MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

REMOTE STUDENTS VISIT TO SEE THEIR ‘FOOTPRINTS’ PAINTINGS

29 May 2013

Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, thanked Nganmarriyanga School students today for allowing their “footprint” artworks to be displayed in Parliament House.

“The paintings are the result of a project designed to engage middle-year boys at school and has been extremely successful.

“Initiative, creativity and motivation have all been used to bring about a project that students took to with enthusiasm.

“I congratulate the two artists and teachers, Michelle Hawkins and John Paul Wodidj, who worked together to develop the program.”

The “footprints” theme was chosen with John Paul Wodidj developing a series of lino cuts of animal tracks, which the boys used in their paintings to tell stories.

The paintings are hung in the offices of the Minister for Education and the Minister for Arts and Museums, Matt Conlan.

“Teachers at the school were so impressed with the boys’ work the idea evolved that they could be displayed in Darwin, this was followed up by the Department of Education,” principal Sue McAvoy said.

“To have a piece of artwork in Parliament House is such an achievement, it is an incredible thrill for everyone at the school and we are really proud of the work produced.

“The Darwin visit will support their learning back at school in science and history, and they will also be given the opportunity to play football at Marrara Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

“Excursions to Darwin broaden students’ horizons and give them the opportunity to experience a different life to one in the community, it also strengthens their English-speaking skills,” she said.

The students, aged from 12 years to 15 years, from Nganmarriyanga School on Palumpa Station, have just arrived in Darwin for a week. Their visit includes the Museum and Art Gallery, the Military Museum, a CSIRO workshop and a tour of Parliament House.

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