

"And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same." Nelson Mandela



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# School Rover



a b o u t  
a s s e m b l i n g  
t h e m i n a  
p r o f e s s i o n a l  
m a n n e r .

Robert now has a Certificate I in General Construction and a Certificate I in Furnishing and is ready to take the next step towards employment. With the help of Miss **Cate Robins**, Robert has applied for apprenticeships with Q Build and the Cairns City Council.

Good Luck

## OUT OF THE WOODWORKS

**Robert Amber** has successfully completed his Certificate I in Furnishing.

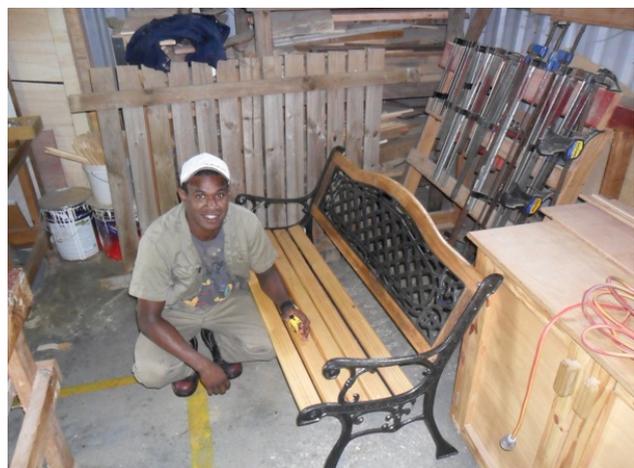
It's been a great effort from Robert and he has completed some excellent projects along the way. From the start of term 1, when Robert was making cupboards for boarding and doing maintenance jobs on the school, he showed he had great enthusiasm for his job.

Robert then took a more senior role in the workshop, helping the year 10 students with their projects and assisting them with his knowledge of the workshop equipment and safety procedures.

Robert has gone on to make a lot of quality furnishing items in the workshop. He carefully plans out his projects, sources the materials and quietly goes

Robby

Mr. Reese Brookes



# SENIOR SCHOOL NOTES

The Senior Staff Star of the week is Ms **Rosemary Morrison** who received the award from Ms **Leni (Mbongeleni) Chigeza** this week. Ms Leni said that she wanted to give the award to Ms Rosemary because she has been so helpful in getting the students ready for the formal.



Furthermore, Ms Rosemary has been working overtime on getting students like **Kayleen Yeatman** back into school, encouraging students like **Stella Dau** to complete their Health Services course (see school blog) and being a positive and active member of staff who is always there to help out. Well done, Ms Rosemary you are a pleasure to be around.

Mr. Mathew Curtis also compliments -

### Student star of the week - Judith Carney

The student star of the week is **Judith Carney** who is the first year 12 student to complete all of her work. This comes on the back of being a good mother to Reeko, while setting an outstanding example about how to acquire an education with competing interests. Judith's greatest asset is her deep reflective thinking and an analytical mind that is complimented by her strong will and determination.

It is interesting to note that everyone loves Reeko, and from what I observe, he exudes a great deal of his mother's delightful and insightful nature. Perhaps this is the start of a new dynasty where children like Reeko follow in their parents' footsteps by acquiring an education and a successful career as a result.



## Children Services

Congratulations to **Karen Noah**, who this week finished all her theory for the Cert.III Children Services Course. She is also half-way through her practicals and now needs to go more often to get this side of the competencies marked off.



Students in Year 11 and 12 have started planning for the Childcare Room at the Year 10 Subject Selection evening. The first thing they have done is to find and assess spaces within the school for their appropriateness for children. Last year, the parents that had children participating appreciated being able to leave them with the girls so that they could talk to the teachers/tutors without interruptions.

Ms **Cate Robins**

### Health Services Assistance

Last Friday, the AIN girls completed their practical assessment for this semester. It involved their reading a scenario, then acting it out as if they were in a hospital ward.



**Carmille Pearson** and **Stella Dau** worked as a team. They showed confidence and skill in handling a difficult, complaining patient. Working co-operatively, they moved the patient safely to the bathroom for a shower then returned her to the bed for a meal, all the while communicating in a friendly, positive manner.



