



# Kimberley kids hit the surf

**Surfing lessons at Cottesloe, shopping in the city and a night at Timezone have been "champ" for six Aboriginal girls visiting from the Kimberley.**

And according to the Year 7 and 8 students from Djarindjin Lombadina Catholic School, that means their trip to Perth has been "unreal".

Teacher Dee Dundov said they had been busy visiting schools, Hillarys Boat Harbour, Scitech, going shopping and having a pampering girl's night.

For most of the girls, it was their first time in Perth.

"They have loved it. A few of them had never been on a plane before and there were a lot of screeches," Ms Dundov said.

The holiday, a reward for outstanding school work, was supported by the EON Foundation, which helps improve opportunities for indigenous people.

The girls come from the Djarindjin Lombadina community on the coastal peninsula, 200km north of Broome, which has about

400 people.

Student Alynda Ougham said she had never been surfing before but was enjoying the lesson with local teacher Cameron Bedford-Brown.

"I haven't been in water this cold before either," she said.

"But I'm getting used to it."

She said she had enjoyed the week, and did not have time to miss home.

"I have never seen a city like this. It's really big and there are a lot of boats," she said.

"It is a good place. I would come back here."

The aim of the trip was for the girls to learn about producing fruit and vegetables from edible gardens. An edible garden is being established at their school by EON and horticulturalist Sabrina Hahn.

"We visited a school in Attadale to see their edible garden yesterday," Ms Dundov said.

She said the trip gave the girls an insight into life in the city.

"All of these girls are out-

standing at school and we want to encourage them in every way possible," she said.

"Most of them are responsible for looking after their brothers and sisters, so we wanted to give them a few days without that responsibility.

Alynda said the school at Attadale was a lot bigger than Djarindjin Lombadina Catholic School.

"We have about 70 students because we live in a small community," she said.

"But we played basketball with them and won 63 to 29."

EON is establishing the edible garden as part of a nutrition program to reduce type II diabetes and increase the availability of fresh fruit and vegetables.

EON chairwoman Caroline de Mori said the six girls were future mothers and leaders of their community.

"These are wonderful girls with bright futures," she said.



Mazza Shadforth gets up under the eye of surf veteran Cam Bedford-Brown.