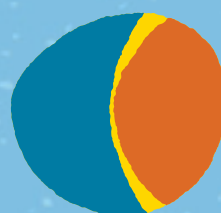




EON FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2021



EON Foundation

OUR VISION

TO MAKE A LASTING CONTRIBUTION IN REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE REDUCTION OF PREVENTABLE AND CHRONIC DISEASE CAUSED BY POOR NUTRITION.

THE WAY WE WORK

The core values that guide the way we work include:

Trust – we value and seek the trust of the communities with whom we work and the trust of our funding partners who enable our work;

Respect – for our program participants, our stakeholders and the Aboriginal culture;

Accountability – we do what we say we are going to do; and

Adaptability – we are practical and innovative in our approach, constantly striving for improvement.

OUR MISSION

In partnership with remote Aboriginal communities and using edible gardens as a tool, deliver programs with a focus on health, nutrition, education and training that change community attitudes to healthy living.



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR

THIS YEAR EON:

- Delivered the **EON Thriving Communities Program** to **24 communities** including:
 - **11 Western Australian communities** across the **Pilbara, Kimberley** and **Mid-West regions**; and
 - **13 Northern Territory communities: 3 communities on Groote Eylandt** and **10 communities in the Big Rivers Region.**
- **Commenced the Thriving Communities Program at MacFarlane and Clyde Fenton Primary Schools in Katherine (NT)** where the program has been welcomed with enormous enthusiasm by the several hundred attending students.
- **Further increased our Aboriginal employment to 26 Community Assistants** and provided additional paid casual work to other local community members.
- **Mentored and trained two Aboriginal employees to become Trainee EON Managers.** One of these trainees was recently promoted to a fully-fledged EON Project Manager.
- **After five + years of successful delivery, completed and handed over our program at seven Western Australian communities:** South Hedland Primary School, Warralong, Yandeyarra, Marble Bar, Nullagine, Yakanarra and Yiyili.
- As part of our Strategic Plan 2020-2030, developed agreements to support **new community-driven micro social enterprises** at Marble Bar, Yakanarra and Yiyili.
- **Developed a new Aboriginal Employment Strategy as part of our 10-year strategic plan** to improve and enhance our recruitment, retention and development of local Aboriginal employees.



"LEARNING ABOUT SUSTAINABLE, AFFORDABLE AND HEALTHY EATING CHOICES HAS THE POTENTIAL TO IMPACT STUDENT THINKING AND BEHAVIOURS WELL INTO THE FUTURE."

– Teacher, WA.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

DURING 2020/2021 EON FOUNDATION DELIVERED OUR THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM TO:



24
remote communities



Had
16,968
student interactions



Travelled
259,685 kms



And
4,229
community interactions



Made
941
community visits



Spent
1,379
days in community



Made
13,379
nutritious meals



Delivered
664
edible garden classes



Gave
878
healthy eating classes



"EON IS BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY, REINFORCING KEY NUTRITION MESSAGES AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO ACHIEVE FOOD SOVEREIGNTY."

– Partner, WA

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR



The importance of EON's work to improve food security, health and nutrition in remote Aboriginal communities was again highlighted this financial year by COVID-19. The pandemic poses an enormous risk because of remote families' health vulnerabilities. Fortunately, we were able to continue delivering our much-loved and valued program, despite occasional biosecurity measures and travel restrictions.

Our Thriving Communities Program has been delivered to a total of 39 remote communities since inception. This year, we implemented our program in 11 remote communities in WA and 13 in NT. We completed our five years at South Hedland, Warralong and Yandeyarra in the Pilbara, Marble Bar and Nullagine in the East Pilbara, and Yakanarra and Yiyili in the Central Kimberley. Each of these "alumni" communities presented unique challenges and opportunities and have become an important part of EON's history.

The independent evaluation for these graduating communities demonstrates our significant impact on many hundreds of children over five years. Stakeholder feedback overwhelmingly reported our positive impact on students, schools and the wider community. School staff reported an improvement in students' healthy food knowledge and healthy food choices and the children widely reported a strong enjoyment and engagement in the hands-on learning.

The evaluation found that EON's Project Managers had great community engagement, reflected in the length and frequency of their involvement in communities and feedback from partners and schools. EON's local Aboriginal employees also benefited greatly, gaining horticulture and nutrition knowledge, confidence and skills they transferred throughout their community.

As with all the communities with whom we partner, EON's impact in the Central Kimberley and East Pilbara relied on the longstanding and dedicated support of our local Community Assistants. As we hand over the program, we are delighted to be supporting new, community-driven micro social enterprises. These include growing and selling fruit, vegetable and herb seedlings to community members for use in their home gardens in Marble Bar, growing and selling vegetables to tourists while training high school students in horticulture and business skills in Yiyili, and at Yakanarra growing chilli seedlings to give to community members and sell in Fitzroy Crossing.

These small-scale enterprises are tailored to local needs, interests and strengths and draw on the skills our local Aboriginal employees have acquired through working with us.

In 2021, we expanded our program to Clyde Fenton and MacFarlane primary schools in Katherine, NT. School staff and students have welcomed EON with open arms.

Within a few short months, the edible gardens produced loads of food and the children have surprised themselves tasting the "fruits" of their labour in delicious healthy meals they have cooked.

EON's Board and Management finalised a new Strategic Plan, 2020-2030. The most important strategic goal is to further increase our Aboriginal employment and management. Work has already begun on a number of new initiatives to enhance our Aboriginal recruitment, induction and retention and it will remain a focus for coming years.

Our generous donors and funding partners positively impact the lives of hundreds of children and families every day. Implementing our intensive program, responding to increasing demand for training plus piloting micro-enterprises would not be possible without the support of the Australian Government Department of Health, Groote Eylandt Bickerton Island Enterprises (GEBIE), BHP, the WA Government Department of Communities, the Bass Family Foundation and generous individual donors.

Thank you also to the pro bono EON Board, our Ambassador Dr Rishelle Hume AM as well as Perth and Katherine staff, whose knowledge and experience guides our work.



"THIS YEAR OUR PROJECT MANAGERS TRAVELLED A RECORD 259,685 KMS TO DELIVER THE PROGRAM TO OUR FAR-FLUNG SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES, SPENDING MANY HOURS AWAY FROM THEIR FAMILIES AND HOME BASES TO DO THEIR WORK."

I would like to pay special tribute to Prof. Harvey Coates AO who has diligently served on the EON Foundation Board since 2014. Harvey's clinical knowledge and vast experience treating disease in remote Aboriginal communities has greatly assisted our work. In June this year Harvey segued from the Board into the role of Clinical Patron and we are delighted and privileged to have his continuing involvement. We have recently appointed three new Board members to broaden our knowledge and skills.

Our regional and remote Project Managers and Community Assistants deliver our program in very challenging environments - their expertise and resilience enable our success. This year they travelled a record 259,685 kms to deliver the program to our far-flung schools and communities, spending many hours away from their families and home bases to do their work. I would like to send out a heartfelt thank you to them all. We employ many Aboriginal people who are also contributing to the organisation through their incredible cultural knowledge and leadership.

Finally, as always, thank you to the children, teachers and families in our remote communities who partner with us. Together, we are growing healthier communities.

Caroline de Mori AM
Chair

"THE EVALUATION FOUND THAT EON'S PROJECT MANAGERS HAD GREAT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, REFLECTED IN THE LENGTH AND FREQUENCY OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITIES AND FEEDBACK FROM PARTNERS AND SCHOOLS. EON'S LOCAL ABORIGINAL EMPLOYEES ALSO BENEFITED GREATLY, GAINING HORTICULTURE AND NUTRITION KNOWLEDGE, CONFIDENCE AND SKILLS THEY TRANSFERRED THROUGHOUT THEIR COMMUNITY."

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Many of the principal causes of poor health in remote Indigenous communities, such as:

 Heart Disease

 Type 2 Diabetes

 Kidney Disease

are nutrition related.

FIVE OF THE SEVEN LEADING FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE HEALTH GAP BETWEEN INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS (OBESITY, HIGH BLOOD CHOLESTEROL, ALCOHOL, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, LOW FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INTAKE) RELATE TO POOR DIET.

- 94% of Indigenous children have an inadequate daily intake of fruit and vegetables.
- Healthy food baskets cost up to 50% more in remote areas than in major cities.
- Hot chips, sugary drinks, high-fat processed meats, salty snacks and white bread are the highest contributors to calorific intake for remote Indigenous children.
- Up to 60% of Indigenous children in remote communities are affected by anaemia, associated with nutritional deficiencies.
- Poor nutrition contributes to Aboriginal children having the worst ear health of any people in the world, with 3 out of 5 children in remote communities being diagnosed with at least 1 ear condition.

Indigenous children are 8 times more likely to have Type 2 diabetes than non-Indigenous children.



For more information and reference to source information please visit www.eon.org.au



“EATING VEGETABLES IS GOOD FOR YOUR EYES AND MUSCLES, AND YOU GET STRONGER.”
– Student, 8 years, WA

OUR APPROACH

EON Foundation was established in 2005 in response to the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research Longitudinal Study into Aboriginal Child Health¹.

