



# THE TIWI

NEWS for  
Traditional  
Owners



## CEO's Message

Welcome to our new edition of "The Tiwi". We pass our condolences on to our families and friends who have lost dear ones over the past months.

It's with great pride and pleasure that I inform you all about a few successful events that the TLC has achieved over the past 2 months.

I had the honour to chair the NT Strategic Biannual Forum over two days. The forum consisted of members from the Commonwealth Government, Northern Territory Government and the four Land Councils. With representative from senior executives, we discussed opportunities for investment towards issues surrounding our constituents and Land Councils. These discussions included: ABA investments into homelands, renal dialysis, morgue facilities.



A. Tipungwuti, CEO

**Homelands:** Have been discussed as priority for investment as the ABA (Aboriginal Benefit Account) invested 40 million across the Territory. All projects will be delivered by service providers and monitored by NIAA (National Indigenous Aboriginal Agency).

**Morgue facilities:** Need more space and capacity to store our deceased for more than 7 days. This will also add a freezer room to store for longer periods.

**Renal dialysis:** Sadly more of our people need treatment for kidney disease. and what better place to have increase treatment in our communities. As part of our continued working relationship within the Land Councils, we will meet regularly to monitor outcomes of projects in our regions.

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## Good to know

Karluwu yikwani.  
Tiwi fire season ended in July.

See page 8 and 9



## NEWS from your TIWI LAND Council

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New ferry landing and Welcome Centre at Wurrumiyanga

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# CEO's Message



**We will inform** you about progress and update you in our next edition.

I also wish to inform you all that I have been appointed as the Interim Chair of the ABAAC till further notice. In between forums and meetings I took some needed time off to recharge the batteries with family. Whilst on leave, I was still attending the Yimpinari traditional owners meeting at Milikapiti.

Rio Tinto was invited to a meeting on Melville Island to give a presentation to the clan about their interest in exploration for Bauxite in the Yimpinari areas.

Other companies for instance for sand mining are also looking forward to have a meeting with TOs for the hand back of current leases on Tiwi.

If successful, this will put the relevant landowners into the driver's seat to sell sand to the outside markets.

**Furthermore,** I'm pleased to inform you that we have advertised for additional staff positions for senior administrative, anthropologist, Natural resources officer, to assist our growing work load of the Land Council.

A position will also be funded by ABA as a trial for 12 months to assist families and organisations with applying for grant funding across the Islands.

Thanks again and hope you enjoy this edition.

*Andrew Tipungwuti  
CEO Tiwi Land Council*



ABA chaired by Andrew - 4 Land Councils' CEO and executives staff and heads of NIAA Commonwealth

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## Past and present Tiwi Leaders

The Tiwi Land Council would like to acknowledge all our past and present Tiwi Leaders.



# CEO's Message



NT Strategic Biannual Forum



Munupi meeting August 2019



Meeting with Rio Tinto on Melville Island



## TLC Executive Management in action



Brian Tipungwuti [centre] at ALMAG meeting



**TLC executive** manager Brian Tipungwuti took part in meeting of the Aboriginal Land Management Advisory Group [ALMAG].

ALMAG provides the perspective of the Aboriginal land management sector to the NTG department. This will help ensure that decisions relating to the establishment and operation of the proposed grants program have appropriate Aboriginal input, and that Aboriginal aspirations related to land management and conservation are an integral part of the grants program.

# Tiwi Enterprises - Tiwi Islands Pontoon and Visitors Centre Project



Works on pontoons and Visitor Centre in August and September



- **Project originated** with Tiwi Enterprises and Dept. of CM, NTG in 2014, in conjunction with Sea Link, Tiwi Land Council and Mantiyupwi.

- **Over all**, DCM consulted on 14 occasions with the following organisations in attendance; Tiwi Islands Regional Council, Titeb, Tiwi Enterprises, Tiwi Land Council, Office of Township Leasing, Chief Ministers Dept. and DIPL. PAWA, Mantiyupwi, Consultative forum representatives, Local reference group, Red Cross, PMC, and on other occasions, with community in general. Two BBQ's were held with signage and proposed layouts. Community support has been noted as over whelming for this project to be completed.

