



# THE TIWI

NEWS for  
Traditional  
Owners



## NEWS from your TIWI LAND Council

### Chairman's Words



Gibson F. Illortaminni

2019 has been a very successful year.

Firstly, remembering the members in our community that have passed away during this year and paying my respects to their families.

This year has gone by quickly. The Tiwi Land Council has been very busy. We opened our very own Land Council office in Darwin, which has since been a meeting place for our executive members and TLC members - coming together in making important decisions. We hosted the NT Biannual Strategic Forum of the Northern Territory Government, the Commonwealth Government and four Land Councils – NLC, CLC, ALC, TLC as well as various other meetings in the welcoming environment of our new office.

Each year that passes seems to have its own magic, there are always trials, and maybe an uphill here and there, but more often than not, they are positively spread with many highlights which brings joy and success.

For instance, how Andrew Tipungwuti as our first Tiwi CEO has embraced his new role and was appointed to the position as interim Chair for the ABAAC during this year. The vision of Tiwi people to be elevated on merit to management positions is evident. Following in his footsteps will lead other Tiwi to success. This is a reflection of the strong management team of the Land Council.

On a personal level I like to mention that I was elected as Chairman my 3rd term in February 2018. That term will see me as chairman of the Land Council for 9 years ending February 2021.

**Merry Christmas  
And a happy 2020**

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**TIWI LAND COUNCIL  
2020  
CALENDAR**

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Tiwi Calendar



# Chairman's Words



**I was also appointed** Chair of Port Melville Pty Ltd and continue the position of Deputy Chair of Tiwi Plantation Corporation, overseeing the significant development of the forestry operations, and I was also selected to be a member of Indigenous working group this year.

Tiwi Football - we are looking forward to March 2020 grand finals, our Tiwi Bombers are looking at a new era of excellence and our Tiwi College continues to be a shining light in Indigenous Education.

**Let us all be mindful** of the spirit of sharing, caring, and generosity of the Christmas season, and do our best at all times as we seek to develop as an organisation, improve the prosperity of our community and grow as individuals, contributing in whatever capacity to add value to our Tiwi people, communities and one another.

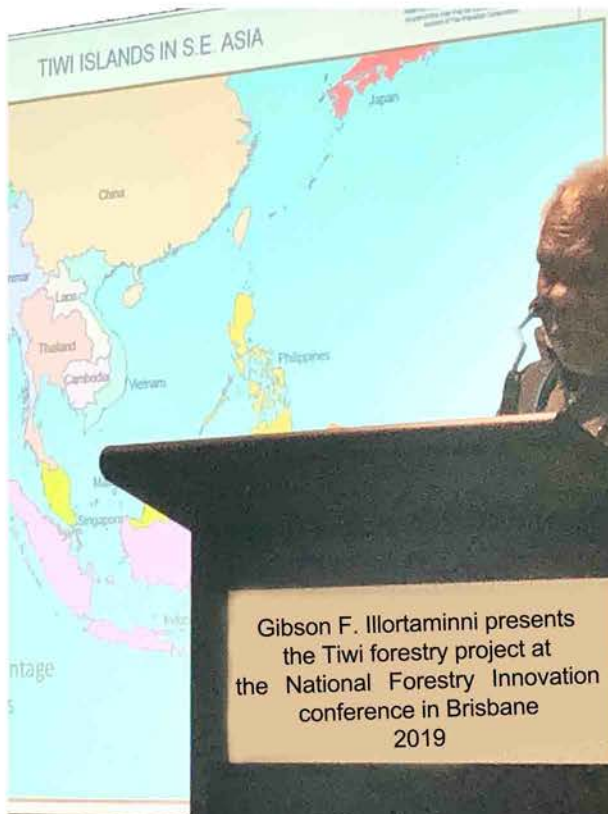
I like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your wonderful support and contribution. Regardless of your current level of involvement, I encourage you to become more engaged with the Land Council and the wider community.