The EON Thriving Communities Program operates by **invitation only** from remote Aboriginal communities. It is a hands-on gardening, cooking, nutrition education and hygiene **partnership** program based around establishing edible fruit, vegetable and bush tucker gardens in remote schools with the involvement of local community members. The gardens are a source of fresh, healthy food for school children and the wider community, and provide a basis for training and employment.

The Thriving Communities Program is delivered by EON's Project Managers who visit each community fortnightly for up to **five years**, providing education and training as well as building capacity so community members can maintain the program after our hand-over.

An approach built on long-term partnership, guided by the needs and expertise of Aboriginal people, has been key to EON's success. We know that local communities know what's best for them—we saw this recently when a community-led approach protected First Nations people from the worst of COVID-19. Through our Strategic Plan 2020-2030, EON acknowledges we must continue to evolve and respond to the changing needs, circumstances and priorities of communities. For example, in response to demand we're focusing more on vocational training of high school students and we've recently begun supporting community-led micro social enterprises that suit both the strengths and opportunities of the community.

Aboriginal employment is fundamental to our approach. EON's policy is to train and employ many local people in a range of different roles. From Community Assistants to Project Managers, our employees gain knowledge and skills across the full spectrum of the program. See further at page 20.

¹Zubrick, S. R., Lawrence, D. M., Silburn, S. R., Blair, E., Milroy, H., Wilkes, T., Eades, S., D'Antoine, H., Read, A. W., Ishiguchi, P., & Doyle, S. (2004). The Health of Aboriginal Children and Young People (Volumes 1-4). Perth: Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.

EON's Thriving Communities Program builds capacity, seeks to prevent disease and improve health, nutrition education and economic opportunities by:

- **Ensuring there is a source of fresh healthy food available;**
- **Teaching children and adults to grow their own food and prepare it in a healthy environment;**
- **Providing nutrition and health education to encourage healthy choices; and**
- **Providing training and mentoring to ensure long term healthy lifestyle change.**



THE EON THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM IS UNIQUE IN AUSTRALIA

The EON Thriving Communities Program has several integrated components:

1. EON EDIBLE GARDENS

The establishment of a large vegetable, fruit and bush tucker garden in the community school. Children learn how to grow, and have access to, fresh produce. An EON Project Manager visits fortnightly during the school term to provide hands-on gardening, cooking and nutrition classes to school and pre-school children, their parents and other members of the community.

2. EON HEALTHY EATING

Use of the garden produce to deliver nutrition and cooking education – as part of the school timetable – as well as providing workshops for adults.

Delivery of hygiene knowledge and tools to maintain healthier home environments and reduce communicable disease*.

3. EON TRAINING, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Formal and informal training to children and adults – to sustain the gardens and provide employment pathways. Employing local community members is an EON priority.

“SINCE EON, STUDENTS CAN IDENTIFY MORE VEGETABLES AND THEY'RE WILLING TO TRY VEGETABLES THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN UNFAMILIAR WITH.”

– Principal, NT

*Previously known as “Healthy Homes”, this component has been incorporated into EON Healthy Eating.



MEASURING OUR IMPACT

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

As an outcomes-driven organisation, EON constantly strives to assess program impact and make continuous improvements. We monitor evidence of program success through independent evaluation, a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Program and continuous community engagement.

The information derived from Monitoring and Evaluation provides evidence of the achievements of the Thriving Communities Program as well as highlighting opportunities for improvement.

Monitoring and Evaluation results to date have notably demonstrated:

- long-term positive behavioural changes relating to food and health;
- improved health outcomes in participating students;
- increased attendance and engagement of children at school; and
- training and employment opportunities for adult community members.

During the reporting period, interval Monitoring and Evaluation was undertaken at Jigalong in the East Pilbara and at Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Yalgoo in the Mid-West of WA. Final program evaluation was undertaken at South Hedland, Warralong and Yandeyarra in the Pilbara, at Marble Bar and Nullagine in the East Pilbara and at Yakanarra and Yiyili in the Central Kimberley.

Independent final evaluation of the program in the Pilbara, East Pilbara and Central Kimberley found that stakeholders consistently reported that EON activities and gardens have **directly contributed to improved student knowledge, attitudes and behaviours with respect to healthy eating, and growing and cooking healthy food.**

Stakeholder feedback overwhelmingly reported EON's positive impact on student engagement and enjoyment of school. It also found that EON's local Aboriginal employees benefited greatly, gaining horticulture and nutrition knowledge, confidence and skills they transferred throughout their community.

"EVIDENCE WAS FOUND TO SUGGEST THAT EON HAS POSITIVELY INFLUENCED STUDENTS TO MAKE HEALTHIER FOOD CHOICES, AS WELL AS HAVING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW FOODS ARE GROWN. EON HAS PROVIDED A PLATFORM FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN EDIBLE GARDENS TO ACCESS FRESH FOOD, AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTING TO SHIFTING COMMUNITY-WIDE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS TOWARDS CONSUMING A HEALTHIER DIET."

- Final Monitoring and Evaluation Report- Pilbara

"EON COMMUNITY ASSISTANTS HAVE RECEIVED ONGOING TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT WHICH HAS CREATED A SENSE OF EMPOWERMENT, PRIDE AND OWNERSHIP OF THEIR WORK."

- Final Monitoring and Evaluation Report- Central Kimberley and East Pilbara



"SINCE EON, STUDENTS ARE MORE AWARE OF THE SUGAR CONTENT IN DRINKS AND HAVE BEEN HEARD DISCUSSING THIS IN THE YARD. THEY ARE ALSO MORE AWARE OF PROPER HYGIENE PRACTICES WHEN HANDLING FOOD."

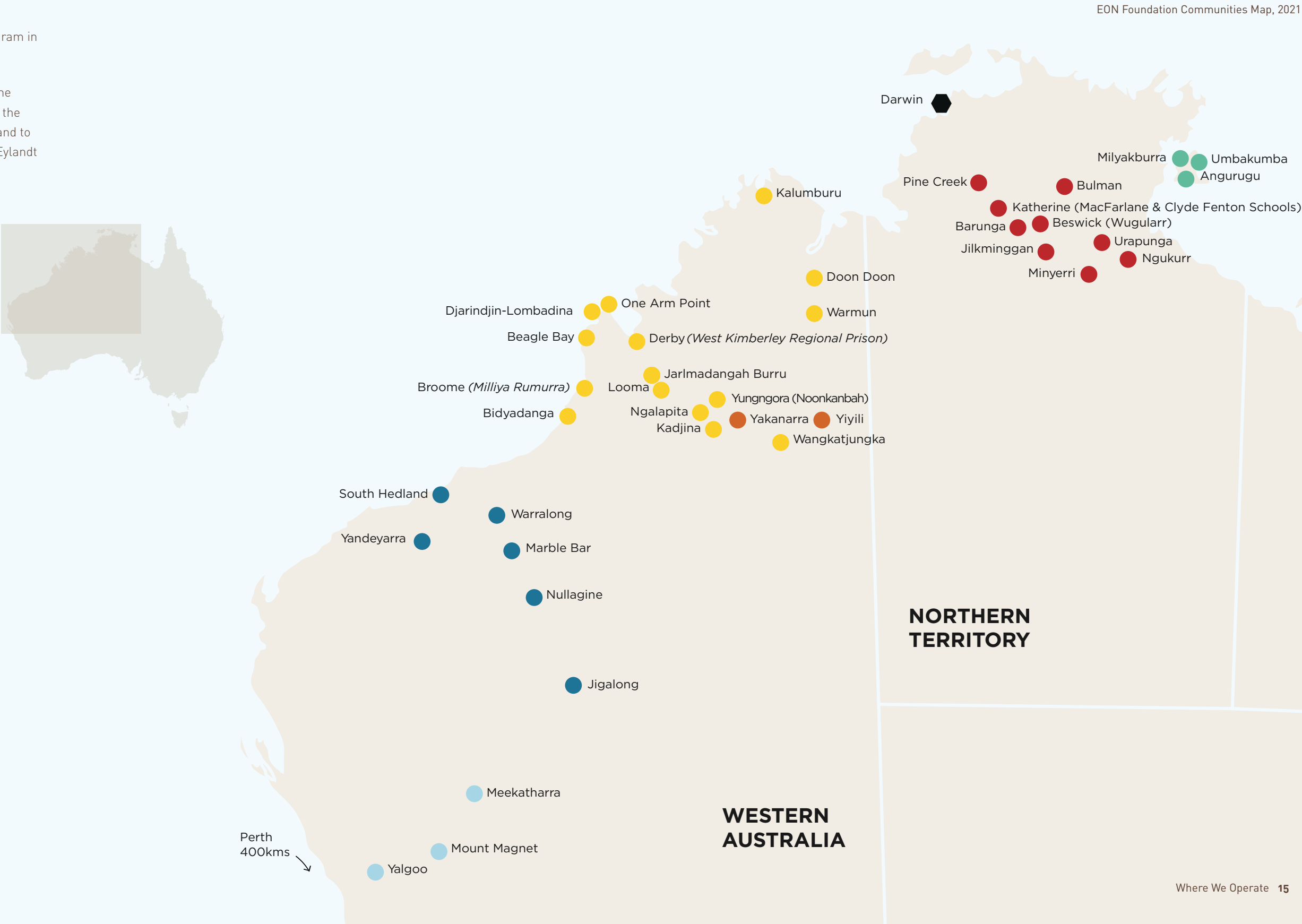
- Assistant Principal, NT

WHERE WE OPERATE

EON operates in or has completed its program in **39** communities across Australia.

