

milestones

edited by Julianna Kerr kerrju@tcp.newsnet.com.au



Get together: Djarragun College student family comes together to celebrate academic and personal development which they hope will boost their chances of career success in the wider workplace.



Diamond wedding: John and Sybil Keily were married 60 years ago.

Couple celebrate a wonderful life together

JOHN and Sybil Keily recently marked their diamond wedding anniversary, celebrating 60 years together.

John and Sybil were married in Cairns on September 27, 1950, and they received written congratulations for reaching this milestone from The Queen, Australia's governor-general, the prime minister and Queensland's governor and premier.

John and Sybil have lived in Cairns all their married life, except for a short stint in Brisbane for a year and one in Perth for two years. They currently reside happily at The Parks Retirement Village.

John is 84 years old and Sybil is 82. They were blessed with three children – Rozlyn, Dianne and John Jr – who provided them with 12 grandchildren and they in turn expanded the family with six great-grandchildren (plus still more to come in the near future).

The couple credit a successful marriage to treating vows as a commitment for life and to sharing life's experiences with plenty of laughs along the way.

John and Sybil are remembered for managing a very successful charitable organisation in Cairns for more than 40 years – namely the Young Australia League (YAL) – in Martyn St.

They were recognised leaders in the Cairns community for their commitment to community service and passion for developing Cairns into a leading tourism destination. They have provided many thousands of young Australians with the opportunity to travel to Cairns and other cities in Australia and overseas on YAL tours, supported young people from country area attending high schools or taking up apprenticeships in Cairns by providing a "home away from home" at the YAL and provided accommodation and meals for people in need.

John received the Paul Harris Fellowship Award for his service to Rotary and in 1969 they were founding members of the Cairns Meals on Wheels, co-ordinating cooking and meal deliveries out of the YAL kitchen. When John and Sybil retired in 1991, this service had grown to producing more than 150 meals per day.

In 1982, John and Sybil were invited guests at a state reception for The Queen and in 1986, John received the Cairns City Council Citizen of the Year Australia Day Award. In 1991, John also received the prestigious Order of Australia Merit Award (OAM) presented by the governor of Queensland at a ceremony in Brisbane to recognise commitment and dedication to the community and in particular the Youth Assistance Fund, where John volunteered as treasurer for more than 20 years and has a trust fund in his name set up to support young people and their families who qualify for financial assistance.

They are congratulated by their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Developing human potential

EARLIER this year Djarragun College in Gordonvale introduced a student leadership and capability program.

This program, designed and implemented by Annalise Jennings of Dynamic Exchange, was built specifically for Djarragun after extensive school engagement from a model developed in corporate Australia; which won international acclaim in 2007.

The program's success finds its roots in raising awareness and developing human potential. This is a values-driven program where senior students identify the number one attribute that they most value about themselves. It focuses on the three key elements of resilience,

reliability and respect.

In essence, this program is about supporting the student to learn and grow with an attitude of confidence, achievement, attendance and aptitude.

Students undertake personality and career profiling through an extensive online assessment complemented by one-on-one coaching sessions, where together with their coach, they develop action plans to support their capability, up-skilling and ultimately to provide an opportunity to support their transition into the wider community or into tertiary studies.

Who am I? Where am I going? How will I get there and what do I need to learn? These questions are focal points through the coaching

session and workshop.

Program activities are designed to enable the students to raise their awareness of their ability to make a difference, raise their self-esteem and develop personal courage and empowerment.

Students are further provided with an opportunity to identify and lead school initiatives that they are most passionate about and encouraged to be role models to younger students.

The three-day workshop is the highlight of the program building on the foundations laid during the assessment and coaching stages. The workshop is based on positive psychology to develop human potential and is designed to be creative, interactive and good fun.

In July, the students received certificates before the entire school assembly, which was a very proud occasion. They will continue to receive support and monitoring and are well placed to continue with their personal development and pursue rewarding careers of their choice in line with their established personal goals and action plans.

The ongoing involvement of the educators is critical to build upon the success of this program. Each student is now registered with the Gen 1 and AEC employment program and with ongoing support from the teachers and staff at Djarragun, it is hoped they will get the best from other more traditional employment and training sources.

■ If you would like to share your special milestone with us, please send your name, contact details and story along with a photo to: The Cairns Post Milestones, PO Box 126, Cairns 4870, or email kerrju@tcp.newsnet.com.au

Noticeboard

Polio clinic

Sister Tessa Jupp from the Polio Clinic will speak on "Simple Ways to Address Common Post Polio Issues" on October 19/20. The Post Polio Network of WA is a self-help group that services up to 2000 polio survivors in a large state where distance is a problem as in Queensland.

Fortieth reunion

Cairns Youth Orchestra 40th reunion will be held at the Darts Association Hall, 38 MacNamara St, Manunda, on October 30, from 6pm, with a meet and greet barbecue. Bring your memorabilia for reminiscing. Ph: Margery Duffy 4053 2630, or email kandmduffy@westnet.com.au

Lunch aid

It's the last chance to register for Melbourne Cup lunch in aid of the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland noon-3pm, at Coral Hedges Brasserie on November 2, at the Rydges Esplanade. Phone Kendall on 0417 167 695.

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