

Transition to School showcased

A leading community-based project which is achieving positive results for local children has enticed a group of educators from New Zealand to visit Wollongong this weekend.

The Illawarra Transition to School Project aims to assist all children to make the best possible start to school by supporting parents, carers and practitioners and creating stronger links between schools and early childhood services.

Project officer Kath Smith said the study group from New Zealand will be joined by Sue Dockett, a professor of early childhood education at Charles Sturt University in Albury and

eminent researcher in the field of educational transitions.

“The New Zealand group approached Sue Dockett, author of several books and internationally published researcher, to witness a successful transition program first-hand,” Ms Smith said.

“She suggested Wollongong, as a leading community-based program, and this is the only city that the group will be visiting in NSW.

“What a privilege it is to be able to showcase internationally recognised, quality educators in our area.”

On Sunday the New Zealand contingent will attend the

Wollongong Picnic in the Park, an ever-popular community celebration for next year's school starters and their families.

Attractions at the free event include music, farmyard animals, face painting, children's activities and a free show bag for all school starters, and all are welcome to attend.

The following day the group will attend a Transition to School network meeting, which provides schools and early childhood services with an opportunity to share ideas and resources. They will then visit some of the schools and early childhood services to witness transition programs in action next Tuesday.