During the reporting period we delivered the program to **11** communities in **WA**, across the Kimberley, Pilbara and Mid-West regions and to **13** communities in the **NT**, across Groote Eylandt and the Big Rivers Region.

- LEGEND**
- Big Rivers Region
 - Groote Eylandt
 - Pilbara
 - Mid-West
 - Central Kimberley
 - Completed Program



OPERATIONS LEADERSHIP

JENNY HURSE IS EON'S
NATIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGER.

Based in Katherine, Jenny provides strategic national oversight while leading and managing the planning and delivery of EON's work, ensuring the quality and the consistency of the EON Thriving Communities Program.



DONNA DONZOW IS OUR
NT OPERATIONS MANAGER.

Also based in Katherine, Donna takes responsibility for strategic operations in NT and leads and manages our NT based Project Managers.



ELIZA WOOD WAS WA OPERATIONS
MANAGER UNTIL EARLIER THIS YEAR
WHEN WE WELCOMED ERIKA WELLS AS
ACTING WA OPERATIONS MANAGER.

Based in Yiyili, Erika takes responsibility for strategic operations in WA and the management of all WA based Project Managers. She also supports the social enterprises at Marble Bar, Yakanarra and Yiyili by providing advice and mentoring.



"EON HAS ENRICHED OUR SCHOOL EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE HARD WORK OF THE EON STAFF. OUR GARDENS LOOK AMAZING AND GROW LOTS OF YUMMY, HEALTHY FOOD. EON HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SCHOOL AND THE CURRICULUM."

– Teacher, WA

COVID-19

Like many other organisations, EON has encountered challenges during the year as a result of COVID-19 and its legacy.

While EON's Project Managers were able to return to their communities to resume in-person program delivery by the start of the financial year, we have continued to feel the repercussions of the pandemic, with a heightened awareness of community health vulnerabilities and occasional travel restrictions.

Legacy issues include increased social problems and unrest, as well as decreased student attendance numbers at schools across the board. EON continues to work with our schools to engage the students, encourage attendance and connect with the community.



“DURING THE YEAR EON MENTORED AND TRAINED TWO NT-BASED ABORIGINAL EMPLOYEES TO BECOME TRAINEE PROJECT MANAGERS, ONE OF WHOM, JOE PERNER, GRADUATED TO EON PROJECT MANAGER IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR. MANAGING OUR PROGRAM AT BESWICK AND BULMAN, JOE BRINGS VALUED CULTURAL INSIGHTS TO THE ORGANISATION, AS WELL AS KNOWLEDGE OF NATIVE PLANTS AND ON-COUNTRY LEARNING.”

MEET OUR GRADUATE

JOE PERNER -
PROJECT MANAGER,
BULMAN AND BESWICK



Tell us a little bit about your life and work before EON?

“I was born and bred in Katherine. Most of my family are from Katherine although my grandmother, who was a member of the Stolen Generation, is from Elliot and is a Larrakia woman (Larrakia being the traditional owners of the Darwin region).

Prior to starting at EON as a Project Facilitator, I was Municipal Supervisor for Roper Gulf Shire. Then I heard about the role with EON and now here I am, all these months later, a Project Manager.

Before EON I knew all about planting - cyads, palms, exotic plants - and I knew about landscape gardening. But EON has taught me about planting veggies. And now I know all about planting for the seasons.



What have you most enjoyed about training to be an EON Project Manager?

I have most enjoyed learning new things. Before this role I hadn't used technology much in my work so using a computer on a regular basis and learning about technology has been great. I've also learned a lot about community engagement.

What have been some of the challenges along the way?

Working in community- there are always challenges. One of the hardest things was when the EON garden at Beswick was burned- that was upsetting, but we bounced back and used it as a challenge to re-invent the garden. It's also a challenge sometimes chasing people up- people in community who want to work- but sometimes have other priorities.

What has been your biggest achievement?

When I started with EON I lacked confidence in myself and I felt like I was going 'in the deep end'. But my Manager said 'We're all treading the water with you' and since then I have just learned so much and my confidence has grown.

What are you most looking forward to in your future with EON?

I'm looking forward to continuing to learn and grow the gardens. I teach the kids but they also teach me. For example, I know a fair bit about bush tucker but the kids like to point out certain plants to me- they're so excited to teach you something they know.

It makes you happy at the end of the day when you see the kids carry on their learning.”



“I THINK IT'S GREAT HAVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO HAVE LEADERSHIP OR TEACHER ROLES. IT GIVES ROLE MODELLING TO YOUNGER STUDENTS.”

- Principal, WA

GET TO KNOW OUR COMMUNITY ASSISTANTS

An important part of the EON Thriving Communities Program is providing employment and training to local community members. This benefits them, provides strong role models, and is an important step in program sustainability.

In the last year EON employed 26 Aboriginal people as Community Assistants.

EON's Community Assistants champion the EON Program by:

- providing a link between EON and the community;
- helping to build trust through their connection with the program;
- assisting EON Project Managers to deliver classes to students;
- working alongside EON Project Managers to grow healthy fruit, vegetables and bush tucker;
- taking ownership, over time, for ensuring community gardens thrive and are continuously planted and cropped;
- transferring the skills learned through the program to build home gardens; and
- sharing their knowledge across community.

With the knowledge and experience gained through the EON Thriving Communities Program, our Community Assistants are able to maintain community gardens – a fundamental step towards a sustainable source of fresh, healthy food for school children and their families long after completion of the EON five year program.

MEET OUR COMMUNITY ASSISTANTS

WHITNEY AND TRINITY THORNE - COMMUNITY ASSISTANTS, MEEKATHARRA



WHITNEY & TRINITY

"We were born in Esperance- our Dad is from Boddington/ Bunbury and our Mum is from Meekatharra.

We're 18 and we're twins! And we have two other sisters- one older and one younger.

Our little sister is in Year 11 at the school (Meekatharra District High) and we heard that EON was looking for employees through the school.

We think the program helps our community with healthy living.

We work at the school as EAs (Educational Assistants) three days a week and the other two days we work with EON."

WHITNEY

"What do I like about the garden? I enjoy watching all the plants grow.

I like working with EON because we get to learn all about planting fruit and veg and about healthy eating- we learn from EON alongside the school kids.

When I'm not working, I like to do my art. I do drawing – I like realistic drawing- and I've also been learning to paint."

TRINITY

"We both like working with children. I like learning about the different plants and how to grow them. Our favourite food to eat from the garden is probably the carrots!

We do all sorts of jobs in the garden like weeding and potting up seeds. Sally [EON Project Manager] leaves us a list of jobs to do when she isn't there.

Working at the school and in the garden is fun. When I'm not working, I like to just chill and relax."

"WE LOVE WORKING WITH THE KIDS
IN THE GARDEN AND TEACHING
THEM HOW TO MAKE THINGS GROW.
WE GROW PASSIONFRUIT, CHILLIES,
MUNG BEANS, SWEET POTATOES.
FRUIT AND VEGETABLES ARE
LIKE MEDICINE."

– Community Assistants, WA



GET TO KNOW OUR COMMUNITY ASSISTANTS

PATRICK SIMPSON -
COMMUNITY
ASSISTANT, YALGOO



"I was born in Mullewa and grew up on a station north of there- later we moved to Yalgoo.

I heard about EON through the school and my granddaughter Shannon who used to go to the school and now works for EON. I've got lots of "grandkids" so I'm "Pop Patrick" to everyone!

I get up early in the morning and go and check on the garden, do some watering or some clearing up. I like the garden- the cabbages are coming on good.

I also do other work at the school- mowing the lawn and maintenance. I like cleaning up around the school, and when I knock off I can have a sleep! When I'm not working, I like to do some things around the house - you know, look after jobs at my house.

EON feeds the kids good food from the garden at lunch, good for them to have that instead of KFC."

"EON FEEDS THE KIDS GOOD
FOOD FROM THE GARDEN AT
LUNCH, GOOD FOR THEM TO
HAVE THAT INSTEAD OF KFC."

- Community Assistant, WA

RAYMOND FORDIMAIL -
COMMUNITY ASSISTANT,
BULMAN



"I'm 23 and I was born in Katherine. My father's side of the family is from the Katherine Region (Jawoyn) and my mother's side of the family is from Bulman.

I like working here at the school in Bulman- most of the kids here are related to me!

I heard about EON through the school. I was looking for a job and Mum encouraged me to apply.

On a normal week I am in the garden every day, making sure it's growing well, that the plants are healthy and I water them and do some weeding.

I also help harvest the fresh veggies for the community.

EON helps our community a lot. It's great for everyone to see that we can grow our own food- this is important for our health.

Since EON I would say I'm more adventurous with trying and tasting new vegetables.

