

# Community teachers the goal of program

# Pair at camp in India



Tiwi student Tammy Kerinaiva and CDU Growing Our Own coordinator Ben Van Gelderen with staff and students.



A GROUP of Charles Darwin University students from Indigenous communities across the Northern Territory has visited Darwin as part of a program aimed at

increasing the number of Indigenous teachers in community schools.

The Bachelor of Education (Primary) students are taking part in an accredited and nationally recognised teacher education program at CDU through the Growing Our Own (GOO) program in partnership with the Catholic Education Office.

During the visit, the 17 students from Bathurst Island, Daly River, Katherine, Santa Teresa and Wadeye undertook

an intensive unit and visited urban schools.

Tiwi student Tammy Kerinaiva, who is in her second year of study, said she wanted to formalise her qualifications as a teacher after being inspired by her aunt and grandfather.

"Growing up with my aunty who was a Tiwi principal, I had always wanted to become a teacher," she said.

## "Encourage"

"When I become a qualified teacher I will be able to pass my knowledge on and also encourage the next generation of teachers in our community."

CDU GOO coordinator Ben Van Gelderen said the program was customised to meet the needs of the

students, and their communities and schools.

"The program is set up around the idea of two-way learning and knowledge exchange," he said.

Ms Kerinaiva said that having local people teach in communities provided an opportunity for Indigenous knowledge to be incorporated into the curriculum.

Now in its eighth year, the Federal Government-funded program has had 21 graduates, who have taken up teaching positions at remote Indigenous schools.

During the program each student's work is checked against that of other students in the course and on completion they can apply for membership of the Northern Territory Teachers Registration Board.



TWO Indigenous science students from Darwin and Sydney are in India after winning a Charles Darwin University scholarship to attend the 10th Asian Science Camp being held in the city of Bangalore.

Krishna Valadian, from Darwin High School, and Brittany Abraham, from Loreto Normanhurst in Sydney, will meet Nobel laureates and attend science master classes with more than 200 other students from Asia, Australia and Oceania.

Hosted by a different country each year, the six-day Asian Science Camp aims to inspire the next generation of scientists in lectures, discussions and master classes, as well as social and cultural events to promote friendship in the Asia-Pacific region.

Brittany and Krishna will join seven other Australian secondary and university science students from Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, NSW and Tasmania at the camp.

## Passionate

Brittany, a Year 11 student, is passionate about medicine after a successful recovery from a water sports accident in which she was temporarily paralysed.

"The intensive care I received was amazing, and by going through that experience and seeing the support my family received, too, I now know that's what I want to do to make a difference," she said.

Like Brittany, Krishna hopes the Asian Science Camp will further ignite his passion for science. "I'm excited about learning from world-class scholars and challenging myself on this trip," he said.

Charles Darwin is the only Australian university to sponsor Indigenous participation in the Asian Science Camp.

Australian Science Innovations, which runs the national Big Science Competition and Australian Science Olympiad program, coordinates the selection of the Australian delegation to the Asian Science Camp each year. This is the fourth year it has partnered with Charles Darwin, which provides sponsorship for two Indigenous students to attend.