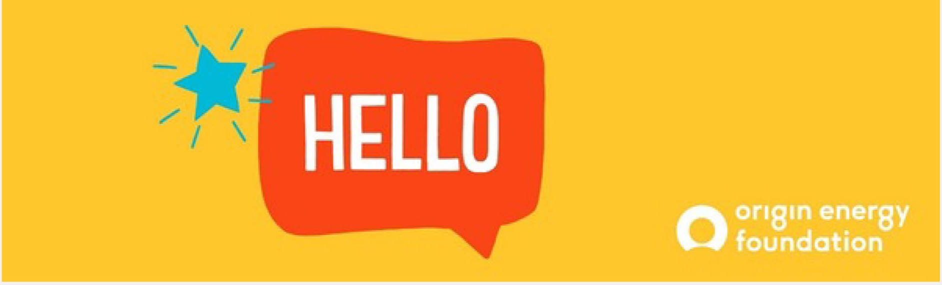


Partner Newsletter – September 2024

Message from Michelle Zahra, Head of Foundation

This year, we reaffirmed our commitment to providing holistic support to our partners through engaged philanthropy — going beyond making a one-time contribution and providing financial support alone.

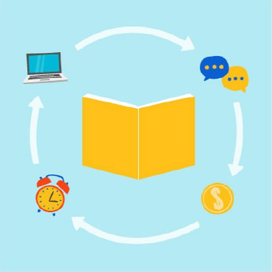
Today we seek not only to give but to actively participate in ensuring that our financial contributions create tangible lasting impact.

A powerful example of this is the Origin volunteers who delivered SolarBuddy's Illuminating Communities program in three remote Arnhem Land communities last month, including Wuyagiba where we partner with the Wuyagiba Study Hub and Macquarie University to provide support for Indigenous students.

This month, we announced a new partnership with Ochre Education addressing a critical gap in primary science education and drawing on expert teachers to develop a comprehensive science curriculum for Year 5 and 6 students. Speaking of teachers, I'd like to recognise the exceptional educators recognised at this year's Commonwealth Bank Teaching Awards presented by our partner Schools Plus. Congratulations to all the winners — outstanding individuals who are shaping best practice, policy, and the broader education profession.

We have also released our FY24 Annual Review highlighting the remarkable efforts of our partners to address some of the most pressing challenges in education.

Thank you to our partners, schools, teachers, and our dedicated Origin volunteers for the work you do to improve educational outcomes for young people in Australia.



Engaged philanthropy in Action: Our latest Annual Review

We're proud to present our FY24 Annual Review. Highlights include new grant partnerships to address educational disadvantage, more students than ever supported through volunteering, and record volunteering participation from Origin employees.

We continue to be inspired by the work of our partners and how Origin volunteers use their time, skills and expertise to provide support where it is needed most.

FY24 Achievements include:

- $3.8m contributed to the community in FY24, more than $41.2m since our inception in 2010.
- 25% of Origin employees gave their time, skills and expertise through volunteering.
- 7,637 students reached through volunteering.
- 8,700 hours volunteered — with half focused on education.
- $721,035 donated to 260 charities through our employee matched giving program.

» Read the full review.

New grant partnership: Ochre Education

We're pleased to announce a new three-year partnership with Ochre Education, to enable the development of Science Reach, a detailed and integrated science curriculum across Years 5 and 6.

Expert teachers from regional, rural and remote schools across Australia will come together to develop knowledge-rich resources aligned to the Australian Curriculum.

Science Reach will fill a critical gap in primary science resources. Supporting all schools to offer a guaranteed high-quality curriculum has significant potential to make education more coherent, raise student achievement and reduce teacher workload.

Importantly, the program will draw on expert teachers from regional, rural and remote schools to strengthen knowledge and create an ongoing community of experts. Evidence shows that teachers from small, rural, regional and remote schools find it harder to access high quality teaching materials and professional learning. The program aims to address this through the long-term establishment of communities of practice.

