



EON Foundation Inc.

Improving Opportunities for Indigenous People



■ NEWSLETTER

November 2008

FABULOUS FUNDING SUPPORT

Around 140 people joined EON and its supporters for its major fundraiser, the EON Garden Party, on July 25. More than \$52,000 was raised thanks to the hard work of organisers, the fantastic support of our friends and colleagues and most importantly the generous bidders on our garden auction items. Auctioneer to the stars Mack Hall and celebrity gardener Sabrina Hahn worked hard to make it a fun night. Thanks to everybody involved and we now have the funds to extend our Edible Garden program.



EON also extends a warm welcome and thanks to new sponsor WesTrac for a substantial donation over the next three years.

EON EDIBLE GARDENS

The kids at the Djarindjin/Lombadina Catholic School north of Broome are enjoying the fruits of their labour, literally, and consuming the vegetables harvested from EON's first Edible Garden. The first harvesting of a range of produce grown by the children and staff, broccoli, watermelon, tomatoes, capsicum, cabbage and cauliflower has been such a success that ABC TV broadcast a story about it on Stateline in September. The kids are having garden produce for playlunch three days a week – a rich and popular reward for their efforts. The school has now been able to employ a member of the community part-time to maintain the garden infrastructure. As a result of the garden's success, EON is now planning a second Edible Garden at the Beagle Bay community south of Djarindjin/Lombadina and hopes to be ready to plant early in the school year in 2009.



UFPA DIABETES MANAGEMENT AND CARE PROGRAM (DMCP)

EON continues to support the UFPA's now internationally recognised DMCP to tackle the high rates of Type II diabetes among Aboriginals in remote communities. The "wellness" focus of the program with education about the need for good nutrition, exercise and weight control to prevent this debilitating disease is complemented by the EON Edible Gardens concept which also provides the fruit and vegetable element that is often missing from the diets of people in remote communities.

BASKETBALL COURT

A further extension of this holistic approach to wellness is the provision of a new basketball court at Djarindjin/Lombadina school, thanks to EON's Charlie Morgan. Since the court was completed a few months ago, there is hardly a time of day when kids are not using it, preventing boredom, having fun, extending their already wonderful sporting skills and adding to the goal of a healthy lifestyle with a popular exercise regime.



KATANNING STRONG NOONGAR GIRLS

Sadly, this program has been put on the back-burner while community issues are resolved. EON hopes that it can be revisited in due course and would like to acknowledge the tremendous work of project managers Jaime Phillips and Lynley Pickett. There were some notable achievements for the girls participating in the program during the first half of 2008 and EON believes that the program can be adapted and adopted by other communities in due course.

LITERACY

Literacy and numeracy remains the major stumbling block to Aboriginal life opportunities, training and employment. As a grassroots initiative to encourage literacy, EON will launch a Storytelling Award for school children in the Kimberley in 2009. The aim of the project is to encourage and reward literacy effort. Prizes will be books, which are in short supply in remote community homes.



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANCE

As EON continues to grow and develop new projects, Directors would be keen to hear from anyone who might be interested in a part-time casual position as an executive assistant. Flexibility would be a key factor for those interested in the position. A job description is available on request and it is hoped the position could be filled by the start of the 2009 school year.

Please contact **Caroline on 0418 919 064** or **Katrina on 0402 072 072** for more information.

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



