 11 & 12 students at the Coffee Club, Smithfield during a weekend shopping excursion for boarders. Pictured with Mr. Matt are Mark Akiba, ..., Dannah Auda & Taicee Pearson

'The Academy & 'Djarragun Enterprises'

Djarragun is brandishing a two-edged sword as the programmes are modified to accentuate desired goals and expedite realistic achievement levels. An energized **Sports Academy**, with Mr. **Rod Jensen (right)** at the helm, is poised towards high expectation to both elements



of its title and the successful champions of the **Back on Track** scheme are the essential core to a concept that has brought to realization Djarragun Enterprises. Mr. Anthony Lupi has his work cut out implementing a scheme that will employ our students in on-the-job training constructing houses in remote area communities. Students in 2009 successfully assembled

one of the houses on Djarragun property. Djarragun Enterprises is a business enterprise that ideally will channel students into trade skill workplaces. The Djarragun component should catapult students more effectively into career professions. To be operating at the cutting edge in a critical facet of the educational theatre is both challenging and exciting.



National attention has been cast gloomily over the gauge of comparable standards in literacy and numeracy levels achieved

by students in country-wide tests. The push is on to raise the benchmarks and the staff at Djarragun is primed to take up the challenge.

LINESREADINGLINES

'Reading between the lines'

Stalwarts to the campaign, **Professor Barry (above) & Dr. Betty (r) Osborne** are still to be seen carrying on the relentless task with the Multilit reading sessions.



Boarding students in the Middle School kick off their days with an 8:00 a.m. reading session for 20 minutes.

Increase to the rolls are occurring in each sector of the school from Primary to Post Secondary and TAVE units. A parallel situation is occurring at the Wangetti site where the boarding facility is due to be filled to capacity within the second month of this year. Mr. **Richard Savage** and Ms **Janine Brown** did the reverse Hamelin trick and lured the children of the Cape from the mystery mountains, valleys and seaboard enclaves to a house of learning on an intriguing sector of the Marlin coast.

2010 augurs an exciting era to which Djarragun is challenged to enter the realms of a 'school of the 21st Century'. A heady investment by CISCO has initiated and implemented state-of-the-art technological infrastructure to the communication capacity within the school. This quantum leap for an establishment which has barely evolved out of infancy stage provides a staggering smorgasbord as food for thought.

Other sectors of the country are also plying initiatives to counter the literacy and numeracy discrepancies. Time will soon endorse that Djarragun is in the thick of the educational resurgence. Welcome 2010.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



The hugely incredible development to this sector of the college is enough to send pixels into photochromatic overdrive. The Grandmaster and Overlord for the past decade undertook a process akin to fission. Mr. **Ludo Kuipers** - (left)(Mac Master, to the old regime) had part of his desktop assumed by our



Djarragun Dynamic Duo - Mr. **Adam Lee** (above left) and Ms **Liz Phillips** (above right)

Nevertheless, not unlike the role of a decommissioned Commodore, Mr. **Ludo** carries with him a sizeable portfolio that includes Application Support, Website upgrade and Denbeigh Student Database Capture system. His ship is still weighed down to the plimsoll line and the attached strings to the Dynamic Duo are real live-wire connections.

Ms Liz gives glowing credit to **Mr. Ludo** for having maintained a steady passage of the IT machinery throughout the school over many years and directed plaudits for the fact that four people were now sharing the scope of tasks that he previously performed.

Mr. Adam has assumed the role of IT Systems Manager and **Ms Liz** is the eLearning Coordinator. Mr Adam ensures that all the infrastructure and facilities are set up to be tapped and accessed from the wall sockets and outlets or through the radio signals around the campus.

Along with his First Mate, Mr. **Mirko Brokamp**, Mr. Adam has the almost overwhelming task of having the required software available onto any of the installed screens and computers that may log in within the complete College network. Mr. Mirko has to tackle and muster the odd 'armadillo' or two that stalk the premises. There's something 'Safari' about his internet exchanges. Mr. **Mirko Brokamp** is often noticed on wide surveillance missions around the campus applying his technical skills to wayward computer units and communication flaws.