At school I do lessons with the younger ones, like the pre-schoolers. I like teaching the kids how to stay healthy and I like giving out fresh veggies to our community. We encourage people to stay healthy and even create their own gardens at home.

In my spare time I like to go hunting and fishing- especially catching fresh barramundi- I can then go to the garden and add some veggies and herbs and it's all sorted!

It feels great to me when we are getting fresh veg out of the soil.

Working with EON gives my life a fresh start every morning."



"I LIKE TEACHING THE KIDS HOW
TO STAY HEALTHY AND I LIKE
GIVING OUT FRESH VEGGIES TO OUR
COMMUNITY. WE ENCOURAGE PEOPLE
TO STAY HEALTHY AND EVEN CREATE
THEIR OWN GARDENS AT HOME."

- Community Assistant, NT



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

"VISITING THE EON EDIBLE GARDENS ARE A FAVOURED PART OF FOODBANK WA'S NUTRITION EDUCATION AND COOKING PROGRAM BY THE STUDENTS. THEY LOVE USING THE PRODUCE IN THEIR RECIPES. THE KIDS ARE SO PROUD OF THEIR GARDENS AND WHAT THEY HAVE GROWN."

– Partner, WA

Tim Richards, Project Manager, Pilbara



THE PILBARA

- SOUTH HEDLAND, WARRALONG & YANDEYARRA

At the end of 2020, we achieved the significant milestone of successfully completing our Thriving Communities Program in the Pilbara at South Hedland Primary School, Warralong (Strelley Community School) and Yandeyarra.

Thanks to valuable funding support from BHP, for over six incredible years EON delivered classes on a fortnightly basis to school students at the above three schools. We provided interactive lessons in healthy eating and gardening, and both EON and school staff regularly used the edible gardens as an alternative "outdoors classroom". At various times upon request, the program was delivered to parents, carers and children attending Kindilink and the early learning centres, Rose Nowers and Gumala at South Hedland.

Over the life of the program thousands of students were impacted, with EON delivering approximately 900 Healthy Eating classes and over 1000 Edible Garden classes.

We used fresh produce harvested from the gardens to provide almost 11,000 nutritious meals to the students and local community.

Fantastic feedback from students engaged in the program included the following being reported at program completion:

98% of all students know when produce is ready to be picked;

92% of all students think it's important to eat lots of fruit and vegetables;

92% of all students can correctly identify food options as healthy and unhealthy; and

95% of all students like growing food in the garden.

At program completion EON's Project Manager was proud to report that students at all three schools demonstrate confidence in the kitchen; they've developed safe knife skills and can identify and prepare healthy dishes.



EON also held regular workshops with adult community members, teaching skills in horticulture and in healthy eating/cooking and assisted with the establishment and maintenance of home gardens, in particular at Warralong.

Over the duration of the program EON provided employment to 20 local Aboriginal people. In addition to playing a crucial role in maintaining the gardens and assisting the Project Managers with classes, these Community Assistants also helped transfer healthy eating and gardening skills and knowledge to other community members.

EON's strong partnership with both Foodbank WA and Pilbara Population Health allowed the complementary delivery of classes and reinforcing of each other's nutrition messages. Our partnership with these organisations has been a hallmark of EON's work in the Pilbara region and we are grateful for their longstanding support.

In all communities the garden has been planted with perennial vegetables to reduce the workload and support sustainability. Handover plans have been agreed with the schools.

In each location the EON garden is very much a part of the school's identity and teachers are accustomed to incorporating it into their lessons. EON has assisted with the transition from the program being EON-led to school-led, ensuring the garden infrastructure is in good condition, and helping school staff identify further opportunities for the children to work in and interact with the garden.

EAST PILBARA

- MARBLE BAR, NULLAGINE & JIGALONG

Australian Government Department of Health funding allowed EON to deliver its program to Marble Bar, Nullagine and Jigalong, with the former two communities completing the five year program at 30 June this year.

EON continued to nurture strong relationships with these communities and made fortnightly visits to deliver lessons and work on the garden. EON education was provided to playgroup families, community members and school students ranging from kindergarten to high school, with lessons tailored appropriately.

The gardens in all communities have been developed and maintained with produce contributing to meals being cooked by the students in EON lessons, taken home to share with family and used in school lunches.

We continued to receive strong support from our Community Assistants with Granda Burton providing regular assistance at Jigalong, while at Marble Bar EON was expertly supported by longstanding employee, Stephen Mason.

At Jigalong, despite the unpredictability of the climate the garden's productivity has surpassed expectations, with the children particularly delighting in the growing of banana trees and grapevines.

As we hand over the program at Nullagine and Marble Bar after five terrific years, we're delighted to be supporting a new school and community-led small-scale social enterprise at Marble Bar. Led by former Community Assistant Stephen Mason, this initiative will focus on propagating and selling fruit, vegetable and herb seedlings to community members for use in their home gardens.



"SINCE EON, STUDENTS ARE AWARE OF FOODS HIGH IN SUGAR AND ENJOY OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE WHAT HEALTHY FOODS THEY HAVE IN THEIR LUNCH BOX EACH DAY."

- Teacher, WA



Share Greenwood, Project Manager, East Pilbara (with EON Board Member Professor Harvey Coates AO).



CENTRAL KIMBERLEY

- YAKANARRA & YIYILI

With funding support from the Australian Government Department of Health, the communities of Yakanarra and Yiyili continued to embrace the EON Thriving Communities Program and the edible gardens have thrived, producing strong harvests of fruit and vegetables. Our final year in these communities saw EON transitioning the program to be school and community-led.

EON delivered regular classes in cooking, nutrition and gardening on a fortnightly basis throughout the year at both Yiyili and Yakanarra, with lessons taught to children from kindergarten through to high school age.

Yiyili school has three large garden spaces comprising established fruit trees, in-ground growing spaces and multiple above ground garden beds growing a vast array of vegetables and herbs.

Garden produce was used in EON Healthy Eating lessons, by the school kitchen on a weekly basis and regularly distributed to grateful community members. Fresh herbs were used to boost flavour in soups and fresh salads enjoyed by both the school and community members.

Led by our dedicated team of Community Assistants- Bruce Cox and Anthony Dawson- the two thriving community gardens in Guninyi and Pull Out camps were maintained, as well as some smaller home gardens. The machinery support of Marra Worra Worra and the valuable assistance of the local Community Development Program (CDP) workers has contributed to the success of these gardens over the life of the program.

At Yakanarra the EON garden continued to evolve and both adults in community and the school students have enjoyed many meals using the produce. Over the past year the EON team have been working on chilli production which is now so successful that regular harvests are distributed to community members on a weekly basis and jars of chilli sauce are taken home by the families.

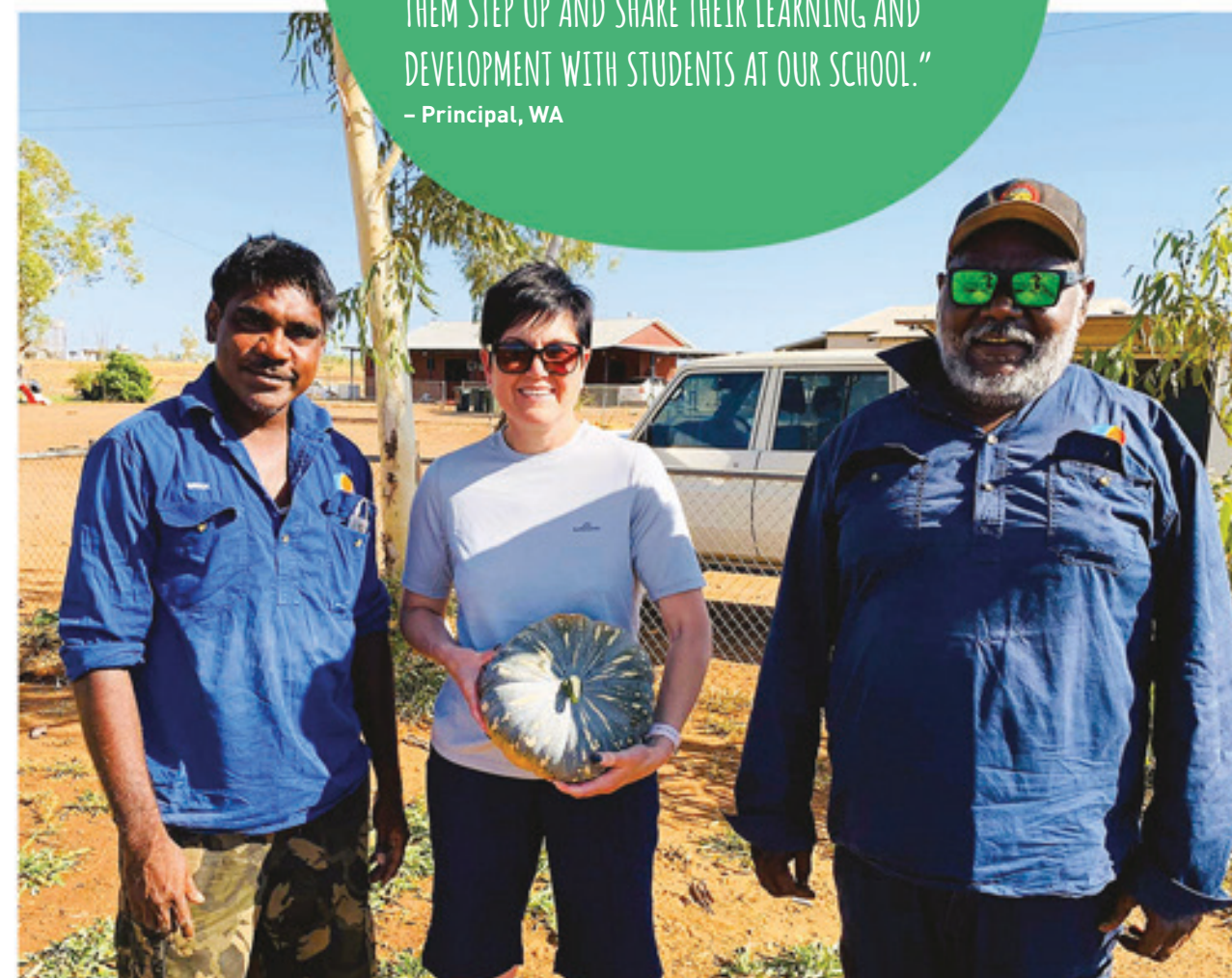
EON continued to receive outstanding support from local men Tyrone Hand and Shannon 'Lee' Vanbee in the maintenance of the school garden. These longstanding Community Assistants welcomed students into the gardens for informal sessions on plant and food recognition to complement EON's formal health and nutrition lessons.

