



EON Foundation Inc.

Improving Opportunities for Indigenous People



## NEWSLETTER

March 2009

### FUNDING NEWS

As a result of the overwhelming generosity of our benefactors at the EON garden party auction held in July 2008 the first EON Edible garden was completed and is now flourishing at Djarindjin/ Lombadina. Special Thanks to Ian Parker, your strawberry patch has been a huge success and the plants have been successfully divided again and planted out in preparation for next season's harvest of delicious vitamin C filled strawberries. Thanks to John Bond's kind donation we have been able to supply fresh fruit for the children, while some trees have succumbed to the dreaded white ants many are thriving to provide a cocktail of fresh delicious fruit for the children to enjoy, they especially love the strawberry guava tree. Tom Henderson's generous support of the reticulation has meant that a total of 450 square metres flourished during the dry season. Tim and Rose Moore's kind donation was put to great use supplying the school with all the necessary tools to get the work done. The banana plantation supported by Willy Packer is booming. The Bush Tucker and Medicine garden will be planted out soon, thanks to Mike Stanton and Paul Jones. The garden fence donated by Charles Morgan has weathered the wet season well and continues to protect the garden from dogs and other unwelcome visitors. Thank you also to Richard and Mel Lynn who sponsored the supply and installation of the raised vegie beds which have been a huge success. At "kid height" the beds have ensured maximum involvement by the young gardeners of the future.

Thank you, Thank you to both Ari Harold and Eddie Rigg for generously making provision for us to continue the work of our consultant horticulturist Sabrina Hahn.

The generous support of WesTrac as a Principal Sponsor of EON, especially of our child health and education projects, has enabled us to plan and build the next Edible Garden with the school and community of Beagle Bay, and to work with the One Arm Point School in re-establishing their Edible Garden.

And where would we be without the corporates? Hearty and Sincere Thanks to Kim Bailey from Baileys, to Mike Stanton from International Livestock Export, and to Total Eden, Broome for continuing their support in 2009, and also to Peter Morrison from Richgro who has become a supporter of our Edible Garden projects in 2009 as we expand our work.



PEANUTS A PLENTY



HEAVY RAINS DURING THE WET: GOOD FOR THE GARDEN AND THE WEEDS.....



BROCCOLI - YUM

### AN IMPORTANT PARTNERSHIP

The UFPA continues to expand its wonderful “wellness” campaign throughout the Kimberley region and EON is proud to be an important partner. We work closely with Ernie Bridge’s UFPA to ensure our activities complement the Diabetes Management and Care Plan. Through the EON Edible Gardens, children in remote communities have regular access to free fresh fruit and vegetables and understand their importance in a healthy diet to reduce the terrible impact of Type II diabetes.

### ...AND FROM THE EON EDIBLE GARDEN

The wet season well and truly arrived at Djarindjin/ Lombadina with lots and lots of life giving rain!

The children have returned to school with great enthusiasm and are preparing to plant out the vegie beds when the heavy rains have abated.

They have really enjoyed the last harvest of delicious watermelons, tomatoes and cherry guavas and the peanut bushes are flourishing. Most of the fruit trees have doubled in height but unfortunately three trees and the remaining passionfruit succumbed to white ants!

The Year 6-7 kids and their teacher have become the “caretakers” of the garden for 2009. In addition, they will paint and decorate pavers and help build the shade houses. Children will also prepare the soil to replace the fruit trees lost to white ants.

Fifty new self-propagated strawberry plants are thriving and the strawberry guavas should produce fruit again in six months.

For the Djarindjin/Lombadina children, fruiting on the land is linked with harvesting from the sea. At the moment, bush apples are ripe for the picking, so it’s turtle egg time. Yum!

### BUSH TUCKER TIME

The wet season is a great time for bush foods and EON now has a good collection of seeds from all around the area including Gubbinge, Gunurru , Irrigil, Mirda, Goolm and Guwal. The seeds, which have been collected with the help of some of the elder women in the community, will be planted at Djarindjin/Lombadina after the wet season.

### EON EXPANSION

In 2009, the expansion of EON's Edible Garden program is under way with a new garden being built and equipped at the Sacred Heart School at Beagle Bay, and the revival of a dormant Edible Garden at the One Arm Point Community School. Each school will receive practical on-ground assistance required to get their edible gardens up and running as well as expertise, fertilisers, seeds and plants. EON continues to be approached by schools and communities from around Western Australia and we’re determined to grow fresh food for as many children as we can over coming years. The benefits to health and education, training and employment, self-esteem and just plain fun are enormous.

EON is planning to introduce community workshops on fruit and vegie growing, harvesting, preparation and cooking, food and kitchen hygiene and simple household repairs and maintenance.



IN THE GARDEN WITH EON



LOOK AT ME! ONE OF OUR MANY HELPERS



BUSH TUCKER APPLES



LOVE THOSE TURTLE EGGS

## NEW PEOPLE

EON has welcomed two new and important people to the team in recent months.

- **Chris Cassidy** is a well-respected local identity in the Kimberley with a background in irrigation, horticulture and training and joins EON to provide on-site training and practical support as well as maintenance back up to the schools and communities involved in the EON Edible Gardens.
- **Andrea Whitely** joined EON earlier this year to provide logistics support for the EON Edible Gardens as well as executive assistance based in Perth. Andrea brings a wealth of gardening knowledge as well as practical managerial assistance.



**THE EVER-CHEERFUL CHRIS CASSIDY**

For more information on EON, see our updated website at [www.eon.org.au](http://www.eon.org.au) or **Caroline on 0418 919 064** or **Andrea on 0406 387 598**.