



TRINITY COLLEGE
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



ERA Energy Resources of Australia Ltd



West Arnhem College

MEDIA RELEASE

Northern Territory students explore Trinity College

10 July 2014

Two students from the Northern Territory's remote Cobourg Peninsula will be the first members of their families to explore tertiary education opportunities through a special education partnership.

Brother and sister Tristan and Shierese Cunningham will spend this week on campus at Trinity College, University of Melbourne, to participate in a Leadership for Social Justice education program.

The visit is an extension of Trinity College's established Indigenous programs and will allow the students to experience university life first-hand.

Tristan and Shierese are completing school-based apprenticeships with mining company Energy Resources of Australia's (ERA) Ranger uranium mine and will be the first members of their family to graduate Year 12. .

The apprenticeships are part of a successful education partnership between West Arnhem College, the Northern Territory Department of Education and ERA.

Under the partnership, a record number of students from West Arnhem College have joined ERA as school-based apprentices or trainees in 2014.

Tristan is undertaking a school-based apprenticeship at Ranger mine in conservation land management, while Shierese is working in administration.

"I used to study through the Katherine School of the Air, but it wasn't really working for me so I decided to move into Jabiru where I would have more direct support and help," Tristan said.

"When I left School of the Air, I came in and tried getting some work experience, and then the apprenticeship."

Tristan (Year 11) was offered a two-year contract at ERA, while Shierese received a 12-month contract. This will see both students through to graduation.

Shierese said she began studying business administration as part of her English studies.

"From there I got a call saying ERA were looking for young apprentices for administration roles, and I said I was interested. I was pretty excited when I got the job," she said.

She said she hoped to secure a full-time apprenticeship with ERA in 2015.

West Arnhem College director Mark Monaghan said: "The visit to Trinity College at the University of Melbourne shows that tertiary education is a reality for the kids in remote Northern Territory communities."

About Trinity College

Founded in 1872 as the first residential college of the University of Melbourne, Trinity is a unique tertiary institution that provides a diverse range of high-quality academic programs for some 1,500 talented students from across Australia and around the world. Trinity's Indigenous programs have been developing since 2001, and are set in the context of the College's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous communities. The imperative of the program is to implement practical steps that make a real difference to the lives of capable students and the communities to which they belong.

About West Arnhem College

WAC is made up of two school communities – Jabiru Area School, located on Mirrar land in Kakadu National Park, and Gunbalanya School, located in the West Arnhem Land across the East Alligator River in the Northern Territory. WAC exists to create one shared learning community that reflects our diverse cultures and values, and to inspire students, staff and school communities to succeed in life. WAC is working with Jabiru and Gunbalanya to deliver exceptional school and community programs, combine resources and skills to make a real difference for our students and school communities.

About Energy Resources of Australia Ltd

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd is one of the nation's largest uranium producers and Australia's longest continually operating uranium mine. ERA has an excellent track record of reliably supplying customers. Uranium has been mined at Ranger for three decades. Ranger mine is one of only three mines in the world to produce in excess of 110,000 tonnes of uranium oxide. ERA's Ranger mine is located eight kilometres east of Jabiru and 260 kilometres east of Darwin, located in Australia's Northern Territory. Located on the 79 square kilometre Ranger Project Area, Ranger mine is surrounded by, but separate from, the World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park.

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