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# School Rover



## MABO DAY & NAIDOC REMEMBRANCE

High festivity was the order of the day on June 18. Troupes materialized from countless sub-groups to sing, dance and present small speeches and tributes.

Large posters were brandished across the stage and the supply of items validated the huge amount of work done by students, staff and visitors to make the show an extremely memorable one. Invited indigenous guest performers Mr. **John Nicol** and Mr. **Vic Steffensen** sang and outlined the steps along their way to respective success in their fields.

Ms **Michelle Garside** swept in with a sea of blue Primary Choir uniforms that released the tonal qualities of a restrained classical choral rendition for their song - Over the ....

Striking, as ever, were the various dance groups which kept the show rolling throughout the morning. Uncle **Elimo Tapim** from Townsville addressed the crowd to speak about the impact of the Mabo decision upon those of us who follow in the wake of **Eddie Koiki Mabo**. Speaking about the success in having land rights acknowledged through the Courts, **Uncle Elimo** stated, "He won it through his culture."

The swirl of activity incorporated farewell tributes to two members of staff - Mr. **Tekoa Tafea** and Ms **Jade Allgood**. On special request, **Jimmy Dau** collated a series of photographs and prepared a Podcast presentation for Mr. Tekoa. The presentation was made during the following week in the Auditorium where a suitable screen and control of light was possible.

Lunch time provision of the institutional sausage sizzle maintained popularity with the seemingly endless queue.



# MABO DAY

## LEARNING SUPPORT TEAM

Often plodding away, just minding its own business is the Learning Support team. Spearheaded by Captain of the Guard, Mr. Allan Kroll

(Top)Mr. John Nicol; Yr 8 poster (2nd row) Mr. Vic Steffensen, Aboriginal girls dance, Uncle Aurie Marou on warup; Uncle Elimo Tapim;

(3rd row) Mr. Vimal Shankaran & Aunty Seema Pilot; Isaac Tabo - kabkar Singers for the Murray Island dance troupe; Wangetti boys on guitars; (4th row) Batacada percussionists; Hip Hop;

(bottom row) Rosemarie & Tekoa Tafea & Primary Choir testing their lungs)



# MS JADE ALLGOOD

An unofficial institution in Cairns closed recently. Known for its growing popularity for 'asylum seekers' amongst a few turbulent teenage girls that float through Djarragun, the House of Jade created a sanctuary for a selective set of 'endangered species' list.



Though just half a generation gap between herself and her restive charges, Ms **Jade Allgood** drew practicality, composure and a semblance of order to troubled teens. One could well currently compare the copious amounts of oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico against the massive dosage that Mother **Jade** had to apply to appease the troubled waters that was presented to her over a perduring series of episodes.



Apart from her designated teaching role in the Senior Department, Ms Jade extended her extra-curricular involvement into the Aboriginal Dance troupe and the perilous navigation through Djarragun's remake of 'Days of our Lives' - with quirky Indigenous flavour.

**Ms Jade** has the form of magnetism that we generally attribute to a saint or a person with the kudos of Mother Teresa. It was normal to see her hustled by a cluster of bemoaning girls who each had troubles that only miracles could cure. In effect, **Ms Jade** had to become the ears and eyes of this sometimes oddly insouciant cadre. Each had a tale to tell - and told it very well, over and over again. Lessons weren't taken on board on the first instance. Most of these girls perpetrated the same mistakes with monotonous regularity. Nevertheless, that's what patience was designed for and **Ms Jade** showed she had bucketsful to squander on the divas of her soap opera outcasts.

The girls under her care were not specifically challenging personalities. Some needed a place that was free from unnecessary threats, upheavals and disorder. Home life for some of them was unstable and their educational and career goals seriously hampered. So, in typical

superhero fashion, **Ms Jade** pounced into her retrieval campaign with the serious dispatch of a vigilant eagle. For those girls, **Ms Jade** was 'the wind beneath their wings'.

A fly on the wall would attest to an amazing documentary on 'life within the House of Jade'. Countless hours of patient waiting kept this household on the perennial pause button, after school and during the weekends. Each week, a carload of girls shuttled back and forth to school and home again. The defining moments are inextricably linked to outcomes which the girls have gone on to achieve and, more so, in that each is continuing to arrest a possible career path for herself.

A fitting tribute was given to her on June 18 in front of the College assembly. Presented with a gift from the school, she was ushered onto the stage by her own Dance troupe which proceeded to acknowledge her celebrity. The smoking ceremony raised enough haze and pungency to the air that, if the tears weren't there already, Ms Jade had the perfect excuse to launch out in a full-blown episode of lachrymal overflow. Needless to say, the tissues flapped out and about, enough to challenge the integrity of the regularly performed 'Mosquito Dance'.



Beyond the sob and circumstance, Ms Jade managed to impart the quiet regal smile that has become characteristic of her and in the midst of the clamour was garlanded with a lei, a shaky farewell and a solicitous hug.

