

AKALTYE GLADSTONE 2009



Acknowledgements



Partners

- ▶ **CAT** (Centre for Appropriate Technology)



- ▶ **Rio Tinto**

- ▶ **Origin Energy**

- ▶ **Rio Tinto Alcan**



History

- ▶ Arrernte word meaning opportunity to learn.
- ▶ Began in Alice Springs in the late '90's as a nation wide program
- ▶ The program with limited changes has produced the same results for student for over 10 years with students from 10 – 18 year olds.
- ▶ Akaltje Gladstone is localised for students aged 10-13.



Outcomes

- Foster an understanding of the richness of contemporary Indigenous society;
- Help build the self-esteem of Indigenous participants;
- Engage young Indigenous students in science and technology learning;
- Encourage young Indigenous students to choose science and technology subjects in secondary school;
- Promote science and technology career pathways.



Characteristics

- ▶ Traditional Indigenous technologies led by traditional elders
- ▶ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island role models
- ▶ Establishing Cell groups
- ▶ Team leaders for Cell groups
- ▶ Science presentations by industry
- ▶ Design and problem solving activities
- ▶ Newsletter/ Communication
- ▶ Awards
- ▶ After hours activities – a positive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island identity



Timetable

Day timetable science activities following the Primary Connections 5 E model.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Day	Science Activity	Science Activity	Science Activity	Problem Solving Day	Challenge
Afternoon	Traditional Technology and Artefacts	Traditional Technology and Artefacts	Traditional Technology and Artefacts		Awards and Home Time
Revision of science knowledge – trivia night, challenge, journal					
Evening	Positive Indigenous Identities	Positive Indigenous Identities	Positive Indigenous Identities	Murri Got Talent	
Community guest presenters – men's and women's business, songwriting, hip hop dancing and traditional dancing.					



Learning from the past

Students see how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities:

- ▶ worked scientifically;
- ▶ Held science knowledges
- ▶ Influenced today's science knowledges



- ▶ The naming of the Cell Groups are from the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island languages



Future

- Engage young Indigenous students in science and technology learning in primary schools;
- Encourage young Indigenous students to choose and succeed science and technology subjects in secondary school;
- Promote science and technology career pathways.
- Science is the new frontier and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people must continue to participate and lead.



Community Involvement

- ▶ Membership on Akaltje Gladstone Board
- ▶ Equal partnership on the Executive committee
- ▶ Strong membership on Organisational committee
- ▶ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island teacher aides chose the students from the school nominated students
- ▶ Presentation of traditional technology sessions
- ▶ Guest presenters for artefact and evening sessions.

Systemic Changes

- ▶ Began as a 5 day Event independent of the education system.
- ▶ Evolved the daily science activities into a curriculum unit and resource kits;
- ▶ Developing protocols to enable teachers to engage with local communities.
- ▶ Developing Akaltye Facilitator competency training for school staff.

