



EON Foundation Inc.

Improving opportunities for Indigenous people

MEDIA STATEMENT

November 7, 2007

Six students from the remote Djarindjin Lombadina Catholic School in the Kimberley have been rewarded for their good school performance with a trip to Perth, many for the first time.

Accompanied by two teachers, the years 7 and 8 students have travelled from their community on the Dampier Peninsular north of Broome with the support of EON Foundation (www.eon.org.au), a Perth-based charity supporting programs to improve opportunities for indigenous people, particularly children.

A key focus for the trip is to learn more about producing fruit and vegetables from edible gardens, one of which is currently being established in their school by EON and renowned horticulturalist Sabrina Hahn.

The girls visited Attadale Primary School, where Sabrina also assisted the students and parents to establish an edible garden.

EON is establishing the edible garden as part of a wider nutrition program to counter the high incidence of Type II diabetes and the high cost and variable availability of fresh fruit and vegetables in the remote community. With plentiful water and good soil, the school garden will be ready for planting at the start of the 2008 school year with first produce expected within months. The 500 square metre garden has the support and involvement of the wider Djarindjin Lombadina community.

EON Chair Caroline de Mori said that last year it had brought a group of boys from the school to Perth but 2007 was officially the year for the girls.

"These are wonderful girls with bright futures and EON is delighted to be able to reward their good school performance with a trip to Perth. Travel from such remote locations is difficult and expensive but widening their horizons and providing them with opportunities to meet and play with children from different backgrounds is important.

"These girls are the future mothers and leaders of their community. Like all girls, they've had great fun shopping, playing basketball (at which they excel) and doing other "girlie" things during their stay."

Local surf riding teacher Cameron Bedford-Browne didn't hesitate when asked to give the girls surfing lessons at Cottesloe Beach during their stay.

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