**With 2019 closing in**, it's time for us all to reflect on the positives and look forward to embracing 2020.

On behalf of the CEO, staff and all Tiwi Land Council members let me thank you for your support and endorsement of our efforts, and pledge to work even more energetically for you in 2020.

**I like to wish you**, your families and friends a safe and happy Christmas, and a New Year filled with peace, joy and prosperity.

*Gibson Farmer Illortaminni  
Chairman  
Tiwi Land Council*





# CEO's Message



A. Tipungwuti, CEO

**I would like** to pay my respect to our Tiwi families who have lost loved ones during this year - cherished Tiwi men and women all who have left a legacy on our Tiwi lives with many leaving us far too early – they will always be remembered.

I like to thank our Chairman, staff and all Land Council members for their contributions to another successful year, which is much appreciated.

It's been a very busy year with many great achievements that we all should be proud of and I look forward to collectively working with all in the upcoming year ahead.

**My family and I** like to wish everyone of you a safe and enjoyable Christmas and prosperous New Year.



**This is our** new office TLC HQ at Picka which I have been working passionately to achieve for our TLC members and the community, we look forward to holding meetings here in 2020.



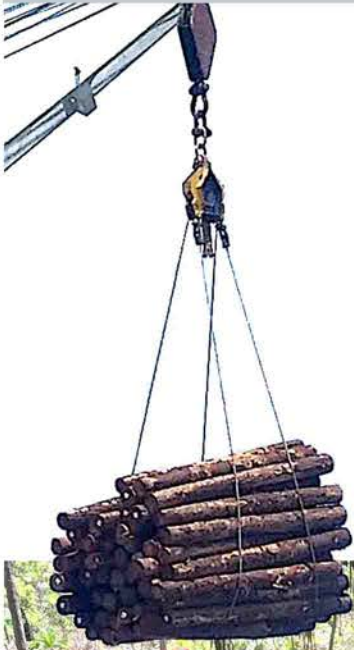
**A long-awaited Telstra** cell is a great achievement and success, which adds a tremendous value to the Community.  
**It helps us all to be able to be connected.**



*Andrew Tipungwuti  
CEO Tiwi Land Council*



# Tiwi Forestry update



Through the hard work of Tiwi Plantations Corporation board and the PMP / Midway staff we have had a busy and exciting year. The forestry business continues to develop and this year we've sold both woodchips and logs with our crews managing the process from stump to ship. To date this year, we have exported 7 shipments (4 woodchip and 3 pine logs) and have a full woodchip load on the wharf should a sales opportunity emerge over the January - February 2020 period.

## During 2019

we successfully introduced the third harvest machine that increased our daily harvested capacity up to 1200 tonnes per day and the good work of the harvest team has allowed us to increase the quality and size consistency of the woodchip product. We are now producing more of a consistently better product – a very important requirement in keeping our customers happy.



The year has also had its normal challenges.. As everyone would know we had a very long and hot fire season this year... and our plantation protection crew has worked hard to keep wildfires away from our assets and out of the plantation. During the high fire danger periods the plantation protection crew were fighting fire most days, often well into the evening. Their work is critical to protecting the plantation and we acknowledge their committed and ongoing contribution to the business, to the Tiwi environment and the plantation business. Their great work was recently helped with the arrival of two new fire trucks that will assist with water fire transport and direct fire suppression and control.



