



*The catalyst in developing creative, open-minded young
Western Australians who are engaged with the world*

Wiluna celebrates AWESOME creativity with OPEN BOOK

5 August 2009

The bright young things of Wiluna were keen to show off their artistic talents last week at a community celebration of their artwork created for the AWESOME Arts Creative Challenge 'OPEN BOOK' project, supported by BHP Billiton Nickel West. Over the past fortnight, students from Wiluna Remote Community School were challenged and inspired to create their own contemporary version of a 'book'.

The students' created a sound book in which the budding young artists used sound-recording equipment to create their own percussion beats and sound effects, to introduce themselves in a rap, to describe their favourite things about living in Wiluna and to explain some words in their language. The students also learnt interviewing techniques and put them to good use interviewing their school Principal Mr Hurlle and their teacher Ms Low to find out more about them.

On the final Friday of the residency, parents, teachers, siblings and community members attended a celebration of the audio book where they listened to the fantastic stories and ideas gathered by the students.

Digital media artists-in-residence Jon Tjhia and Jesse Borrelle ran workshops with the students over two weeks to gather their ideas about identity, community and environment and shared their knowledge about ways to tell stories through audio technology.

"The kids' response to the project was fantastic, they loved watching the transformation of ordinary sounds made with their voices and instruments into new and interesting rhythms," said Mr Tjhia.

"It was a great opportunity for the students to express their pride in their local culture, lifestyle and language and we felt really lucky as artists to learn about their unique stories. It was really brilliant watching the community and the kids listen to the sound story and the rhyming rap song at the celebration," he said.

2009 marks the fourth year Creative Challenge has visited Wiluna. AWESOME Arts CEO Jenny Simpson said BHP Billiton Nickel West's continued support has enabled AWESOME to bring inspiring and amazing arts programs to Wiluna.

"Over the past four years it has been fantastic to see the young people in Wiluna extend their creativity and imaginations to a point where they can understand that with art- anything is possible! Without Nickel West's community support this would not be possible," said Ms Simpson.

The Creative Challenge 'OPEN BOOK' project will travel to ten regional and remote communities in 2009 with each residency culminating in a local celebration of the works created. These artworks will then be showcased in an exhibition at the *AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things* held in the Perth CBD in November.

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For more information, images or artist interviews please contact:

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