With the completion of the five year program at the end of the reporting period, we're delighted to be handing over, as the program moves into the capable management of the schools and our dedicated Community Assistants. Maintaining our connection, EON will be supporting micro social enterprises in these communities. These include an enterprise to grow and sell vegetables to tourists while training high school students in horticulture and business skills in Yiyili, and at Yakanarra the growing of chilli seedlings to give to community members and sell in Fitzroy Crossing.

We're proud to see our former Community Assistants step up to lead these small-scale social enterprises and we're excited to support their development over the coming year.



Erika Wells, Project Advisor.



Community Assistants Bruce and Anthony, with EON Ambassador Dr Rishelle Hume AM.

"THE GROWTH OF THE GARDEN HAS HELPED TO FOSTER A SENSE OF PRIDE AND OWNERSHIP WITH THE INDIGENOUS EON WORKERS, AND IN TURN RESULTED IN THESE WORKERS DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS. IT HAS BEEN EXCELLENT TO SEE THEM STEP UP AND SHARE THEIR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT WITH STUDENTS AT OUR SCHOOL."

- Principal, WA





“WITHOUT THE GARDENS IT WOULD BE REALLY HARD FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ACCESS FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.”

– Community Assistant, WA

THE MID-WEST

- MEEKATHARRA, MOUNT MAGNET & YALGOO

Thanks to funding from the WA Department of Communities, along with support from Sandfire Resources, Ramelius Resources and the Shire of Mount Magnet, EON has partnered with three communities in the Mid-West, namely Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Yalgoo. Australian Government Department of Health funding has also significantly contributed to the program in these communities.

The Mid-West schools and communities continued to enthusiastically welcome EON's visits as they learnt from and in the EON garden, harvesting large quantities of fresh produce for their cooking classes and regularly taking healthy vegetable packs home to share with their families.

At Meekatharra, the EON garden has been further developed, with smaller spaces planted out with crops such as passionfruit and olive trees. Our two new Community Assistants, Whitney and Trinity Thorne, have worked hard to care for and nurture the garden. Huge harvests of fresh vegetables like carrots and beetroots, have ensured there is no shortage of ingredients for preparing nutritious meals in the cooking classes.

At Mount Magnet, the main school garden provides a tranquil oasis for the whole school community.

The calming and green “outdoors classroom” is a place for both relaxation and education and works well in engaging “at-risk” children in learning. It is also extremely productive, with a wide range of vegetables and fruit having been grown and harvested throughout the year. The pre-primary garden has also grown well, producing vegetables the children love to eat, such as tomatoes, sweet potatoes, cabbage and corn.

Nutritious meals prepared with the students included fruit platters, vegetable quiches and healthy homemade tacos using produce from the garden. The children are excited and engaged in the kitchen and genuinely enjoy learning how to cook healthy foods for every season.

At Yalgoo the EON garden has evolved to become an integral element of the school. The wider community beyond the school are also well aware of the EON “school veggie garden” and the space welcomes regular visitors. The students are proud to share their learning about healthy food and can often be found foraging in the garden in the early morning before school, sampling the snow peas and other fresh produce.

We’ve been fortunate to be supported in our work at Yalgoo by local woman, Shannon Simpson, who has thrived in her work under EON’s guidance, making a significant contribution to the garden and to classes. More recently, Patrick Simpson has been engaged as a Community Assistant and has applied his many years’ fencing skills to a variety of garden maintenance tasks.

The local shire at Yalgoo has also generously supported EON’s program, providing landscape supplies and contributing to the garden with machinery work.



Sally Dighton, Program Manager, Mid-West.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



BIG RIVERS REGION

Thanks to generous funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Health, the Thriving Communities Program was delivered to ten communities in the Big Rivers Region of the NT.

CENTRAL ARNHEM

- PINE CREEK & BARUNGA

The teachers and students at Pine Creek and Barunga schools continued to embrace the EON program, providing ongoing support to the Project Manager.

EON delivered fortnightly lessons to students ranging from very young children at FaFT* (Family as First Teachers) and kindergarten up to Year 6 (Pine Creek) and high school age (Barunga).

Healthy Eating lessons focused on consuming food from the five food groups and how to hygienically prepare garden produce for consumption. Edible Garden classes focused on skills in planting, harvesting and general maintenance.

At Pine Creek, there are around a dozen in-ground garden beds, including one dedicated to growing bush tucker. Additional raised garden beds have been planted out with a wide range of vegetables and herbs, including spinach, tomatoes, zucchini, peas, beans and basil. EON nurtured the existing fruit trees and established a small garden at the office of the local shire.

Harvested fruit and vegetables were used in cooking classes and in the school kitchen to create nutritious meals for the students. Excess produce was taken home to be enjoyed by the community at both Pine Creek and neighbouring Kybrook Farm.



At the local community's request, EON previously established a small edible garden at Kybrook Farm with the assistance of the local CDP, Rise. This garden continues to provide the community with fresh, home grown produce. For example, a planting of sweet potatoes produced a welcome harvest last year which was distributed amongst community members.

At Barunga, EON established new garden beds at the preschool and at the creche, and planted several banana palms. There are now over 20 vegetable and herb garden beds, along with established fruit plantings such as pineapple and paw paw.

Greenhouses in both communities produced plenty of seedlings and the students have enjoyed learning about planting for the seasons.

It has been gratifying to see the children engaging in discussions about how and why they should choose healthier meals, particularly using ingredients they have grown themselves. They have demonstrated an understanding of both the financial and health benefits of eating from the EON edible garden.



Lance Ashley - Trainee Project Manager, Central Arnhem

KATHERINE/ROPER REGION

- MACFARLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL & JILKMINGGAN

EON commenced the Thriving Communities Program at MacFarlane Primary school in January 2021, teaching students from Transition* to Year 6.

The school has enthusiastically welcomed the program with the students having worked hard in their EON classes to help establish a large garden space, a greenhouse and an orchard consisting of lemon, lime, mandarin, pomegranate, paw paw and star fruit trees. Gardening lessons have been so popular that many students have volunteered at lunch breaks to help maintain the edible garden. Working closely alongside the health teacher, EON Healthy Eating lessons covered a range of topics such as kitchen safety, why vitamins and minerals are important and the sugar content of soft drinks. Classes have expanded the students' palates by incorporating a range of recipes from different cultures. It's been heartening to see the childrens' pride after they've prepared a delicious, healthy meal using garden produce they have grown themselves.

At Jilkminggan, classes continued to be taught across the school, from FaFT right up to Year 12. Healthy Eating lessons have focused on why it's important to reduce salt in the diet, and how this can be achieved. For example, EON's Project Manager has taught the students how to use spices and fresh herbs from the garden, like oregano and parsley, to flavour healthy, delicious meals in place of salt.

With the help and efforts of Community Assistant Matthew Duncan, Jilkminggan has a large orchard area and several garden beds that have produced a range of vegetables including tomatoes, kale, lettuce, cabbage, zucchini and chillies. If students don't consume the produce in their classes, they'll confidently harvest from the garden and take home a bag of vegetables for their families.

Late last year at Jilkminggan, a class of senior girls completed EON's Healthy Eating Training Package, graduating with a certification that can open further pathways at the Cert II level in hospitality.

Their graduation ceremony became an opportunity for them to showcase the skills they'd acquired, as they prepared and served a three-course meal to around 100 people. This was a hugely proud moment for both them and their community.

Several high school students are currently in the process of completing EON's Healthy Homes Training Package. Students are learning how to keep their homes clean and safe, and while doing so have made their own cleaning products from easy to source ingredients, such as bi-carb soda and vinegar.

