



Engineering anyone?

WHAT better way to discover engineering as a university course and career than experiencing it first hand?

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) will host the 13th Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School (IAESS) in January next year, and will give Indigenous students about to enter Year 11 and Year 12 the chance to do just that.

Established by not-for-profit group Engineering Aid Australia, the IAESS is a unique opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to discover the benefits of the engineering profession, to meet engineering role models, and to gain insights into the excitement and opportunities engineering offers and the benefits it provides to our communities.

The five-day live-in summer school is packed with engineering activities and site visits. For Leon Oriti, who attended IAESS in 2007, the summer school

was 'a highly informative and enjoyable eye-opening experience'.

Leon was flown from his home town of Perth to Sydney for a week, all expenses paid, to get a taste of life as a university student, and discover where an engineering degree could take him.

It was a week that changed his life: Leon went on to enroll in an Electrical Engineering degree at UNSW. Of the 20 students who attended the 2007 Summer School with Leon, nine students (including two women) have enrolled at university courses across Australia.

Currently in his second year, Leon looks forward to mentoring the next Summer School.

The IAESS sponsors include engineering companies, government departments and private donors. All see the immense benefit in introducing young Indigenous people to engineering.

Parsons Brinckerhoff Managing Director Dr Jim Mantle is thankful to Engineering Aid Australia for their efforts to encourage Indigenous Australians to consider engineering as a career.

"When the Summer School started in 1998 there were only a handful of Indigenous engineers – the aim was to address this under-representation," he said.

By 2007, 23 of the Summer School's students had graduated as qualified engineers looking forward to an exciting, fulfilling career.

● The 13th Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School is hosted by UNSW. It will take place from Sunday 17 January to Sunday 24 January in Sydney. For more information and to download a brochure, visit www.eng.unsw.edu.au/iaess. Applications close on Monday 9 November.

Thankful



Engineering student Leon Oriti with Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School Patron former Prime Minister Bob Hawke.