Together with their written assessment of 50 questions, and an oral test last week, this puts them at 85% finished for their Certificate III. A terrific effort!

We are attending a 2 -day First Aid course on Dec 1st and 2nd to complete another competency.

Ms **Rosemary Morrison**



## LEARNING SUPPORT UNIT

DC LS Team - clockwise from 12 o'clock :  
 Clare Hood, Mbongeleni Chigeza, Michael Lee, Felicity Hoffmann, Michelle Hill, Rhonda Thompson, Harriet Tapim, Wazi Tai, Farrah Meaker, Alan Kroll, Aurie Marou.  
 Centre: Guest LS member, Caitlin Burman.

As much as busy time allows, this small unit in the school plies its bothersome trade with passion, pride and perseverance. On occasions, it seems that no-one is going anywhere, the engine has stopped and the crank is nowhere to be found. However, that's the nature of the task. It is not measured by duty but in dedication. When others can't be bothered, these members of staff do. Even when the students can't be bothered, bothering is the business that keeps smiles on such faces.

Head of this partisan group is Big Botherer himself, Mr. **Alan Kroll**. He controls the little skirmishes that erupt at various rendezvous points. His tactics might be a version of Direct Instruction, an invasion by I can Read, a tentative Probe incursion or a clever stratagem called Rotations.

The enemy is usually camouflaged and well-dug into time-worn trenches. Introduction to new word attack skills with the odd phonetic grenade thrown in for proper sound effects makes battle weariness for the enemy a foregone conclusion.

What meets the surrendering forces is the same formidable set of victory smiles seen on this page.

Literacy lieutenant is none other than field-officer, Ms **Felicity Hoffmann**. No-one begs to differ with Mr. Alan's righthand sidekick. Known to have created part of the maudlin act to the reading programme, she has weaponry that tampers with something both medieval and metaphysical. Who fights with imagination entangled with a Mephistophelean theme? It seems she has the Grim Reaper on hand at the click of two fingers. It is rumoured even that his weapon of mass destruction issued from her evening workshop. In addition, she harbours an innate horror towards silver jewellery spikes.



Issuing from her professional desktop, Ms Felicity's appraisal of her leader follows these lines :-

*"Alan Kroll is the linchpin of Learning Support. The Learning Support Department is the axle, the staff members are the wheels and Alan is the linchpin that keeps us all together. Alan can be tough but reasonable; serious but fair. He can also be a bit of a larrikin with a wicked sense of humour that has us in fits of laughter - sometimes, at the times when the last thing we want, is to have tears running down our faces."*

She continues about Learning Support - *"The role of a Learning Support Officer is to support the students by supporting the teachers."*

Ms **Clare Hood** is a new addition to Big Botherer's nest. 'What's in a name?' you may well ask. Her mission carries her to a daily excursion through the literacy realms of Senior School disguised probably as 'Re(a)d Riding Hood'. Isn't that wicked?

Ms **Mbongeleni Chigeza** trumps up as the agent for 'I Can Read' for which some of her clientele are becoming decidedly suspicious because they are the ones who are actually doing all the reading. However, they're not quite prepared to cross-stitch it just yet with the mistress of the overlocker. Pastoral Care in Senior; Hula Dance Coordinator; Home Group for the TAVE students.



Mr. **Michael Lee** traipses the ubiquitous course on which any messenger of the gods would thrive. Reading circles and sports with a soccer emphasis were regular items on his agenda. Toting the parental integrity of a seahorse, he has in daily tow, his daughter, Mia who bears up to the 8 to 4 regimen without complaint. Mr. Michael has a finger in every pie including the Year 10 camp, primary swimming and weekly sport bushwalking with Mr. Gio's wanderlust club, numerous visits to the Wilderness Centre, a casual trudge up the Pyramid, Indoor sports activities and coaching the Under 15 Girls' Soccer team. He is happy that his timetable is more settled and he gets to enjoy Learning Support reading. As a bonus exercise allowing him to practise his yin and yang potential or the Rock and Water centring, he gathers his disciples to assert relevant plenary powers. Reeling in the 'ones that got away' and bundling up his dwindling cast of temporary rebels to purge in mandatory detention stints during the morning tea break, doesn't keep him top dog on the popularity chart. It's at these times, he really bothers.