During fortnightly classes with FaFT mothers and children, EON's Project Manager provided guidance on how to make healthy substitutions to customary meals like kangaroo stew, while also introducing ideas for quick, healthy and easy meals. These recipes are being collated and a take-home cookbook will be created in Kriol language, so healthy eating can continue at home.

*In the NT, Transition is the year of schooling after pre-school.



Jilkminggan Graduates



Lucie Burnod, Project Manager, MacFarlane Primary School and Jilkminggan

"ONE WEEK I WAS PLANNING TO USE THE GARDEN'S TOMATOES, CUCUMBERS, AND SNOW PEAS FOR THE HEALTHY EATING CLASSES. HOWEVER I FOUND THAT THE STUDENTS WERE EATING THESE VEGETABLES STRAIGHT OFF THE VINE DURING LUNCH TIME, LEAVING NOTHING BEHIND!"

- Project Manager, NT

KATHERINE/ROPER REGION

- CLYDE FENTON PRIMARY SCHOOL & MINYERRI

At Clyde Fenton Primary School where EON commenced program delivery in January 2021, the small and underutilised garden space at the school has been transformed into an oasis of edible plants.

New raised garden beds were laid, a shadecloth erected over the existing greenhouse frame and a new automatic watering system installed.

The enthusiastic students were keen to assist and helped with moving dirt, weeding, mulching, laying irrigation, sowing seeds and planting seedlings.

Having overcome the challenges of water supply issues, bug infestations and persistent nut grass, the students were rewarded with harvests of a wide range of produce including snow peas, beans, tomatoes, beetroot, silver beet and chillies. Banana and paw paw trees have also been planted which will be a source of fruit for many years to come.

The students have enjoyed spotting and picking the ripe produce as well as hands-on educational experiences such as cooking up vegetable fritters outdoors in the garden area. It's been rewarding to see them gradually

experiment with new flavours and learn to appreciate how great-tasting well-prepared, healthy meals can be.

Meanwhile at Minyerri, EON continued to teach classes across the school, from young children at FaFT up to Year 12.

Lessons with the younger students have focused on cutting skills in the kitchen and identification of vegetables and how they grow in the garden. With the older students, the focus has been on improving their nutrition knowledge and sessions on planting, harvesting and looking after the garden.

There are a number of garden beds growing produce at the FaFT program space, the pre-school and at the main school as well as a large orchard with citrus trees. Produce including zucchinis, spinach, beans, cabbage, corn, chillies, spring onions and herbs have been used in the cooking lessons or taken home to be enjoyed by families.

Community Assistants, including Guiseppe Parry, Deon Sortini and Zaccur Walden provided valued support to the Project Manager.



"MY FAVOURITE DAYS ARE WHEN I SEE THE STUDENTS FACES LIGHT UP WHEN THEY COME INTO THE GARDEN AND SEE HOW IT HAS GROWN."

- EON Project Manager, NT



"THE EON GARDEN PROVIDES A SENSORY RELEASE SPACE FOR HEIGHTENED BEHAVIOUR. THE AREA SEEMS TO CALM STUDENTS WHO ARE ANXIOUS OR AGITATED."

- Principal, NT



Karen Dack, Project Manager, Clyde Fenton Primary School and Minyerri



“OUR SCHOOL GARDENS
ARE ADMIRER BY ALL
OUR VISITORS.”

– Principal, NT



NGUKURR AND URAPUNGA

The teachers and students at both Ngukurr and Urapunga schools continued to enthusiastically receive the program.

At Ngukurr, EON delivered Healthy Eating and Edible Garden lessons to eight classes of primary and secondary students each week, as well as delivering weekly classes at the early childhood centre, where a vegetable garden was also maintained during the year.

Healthy eating messages in EON lessons have included how to eat a range of foods from the five food groups and being mindful of salt intake.

Local bush medicine was a particular focus of EON lessons at Ngukurr in Term 1 this year. Activities included boiling up leaves from the local Kuliba tree to help with pain and infection, blending a native tea tree paste to use on body sores, and learning how to use Ngalangga (red river gum) to ease toothache. The students relished the hands-on learning in the garden and enjoyed creating seasonal bush medicine calendars to demonstrate their new-found knowledge.

The main garden at the school has been further expanded with additional mature fruit and native trees. As the garden is the only “green space” at the school, it is an inviting area and an oasis for the children to explore. It is used every day by the students and usually weekly for a major school activity.

MYCDP Ngukurr Numbulwarr Pty Ltd, the local CDP, have continued to assist EON with some of the larger infrastructure projects at the school, for example helping to extend the bower shed.

EON has collaborated with “Stronger Communities”*, delivering EON’s key nutrition messages and providing healthy meals for attendees at Auskick and basketball programs. EON’s Project Manager has also worked with Ngukurr’s Remote School Attendance Strategy staff (RSAS) to promote and provide healthy eating options.

At Urapunga, the EON gardens have produced harvests of vegetables and fruit such as pumpkins, beans, zucchini, tomatoes, lettuce, squash, mangoes, jupi and watermelon.

EON delivered classes on a weekly basis and the school students continued to enjoy their cooking and food preparation lessons, using the fresh fruit and vegetables, along with a variety of herbs picked from the garden.

Donald Hall was engaged as a Community Assistant at Ngukurr and mentored by the Project Manager until his departure in October 2020. At Urapunga, local man Michael Joshua was employed in early 2021 and made a strong contribution to the program, maintaining the garden between EON visits.

*A government initiative that works with NT communities to implement services and activities that create a safe and positive environment for children and families.



Owen Stronell, Project Manager, Ngukurr and Urapunga.



"EON IS A FEATURE OF THE SCHOOL WEEK THAT THE STUDENTS VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO."

- Principal, NT

Josef Perner, Project Manager, Mainoru

MAINORU

- BULMAN & BESWICK (WUGULARR)

At Bulman and Beswick EON has been delivering fortnightly classes to children from preschool up to early high school. Healthy Eating lessons have focused on the importance of eating fruit and vegetables to maintain health and prevent infections.

EON provided several lunchtime meals to the students, incorporating the garden produce and provided veggie packs for children to take home and share with their families.

At Bulman EON maintained the garden at the school, fitting the beds with bird netting to protect the produce. A wide range of vegetables has been successfully grown and harvested, including sweet potato, pumpkin, cucumber, snow peas, broad beans, leek, celery and capsicum.

At Beswick EON has maintained the three-part garden, with a large fenced and roofed vegetable and fruit patch, an orchard for fruit trees and a space dedicated to bush tucker. The orchard has been newly planted out with mulberry and citrus trees.

At both Beswick and Bulman an abundance of basil this year resulted in a huge harvest and an opportunity for the students to learn the art of making homemade pesto.



There has been a focus in both communities on planting and harvesting bush tucker including kakadu plums, billygoat plums and native bush potatoes.

At Bulman several partnerships have contributed to the success of the program, primarily the school but also community organisations such as Sunrise Health Services.

EON continues its positive relationship with the Mimal Rangers. The rangers have provided the nursery that is a central part of EON's teaching and propagation and we consult with them about bush tucker.

In both communities it has been rewarding to see the children's enthusiasm and growing pride in the gardens.



GROOTE EYLANDT

- MILYAKBURRA, ANGURUGU & UMBAKUMBA

The EON Program is being delivered to *three remote Aboriginal communities on Groote Eylandt, thanks to an invitation and funding from the Traditional Owners, the Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC) and Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises (GEBIE).

The island's schools, children and families of Angurugu and Milyakburra continued to work enthusiastically with EON's Project Manager.

The gardens in the communities have been maintained and fortnightly Edible Garden and Healthy Eating lessons were held in each school or at the FaFT. Produce from the garden was consumed by the children within school lessons, either freshly picked and eaten raw, or used to make nutritious and simple meals under EON's guidance.

There has been a strong focus on Milyakburra. The original school garden was revived and a number of areas in the school grounds were planted out with Asian-style mixed fruit and vegetables. Dripper systems were installed, and sweet potato, cassava and pineapple planted around mango, banana, paw paw and other fruit trees. Further trees were planted along the fence-lines of a house near the community shop to provide easy access to fresh fruit for passing community members.

A fruit tree plantation was also established around a public playground and tamarind and coconut trees planted at the ferry/barge landing. The school students helped with planting the trees, while East Arnhem Regional Council and Lagulalya Aboriginal Corporation assisted with site preparation and watering. The shade-house at the school has been expanded to assist with future planting.

*At the request of the school, full program delivery was paused at Umbakumba in Term 3 2020 due to local issues both at the school and in the community. However, EON has spent the intervening period consulting with the school and community to re-establish the partnership, with a view to recommencement when appropriate.

Healthy produce was incorporated into recipes such as curries and stir-fries, with parents often joining in for lunch at the school following the cooking classes. Fresh garden produce, such as paw paw was distributed to community members and EON's Project Manager cooked and collaborated with the local Aboriginal staff in the School Nutrition Program, providing them with fresh ideas for recipes and meals using the garden produce.

We're fortunate to have recently engaged local Project Facilitator, Gabrielle DallaBona, who is assisting EON with classes and general garden maintenance.