Eventually, spontaneity cast its magic and as if guided to an elaborate swan song, Ms Jade joined in her last 'shake-a-leg' to terminate this shared duration of her time with Djarragun. May happiness accompany you, Ms Jade, on the rest of your journey.



### NAIDOC WEEK @ TJAPUKAI

In the second week of the school Holidays the DC Drummers performed at Tjapukai. DC students were picked up from their homes in the school bus. We wore our colourful shirts and played as we marched through the adventure park. People liked our performance and lots of them were taking photos.

After the first show we had a BBQ and a drink and then we watched a cultural performance by the Tjapukai Dancers. After the show, we performed again before all the students were driven home. It was great fun!

by **Jonas & Heidi Drijver**

**Art Star: Taicee Pearson** continues to attract positive attention by winning the secondary schools section at the annual "Gab Titui Torres Strait Cultural Art awards". Her prize was \$500. She entered a lino print titled - "Birds in Wongai".



Check this excerpt from an email:

*Hello, My name is **Maxine See Kee** – Retail Services Officer from Gab Titui Cultural Centre on Thursday Island. Taicee came into the centre on her way to Cairns. It was great. I had the opportunity to meet her. She is an exceptional artist & a very lovely young lady. I can't wait to see more of her work.*

### CONGRATULATIONS

To **Phillip Whap & Meo Gela** who are on their way to becoming Level 1 Touch umpires.

### THANKS FROM MR. TEKOA TAFEA

Thank you for a great surprise on Friday. The special assembly was very nice and well done to everyone for their great effort.

It was very special to me. Thank you to Ms Jean and the school for the Lap top. Now I will be able to be in contact with everybody.

I would like to thank the staff for the beautiful comments on the cards I was given. I want to say thanks to the staff who contributed towards the the gift of the watch. I will enjoy wearing this lovely dress watch and will think of Djarragun when I wear it.

Thank you for all your good wishes

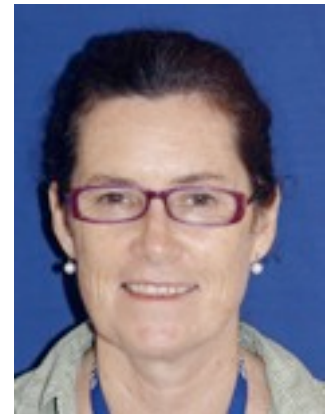
Tofa Soifua

Tekoa

### DJARRAGUN

#### LIBRARIAN

Welcome to Ms **Jenny Vanderzee** who joined the staff towards the end of Term 2. For different reasons, the role of Librarian has been a relay this year. One could almost write a book about it to add to the bristling shelves.



The new library is voluminous, to say the least, and the general ebb and flow attests to its usefulness and popularity. Equipped with the mandatory book shelves, a roost of computers, a reading well and high tech visual and television outlets, it is an attractive walk through and a comfortable study facility.

### AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

Students participated in an AFL Trip to Adelaide during the school semester holidays. Students did not miss any school time at all. Mr. **Dave Maddock-Jones** ('MJ') quietly moulded a set of well-drilled and disciplined players who by their keen enthusiasm and good attitude earned the opportunity to play inter-State. Congratulations to the boys :-

**Fredson Akiba, Andrew Akiba, Tim Tipoti, Craig Waldon, John Gunnawarra, Aaron Guligo, Tyson Smiler, Henry Mareko, Hazman Nandy, Zengrey Nona, Jerry Frank, Clinton Sullivan, Andrew Oui, Wayne Stafford, Malachi Sorongo**

The Adelaide trip to Rostrevor College was a great success. The kids were terrific - lots of first time experiences for them. It was go go go but very worthwhile. Many thanks for giving it the go ahead.

We were able to mix with Rostrevor kids as they were still at school during the first week of our holidays. The boarding staff was a great help.

**Mr. Dave Maddock-Jones "MJ"**



## AFL ADELAIDE TRIP : JOURNAL

On **Friday** June 25, 13 boys from Years 8-11, Mr. **Rod Jensen**, Mr. **Ian Davenport** and myself departed for the airport at 4:45a.m. on our way to Adelaide for an AFL tour.

We were picked up by Mr. **Andrew Robertson** (Events Manager at Rostrevor College). Upon arrival, we were shown to our rooms. The boys then had a run around on one of the school's AFL ovals and played a training game with some of the Rostrevor boarders. After dinner, we had our first meeting and the 'fine v reward' system was introduced to the boys. Just like in well run football clubs, fines are imposed on players for poor organisation, missing deadlines, not being punctual, etc. Over the trip, 6 boys would be fined a total of \$18. Pleasingly, no one was fined a second time in one day which would have resulted in a \$5 fine. For the remainder of the evening, the boys relaxed playing 8 ball, table soccer, table tennis or watching the Geelong versus St Kilda game on TV. During the evening, I was awakened by powerful rumbling vibrations. However, my fear of an earthquake soon subsided when I realized it was Mr Ian snoring.



