

"You can never get enough of what you don't need to make you happy."
- Eric Hoffer



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School Rover



Three Year 11 students, **Flora Walit**, **Jaharlah Hart** and **Eima Messa**, are progressing well and will have completed four of the 12 competencies by the end of Semester 1. They are required to complete six competencies in 2010 and the remaining six in 2011. At this rate, these students should finish Certificate II in Business in Semester 1 of 2011.

Student Stars of the Week -

Lena Wosomo, Flora Walit & Florence Griven are three of our best students who are preparing to go to Canberra for a week of work experience (June 20 - 25) at Parliament House where they will participate in the *Learn Earn Legend - Work Experience with Government*.

The girls earned this privilege by successful completion of the IT & Business Course with Mr **Mike Tupper** (l)

& Mr **Tony Mogan** (r. below). They recently met with their counterparts (**Chris Dorner, Aden Littlewood & Michael Muhamad**) from St. Augustine's College.

The girls are representing both Djarragun College and their home communities. They will be meeting high profile government officials and another 100 students from across Australia who will be accessing areas in Parliament House and

DOWN TO BUSINESS

The upgrade of the new Business Centre is almost complete. The new computers, office equipment and workstations are working well. The remaining upgrade jobs are the installation of new curtains and folding door.

Students are using a variety of office equipment giving them expertise with different types of office equipment. These skills will be very useful in an office environment.

One year 12 student, **Judith Carney** (left), has completed her Certificate II in Business and one other student, **Florence Griven** (right), is only two competencies away from completing

her Certificate II in Business which she should achieve by the end of Semester 1.



Government Departments that are not usually open to members of the public. We hope that they have an enjoyable and enlightening time in the national capital.

Mr. Mike Tupper





CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Ms **Louise Redmond** needs to have her fingers on the pulse of a rather expansive organization. Even a cursory glance at the extent of implied duties she is engaged in is enough to widen the eyes even further.

With the deftness of an accustomed administrator, **Ms Louise**, earlier in the year, outlined her role in five distinct categories.

- (i) Support the Principal;
- (ii) Day to day Operations
- (iii) Systems, procedures documentation;
- (iv) External relations; and
- (v) Performance Culture

Supporting the Principal falls strongly within the framework of strategic initiatives and these would include commitment to the Djarragun Accelerated Learning Programme, Career and Training Panel and vision for the College (with secondee from KPMG, Ms **Jenelle Myers**)

The day to day operations feature the non-educational aspects of Djarragun and points one finger towards Human Resources within the College and another to the Health Centre.

The red tape that bandages anything that even slightly resembles a legal corporative entity has to be closely monitored within acceptable systems and endorsed by appropriate documentation.

With external relations, attention is cast towards funding bodies and donor support mechanisms

that collaboratively sustain the continued growth of the College.

Promoting the 'performance culture' within the school which best enhances dynamics amongst staff and subsequently with students. A Professional Development schema ensures that the staff is articulate with the needs of the school, the students and desired goals. Mobility and flexibility within the school human resources accentuate the underlying determination by each member of staff.

Obviously, one to relish a challenge, **Ms Louise** seems hardly ever to raise a sweat and champions all of her causes with the vigour of Boadicea.

Like the stagehand behind the curtains, she operates almost in complete anonymity but the enormity of the role is evident in the smooth function of the various departments and faculties which benefit from her adroit administration.

Seen around the traps in the afternoon during the After-school programme for day students, **Ms Louise** extends her sphere of influence amongst the tutors who help to manage the sessions. This programme will operate Monday until Thursday each week and incorporates both homework and sporting activities for the selected day students. Each will be entitled to a laptop computer which have been made available, thankfully, by courtesy of CISCO.

Ms Louise has been working with Ms **Kelly Mackenzie** and Ms **Francesca Shankaran** initiating the After-school program with Grade 8A students. This extra work will help this group do even better at their school work. Soon each student will get a new laptop computer for their class work. These were donated by CISCO which is a continued sponsor and generous patron to Djarragun.