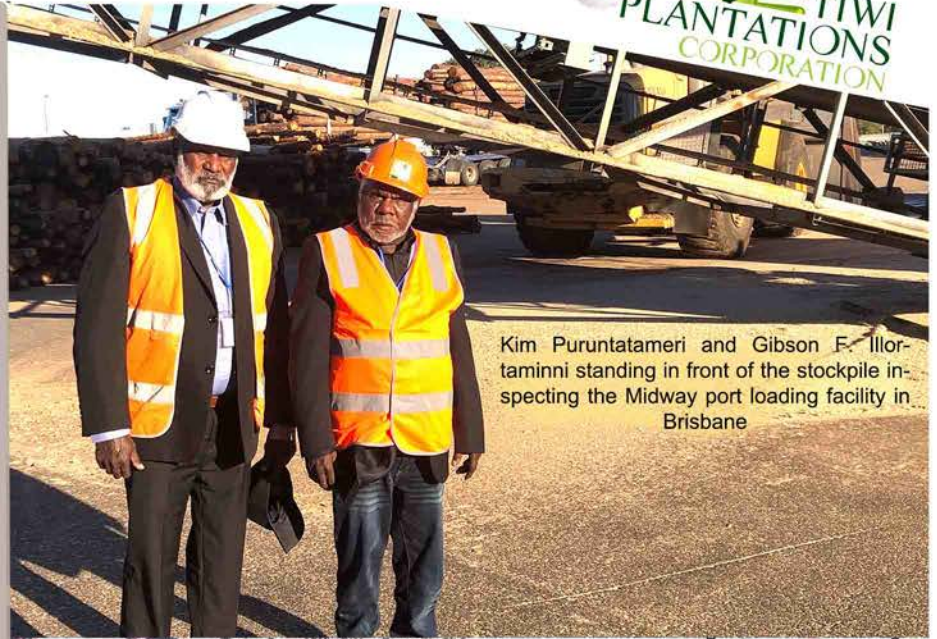
We've also been busy planning for the future of the plantation and have begun speaking to Tiwi family groups about a potential second rotation planting. The meetings have been well attended and allowed all Tiwi families to hear about what is involved the second rotation planting and to discuss how it may proceed. Tiwi supported exploring the second rotation and to commence discussions with commercial partners about an investment strategy for the project. We will come back to Tiwi families in March 2020 to outline the outcomes of these discussions and get a final decision from Tiwi about the second rotation.



# Tiwi Forestry update



The Tiwi forestry project has also gained some national recognition this year when our Chairman, Kim Puruntatameri and Chair of Port Melville and TPC Deputy Chair, Gibson Illortaminni Deputy presented at the National Forestry Innovation conference in Brisbane. Kim and Gibson both presented and described the journey of the Tiwi Plantations Corporation and its vision for the future to the audience that included many international forestry experts from across the industry. As a result of this presentation and hard work of the board Tiwi Plantations Corporation has been invited to become a member of key industry group, the Australian Forest Products Association. This organisation has members from all areas of the timber industry and will increase our profile to potential customers, governments and other industry partners.



Kim Puruntatameri and Gibson F. Illortaminni standing in front of the stockpile inspecting the Midway port loading facility in Brisbane

**Our new General Manager,** Mark Ashley has been busy working for the board and learning about all the parts of our business. Our former General Manager, Roger Smith has been helpful in working with Mark and the board ensuring a smooth transition. We would like to thank Roger for all of his hard work over the years and for helping to make the Tiwi Plantations Corporation vision a reality.



Working at Yapilika

**Finally,** we'd like to again thank all the Tiwi Forestry staff who have worked so hard to make the project such a success this year. We wish you all a very merry and safe Christmas and look forward to 2020 .

*Tiwi Plantation Corporation*



Tiwi forestry board [L to R]: Patrick Puruntatameri, Dennis Tipakalippa, John Wilson, Gibson F. Illortaminni and Kim Puruntatameri



# Happy Christmas to all



**The Chairman, CEO,  
Staff and Members  
of the Tiwi Land Council,  
On behalf of the  
Tiwi People,**

**Extend our greetings  
And good wishes  
For a very  
Happy Christmas,  
And a successful  
2020.**

## Tiwi Land Council Calendar 2020



Zoological knowledge: Bernard Tipiruvu, John Wilson, Lynette Johnson, Jacinta Tipungwili, Eunice Omba, Judy Punutalameri and Gibson Farmer. Punutalameri, J. et al (2011) Tree Plants and Animals: Aboriginal flora and fauna knowledge from Bathurst and Melville Islands, northern Australia.  
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Calytrix Communication

Special thanks to Craig Nieminski for generously providing most of the photographs used in this calendar.  
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For 2020 Tiwi Calendar contact Tiwi Land Council



# Pontoons 99% finished Ready for 2020



**Roy Farmer Illortaminni** was the first to try out the ramps and access in his electric scooter, he went very well and loved being out there.