- **Mantiyupwi, as land owner** of this area, has the leases in their name for this project. In total, we have Lot 830 lease, from OTL, where the Visitors Centre is located. This Lot runs all the way down to the low water mark. From the low water mark, we have a Crown Lease, where the floating pontoon is located, in deeper water. On Paru side, we have a Crown Lease once again, then a Section 19 Lease, from Tiwi Land Council and Trustee for Aboriginal Lands. These lease will run for 42 years. With these leases, we have worked with TLC and NLC on Native Title issues, Indigenous Land Use Agreements, (ILUA ) AAPA, sacred sites, Environmental studies and management plans etc, and I would never have believed that seeking these approvals would be so time consuming, however, we are nearing the exciting part of the project, and all the stress will be worth it when this project is delivered.

- **Funding was sought** by Tiwi Enterprises, applications were successful with ABA and BBRF, being Building Better Regions Fund. We are grateful to these funding providers for having faith in Tiwi, and providing the funds. A 100% Indigenous company is delivering this Project, the Contractor is a 100% Indigenous company, in a remote location, for a Indigenous community.

- **85% of the project** acquisition has been purchased here in the Northern Territory. Piles were from Asia, as Australia does not have a supplier of piles this size. They are 39 m long, 900mm in diameter and 20 mm wall thickness. After they are driven, they will have Poly sleeves fitted over the outside, with a layer of grout between the sleeve and the pile. The sleeve is 25mm thick. BIHA is delivering a lot of the works, they have done the trenching and excavation, the slabs and abutments, and will continue to be closely involved as we go. Other trades are from Darwin, as is all the infrastructure for this project, piling excepted.

- **We have trained and used Tiwi workers** on this project, both with Tiwi Enterprises, Carey MC, BIHA, and through the framers and other suppliers in Darwin.

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# Tiwi Enterprises - Tiwi Islands

## Pontoon and Visitors Centre Project



- **Visitors Centre** has a kiosk and takeaway area, male and female and disabled toilets, a store room with a seating area in between. The frame work and structure is standing. The structure is hot gal dipped for longevity. We will have a good over hang of the roofing to give the best protection from the weather, drip lines will be graveled, the centre will be fenced with a similar style fence to that of the local club. We plan to put Astro Turf around the visitors centre in order to reduce water consumption, and to have early beautification of the facility. It is also very hard wearing and should last many years. Cladding of the facility starts the week of the 12th of August, so by the time this is read at the meeting, cladding should be complete.

- **Piling and delivery** of pontoons and walkways started on the 12th of August with the loading of a 1,000ton barge in Darwin. It is towed to site on the 17 – 18th by a tugboat, the pontoons will be off loaded and out on temporary moorings while piles are driven. They will make a second trip back to Darwin for the next and final load.

- **Abutments** for both walk ways at Wurrumiyanga and Paru have been poured.

- **Project is expected** to be complete in September, with final touches and completion finalized in October.

- **We expect** to have funds for additional works. We will be putting in shade structures on both sides specially for persons waiting to cross the strait. We will have a fire pit on both sides, these will be from ex PAWA turbines, they have some size and will be safe and easy to utilize. We will have water on Paru side, which will be very welcome I'm sure, having sat there once or twice myself and wishing I had a drink.

- **We will be working** with TIRC to bring the final Drain Project works into being at the same time as the pontoons project, so that the final product looks like it was always intended as one concept. There will be a car park for this facility, and we will also have boat trailer and car parks, native tree and bush area, beautification of the facility and area, a bridge crossing the drain (creek ) to start the town tourist walk, over to Tiwi Design. We may have funds to put an additional bridge to Tiwi Tours, but we need to wait and see what funds remain.

- **We will be replacing** the sacred Mantiyupwi tree that was knocked over some time back, where the fence and signs are on the fore shore area. This will be done with Wesley Kerinauia and family.