» Learn more about our partnership.

Lighting up learning in Arnhem Land

In August, Origin volunteers delivered SolarBuddy's Illuminating Communities program to three remote Aboriginal communities in Arnhem Land—Jilkminggan, Ngukurr, and Wuyagiba, the latter in partnership with the Wuyagiba Study Hub and Macquarie University. The program included installing solar-powered lighting in communal spaces in Ngukurr and Wuyagiba and running our *Lights for Learning* program in local schools.

Through a collaboration with Dymocks Children's Charities, we also revitalised school libraries in Jilkminggan and Ngukurr, and provided every student with two books to take home to support their reading journey.

This trip offered our volunteers a rare and enriching cultural experience, and we are deeply grateful to the Ngalakan & Mara peoples of Ngukurr and the Managarrayi peoples of Jilkminggan (Roper region) for warmly welcoming us onto their Country and into their classrooms. We also thank the Wuyagiba Study Hub and Macquarie University for their assistance in making this trip possible and for the wonderful hospitality which made our trip truly memorable.

Volunteers boost student engagement in STEM

Senior Project Engineer Allison Gwilt manages renewable hydrogen and nature-based carbon sequestration projects for Origin, but you'll also find her volunteering at Newmarket State School in Brisbane, sharing her expertise and passion for STEM.

Since 2019, Allison has partnered with the school through the CSIRO's STEM Professionals in Schools program, bringing real-world STEM learning to life for Year 4 and 5 students and inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers. This national initiative connects teachers with STEM professionals to ignite student interest and guide future STEM careers.

Newmarket teacher Frances Roebig said, *"Partnerships between teachers and STEM experts inspire our students to aim high in STEM fields by providing role models who work in those areas. By sourcing equipment and co-teaching lessons, these programs enhance our efforts to develop the general capabilities in science and technology within the Australian Curriculum."*

AND IN OTHER NEWS...

Origin Volunteers at Garma

For the second year, ten Origin volunteers joined the official volunteer crew for the Garma Festival, to support site management, hospitality, retail, logistics, events and education over ten days, to help ensure a memorable experience for everyone involved.

This experience left a profound impact on our volunteers. Their time at Garma reinforced their commitment to contributing to a reconciled Australia, where the rich cultural diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is respected and celebrated.

Uplifting First Nations youth through STEM education

Enter Tech, powered by INCO Academy with support from the Origin Energy Foundation, equips First Nations students with foundational tech knowledge to help them discover career paths towards STEM.

Designed within the 8ways framework, Enter Tech includes Aboriginal perspectives, complements classroom learning and boosts student confidence. Students gain familiarity with in-demand tech topics, job search strategies and more. The course is fully funded, selfpaced, and online.

Learn how INCO Academy can help your organisation provide STEM education to the First Nations students you support.

Mentoring opportunities for non-profit leaders

Celebrating its tenth year, Kilfinan links volunteer business and government leaders with emerging leaders in Australia's non-profit sector to enhance their leadership skills.

So far, Kilfinan has supported over 550 charities with more than 5,000 hours of guidance from 230 mentors. We're proud to partner with Kilfinan, with 11 Origin leaders participating in the two-year program.

Kilfinan currently has limited spots for non-profit leaders at a subsidised rate of $2,500 each. Express your interest by 31 October 2024.

Mabel Park
STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Purposeful partnering with Mabel Park State High School

Our long-standing partnership with Mabel Park State High School in Brisbane continues to thrive, with our volunteers delivering STEM programs for Year 7-10 students in August. Students assembled SolarBuddy lights for children living in energy poverty in PNG, prosthetic hands for amputees in developing countries, and water filters for displaced families in African refugee camps.

These hands-on programs not only enhance students' technical skills but also provide them with a deeper understanding of global challenges and the positive impact of STEM.

SUPPORTING GOOD CAUSES IN EDUCATION

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