



# Remote access computers

Angela Saurine

FOR the kids, the “green machines” are a funky new toy with which to play puzzles and take photos.

Yet these lime-green laptops could change their lives.

Children from the Garrthalara Gangan communities in the Northern Territory’s remote East Arnhem Land were this week the first in the world to receive new 1.5 XO laptops as part of the One Laptop Per Child program. The project, supported by News Ltd (publisher of *The Daily Telegraph*), the Commonwealth Bank and Telstra’s Ideas For Good initiative, aims to ensure every disadvantaged and indigenous child living in remote regional communities has their own laptop.

So far, more than 1500 laptops have been delivered to children in the NT and Western Australia.

The children in the Yirkala Homelands Schools, where teachers are flown in by light plane, were the first to receive the new version, which are faster, have four times as much storage and are robustly built.

The laptops include programs to teach typing, a calculator and memory games.

Fonts from the local language Yongul have also been installed.

Guruwa Burarrwanga, 11, was thrilled to collect her laptop. “I’m going to play games and type some stories,” she said shyly.



Computer age: Yambirrnyu, 5, clutches his ‘green machine’ Picture: Stephen Cooper