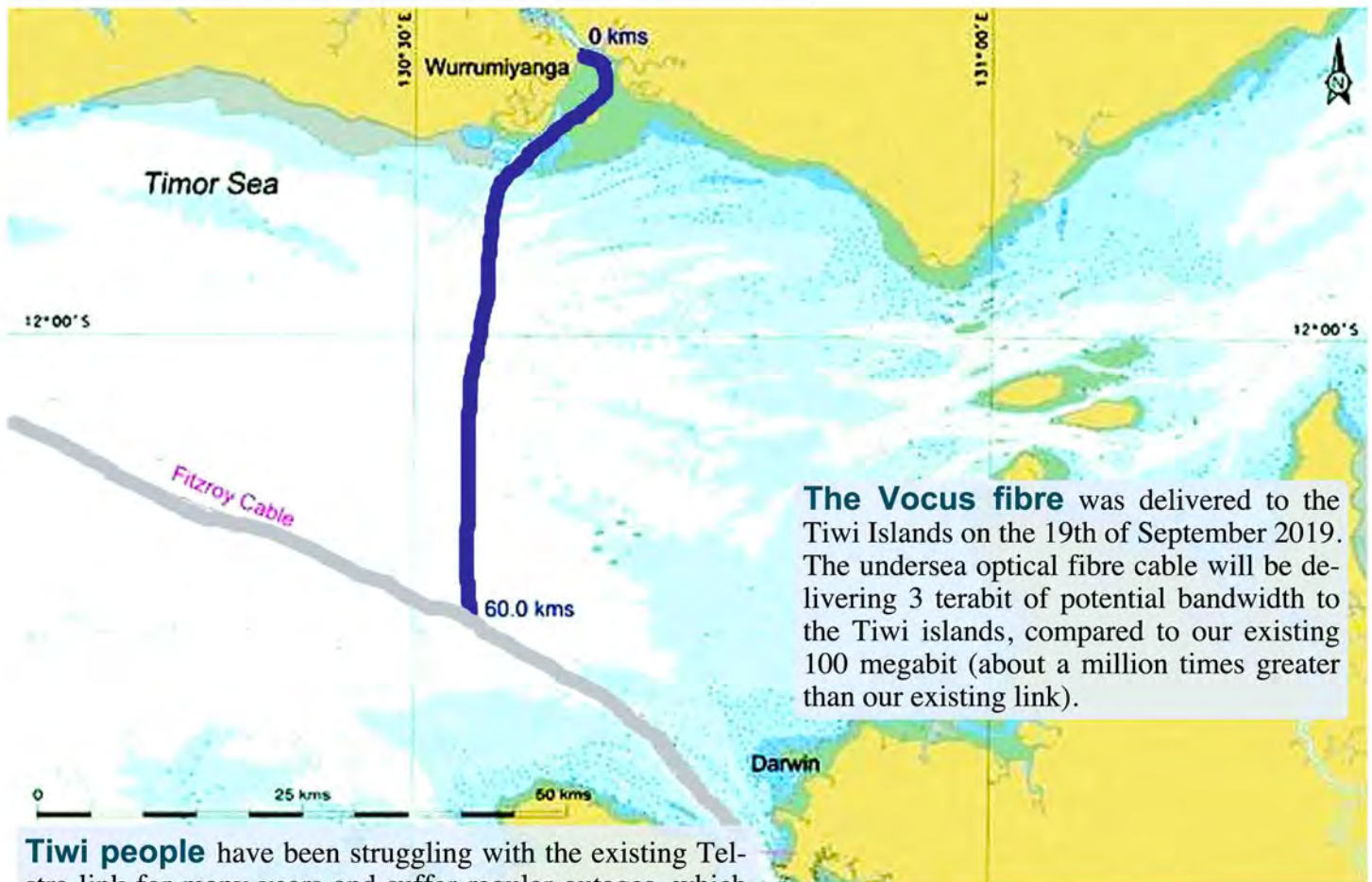
- **Mary Statue** will be re stored and returned to as close to the original position as possible.

*Mark Muller, Operations Manager  
Tiwi Enterprises, Tiwi Islands*

Works on pontoons and Visitor Centre in August and September



# Fibre comes to the Tiwi Islands - The 21st century arrives

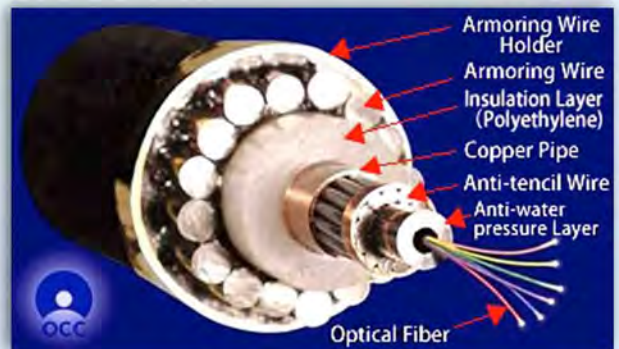


**The Vocus fibre** was delivered to the Tiwi Islands on the 19th of September 2019. The undersea optical fibre cable will be delivering 3 terabit of potential bandwidth to the Tiwi islands, compared to our existing 100 megabit (about a million times greater than our existing link).

