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7 January 2010

Engineering Summer School's in for Indigenous youngsters

For the first time in January 2010 The Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School will run in two locations – Perth and Sydney.

Founder, Jeff Dobell, explained the Curtin University of Technology in Perth will join The University of New South Wales to host a second program in Western Australia.

“Previously we conducted the School only in New South Wales – but this second School confirms the success of the program.

“An even more important success measure is the number of Summer School participants who have gone on to study engineering.

“Three years after the 2007 Summer School, 65 per cent of the students are at university.

“And more than half of the 2007 participants have chosen to study degrees in Mining, Electrical and Civil engineering.

“Industry sees the importance of the Summer School in addressing the under-representation of Indigenous Australians in the engineering profession.

“The Minerals Council of Australia sees the vital role the program plays in identifying and nurturing bright young Indigenous students,” said Mr Dobell.

One such student, Mr Leon Oriti, attended the 2007 Summer School and is studying Electrical Engineering/Science at The University of New South Wales.

“In 2007 I travelled from Western Australia to participate – this year I’m looking forward to getting back there to mentor other students.

“The Summer School set me on a positive path and I enjoy sharing my personal experience with others,” said Mr Oriti.

The week-long, live-in Summer Schools are for Indigenous students who will be entering Year 11 or Year 12 in 2010.

Entry is highly sought after and the selection process is based on enthusiasm, community spirit and an academic aptitude for engineering. The program aims to stimulate the students’ interest in engineering through interactive activities, hands-on workshops, site visits and mentoring.

Students attend the Summer School without cost to themselves. A number of corporate, government and private sponsors, such as Parsons Brinckerhoff, contribute towards the running costs, including students’ expenses and scholarships.

Engineering Aid Australia provides scholarships to students until they complete Year 12 and for those students who commence studies in Engineering at an Australian university.

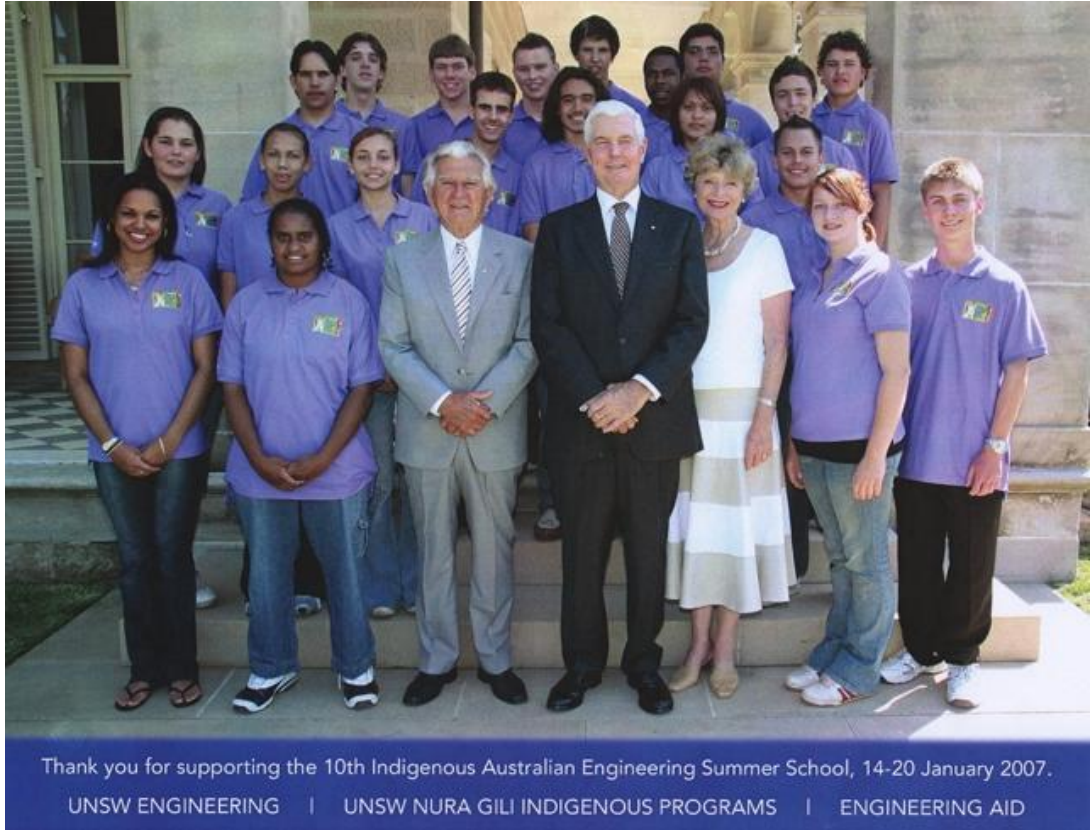
This year the Summer Schools will run in Perth from 10-16 January and in Sydney from 17-23 January 2010.

About Engineering Aid Australia

Engineering Aid Australia is not-for-profit organisation that provides engineers and related services to assist disadvantaged communities in Australia. The organisation’s principal program on behalf of Indigenous young Australians is the annual Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School. IAESS is a week-long Summer School program aimed at showcasing engineering studies and careers to young Indigenous Australians. For more details see

<http://www.engineeringaid.org/>

Media release



Mr Leon Oriti (third from right in the back row, wearing glasses) attended the January 2007 Summer School hosted by The University of New South Wales. He recently completed the second year of his undergraduate studies in Electrical Engineering/Science at UNSW.