



19<sup>th</sup> February 2010

## **SHIRE OF YALGOO AND OPR PACK HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCHES**

The Shire of Yalgoo has welcomed the support of Oakajee Port and Rail (OPR) for its successful Yalgoo School Lunch Program.

Each school day, the programme offers a healthy, nutritious and freshly prepared lunch to the school's 29 students.

The Shire of Yalgoo began the subsidised school lunch programme in 2008 and continues to support it. Parents contribute a dollar a day.

Lunches are prepared at the community hall, by local parents, and food is purchased locally, as much as possible.

Acting CEO at the Shire of Yalgoo, Kim Hastie, says this year OPR is funding daily fruit juice for the children.

"The Shire is really pleased to have OPR as part of the programme. OPR is contributing to something that really does make a difference to the community."

"The school lunch programme is great," says Mr Hastie.

"We know that each child has a fresh, nutrient rich meal, with all its health benefits, and the school reports that the project has made a big difference in afternoon behaviour."

"After a healthy lunch the students are better able to concentrate during afternoon lessons."

OPR's Manager of Community and Public Relations, Kim Pervan, says OPR is pleased to be involved.

"Through the school lunch programme we can make a contribution to improving the health and education of the children living in Yalgoo."

About 60 kilometres of the planned railway passes through the northern most section of the Shire of Yalgoo, passing through Meka Station and crossing the Sanford River.

OPR is the developer of the multi-billion dollar Oakajee port and rail project in Western Australia's mid-west, which will create a new port, 25 kilometres north of Geraldton, linked to regional mines by approximately 570 kilometres of rail.

**ENDS**

Released By:

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