**Tiwi people** have been struggling with the existing Telstra link for many years and suffer regular outages, which effect every service on the two islands. Tiwi Islands Regional Council, Tiwi Land Council and other providers have been arguing for some years that the existing link is holding back many modern services, such as virtual court appearances or virtual prison visits, virtual examinations by specialist medical practitioners, pairing of our schools with schools in other countries or in other parts of Australia, as well as more standard services such as internet banking, 3G and 4G mobile services, ATMs, and the access to the internet which all modern businesses require. AFLNT and ABC will now be able to live stream TIFL and NTFI Bomber home games. Workers on the islands can benefit from better access to webinars and web conferences and better access to full video telephony, enabling virtual meetings to reduce travel costs. It will mean better connections for Tiwi who are living away from the islands for school or work, enabling full video and audio connections with family.

**Our local member** Lawrence Costa has been working for some years to make this connection a reality. With the assistance of the Northern Territory Government and Vocus, the last link was put in place to connect the Tiwi Islands with a service equivalent to those in other parts of Australia.

*Chris Smith  
General Manager Infrastructure  
Tiwi Islands Regional Council*



Fibre cable load arrives on Tiwi Islands

# Working with Menzies

One of the exciting projects that Tiwi Resources is involved in is a research project with the Menzies School of Health Research, which is looking at the medicinal properties in Tiwi plants. Other partners in the project are Integra Health Care and the University of Queensland.

The project will initially focus on approximately 20 common traditional medicinal plants used across the Top End, that have been documented in books such as *“Tiwi Plants and Animals: Aboriginal flora and fauna knowledge from Bathurst and Melville Islands, northern Australia”*\*. These plants will be tested at Menzies to examine their anti-bacterial, anti-fungal properties and anti-inflammatory properties. Menzies are already working with the Strong Women on the Tiwi plants, and this project will complement the work they are doing.



\* Tiwi Plants and Animals: Aboriginal flora and fauna knowledge from Bathurst and Melville Islands, northern Australia; Authors: Justin Puruntatameri, R. Puruntatameri, Anita Pangiraminni, Lydia Burack, Cornelia Tipuamantymirri, Mercy Tipakalippa, Jovita Puruntatameri, Pauline Puruntatameri, John Baptiste Pupangamirri, Ruth Kerinaiaua, Doreen Tipiloura, Mary-Margaret Orsto, B. Kantilla, Maralampuwi Kurrupuwu, P.F. Puruntatameri, Tommy Daniel Puruntatameri, Leon Puruntatameri, Kitty Kantilla, John Wilson, Jack Cusack, Donna Jackson and Glenn Wightman' Publisher: Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (2001)



Directors Meeting held at Menzies Building in Darwin – Janey Puautjimi, Adonis Wommatakimmi, Ron Poantimilui and Alice Munkara



Visit to the Menzies lab in Darwin – Yvonne Kelly, Greg Leach, Adonis Wommatakimi, Nilus Kerinaiaua, Ron Poantimilui, Jo Wapling, Janey Puautjimi, Alice Munkara, Linda Pupangamirri and Wendy Miller

Tiwi Resources directors were delighted to host a visit by the project partners 12th August at Wurrumiyanga. The day was an introduction to the Tiwi Islands for the representatives from Integra and University of Queensland. The day included a meeting and lunch with all partners to the project, a visit to the Patakijiyali Museum and Tiwi Design, and an excursion with the Strong Women - Gemma, Jacinta and Marie Carmel - to see some of the plants to be studied. Needless to say, our visitors returned home with much enthusiasm for the Tiwi Islands and this project, and some very nice art work as well.