Ms Louise posed a core figure to our past Head Girl, **Rosemary Tabuai**, who is now studying Arts-Law in Sydney. Rosemary lived with **Ms Louise** in 2009 and gradually settled into a study routine and learned the lifestyle of a heady metropolis that is Australia's largest city.

Ms Louise continues to mentor Rosemary despite the fact that each has traded cities in an ironic twist, sort of - headgirl for headgirl. In her role here at Djarragun, **Ms Louise** emerges an accomplished maitre d'.

CONSTRUCTION & FURNISHING

The Construction Students have finished the 2 door storage cupboards for the school and some have been taken to the boarding house to be used.

Year 12 student, **Mark Akiba**, has completed another competency well and only has one left to achieve his Certificate I in Construction. Also, the Year 11 Construction students will sit for the written assessment on this competency this week.

The Furnishing Students are completing their practical assignment well and covering some competencies along the way. Four students (**Robert Amber, Tinus David, Patrick Atu & Andrew Akiba**) sat a written assessment on Tuesday successfully completing a competency towards their Certificate I Furnishing.



Patrick Atu (above) showing off his honing skills



Our two TAVE students, **Robert Amber** and **Jackson Wosomo**, have assisted in the construction of the laptop storage units for the school and have been involved from the early stages through to the completion of these units. Attendance has been fair as a lot of students have been involved in sport and cultural activities.

Mr. **Reese Brookes**

BACK ON TRACK

The Back on Track boys had a busy week, starting with the cleaning and washing red Weipa dust from all the hairdresser equipment, packing up and storing away all the gear in readiness for the next trip and repairs and cleaning of the ever reliable BOT trailer. The rest of the week was spent doing maintenance jobs in the Primary school where they are working on putting skirting around the under section of a demountable. A good effort was made by the crew this week as it was pretty hot work. Attendance is about 75% which is slowly turning around towards improvement.



Mr. **Reese Brookes** (photo above)

Busily engaged on the band saw, Daniel Gibuma spews up a sawdust storm (below) possibly turning out crafty products, like (Bottom photo) A naked model deck chair with its rather modest miniature perhaps more appropriately decked.





TRIP TO SEE COWBOYS VS MANLY

Students earn recommendation from teachers for their application to work. Each student has a diary which can be signed off by a teacher who then emails to Mr. Rod Jensen to confirm the accreditation.

"I was one of the lucky students who went down to Townsville with Mr. **Rod Jensen** to watch the Rugby League match between Cowboys and Manly. This was my eighth visit to Dairyfarm Stadium in Townsville. I earned the trip because I had a good record in class work.

We drove down on Saturday, May 29 starting at 1:00 p.m. after lunch. Mr. Rod drove us in the College commuter bus. We stopped first at Cardwell and then at Ingham and then straight through to Townsville.

I didn't really care who won because I'm a Broncos fan. I enjoyed the game. I like Johnathan Thurston, Luke O'Donnell and Matty Bowen. When the game was over, we travelled straight back to Cairns.

The students who travelled down with me were - **Sharni Harris, Azaleayah Panuel, Sharnika Murray, Steven Hart, Tim Tipoti and Mundeel Neal.**

I would like to say thank you to Mr. Rod for taking us students on the trip."

Leron Greenwool



The Townsville trip was a great success. The students were lucky enough to go not only through the training facility but were also given a tour through the administration building exposing the students to another side of Rugby League.

The students met a number of players including - **Matty Bowen, Dean Payne & Luke O'Donnell.**

Rod Jensen

FAREWELL

I will no longer be working at Djarragun College. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers who have helped me over the past 18 months. I will surely miss all my boarding kids. Thanks to all. **Aaron Selsby**



HEALTH CENTRE

On Wednesday, Australian Hearing came and assessed 13 students. Clare, who came up from Brisbane, conducted the testing and has now headed up to Weipa for some more testing.

Hearing Screening

Trainee Healthworkers with the "Deadly Ears" Program will be visiting us on Friday 11th June.

We have again seen more than 100 students this week and have organised medical travel for over 40 students.

Margie Allen, Sue Clarke & Natasha Brunne

DJARRAGUN COLLEGE
HAIRDRESSING TRAINING SALON
hairRythmics



**Two trips to the
Wilderness Centre**

Our team successfully attended the Djarragun College Wilderness Centre on two occasions in April and May.