In order to navigate within the College the course of the veritable Infotech Oceanliner, galloping Admiral **Adam Lee** has to be poised to leap from building to building, faster than a nano-second's pacer. He activates unheard of programmes, calibrates recalcitrant Smartboards and configures the cures for the deluge of mishaps that are googled, emailed and jettisoned in his direction. One imagines that he may soon hologram himself to appear at the tap of a Promethean cursor whenever an 'SOS' is emitted from the growing number of Activboards proliferating the campus.

It hasn't been exactly plain sailing for the Admiral and his ship - what with the influx of staff, electrical and communicational hiccups and the massive extension to the network frontier. As part of his power pack, a growing band of Infotech officianados lurk solemnly at the keyboards, ready to attach their particular finesse to the master plan.

Mr. **Mike Tupper** (a genuine veteran from the Navy) poses the ready anchorman. Apart from his classes in IT and the Business Course, Mr. Mike is the VET & TAVE Coordinator, IT Support assistant and the overseer to the Photocopying resource station. To further keep his fingers on the pulse, Mr. Mike contributes his skills in Computer Software application - Pages, Comic Life, Spreadsheets (Excel/Numbers), MYOB and Powerpoint Presentations. Contact with outside industry for work placements for students also has filled in his packed schedule.



At one of the semaphore stations, point signalman, Mr. **Aaron Agius** is set to amalgamate the Cybrary into more than the virtual. Another bastion of hyperactivity with feverish interplay between art and artful dodgery forged with Wiki wickedness. Here is one piece of gigantic circuitry where one can get more than what one puts in. Wiki Wack-away !!

DJARRAGUN CYBRARY

CREATE COLLABORATE CONNECT - CONNECT COLLABORATE CREATE

The Cybrary is an important part of Djarragun vision for a school of the 21st century.

What is a Cybrary?

- o a student-centred learning space with a wide range of technology tools relevant to the students' learning needs and abilities.
- o a space where students can gather information and work collaboratively to produce knowledge products based on their learning.
- o a place that enables communication between the Djarragun - Wangetti campuses.
- o a place that connects our students and teachers with others: families, communities, other schools, experts and mentors, outside of Djarragun.
- o a place where teachers have guidance and support to enable them to use ICTs to transform learning as an integral part of curriculum delivery.
- o a place for teachers to engage in professional development
- o a space for IT resources to be housed and loaned to classes.
- o not confined by four walls - the Cybrary can be in the form of on-line space or equipment, such as the Bee Bots, being used in the Early Years classroom.
- o a place that caters for all students K - 12

MULTI-SKILLS CENTRE



One imposing structure that has risen well above ground level is the Multi-skills Centre. The cavernous building will eventually play host to sporting events, as a primary venue, but also, to a range of other activities - as the name suggests.

The College Sporting programme is clearly tailored and is comprised of The Academy coordinated by Mr. **Rod Jensen** and the College School Sports by Mr. **Virgil Gill**. Teachers in the Academy include Ms **Amy Jennings (r)** and Ms **Johanna Fuse (l)** who



provide academic enrichment to the select group. Entry to the Academy is processed through good attitude, attendance and latent ability. The programme is based on sponsorship and therefore stringent demands are in

place. sporting prowess is desirable but the most essential quality is 'attitude'. Students must possess and develop the appropriate mindset towards improvement and personal excellence.

Sponsorship emanates from national league clubs and sporting fraternities and students in the Academy can be entitled to inter-city excursions and games. Their profiles are subject to immense projection towards their futures. In addition, their prospects for employment will be part of the goals attached to their involvement.

Even through the previous system, Djarragun students made impressive inroads into national selections. This is a venture that promises, and has the most likelihood to ascertain, success.