

PRESS RELEASE



## How an 11 year-old school boy inspired a remote community writing project

### HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

#### *The Tjuntjuntjara Remote Community School with Lachlan Coman*

*How Does Your Garden Grow?* Is a collection of short stories reflecting the passion for gardening shared by children on opposite sides of the country: the students of the Tjuntjuntjara Remote Community School, who have established an organic vegetable patch in the challenging conditions of their home in the Great Victoria Desert, Western Australia – and Lachie Coman, a school boy from Melbourne.

This book shows that gardens can truly bring people together.

Lachie's visits to the Tjuntjuntjara Community provided the opportunity for him and the kids of the Spinifex Country to write, draw and share the stories of their gardens, which are vividly to life in this book.

The Indigenous Literacy Foundation is a not for profit charity of the Australian Book Industry that addresses literacy in remote communities across Australia. In the past four years, the Foundation has supplied nearly 100,000 books and resources to over 200 communities across Australia.

In addition, it has published many literacy projects including: *The Naked Boy & the Crocodile* (a collection of stories written by children from Remote Communities, written in workshops conducted by Andy Griffiths); *What is a Disaster I Hear You Say* and *Alphabet Antics*; and *Reading with Children*.

**The Indigenous Literacy Foundation** raises all funds itself, without government support and donations and business support is actively sought. Further details on our Foundation and how to donate are available at: [www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au](http://www.indigenousliteracyfoundation.org.au)

**Lachie Coman** was Environment Captain at Sandringham House, Firbank Grammar Primary School, in Melbourne, when he organised for the school to fundraise and send a package of gardening supplies and tools to the Tjuntjuntjara school garden. When Lachie was invited to visit them, he decided to share his passion of reading and writing stories with them and enlisted support from ILF's ambassador, Andy Griffiths. *How Does Your Garden Grow?* is a collection of the stories written by the children during his visit in 2011.

**Tjuntjuntjara Remote Community School** is located in the Great Victoria Desert, close to the border with South Australia, north of the Nullarbor Plain and 680 Kilometres north-east of Kalgoorlie. It was established in 1985, when people moved into the region to follow a traditional lifestyle and maintain cultural identity and values. Tjuntjuntjara Community is consider to be the most remote community in Australia.

***How Does Your Garden Grow?* will be launched at by Andy Griffiths at Firbank Grammar on Friday 7 March, 11.30 am**

\* **For further information/and interviews** please contact Karen Williams, Executive Director, Indigenous Literacy Foundation, on (02) 96982884 or (02) 9319 2883 (General) or mobile 04040 75924.

