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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30 2011

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ANGER OVER ABATTOIR

Discussion gets heated at development meeting. **Story P5**



Taminmin High School Year 11 and Cert II chefs Thomas East, 16, from Coconut Grove and Jera Loder, 16, from Acacia raised money for Variety NT by catering at a fundraiser – and in return Variety bought their school a disability bus

Hospitality turns wheels for school

By CONOR BYRNE

STUDENTS and staff at Taminmin High School have a variety of reasons to be happy with their new bus – literally.

But the main reason is that they didn't have to pay for it.

The \$40,000 Toyota Costa has four seats and two wheelchair spaces with a lift and will be used for the school's new special education centre.

The school is expecting two students in wheelchairs next year. Child charity Variety NT bought them the new ride after their hospitality students organised a meal and raised \$5700 for them.

And Variety returned the favour – big time.

The 22 Cert I and Cert II kitchen operations students cooked a three-course meal for more than 100 guests.

Principal Miriam McDonald said one of the bus's duties will be to take students to the Woodside reserve that the school looks after. "It's going to get a lot of use," she said.

"Parents (of disabled children) will feel we have the facilities and it will make it easier for them.

"Our vision was to give back to the community and it was a huge shock when Variety did that," the principal said.

Year 11 students Thomas East, 16, of Coconut Grove and Jera Loder, 16, of Acacia helped cook the meal that got them the wheels.

Thomas cooked crocodile spring rolls from his mother's recipe and his dream job would be to work in the Outback Bakery in Fannie Bay. Jera baked a barramundi and hopes some day to be cooking in the kitchens of SkyCity casino.

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