**Paru is 99% finished**, Wurrumiyanga is very close to complete, maybe 6 to 8 days from completion.

*Mark Muller, Operations manager  
Tiwi Enterprises*



Roy Farmer Illortaminni checking out the ramps

## Community Safety Issue

With the school holidays starting in a few days' time it is important that all community members help in keeping all the children in the community safe. Unfortunately with the new Pontoon facility we have already seen children climbing the safety fences and then swimming from the floating pontoon to shore.

We have recently seen the big crocodile resting near the pontoon so no one should be swimming in the strait. All adults in the community should help by explaining to children not to climb on the pontoon and not to swim in the pontoon area because of crocodiles and jelly fish stingers.

**Community safety is everybody's responsibility.**





## What's Happening at Port Melville?

On 12 October the 'MV Timaru Star' departed Port Melville with the third load of Tiwi pine logs. Another successful export from Tiwi to the world and a credit to all involved.



In October our Harbour Master Captain David McDonald represented NT Port and Marine at the Pacific 19 International Maritime Exposition held in Sydney. Pacific 19 is held every 2 years and is the premier maritime defence exhibition in the southern hemisphere. NTPM were part of the DefenceNT stand under which the NT Government brings together local companies to promote the NT as the premier location to support the Australian Defence Force. NTPM is grateful to the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation for including NTPM in this exhibition.

## Pacific 19



## Tiwi AFL

With the commencement of the 2019-2020 season, Port Manager Lindsay Whiting presented the teams playing at the Pirlangimpi oval on 26 October with some of the new NT Port and Marine footballs. Lindsay and the Port team will be delivering these balls to all the Tiwi teams and schools over the coming weeks.



Port Manager Lindsay Whiting and Port team

## Meet the Port Melville Team



Simon Onesti

Hello, my name is Simon Onesti and I am one of the Maintenance Coordinators at Port Melville. My prior experience is in construction, mostly in mining, oil & gas and the iron ore industry. The role of Maintenance Coordinator suits me perfectly as I love to build and fix things in my own time as well as work and it gives me a great sense of achievement. Some of my other hobbies are rebuilding old cars and travelling the world.

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





# Tiwi Resources News



**2019 has been a big year** for Tiwi Resources. The Land and Sea Ranger Program continues to be a major focus, and we thank our staff for the continuing work they do in looking after our country. We would like to congratulate them for being nominated for the Territory Natural Resources Management Indigenous award for the work they have been doing on the fire management across the islands. Well done Bruce, Willie and the team – recognition well deserved!

**In early November** the Science Reference Committee (SRC) meet in Wurrumiyanga to hear updates on various research projects that are happening, and that proposed. Visiting scientists attended, along with our rangers, directors and members of the TLC Executive. Throughout the day we heard reports from:

● Dr Hugh Davies and Cara Penton spoke about the Small Mammal Project and the impact feral animals and fire have on the small animal population on the islands.

● Prof Lesley Head reported on the observations of environmental change that has taken place on the islands. She has spent time gathering information from locals in each of the communities to get their reflections of change that is happening.

● Prof Emily Nicholson and Dr Margaret Ayre provided an update of the Land Use Planning and ARC Linkage Project, which aims to produce scientific evidence to support land management planning and decision making. It will involve consultations with the Tiwi clans, and consultations with the family groups is set to commence early next year. It also involves having a Tiwi research Research Assistant – this position has been advertised through TITEB.

**The SRC usually meets twice a year**, and the next meeting is scheduled to be held in Melbourne in April 2020.



Lesley Head, Edward Henry-Whiting, Emily Nicholson and Ron Poantimilui



Robyn Trethowan and Alice Munkara



Tiwi Science Reference Committee meeting in Wurrumiyanga



# Tiwi Resources News



On Friday 30/11/19 we held our director's meeting at the Tiwi Land Council Office in Winnellie. One of the main issues discussed was the proposed sale of carbon credits and how this will be linked to a rewards scheme for families who practice good fire management on their country – more to come on this in 2020.