Ms **Michelle Hill** has been described as the 'little mother' by her colleagues. Her role combines the notions of Old Mother Hubbard and the Old Woman who lived in a Shoe, without due emphasis upon the 'old' aspect. With her class of 'Stars', it was always the case of catching the falling ones. For pure dedication to task, she deserves her stripes.

Ms **Rhonda Thompson** is a newcomer who hit the ground running by latching onto the Senior School programme during the hectic period of Term 4. Her little hop, step and jump from Gordonvale High School landed her on a pitch where the jumps were probably more in the crucial ligament league - from the frying pan into the proverbial fire.

Aunty **Harriet Tapim** anchors the spiritual dimension to this enclave. Having been here forever, her guiding hand and encouraging word filters through to the young men and women who readily acknowledge her serenity. Bright with the tropical print on Friday's Island dress or the odd hibiscus in the hair to colour the day, her happy smile launches the I Can Read programme to desirable outcomes.



Ms **Wagi Tai** (the PNG sting) commands easy respect with her quiet demeanour and gentle management. Hovering around the schoolyard on supervision and working both among the Stars and the I Can Read programme keeps her within the present time zone and feet planted on terra firma. For some considerable time each day, she will be found something like the second mate to the Old Woman in the Shoe, seriously embattled with the overwhelming numbers of resident charges.



Ms **Farrah Meaker** skipped onto the scene to provide the voice of Constance making the daily ringarounds in search of absentee students. Is it any wonder that the Year 9 boys attendance rose from abysmal to top of the ladder for several weeks duration in Terms 3 and 4?

Meanwhile, when she wasn't occupied picking up the odd piece litter with her extended tweezers, she was heavily involved with the testing campaign - Probe, Direct Instruction, I Can Read programme and a six months sentence with Year 8A. In addition, she added the youth factor to the equation and effectually lowered the average age of the unit to a few minutes less than Jurassic. Her work previously at a zoo on top of the Cairns Casino was a timely prelude to Animal Farm on a different site.



Uncle **Aurie Marou** had a foot in two camps - Middle School and Primary. As one of the cultural mentors at the College, Uncle pits his energy to Meriam language to Primary students, dance routines with the Murray Island troupe and a buzil epei (basket) of work with the Learning Support literacy programme namely the I Can Read programme, Probe testing and individual mentoring in Maths.



Ms **Caitlin Burman** spread her attention across the 'Galaxies' - an euphoric euphemism for Year 8 girls. She was endowed an honorary position in the Learning Support unit simply as a result of wanting to be in the picture. With the inexorable persistence of a marathon swimmer that she is, Ms Caitlin successfully egged on the hatchlings from her

nest to enter unlikely challenges such as working in Lifeline stores and dispensing frozen cups and muffin wares at a fundraising stall. Raising money for Cancer research was also one of her activities in which she successfully attracted supporters to an afternoon tea.

Classroom antics from 'next year's edition of the encyclopaedia' had to be curtailed by yesterday's theories that she could adapt from the musings of Piaget's developmental psychology. Mix that in with a healthy potion of backchat, chinwag and wannabe Oprah Winfreys, space travel for the Galaxies was always going to be a noisy affair that could only be neutralized with the absence of an atmosphere.

Mr. Alan's inclusive modus operandi is evident in snippets from the weekly bulletin issued to staff. The following illustrates the tone of the action :-

#### **"Reading Program**

*The boarder's reading program starts this week with some myth & legend stories and will continue over a two-week period. Thanks to all the previous Grim Reaper stand-ins. We tried to keep the girls guessing, however Auntie decided to show herself to the students at the end of one session – that's when the girls really became frightened...just gamin!*

*PS. Tegan we'll have to get you into a toga."*

In a subsequent memo :-

#### **Staff Acknowledgements**

*Thanks to Harriet, Felicity, Farrah, Michael and Francesca, for your on-going commitment to our reading program in the morning. It's been wonderful to watch the fun we've all had scaring our poor innocent students and it's been delightful to see our students enjoying the stories. The highlight for me was the first day with the girl boarders and seeing – and hearing - them fall over each other out the door – whilst screaming their lungs out - when the Grim Reaper made an appearance."*

The end product is a happy team, satisfying outcomes and students who made progress through an apparent conundrum. This apt adage registered the conviction of the L.S. unit - **"Correction does much but encouragement does more."**

## **GIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE GALA DAY**

Eleven girls from Years 5, 6 & 7 attended a Tackle Rugby Gala Day at Mann St Football grounds. The girls played a number of mini-games as well as full sized games and also participated in some skills training sessions.

