

Top students get Burrup Fertilisers scholarships

By Tristan Lavalette

THREE local students have been announced the winners of the inaugural Oswal Group Academic Excellence Awards at a short ceremony at the Pilbara Department of Education office earlier this month.

Karratha Senior High School students Tessa Groen and Nadia Smyth, along with Hayley Middleton from St Luke's College, were judged the successful students to receive a scholarship worth a total of \$20,000 over the next four years, to financially aid them in their looming university pursuits.

Burrup Fertilisers, as part of the Oswal Group, has made a long-term commitment to the

scholarship program, which will provide three additional scholarships at the end of each school year at an estimated cost of more than half a million dollars over ten years.

Burrup Fertilisers government liaison manager Robert Fisher said the scholarships were important in assisting regional students' university aspirations.

"The scholarships are designed to help young people in Karratha who are disadvantaged by distance to help go to University," he said.

"It's an ongoing scholarship scheme to help Karratha students pay for living expenses in Perth."

Roebourne shire president Brad Snell believed the scheme

would greatly benefit local students.

"It is really great to see companies fostering excellence in education and I congratulate the students on their efforts to receive the scholarships," Mr Snell said.

Tessa said she was hopeful to gain entry into a UWA science degree, while Nadia also aimed at completing a science degree at Curtin University to achieve her goal of becoming a genetics counsellor.

St Luke's College principal Peter Bothe revealed Hayley, who was not present at the ceremony, would complete a journalism degree at Curtin University.



Scholarship winners Tessa Groen and Nadia Smyth, with Burrup Fertilisers' Robert Fisher.