



EON Foundation Inc.

Improving Opportunities for Indigenous People



NEWSLETTER

May 2008

It's been a hectic start to 2008 with EON launching its first edible garden at the Djarindjin and Lombadina communities in the Kimberley, the puppets from the Gibb River Road communities workshops proudly displayed in Perth for the Million Puppet Festival and the first workshop for the girls participating in the Strong Noongar Girls 2008 program in Katanning a great success.

EON EDIBLE GARDEN

"Having the garden means we can keep healthy" Ashley Woodhouse, Year 5, Djarindjin-Lombadina Catholic School.

In late 2007, EON launched its pilot EON Edible Garden program with noted horticulturalist Sabrina Hahn and in partnership with the Djarindjin/Lombadina Catholic School and their community councils. An opening ceremony was held on 15 May 2008 to celebrate the planting by the school children of hundreds of vegetables and 35 fruit trees. A plaque commemorating the first planting was unveiled by Sabrina and Year 6 student Tasha at a community gathering. The commercial size garden will provide fresh fruit and vegetables to the remote community. The garden is an important extension of the Diabetes Management and Care Program to address the high incidence of Type II diabetes in indigenous communities from poor diet, obesity and lack of exercise. Three other remote Kimberley communities have expressed interest in an EON Edible Garden.

EON EDIBLE GARDEN PARTY

To celebrate the planting of the first EON Edible Garden and pay tribute to its many wonderful sponsors, EON will be holding a fun Garden Party on July 25. Carrying on the theme of the Edible Garden, vegetable patches and fruit trees will be auctioned to raise money to expand the garden program into other remote communities. Watch this space for the invite!



Thank you to the EON Edible Garden sponsors:

Sabrina Hahn
Office of Aboriginal Health WA



Rainfill Tanks
Streeter & Male
Yates



FUNDING CAMPAIGN

EON has begun a program to attract major corporate sponsorships and partnerships to continue to expand its successful programs. Three years from inception, EON now boasts a track record of achievement and success in implementing grassroots programs in partnership with indigenous people to bring about sustainable long-term benefits. If you or anyone you know are interested in donating to one of EON's programs, please contact Caroline, Katrina or Clair at the numbers below.

DIABETES MANAGEMENT AND CARE PROGRAM (DMCP)

EON continues to provide substantial financial support to Unity of First People of Australia (UFPA) which delivers this successful program to tackle the terrible, yet totally preventable lifestyle disease Type II diabetes that affects up to 70% of Aboriginal children and adults. During 2008 a further two communities will join the existing eight Kimberley communities involved in the community-lead program.

STRONG NOONGAR GIRLS

EON has continued its support for Strong Noongar Girls, a program in the southern Wheatbelt to support at-risk teenage Aboriginal girls. The girls' involvement in this wearable art, training and mentoring program is dependent on them committing to attend school and be good role models for others in the group. Last year's pilot was so successful that EON sponsored several of the girls to visit New York and Melbourne to talk at cultural exchange conferences. The elders and young people of a number of Wheatbelt communities have asked EON to extend the program to girls in their area so this year's program will involve young girls from 3 towns. The elders will provide significant cultural input.

MILLION PUPPET PROJECT

In 2007 EON was the major funder of a project managed by the Zonta Club of Perth involving senior law women, young women and children of the Ngarinyin, Worrorra and Wunambal peoples of the West Kimberley. The participants traveled on a three week camp during which traditional stories were recorded on DVD, and giant puppets were created to be used in the telling of traditional stories and to pass on culture to younger generations. The two main puppets, both 5 metres tall, were exhibited at the Perth Concert Hall in March 2008 as part of the Million Puppet Festival.

We look forward to your continuing support and please visit our new website at: www.eon.org.au for more information.

Contact us: **Caroline de Mori** **0418 919 064**
Katrina Burton **0402 072 072**
Clair Medhurst **0411 492 769**