Then on Thursday 19th September the Directors travelled into Darwin to visit the Menzies School of Health Research, where Greg Leach and Jo Wapling gave them a tour of the laboratory facility. It was very interesting to see the scientists at work, and in particular to see the young indigenous trainees working there, and so obviously enjoying their work. One of the hopes for this current project is that it will lead to opportunities for our youth, creating jobs into the future.

Yvonne Kelly  
Tiwi Resources



On the way through the lab – Wendy Miller, Linda Pupangamirri, Janey Puautjimi, Greg Leach, Nilus Kerinaiaua and Adonis Wommatakimmi



Example:  
'Cocky Apple'  
Kanuli (female)

\**Planchonia careya*

The outer bark is chipped off and the red inner bark is collected and boiled in water. The liquid is then used as a wash to treat any skin sores, rashes or infections.

# Karluwu yikwani No more burning this year



Rangers and TPC staff setting up the Tiwi Fire information stall in Milikapiti



Milikapiti School students listening to TLC Chairman, Gibson Farmer Illortaminni, talk about burning and keeping country healthy.



Gibson Farmer Illortaminni, Kim Puruntatameri, Marbine Austral and Bruce Holland at Pularumpi School

## No more burning this year on the Tiwi Islands!

**That was the key message** delivered by Land Council Chairman, Gibson Farmer Illortaminni and Tiwi Plantations Corporation (TPC) Chairman, Kim Puruntatameri, the Tiwi Land Rangers and TPC staff to schools and communities across the islands in August.

A large area of the Tiwi Islands is burnt each year and these fires release greenhouse gases, including methane and nitrous oxide. By burning early in the dry season - before August - greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced, and more carbon can be stored in the soil and plants.

**“And this carbon is worth money!”** said Mr Illortaminni.

**“Burning early** in the dry season to store carbon will also help to keep Tiwi plants and animals healthy”, he said.

**Last year, the Tiwi Rangers** were the first group to receive operational funds from the Savanna Fire Management (SFM) Program to conduct early season burning. The SFM Program is managed by the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation on behalf of the INPEX-operated Ichthys LNG Project’s voluntary commitments with the NT Government to offset carbon emissions from the project’s onshore facility. Early dry season burning helps to protect plants and animals and cultural values. It can also be used as a tool to prevent the spread of big, destructive hot fires that can start from lightning strikes late in the year.

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Photos page 8 and 9 by Barbie McKaige



Gibson and Kiim reminding students at Murrupurtyyanuwu Catholic Primary School in Wurrumiyanga that no burning should take place after July.



# Karluwu yikwani

## No more burning this year



**Tiwi Fire Coordinator**, Bruce Holland and Tiwi Rangers Colin Kerinauia, Brian Austral, Edward Henry-Whiting and Warwick Puruntatameri talked to students and community members about how looking after country with the right fires will help keep more carbon stored on Tiwi land, earn money for Tiwi people and keep the country healthy for future generations.

**They also talked** to senior students about pathways to future employment including joining the ranger program or following in the footsteps of TPC's David and Marbine Austral and working in forestry. Mr Illortaminni and Mr Puruntatameri encouraged all students to go to school every day, work hard and look forward to the future.

Mr Puruntatameri and new TPC General Manager, Mark Ashley, also reminded everyone of the importance of keeping fire out of the forestry plantations throughout the year.

**"Burning the plantations is burning Tiwi money",** they said.

*Barbie McKaige for Tiwi Resources*



Tiwi Fire Coordinator, Bruce Holland, talking about fire management to Tiwi College students with Gibson Farmer Illortaminni and Kim Puruntatameri looking on.



Xavier Catholic College students also learnt about pathways to future employment, including joining the Tiwi Ranger program or working for Tiwi Plantations Corporation.



Tiwi College Principal, Stuart Ward, and Tiwi Fire Coordinator, Bruce Holland



Tiwi Plantations Corporation General Manager, Mark Ashley, with Tiwi Ranger, Colin Kerinauia, and Colin's grandson



The Tiwi Fire information stall at Wurrumiyanga



**For more information about burning please contact  
Tiwi Fire Coordinator, Bruce Holland Ph: 0475 262 158**



## What's Happening at Port Melville?

**July and August** have seen a great deal of activity at the Port with the successful loading of the 'Green Harvest' bulk carrier with shipment #17 of Tiwi woodchips. In addition, the Port has bunkered several Commonwealth and fishing fleet vessels.