It was extremely hot weather but all girls put their whole hearts into learning and playing hard throughout the day. They were brave in tackling and being tackled even though they were the smallest team there.



**E m m y Charlie** won a referee's award for one of the best players on ground; **S h a n i c e R y d e r** received an encouragement



award and the school received a certificate and Rugby League football.

Well done to **Jacinta Bailey, Nancy Matthew, Sharwanda New, Tanee Faud, Jamaya Bulmer, Shaneice Chapman, Emmy Charlie, Kiara Matthew, Leota Munro-Tom, Maia Matthew & Mekella Gizu.**

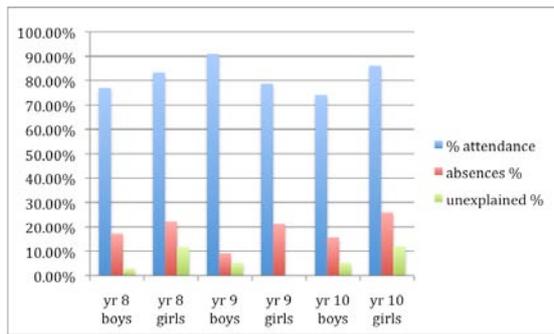


## **JEWELLERY SALE**

A group of Year 12 students recently held a jewellery sale to complete the competency GENENP101B-Apply an enterprising approach to a team project.

The group had to work together to gather the products, market and sell the products. The group decided to donate any profits to COUCH- an organisation which assists those affected by cancer in Far North Queensland. They raised \$31 profit.

Ms **Cate Robins**



## ATTENDANCE TRACKING

As part and parcel of daily routine in the Middle School this year, tracking the attendance rate for each student was followed up by a teachers' aide for each class. Telephone calls immediately alerted parents of their children's absences. In most cases, the remedy was just as immediately implemented.

Weekly performance tallies and comparative graphs attested to the rise in attendance and the corresponding fall in the absenteeism.

Presenting the telltale graphs each week stirred the competitive streak amongst most students and served the desired purpose to improve attendance.



## RIDING HIGH ON ATTENDANCE

One in-house competition has been on the charts for the year. In the effort to highlight attendance as a desirable part of the Djarragun performance for students, the Middle School classes have been vying for the top position.

Each week, amidst the shuffling of feet and the scramble for high ratings on the respective rolls, Mr. Michael Lee rifled through the daily registers to plot a story of his own. Numbers put to graph reveal an awkward history of attendance by some students.

Year 9 boys would rather forget the tragic picture that declared their innings for the first semester. It was nice to think that the roll sheet demonstrated a reef of 'A' students. However, when 'A' equalled 'absent', the record was a decided indictment.

The 'Cup' eventually fell into their hands a few weeks before the end of Term 3 and remained in its clutch until the final weeks of Term 4.

**CONGRATULATIONS, YEAR 9 BOYS, 2010 !**

## DIRECT INSTRUCTION

**Claudia McKnight**, who is a consultant with the National Institute for Direct Instruction, visited Djarragun College to assist some teachers with the placement process. Most Middle School students were tested during this time, along with some Primary School students. This is a most helpful start for grouping next year.

Following the success trail that has been evident in the Cape York schools, Djarragun has taken on the initiative to inculcate the Direct Instruction technique through the whole school in 2011. The intent to raise the literacy levels for every grade is being given the highest priority.

Test results for the preliminary assessments will be sent to the USA. These will determine the various levels and placements of students to appropriate classes. Though not a new concept, this method is currently making significant impact upon students with similar educational disparities as our own indigenous Australian counterparts.