On **Saturday** morning, a number of boys played basketball in the indoor stadium at the college, while others enjoyed the sunny but cool (5 degrees) conditions outside. At 11a.m., we visited the Parade, a boutique shopping area in Norwood, allowing **Tim Tipoti** and **Craig Waldon** to purchase the latest innovation in sporting underwear. We left to pick up Mr. **David Lierich** from the city. We stopped outside the festival theatre on the river Torrens to get a close - up look at black swans - among other things. We then drove to see the SANFL game between North Adelaide and Woodville West Torrens (my old club). This competition is, arguably, the second best in Australia. On Saturday night, we ate out - the boys voting for a well known fast food chain to be the recipients of our custom.



**Sunday** morning saw us walk to Morialta Conservation Park for a warm up hike. This park is only a 10 minute walk from the college. We climbed a spur to gain an excellent view of Adelaide. Upon returning to the college for lunch, we travelled to AAMI Stadium to watch the Adelaide Crows play the Melbourne Demons and listened to Mr Rod being an extremely vocal Crows supporter. We must have brought Adelaide luck, they played their best game for the year. We returned to the College for dinner and relaxation time.

On **Monday**, we remained at the college waiting for dual premiership player and Brownlow Medalist, Gavin Wanganeen, to meet us and talk about his career and the Scholarship program he is now involved with. Unfortunately, Gavin got his days mixed up and failed to show. (Gavin came to the Port Power club to meet us later in the day). Our next program item was a talk with the head of the Environmental Education Centre at Rostrevor. This was a very interesting and enlightening session. Scott is a highly skilled and experienced naturalist who regularly collects live specimens from the wild including venomous snakes, tarantulas, crocodiles, pythons, birds, lizards and scorpions. All of these creatures and many more were on display in the college.



environmental centre. A highlight at the end of the session was the chance for the boys to hold a 25kg “Olly” the olive python. Surprisingly, some boys were unwillingly to grasp this opportunity or Olly.

After lunch, we travelled to the Port Power club for a tour of their facilities. **Russell Ebert** was our tour guide - a man regarded by many as the greatest player to come from South Australia. He spoke with great passion and wisdom on many facets of life, football, education and the benefits sport can have for all participants. The boys enjoyed a run around on Port’s new indoor miniature field comprised of the latest artificial turf - “The best of its kind in the southern hemisphere.”

Upon returning to the college, the boys saw white piles of “snow” on the oval edges. It had hailed heavily during our absence. The boys enjoyed “snowball” fights before dinner. **John Gunnawarra** revelled in the conditions running around in nothing but shorts and a sleeveless jumper!!

On **Tuesday** morning, we departed again for AAMI stadium - this time to play in a nine-a-side senior school competition. This was a lot of fun. The conditions were challenging. Rain and 10 degrees but our boys did very well playing three games and actually winning one against Year 11-12 students !!! No one complained about the weather and all boys played with spirit. In the late afternoon, we went to the movies to see Shrek 3 or Toy Story 3. **Jawa Guligo** saw Shrek and received his new nick name. We returned to the college for dinner.

On **Wednesday**, we again visited AAMI stadium to tour the Adelaide Crows facilities and to meet the indigenous players of the club. **Andrew McLeod** has become a cult figure at the club and he addressed the group and accompanied us on the tour. I first met Andrew on Badu island where he has relatives. He has become a fine leader as well as one of the all time playing greats. The Adelaide facilities are second to none in Australian sport. All the boys received a signed poster from the four players.



Our last formal activity was a short tour and training session with David Oatey the U/18 Coach at Norwood Football Club. David is held in high regard in Junior development not only in South Australia but nationally. He put the boys through their paces for an hour after watching two short but inspirational DVDs in the change rooms.

On the last night, we ate out again - giving **Phillip Whap** a chance to wear his new collared shirt.

At 10p.m., the fire alarms sounded and we evacuated the boarding house. It seems a fault occurred perhaps due the water seepage caused by hail blocking the gutters the previous night. At 12:30a.m., the alarms sounded again for our second evacuation. All the boys remained in good spirits with no whining. This was simply another impromptu character building exercise.

**Thursday** morning saw us depart for the airport at 7:00a.m. with Mr. **Gerry McCarthy**, the head of the AFL Academy at Rostrevor dropping us off. **Phillip** again wore his shirt complete with tie and dress trousers. All the boys were well organised, well behaved and represented Djarragun very well. I would be more than happy to travel with any of them again. A big thank you to Mr. **David Lierich**, **Ian Davenport** and **Rod Jensen** for being great supervisors and Mr. **Gerry McCarthy** and Mr. **Peter Oswald** (Head of Rostrevor Boarding), his staff and Mr. **Andy Robertson** for their commitment, help and generosity.

**Dave MJ**