**On the 4th of September** the fuel tanker 'Eships Cobia' berthed at the Port and discharged several thousand tonnes of fuel into the tank farm and will return in December with a similar cargo.

**NTPM was also pleased** to be able to support the Coxswain Level 2 training course conducted by the Tiwi Islands Training and Education Board and the Australian Maritime & Fisheries Academy over this period.



**Cameron Metcalfe** recently commenced at the Port as one of our Wharfmasters and in his own words:

**"I come to NTPM** with 25+ years specialty marine experience covering marine and terrestrial activities. I am excited to join NTPM to continue expanding my marine diversity in a new challenge to assist in growing the Ports' development.

**I enjoy fishing,** hunting and gold detecting in my time off. I have 2 kids and a wife of 22 years but I am really just a big kid myself!"

## Meet the Port Melville Team



Cameron Metcalfe



*Jon Betjeman*  
Business Manager NT Port & Marine  
Email: [jon.betjeman@agc-ausgroup.com](mailto:jon.betjeman@agc-ausgroup.com)  
Mob: 0415 949 019

# Awana mamanta from Tiwi College



Certificate II Building and Construction completers



Middle Young Men outdoor learning



Middle Young Women making shelters



Fire Ball tennis with the primary class



Senior Young Women 1st Aid



Senior Young Men 1st Aid



Senior Young Men down in the snow

**This term** has been one of many opportunities and achievements for our students at Tiwi College.

Our Senior Young Men and Women classes participated in their 1st Aid Training course recently, facilitated by Deb Marshall from TITEB. Our seniors have also been working exceptionally hard towards their other completion goals. Our SYM towards their Business and Construction Certificate and SYW towards their NTSDE completion certificates. The SYW have been involved in some intensive study activities over the term and both the SYW and SYM have made our college extremely proud of the efforts, persistence and determination they have shown in their respective study goals.

**Our Primary class** also continues to shine and were recently featured on the Good to Great schools webpage for the outstanding work and growth they have achieved through the Direct Instruction program. They also had a fantastic time working on their tennis skills when the team from Fireball Tennis visited and facilitated some fun skill sessions.

**Our Middle Young Men** and Women have been enjoying some innovative learning activities with their teachers and getting out of the classroom and onto country to learn some new concepts and develop some practical skills. The MYM were investigating time, distance and stream-lining; the MYW were building shelters as part of their early Australian studies program.

**Our SYM** went to Melbourne for their SEDA trip and have enjoyed some fun in the snow and a semi-final game between Geelong and Collingwood among other great experiences.

**And finally**, Tiwi College is so proud to announce that 3 Senior Young Men have completed all of the requirements to successfully complete their Certificate II in Building and Construction. A huge thanks goes to Brad Shepherd from CDU who is in his 8th year of working with the college. We would also like to thank the additional support provided by Andy Ward and Blair Godenzi who stepped in while Brad was on leave. We are all so proud of George, Stanley and John and can't wait to see them at their graduation ceremony.

Mana,

*Cally Jetta  
Academic Coordinator  
Tiwi College*

# Heide Smith's new web blog Tiwi stories and Tiwi photos



heide smith



**Heide Smith website blog**  
[www.heidesmith.com/encore/](http://www.heidesmith.com/encore/)

**Facebook Page**  
[facebook.com/heide.smith.photographer](https://facebook.com/heide.smith.photographer)

Heide Smith has travelled since the 1980s to the Tiwi Islands and has created some of the most iconic photographic images of the Tiwi people.

Recently Heide made a promise on Facebook to show some of the portraits from her collection of Strong Tiwi Women. It's called **"Ardent Indigenous Australia Women"**.

In response to requests from some of her Facebook supporters, she posted on August 1st the first of a series of stories and portraits of strong Tiwi Women on her website blog and on her Facebook Page.

In the weeks to come, Heide will introduce you to more portraits and stories of these ardent indigenous women - sadly many of them are no longer with us.

According to Facebook, the first five posts have reached over 15,000 viewers.

**Go Tiwi!**



Clockwise: Valma Hunting; Polly Miller; Heide with Tiwi women



Photos by Heide Smith