**Jordan Dick** applies some left-over concentration saved from his classroom reserves to stymie his challengers



## JUNIOR TOUCH FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the Boys' Touch team which went on to win the Grand Final against Gordonvale (9-5). Coached by Mr. **Aisea Pulini** and Mr. **Warren Eyre** with Assistant, **Alex Nomoa**, the team notched up a memorable win and a satisfying finish to the campaign.

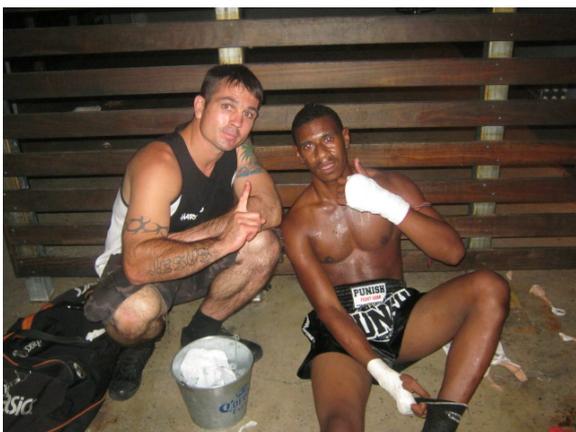
# KICKBOXING

Emerging through the cluster of programmes that thrive in the College is a healthy and active sport of kickboxing. Though the battered and bruised look can be part of the ordeal, some of our boys have shown a natural propensity for the skills required. Trophies have come in thick and fast, considering that the training duration has been compacted to a few weeks.



New Year 10 arrival to the College, **Nimo Wosomo (l)**, clung covetously to his trophy almost nonchalant about the swollen lip and puffed eyebrow. **Napolian Briggs(above)** provided an imposing figure even before he stepped onto the canvas.

Making it something of a 'family affair', the Wosomo boys have taken to the challenges like fish to water. Willie, Willy and Nimo have contested bouts in distant locations like Townsville, Rockhampton and Cooktown.



**Peter Tybingoempa** earned a public accreditation by his trainer, Mr. **Shannon Forrester**, at the school assembly for his courage and determination in taking on an adult. Peter didn't win the match but obliged his 30+ year-old opponent by his willingness to provide a challenge. Otherwise, the fighter would not have been able to take to the canvas during the tournament.



## Traineeship/Apprenticeship Attendance Weekly Report- Week 4

Day	Contact person	Traineeship	Student Name	Drop off-start shift	Pick up-end shift
Day	Staff support	Status	Workplace	Mary	Mary
Urial Matthew	Peggy	Casual	Shangri-La	N/A	N/A
Bernadine Mau	Peggy	Casual	KFC Earlville	Own transport	Own transport
Maybel Tima Tai	Peggy	Part time	Reef Casino	Mary	Mary
Lelanie Lingen	Peggy	Full time	Trinity Petroleum	Own transport	Own transport
Edetu Kane	Peggy	Casual	KFC Cairns Central	Own transport	Own transport
Patricia Anau	Peggy	Full time traineeship	Motor Inn Cairns	Mary	Mary
Mathina Clermont	Peggy	Full time	Reef Casino		
Elaine Matthew	Peggy/Mary	Part time	Reef Casino		
Debbie Messa	Peggy	Full time	Reef Casino		
Petale Tima	Peggy/Cate/Paul	Casual	Coles		
Maybel Tima	Peggy/Cate	Casual	Coles		



Often left in the background, unseen and unnoticed by the majority, is a small troupe of trainees which is engaged in different work experience and apprenticeships around Cairns. While some manage to negotiate their own way to and from the venues, others are still dependent upon Ms **Peggy Chigeza**, Ms **Mary Scott**, Mr. **Paul Garong** or Ms **Cate Robins** to provide transport and assistance.

These staff are required to work before and after the customary work hours to ensure that the trainees arrive on time and are returned to their respective homes at the end of the day.

The range of workplaces indicate the variety of jobs and the varying interests of the students. It is always encouraging to find students plugging along their career paths and providing the role model example for those who may follow similar choices.

A note of thanks should also go to the businesses and organizations which provide the positions, support and opportunities to our students. Such commitments are not always easily accessible in this competitive age for commerce and employment.

Hot on the tails of the former students out on placements are current 're-replacements' for the year who show the same enthusiasm and personal charm to face a hungry clientele in the Hospitality queue.

