

up 4 it

GOLDFIELDS- ESPERANCE

AUGUST '09 UPDATE

ESPERANCE - August 10
NORSEMAN – August 11



Role Models:

Marcus Timmons (Perth Wildcats and Melbourne Tigers basketball)
Frances Clarke (Perth Redbacks Basketball)
Calvin Campbell (Music Appreciation, Hip Hop “DJ Kyte”)

Esperance Senior High and Norseman District High School students received their first role models up4it community visit for 2009 in August. It was a nice welcome to see some of the students from Esperance and Norseman again from the first up4it camp in June.

ESPERANCE - August 10



Esperance provided a change of routine for the role models as the team were introduced to cultural activities with boomerang and spear throwing with local elders. It turned out to be a very windy day with boomerangs coming back so fast our role models couldn't grab them. Three stations were set up at the oval, with Marcus conducting leadership talks in-between sessions of basketball, boomerang and spear throwing.

Basketball programs were conducted by Frances and Marcus

at lunchtime with about 40 students participating in some great warm up skills while *DJ Kyte* spun discs and played beats while groups played on court.

After school, hostel students invited the role models to a dinner with the residents. Around 50 students shared talks, yarning and a meal with the role models then shared the court with DJ Kyte at one end and the players at the other. Various games of mixed teams and boys vs girls were played and the

playoffs of boys v girls had the girls eventually beating the boys, which made everyone smile, except a sorry few.

NORSEMAN – August 11



A great time was had by all at the community BBQ as the school had organised a cultural performance evening with the *Ngadjju Dancers* from Kalgoorlie performing the opening welcoming ceremony. Children wore traditional body art and danced for over 100 guests at the event and warmed to the BBQ and cool night air

while the DJ took the crowd to some dancing vibes.

Working with the teachers and staff who are very supportive. Helen Smart, the Deputy Principal Principal experienced the up4it program for the first time and said she loved the program. The role models impressed on the need for the children to attend school so they could learn new skills and one day could even become their own community role models.

The community visits really make a long lasting impact on the kids. Frances said *'the staff told us that the kids had been talking about us coming for weeks and still boasted about our visit the last time we came to town!'*

The remote school visits ensure that all students are exposed to the program, not just Indigenous students or those achieving attendance levels. More importantly the visits secure a whole of community engagement with sports and extracurricular activity programs being held before and after school time allowing a platform for interaction between stakeholders students and community members.

Marcus Timmons commented, *'The high school students actually wanted to stay after school, which was a nice surprise for us and them and we had the opportunity of providing more one-on-one individual basketball coaching. They really enjoyed the ambient sounds of DJ Kite playing hip-hop music in the background while playing basketball. It was great sight.'*

The students really enjoyed learning how to use a turn-table and 'scratch' a 'hip hop' rhythm with Perth based Disk Jockey maestro DJ Kite. The music continued to blast out as Marcus and Frances taught the students the art of



the '3 pointer' and the technique from the 'free throw'.

Students enthusiastically and energetically participated in all the activities. The students would have happily stayed all afternoon, but with planes to catch, the role models had to leave.

The role models are now looking forward to catching up with everyone again at the Perth Leadership Camp, November 6-9.

Up4it Program Overview

The primary objective of the up4it program is to facilitate and sustain a measurable increase in school attendance rates amongst Indigenous students in regional and remote areas of Western Australia.

The up4it program selects schools in remote regions that often miss out on opportunities to receive programs from elite sporting athletes.

Under the leadership of high profile Indigenous and non- Indigenous role models, they provide much needed sports, leadership and coaching skills, grooming and deportment and music appreciation sessions whilst promoting healthy lifestyles and local mentors to the children of the regional and remote communities they visit.

CONTACTS

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