We all jumped into the bus in a great rush, thinking we were late. That was my first time driving a bus on that road!!! The girls were not aware of this fact until we actually arrived and in one piece. How glad am I? It is so improved. I gave a huge sigh of relief and told them it was my first time driving up. Now they really had something to look forward to on the trip home.

We were invited by ITEC to give a talk on personal presentation, work ethics and general personal development issues. We were picked up by one of the group mentors and delivered to the Navy's well organised site.



Nerves were a bit jumpy for me as I was wondering if I could talk for an hour. Time went extremely quickly and we found ourselves going overtime and all participants were interested and respectful. The accompanying Certificate III students did some hairstyles for the participating girls whetting their appetite for the next planned visit in May.

We were early as the times were a little mixed up. So we set up our equipment and waited nervously. It was a great start with the models showing our creations but the program participants were not so keen to have make up and hairdos done. I thought it was going to be a flop but, as always, when one or two joined in, the rest did and we were extremely busy creating masterpieces on their hair.

Ms Estelle Nielsen

Hopefully, all the 'hair-raising' was not the result of negotiating the precipitous ridge to the Wilderness Centre.



Weipa Festival 2010

Djarragun College turned out in force for this year's festival up on the Peninsula township of Weipa. A tailored convoy of vehicles trundled the 800 something kilometres of Australian scrub terrain to deposit over

one hundred students from Djarragun and Wangetti campuses onto the remote mining town.

These sorts of high adventure across unfamiliar territory for most of these modern day travellers reap a multiplicity of stories which range from anecdotes and the fallout from customary stretched imaginations.



'Father Shank's Pony' held the reins in a firm grip whilst simultaneously wielding the proverbial whip. The parliament of selective staff corporately weaved its intimate government through the juvenile detainees for the marathon three days and nights - and brought them back home again.

Notorious for the back-breaking corrugated roads that lead to the remote township in the Gulf of Carpentaria, the Peninsula Development Highway did not faze our intrepid travellers. Weipa hosted another cultural event that lured tourists and dance enthusiasts from far and wide.



Djarragun provided something of a mixed bag. The performers included traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait dancers, hip hop proponents, hula swingsters, band entertainers, a Brazilian-style percussion ensemble and a nomadic hair salon. In whichever meaning one would like to view it, Djarragun students could really 'let their hair down'.

Children of the lucky country returned to country to hail tradition with current conviction. A living assemblage played homage to a transcendent culture, not so much to relive the past but to energize the present. The spiritual confluence mirrors the meeting of tropical waters lapping enticingly onto mute fields of bauxite.

Liberal candour etches the faces of our modern children. Anticipation stirs both the appetite and the urge to step forward into an exciting destiny. **Wayne Stafford** (right) propelled himself into almost impossible hiphop-ery and his moves with the rest of his troupe easily targetted its delighted teenage audience.



The Hair Salon opened its tent flaps for the business end of an alumina streak or a bauxite rinse.

Local clients had the opportunity to fall under the clipper and stylist skills of Ms Estelle Nielsen's Training Salon girls.

(Below) Staff member, Mr. Rob McBride - "Long way to go for a haircut, Mr. Rob!"



Iona Nawakie (left) strums his way through one of the songs in his extensive repertoire.



Mary David (right) puts pay to the contention that she never has a quiet moment in her life.



Mr. Mapa Kudub (left) ensures the final knots remove any possibility for a dreaded wardrobe malfunction.

(Below) Jingle jangle, throb and drum - the hypnotic beats from the Brazilian jungles filter through the coconut leaves on a Weipa stage. Mr. **Warren Eyre** is the head beater of the Batucada Drummers.



"All of the students were just fantastic", according to Auntie **Harriet Tapim** but showing great leadership qualities and personal initiative was **Patricia Tom** (above with Ms **Liz Phillips**). She showed a massive supply of energy and took part in every element of the festival that fell in her path. It's great to hear how situations such as these bring out the best in people. Way to go, Patricia.



