



Keeping my seat warm, Your Worship? A taste of power



A GROUP of Indigenous schoolchildren from Queensland and New South Wales could have serious mayoral aspirations after their tour of Sydney's historic Town Hall last week.

The students, four from Qld and two from NSW, are being supported by Yalari, a non-for-profit organisation that raises funds for boarding scholarships at high-achieving secondary schools. Councillor Marcelle Hoff hosted

the group and took them on a tour that gave the children an opportunity to try the seats of power inside the Council Chambers.

Cr Hoff said it was 'a real privilege to meet these six wonderful young Indigenous Australians and talk to them about life as a city councillor'.

"I have no doubt that they will be some of the great leaders of this country in the future," she said.

Yalari has a target to raise over \$12 million to support 250 students over the next ten years. Its programs aim – through education – is to break the cycles of poverty, abuse or other misfortune experienced by many Indigenous

Australians.

The organisation's long-term goal is to reshape educational standards and statistics for Indigenous students by providing educational opportunities. This in turn will have a dramatic effect on generations of Indigenous people.

Founding Director of Yalari, Waverley Stanley, took the tour with the children and said educational opportunities gave Indigenous children new life experiences outside of their communities.

"A great education provides individual self-empowerment and a real growth in the self-belief, confidence and determination of each child," he said.



City of Sydney Councillor Marcelle Hoff hosted the Yalari visitors, from left, Lincoln Childs Mitchell Whiteley, Carla Fisher, Nellie Bond, Brenton Cressbrook and Kyol Blakeney.