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Mandurah community shows its Big Heart

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Long-time local Mandurah resident Dr Lara Jefferson was motivated by the efforts of teachers in WA's most remote community.

After discussing the school's ambitions with principal Tim Zanotti, Lara approach Frederick Irwin Anglican School and the Falcon Lions Club, to put a smile on the faces of the children of the Wingellina Aboriginal Community by providing them with bicycles.

"With the good will of the Falcon Lions, the families and friends of Frederick Irwin community, and others along the 1800 km route from Mandurah to Wingellina, we are delighted that the thirty bikes have made it to Wingellina and have been enthusiastically received by the children," said Lion Greg Robertson, President, Falcon Lions Club.

"All the bikes were provided by the supportive family and friends of Frederick Irwin, and then repaired by the Falcon Lions, before being transported 1800km from Mandurah to Wingellina," said Mrs Tracey Gray, Principal of Frederick Irwin.

In the remote Central Desert, the school caters for students from years 1 to 9, where the Wingellina residents put their heart and soul into creating a positive educational experience for their children, often with limited resources and big ideas

The bikes form an important part of the school's health and physical education programs, encourage school attendance, and support youth programs in the Wingellina community.

"The children are thrilled with the bikes, as well as the gear Nico procured from the Dockers for the footy team and the kit from Softball WA for the women's team", said Dr Jefferson.

"At times like this, I am so proud to be part of the Frederick Irwin community, to live in Mandurah, to work for Nico Resources and partner with the amazing Falcon Lion's Club. We have all come together to help the teachers provide a rich education for the Wingellina children."

Lara is Head of Environment, Social and Governance at Nico Resources Ltd, which is developing the Wingellina Nickel-Cobalt Project.

About Wingellina Aboriginal Community

Wingellina in Western Australia is 12 kms from the intersection of the Northern Territory, South Australian and Western Australian borders (Surveyor General's Corner).

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Situated on an Aboriginal Reserve, Wingellina has maintained many of its traditions of thousands of years including language, cultural heritage, bush tucker and storylines.

The community of 100 -130 Yarnangu people within the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku (www.Ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au) is 720kms from Alice Springs and 1100kms from Kalgoorlie; and has its own Community Resource Centre, airstrip, school, hall, art centre, clinic, office and store. The community is also home to NG Media.

Apart from the development of the Wingellina Nickel-Cobalt Project, there are very few employment opportunities for the residents, and many have to travel to larger regional centres in search of work.

The school manages a home to school transition program. The day commences with breakfast and showers followed by a structured fitness program. Wingellina has a relationship with Pipalyatjara Anangu School, 38 kms across the border in South Australia. Students from Wingellina travel to Pip to use the pool for swimming lessons and swimming carnivals.

Acknowledgements

- Friends and families of Frederick Irwin Anglican School for donation of 30 second-hand bikes
- Falcon Lion's Club for repairs and servicing the bikes; and donation of \$500 of spare parts
- Giant Bike Shop (Mandurah) for discounted spare parts
- Ranger Transport for discounted transport of the bikes from Mandurah to Welshpool
- Northern Australia Transport Service (NATS) for transport of bikes from Welshpool to Wingellina
- Nico Resources Ltd for collection and coordination of the bikes program

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