(Below) Isaiha Cooktown & Demetrious Whap





Djarragun College Champions in AFL

On Friday 28th May, the Djarragun College Boys Under 15 AFL team won the Cairns Regional Schools Grand Final. They will now progress to Townsville for the next stage of the All Queensland Competition.

The final was played against St Augustine's College at Cazaly Oval. Both teams had gone through their draw of the lead-up stage undefeated and a good game was anticipated. The game got underway and Saints appeared much taller and bigger compared to the DC boys. However, the wide expanse of the Cazaly grounds proved to benefit the DC combination. The pace of **Henry Mareko, Ralph Daniel, Tyson Smiler** and **Hazman Nandy** proved difficult to control. Good teamwork and strong physical aggression with the ball allowed DC to put on the goals steadily. The backline, led by **Zed Nona** and supported by all members, proved impassable. By half-time the DC team was in front by over 7 goals.

Coach **Dave Maddock-Jones** congratulated the boys on their efforts but insisted they should not relax. The boys never did. In the second half, it was more of the same. Though Saints got on the scoreboard more often, the DC team kept the goals coming. All players were relentless in their chasing, tackling and ferocity for the ball. There were no weak links in the DC chain and at the final siren, it was DC running out winners by 12 goals - a fantastic effort. Saints should be congratulated for the manner in which they played the game - hard and fair - but DC was just a much better team on the day.

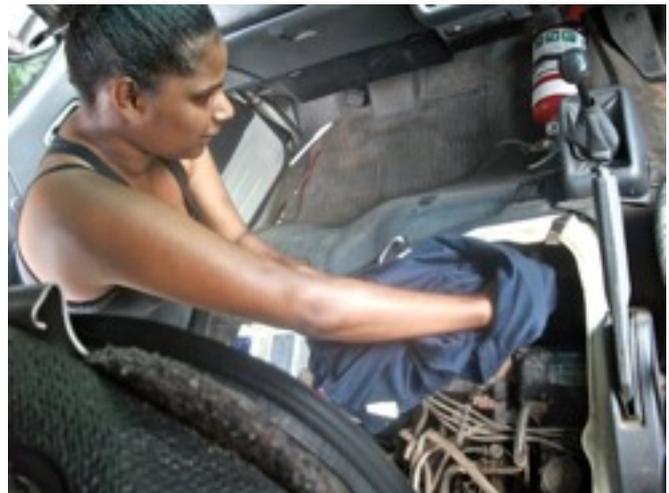
Tyson Smiler was presented with the shield and all boys showed their delight at being named Cairns Regional Champions for 2010.

Mr. David Lierich

ELAINE MATTHEW

The amazing bush mechanic on the Weipa Cultural Trip

What amazing ingenuity of the indigenous mechanic, Elaine! Her approach to mechanics may be likened to that of television character, *MacGyver*. Whether it is finding a solution to a flat tyre when you've got no spare or overcoming the boiling radiator by playing the Bush Mechanic's game, she's got what it takes. She is practically an almanac full of information and new experiences. *Bush Mechanic* is an *Australian slang* expression that refers to somebody who, out of necessity and with immediate available materials, is able to solve practical problems using sometimes unconventional and inventive



techniques. Generally an inventive technique is required due to the lack of proper resources or other constraints in solving the problem using customary means (for example, using a tree branch to fix a broken axle).

Elaine Matthew "*the bush mechanic*" is testament to competent behaviour with strong emphasis on practical knowledge and wisdom rather than technical skills. All this has been evident in her being a Hospitality student, as well. She has developed into a confident and independent, young woman.

As we traversed the long journey to Weipa in the school vehicle, Elaine became our problem solver of multiple car problems with her inventive, wacky and unpredictable bush repair techniques. The next example involved finding out where the radiator was located in the school bus. She turned the seat upside down and cooled the engine with drinking water.

All the adults in the car had no idea where the radiator was located and Ms Peggy has since expressed an interest in signing up for a course in Motor Mechanics with Mr. Rudra. We hope to see *The African Queen* acquire the new skills. Well done Elaine. We are all proud of you.

Ms Peggy Chigeza