At Angurugu, the focus has been on the FaFT and pre-school program, incorporating EON nutrition sessions with the mothers while preparing healthy snacks and lunches for the children. EON has planned an edible garden for the Early Childhood compound. Garden beds have been installed and planting commenced with vegetables such as tomato, cucumber, pumpkin, carrots, cabbage, zucchini, Egyptian spinach and okra. There is building excitement among the students as produce has started to grow.

EON continues to build relationships with stakeholders and others operating in similar fields on Groote Eylandt, including GEBIE CDP, Anindilyakwa Land Council, the Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust (GEAT) market garden, the School Nutrition Program, community radio programs and the Groote Eylandt Language Centre. These partnerships support the reinforcement of EON's key health and nutrition messages, provide a varied experience for participants and prevent the "doubling up" of health service efforts.



Graeme Brown (left), Project Manager, Groote Eylandt.





“COLLABORATING WITH EON INCORPORATES EDIBLE GARDENING AND FOOD SECURITY INTO OUR PROGRAMS. IT IMPROVES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS AS EON HAS GREAT RELATIONSHIPS WITH THESE PEOPLE.”

- Partner, WA



COLLABORATIONS

EON Project Managers have had great success working in partnership with agencies and other organisations working in our communities, often running joint classes, workshops, holiday programs and developing collaborative projects. We have signed MOUs with several complementary service providers, including Pilbara Population Health and Foodbank WA, and shared resources with these partners.

Examples of collaboration include:

- In the East Pilbara, EON collaborated on school holiday programs at both Nullagine and Jigalong, partnering with Ngurra Kujungka (who lead the Western Desert’s community-driven sports program) and with other stakeholders including Jigalong Police, KJ Rangers, Nullagine Police and the Nullagine Community Resource Centre.
- In the Pilbara, EON continued its valued partnerships with both Foodbank WA and Pilbara Population Health, regularly combining activities to boost engagement with the students.
- In the Kimberley, EON continued to liaise with Nindilingarri Cultural Health Nutritionists to coordinate nutrition lessons and menus at Yiyili to ensure consistent health and nutrition messages to children and their families.
- At Jilkminggan, Barunga, Beswick and Bulman, EON collaborated with the Roper Gulf Regional Council to deliver Healthy Eating classes and with Roper Gulf Sports and Recreation and Sunrise Health to run holiday and after-school programs. At Beswick, the Project Manager also worked with Wanta Aboriginal Corporation to deliver EON’s key healthy eating messages, while at Pine Creek, EON collaborated with the Victoria Daly River Shire on both school holiday and after-school programs.

“THE COMMUNITY ARE HAPPY WITH THE WORK OF EON. THE SCHOOL KIDS ARE ENGAGED – FROM CULTIVATING TO WATCHING THE PLANTS GROW, TO PREPARING THE MEAL AND EATING IT. IT’S PADDOCK TO PLATE AT ITS FINEST.”

- Partner, NT

EON Project Managers liaise with local Community Development Program (CDP) providers to promote involvement by community members in supporting the installation and maintenance of the EON edible gardens. While mutually beneficial partnerships with CDP providers across all communities continue to be developed by EON Project Managers, during this reporting period there has, unfortunately, been extremely low attendance of CDP workers in all communities. Since the onset of the pandemic, many people have disengaged from community development programs. More recently, with the review of the CDP being undertaken, job seekers can participate in activities on a voluntary rather than mandatory basis.

Nonetheless, EON continues to reach out to its CDP partners where possible. For example, in the Mid-West we have continued relationship building with Yulella Aboriginal Corporation and at Yiyili, Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation has supported EON by lending equipment. We anticipate the new remote jobs program currently in development, will result in better engagement and attendance in the future.

Other service providers with whom we have collaborated or partnered with in **Western Australia** include: Mission Australia, Boab Health, Child Australia and World Vision.

Additional service providers with whom we have collaborated or partnered with in the **Northern Territory** include: Sunrise Health Service, Food Ladder, Families as First Teachers (FaFT) and Stronger Communities for Children (SCFC).

We are grateful to all our partners in the field for their valuable support.

WHAT'S NEXT?

GROW MORE FOOD AND GROW OUR IMPACT...

Our waiting list of communities that have requested EON's program remains, with new communities reaching out to us.

Our focus is on raising the funds to meet this demand as well as complete the program in our existing locations. In doing so we will improve food security and nutrition for more children and adults residing in remote Aboriginal communities.

Priorities for 2021/2022 include:

- Secure funding to
 - o complete the five year program in our existing communities; and
 - o reach additional communities in need, supporting healthier lives for more school children and their families across remote Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

- Roll out the key recommended initiatives from our recently developed Aboriginal Employment Strategy to improve recruitment, retention and development practices, and create career pathways for more Aboriginal employees.
- Continue adapting the program in existing locations to maximise the strengths of each community, employing more local assistants and providing tailored nutrition education and horticultural training.
- Support the micro social enterprises in our WA communities by providing ongoing advice and mentoring, while monitoring challenges and achievements.
- Provide assistance to all communities to continue the program in their preferred form, after 5 years of partnership with EON.

PLEASE HELP US GROW



HOW YOU CAN HELP

CLOSING THE ABORIGINAL HEALTH GAP CANNOT BE ACHIEVED WITH SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS.

Better nutrition, early in life, can deliver a generational improvement in Aboriginal health and help break the cycle of low engagement in education and employment.

Implementing our strategic priorities in 2021/2022 requires secure funding. We invite you to be part of a sustainable solution to support generational change through:

PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropy is a vital part of EON Foundation. It is only with the support of individuals, trusts, foundations and bequests that we are able to deliver our EON Thriving Communities Program effectively and expand to new remote communities where the need for food security and nutrition is greatest.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

Becoming a funding partner of the EON Thriving Communities Program provides a genuine opportunity to support generational change in remote Aboriginal communities, improving the health, educational potential and economic opportunities of children and community members. EON can tailor corporate sponsorship packages to suit a corporate partner's needs.

WORKPLACE GIVING

EON's Workplace Giving program enables employees from companies to make small, regular donations to charity each month from pre-tax dollars via company payroll.

IN-KIND SUPPORT

EON welcomes resources or specialist knowledge or skills that align with its work.

FUNDRAISING

Choosing EON as the charity of choice for an individual or organisational fundraising activity or challenge is a great way to support EON's Program.

DONATE

Your regular donation helps EON deliver its Thriving Communities Program to remote Aboriginal communities wanting to improve the health and education outcomes of their young people.

If you would like to talk about partnering with or supporting EON through corporate sponsorship, workplace giving, in-kind support or philanthropy, please contact:

Marie-Louise Carroll

Executive Manager

Tel: (08) 9381 5403

Email: executivemanager@eon.org.au

Address: Suite 2, 245 Churchill Avenue,
Subiaco WA 6008

If you would like to donate to EON, please go to our website at:

www.eon.org.au/donate

EON has Deductible Gift Recipient status so all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

"I DONATE TO EON BECAUSE I BELIEVE ALL CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO FRESH FOOD AND A HEALTHY DIET, REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY LIVE."

– EON Foundation Donor

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

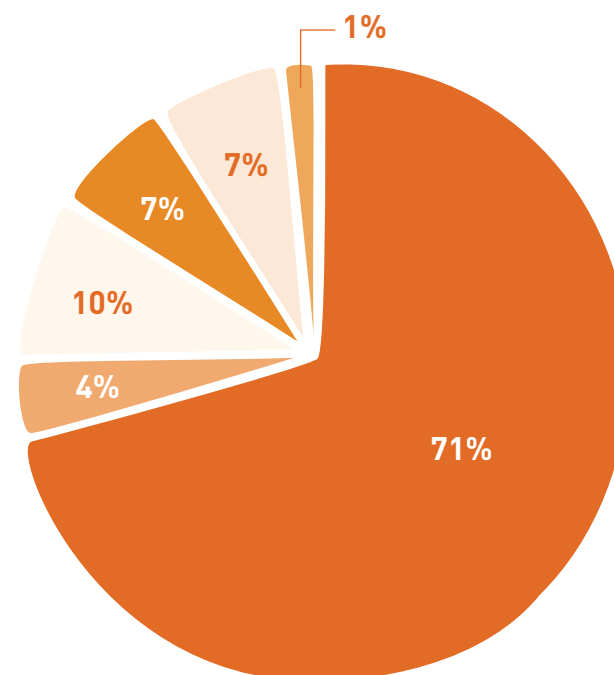
2020-21

OPERATING RESULT

Income for the year to 30 June 2021 was \$2,498.9k compared with \$2,800.0k in 2019-20, representing a year-on-year decrease in revenue of 10.8%. The revenue reduction in the year is primarily driven by the impact of the completion of the program in the Pilbara communities during the year, along with lower general donations income, the impact of the COVID cash flow boost in 2019-20 and lower interest income, as a result of the decline in interest rates. Expenditure was \$2,481.4k in the period compared with \$2,590.3k in 2019-20, decreasing 4.2%, reflecting lower program costs in the Pilbara and the impact of one-off costs in 2019-20 (investment in a promotional video and remotely-monitored irrigation systems). As a result, EON recorded a net surplus of \$17.5k for the 2020-21 financial year, versus \$209.7k in the prior year.

