



EON Foundation Inc.

Improving opportunities for Indigenous people

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 15 May, 2008

COMMUNITY CELEBRATES FIRST EON EDIBLE GARDEN PLANTING

The Djarindjin and Lombadina communities on the Dampier Peninsular in the Kimberley celebrated the first planting of their “edible” garden today. Members from both communities and the children and teachers from the Djarindjin/Lombadina Catholic School gathered in the garden after three days planting hundreds of vegetable seeds and seedlings and 30 fruit trees.

The garden, built in partnership with the EON Foundation, was officially launched by student Ashley Woodhouse and noted horticulturalist Sabrina Hahn. Unveiling the plaque celebrating the completion of the garden, Ashley said “having the garden means we can keep healthy”.

Growing their own fruit and vegetables is part of an overarching “wellness” program in the community to encourage more nutritious diets and exercise to stave off Type 2 diabetes, which is at dangerous levels in many remote indigenous communities. The garden is also part of the school curriculum, teaching children science and maths in a fun and practical way.

“Having the garden means everything to everybody,” said student Sheliah Chaquebor. “It is good to have the garden because the community and everybody will pick it and eat it so we can be strong and healthy. It is great having it here in our school and in the community. It means a lot to the kids and to the people,” she said.

The first produce from the garden, a partnership between EON Foundation Inc. in association with Sabrina Hahn, Unity of First People of Australia, Djarindjin Lombadina Catholic School and the Djarindjin & Lombadina Communities, is expected to be harvested within four weeks.

EON Director Clair Medhurst, who with Sabrina Hahn has been instrumental in the construction of the 370 square metre garden, said that members of the community and school children and EON had worked hard to complete the garden.

“There is wonderful soil and water here but we’ve had tremendous support from suppliers in Broome who’ve generously discounted or donated materials to the project,” she said.

“Three other communities have expressed interest in EON assisting them develop an edible garden. It makes so much sense given the expense and difficulty of getting fresh fruit and vegetables in these remote communities.”

Photos and more information on the EON Edible garden can be found at www.eon.org.au.

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