

**For more information contact:**

Elaine Hill  
+61 (0)7 38546868  
E1Hill@pb.com.au

**1 October 2010**

## First memorial scholarship for Indigenous undergraduate from Manjimup

Yesterday, His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia presented the first Jeff Dobell Memorial Scholarship to Thane Browne from Manjimup.

Engineering Aid Australia (EAA) Chairman Dr Jim Mantle explained the new \$3,000 scholarship is for alumni of the Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School (IAESS).

“The scholarship commemorates the work of the late Jeff Dobell who founded EAA and had coordinated the Summer School since 1997.

“The scholarship is one of the ways EAA tries to encourage students to pursue engineering.

“Dobell was intent on increasing the number of Indigenous engineers.

“Statistics show in 1999 there were five Indigenous engineering graduates – in 2008 there were still only 20.

“But in the same year over 180 Indigenous students had started engineering and related studies.

“The numbers are improving and so is understanding about the engineering profession in Indigenous communities.

“I believe we can attribute some of this improvement to Dobell’s work,” said Dr Mantle.

This year Thane Browne started an engineering- related course, Urban and Regional Planning, at Curtin University.

Browne attended the Summer School program in 2008, finished high school and achieved the grades for university entry.

*This year the Summer School program was hosted for the first time in Western Australia in January 2010 at the Curtin University.*

*Applications for the 2011 UNSW and Curtin University IAESS program are now being taken from interested secondary students. For more details see EAA website [www.engineeringaid.org/](http://www.engineeringaid.org/)*

*Photos of the ceremony are available on request.*

---

### About Engineering Aid Australia

Engineering Aid Australia is a philanthropic organisation that provides engineers and related services to assist disadvantaged communities both in Australia and overseas. The Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School is their principal program on behalf of Indigenous Young Australians. For more details visit <http://www.engineeringaid.org/>