EON continues to maintain a strong focus on cost control, partly assisted by strong support from a number of suppliers who provide pro bono or heavily discounted administrative and professional services. We wish to express our gratitude for their ongoing support and acknowledge them on pages 52-53.

HOW EON IS FUNDED



- 71% Federal Government Grants
- 4% State Government Grants
- 10% Aboriginal Land Councils
- 7% Other Grants (including Corporate)
- 7% Donations
- 1% Other Income

71% of EON's funding was from Federal Government grants in 2020-21, with the remainder balanced across a number of funding sources.

Federal Government funding increased from 65% in 2019-20 to 71% in 2020-21. The completion of the program in communities funded by corporate grants during the year meant that the Federal Government funded a larger proportion of EON's operations in 2020-21.

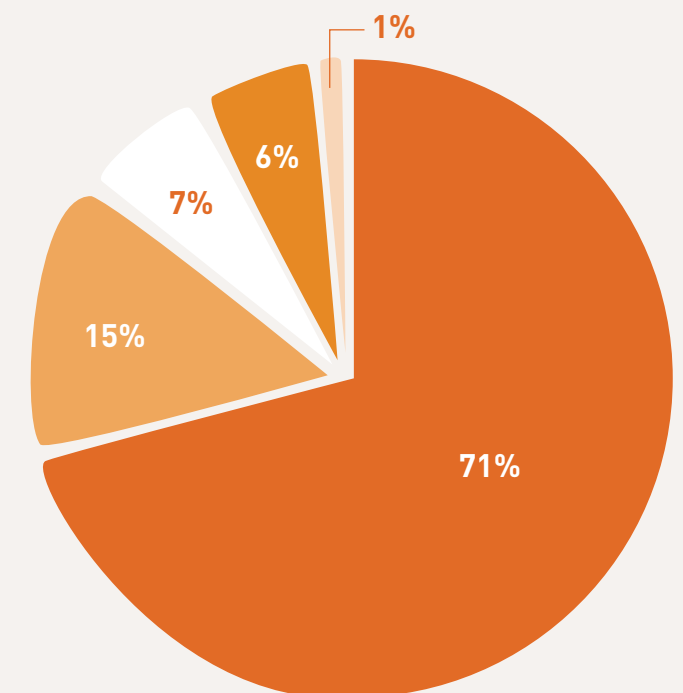
The State Government of Western Australia continued to support EON in 2020-21 through a funding agreement with the Department of Communities to partially fund EON's work in the Mid-West region of Western Australia. The contribution to overall funding increased slightly from 3% in 2019-20 to 4% in 2020-21.

The contribution of Aboriginal Land Councils (GEBIE) to total income in 2020-21 was largely unchanged at 10% (versus 9% in 2019-20), however, the contribution of Other Grants reduced from 10% in 2019-20 to 7% in 2020-21. This is due to the completion of the Thriving Communities Program in three Pilbara communities, which was funded by BHP for six years.

8% of EON's funding in 2020-21 came from donations and other income, down from 13% in 2019-20 (primarily due to the impact of the COVID cash flow boost in the prior year). Income in the year related to philanthropic donations from the Bass Family Foundation, The James Galvin Foundation and Gum Tree Foundation, donations from members of the public, workplace giving programs with Chevron and South 32, along with interest earned on unspent funds.

EON is grateful to all its financial supporters who are acknowledged on pages 53-54.

HOW THE FUNDING IS EXPENDED



- 71% Labour Costs
- 7% Administrative Costs
- 1% Consultancy Costs
- 15% Remote Access Costs
- 6% Program Costs

Labour costs - salaries and oncosts for Project Managers, Community Assistants, management and administrative staff. EON's program is labour intensive due to fortnightly community visits by Project Managers.

Remote access costs - travel, accommodation, fuel and maintenance of vehicles.

Administrative costs - includes office costs, insurance, IT and communication costs, marketing, audit and accounting fees.

Program costs - infrastructure and materials required to create and maintain EON's edible gardens, along with ongoing program resources, materials and supplies.

Consultancy - engagement of consultants to provide advice and expertise in areas such as horticulture, IT, education, human resources and due diligence.

THANK YOU

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED EON INCLUDING OUR BOARD MEMBERS, OUR AMBASSADOR DR RISHELLE HUME AM, AND THOSE WHO HAVE MADE DONATIONS IN SUPPORT OF OUR WORK. WE ARE ALSO IMMENSELY GRATEFUL TO OUR PARTNERS WHO HAVE HELPED US ACHIEVE OUR OUTCOMES, IN PARTICULAR THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.



None of the work we do would be possible without this support so thank you for placing your trust in us and investing in our programs to help grow healthier communities.

EON is appreciative of the many organisations who have provided pro bono or significantly subsidised professional services in support of our work. In particular, we wish to thank and acknowledge our pro bono legal advisors, Clayton Utz. We'd also like to acknowledge the outstanding support of The Brand Agency who have graciously and expertly assisted us with the production of our Annual Report over many years.

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

EON Foundation is sincerely thankful for the support of our 2020/2021 funding partners, corporate supporters and generous donors without whom we would not exist.

PRINCIPAL FUNDING PARTNERS



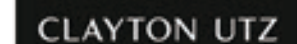
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PROGRAM PARTNERS



IN KIND PARTNERS





ALL DONATIONS TO EON
ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND
CAN BE MADE ONLINE AT
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Karin Champagne
Little People's Place
Roger Bayly
Shannan Ryan
Susan Freeth
Cristina Scott
Mark Killmier
Matt Beyer
Anna Morris
Tim Richards

THE PEOPLE BEHIND EON (30 JUNE 2021)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Caroline de Mori AM
EON Founder and Chair
Katrina Burton
EON Founder and Director
Harvey Coates AO Director
Danielle Blain AM Director
Camis Smith Director
Paul Coates Director
(until 29 October 2020)
Wayne Martin AC Director
(until 29 October 2020)

AMBASSADOR

Dr Rishelle Hume AM

EON STAFF

Marie-Louise Carroll
Executive Manager
Anna Morris
Financial Controller
Jenny Hurse
National Operations Manager
Donna Donzow
NT Operations Manager
Eliza Wood
WA Operations Manager (outgoing)
Erika Wells
Acting WA Operations Manager /
Project Advisor
Tim Richards
Project Manager, Pilbara
Share Greenwood
Project Manager, East Pilbara
Sally Dighton
Project Manager, Mid-West

Nettie Bory

Project Manager,
Central Arnhem (outgoing)

Lance Ashley

Trainee Project Manager,
Central Arnhem

Lindsay Cameron

Project Manager,
Mainoru District (outgoing)

Josef Perner**

Project Manager,
Mainoru District (incoming)

Owen Stronell

Project Manager, Ngukurr/Urapunga

Lucie Bernod

Project Manager, Roper Region
(MacFarlane & Jilkminggan)

Karen Dack

Project Manager, Roper Region
(Clyde Fenton & Minyerri)

Nicola Samson

Project Manager,
Groote Eylandt (outgoing)

Graeme Brown

Project Manager,
Groote Eylandt (incoming)

Gabrielle DallaBona

Project Facilitator, Groote Eylandt

Careta Marmarinos

Human Resources Manager

Helene Woodroffe

Accounts Assistant

Pam Bond

Administration and
Marketing Assistant

Sheena Drennan

Administration Assistant (NT)

LOCAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANTS

Syed Barba Pilbara
Sandra McKenzie Pilbara
Jacqueline Toyne Pilbara
Azlan Shaw Pilbara
Stephen Mason East Pilbara
Granda Burton East Pilbara
Daniel De Luca East Pilbara
Bruce Cox Central Kimberley
Anthony Dawson Central Kimberley
Tyrone Hand* Central Kimberley
Shannon (Lee) Vanbee*
Central Kimberley
Trinity Thorne Mid-West
Whitney Thorne Mid-West
Geoff Mongoo Mid-West
Pam Mongoo Mid-West
Latoya Finlay Mid-West
Shannon Simpson Mid-West
Patrick Simpson Mid-West
Raymond Fordimail Mainoru Region
Lloyd Mundul Mainoru Region
Ricky Cockyell Roper Region
Matthew Duncan Roper Region
Randall Norris Roper Region
Guiseppe Parry Roper Region
Deon Sortini Roper Region
Zaccur Walden Roper Region
Michael Joshua Ngukurr/Urapunga
Donald Hall Ngukurr/Urapunga
Jake Ngalmi Groote Eylandt
Cherise Hall Groote Eylandt

AUDITOR

Dry Kirkness

* employed directly by their respective schools
with EON reimbursing the school the wages
for EON's work.

** Formerly Project Facilitator, Big Rivers Region

**EON Benevolent Fund Inc.
Trading as EON Foundation**

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ARBN 618 377 209

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admin@eon.org.au

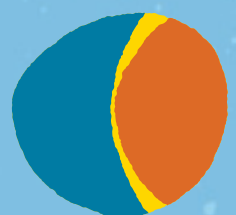
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EON Foundation