



## Media Release

# Classroom calves mooving on

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Eddie and Edna are heading home.

The two Brahman calves from the Douglas Daly region of the Northern Territory have spent the past 10 weeks at Alawa Primary School in the northern suburbs of Darwin, helping urban children learn more about the beef industry and life on the land.

The calves were installed at the school's on-campus farm and were looked after by Grade 5 and 6 students for a term.

During the 10 weeks they were there, the children were responsible for feeding the calves, keeping their yard clean and monitoring their growth.

They also grew a trial plot of pasture and learnt about the history of the beef industry, farming practices and food production, the environment, animal husbandry, markets, exporting and jobs from a host of volunteer guest speakers.

***Tomorrow, the calves will be returned to their owners, Phil and Annette Howie, at Maneroo Station, accompanied by the children who cared for them during their stay.***

"This is a great way to end what has been a very successful pilot," Executive Director the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association Luke Bowen said.

"The kids will be able to see the calves in situ and get a first-hand look at a very ecologically-friendly beef production system.

"The Howies' operation very much represents the future direction of farming so it is an ideal property to visit as the finale to the program."

Principal of Alawa Primary School Sharon Reeves said she was delighted with the positive effect the program has had on the students.

"From our pre-schoolers who visited the farm every week to pat them, to our Year 5 and 6 students who were successfully motivated to develop their understanding of the NT pastoral industry, our whole school community has enjoyed hosting the calves.

"This has been a very authentic learning situation and a great life opportunity.

"Alawa Primary School looks forward to developing the partnership with the NT Cattlemen's Association to give our students further unique learning opportunities by bringing the bush to town."

Mr Bowen said the results from the pilot will now be assessed with a view to developing an education resource that can be rolled out on a wider scale.

"We thank Alawa Primary School and all the volunteers who have made this experience possible for them.

"Hopefully this will be just the start of a long-term initiative."

---

**Enquiries:** Luke Bowen, Executive Director of the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association.  
(08) 8981 5976, 0427 815 990.

**Dale Webster, Michels Warren Munday – (08) 8981 6445; 0448 656 668.**