*Yvonne Kelly, Tiwi Resources*

**Wishing everyone a safe and merry festive season – looking forward to another big year in 2020.**



## Structure changes for Tiwi Enterprises

It is pleasing to report that Tiwi Enterprises has achieved registration as a “Not-For-Profit” company with the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission because everything we do is for the sole benefit of Tiwi people. This new status will enable us to apply for various Government grants which we have been excluded from in the past.



An example of this is the nearing completion “Pontoon Project” where the financial applications had to be filed by Mantiyupwi Family Trust and the Tiwi Land Council which has complicated the management of the project.

This process was achieved with assistance from the Chief Minister's Regional Flexible Grant scheme which provided funding to meet some of legal cost involved in setting up the new company. Currently we have two companies in operation because of contracts that previously existed for funding of the “Pontoon Project” which we are finalising at present. It is expected by the end of this year we will be carrying out all operations from the new company and the old company will have been legally “put to bed”. We are currently awaiting on the NT Government granting the new company an exemption from PAYROLL tax which will then put us on the same operating status as other Tiwi Owned organisations.

*Ray Allwright,  
CEO Tiwi Enterprises*





# Nguiu Club News

The AGM was held in early November, and the directors are all continuing on in this role for the Nguiu Club – Angelo Orsto, BJ Timaepatua, Danny Munkara, Ivan Fernando, Jennifer Clancy, Phyllis Daniels, Russell Pupangamirri and Stacey Parker. They will continue to work with the managers, Scott and Mark, to make the club a safe and happy environment for community members to enjoy.

Have a look at all of the different community events we have supported over the past three years



since the Nguiu Club became incorporated under ORIC.

We would like to thank Mantiyupwi Pty Ltd for supporting the club whilst it got back on it's feet.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – stay safe and see you in 2020!!

**Upgrades & Improvements**

Repairs \$265,000.00	Bar upgrade \$75,000.00	New paint \$26,000.00
Fire Safety \$51,000.00	Bistro upgrade \$60,000.00	Fence \$28,000.00
Electrical \$62,000.00	Bar Shutters \$22,000.00	

**2016-Now**

Hospital \$5,000	Funerals & Transport \$1645.70	Schools \$36,860.00
Church \$1,449.00	Museum \$269,500.00	Football \$97,949.00
Sista Girls \$6,243.00	Circus \$47,000.00	Community \$12,956.00

# Tiwi Land Rangers



On Wednesday the 13th of November the Tiwi Land Rangers and CDU researchers Cara Penton and Hugh Davies, presented at the Territory Natural Resource Management conference at the Darwin Convention Centre. The team took turns speaking to the crowd about how fire management is done on the Tiwi Islands, not only about the actual burning, but the community education programmes and research that is involved. Our message was that we are working together to conduct fire management in a way that generates money for community (through carbon credits) while keeping Tiwi country healthy and Tiwi culture strong.

As the Tiwi Land Rangers were nominated for the Indigenous Natural Resource Management Award, we also attended the awards ceremony. Unfortunately, we didn't win the award but there is always next year!





# Awungana Family and Friends of Tiwi College



**This term** there were a number of achievements that our staff and students should be very proud. The highlight would have to be our Senior Young Men and Women's Graduation Ceremonies in Darwin.

**Tiwi College has partnered** with Sports Education Development Australia (SEDA) & Charles Darwin University (CDU) since 2014. Through this partnership the Senior Men's class take part in a Certificate II in Sport & Recreation and Certificate II in Construction. The SEDA program provides an opportunity for our Senior Young Men to gain paid work experience in sports coaching as they go out into the communities each week to coach the young ones in Primary school on Melville and Bathurst Island. The CDU construction course give them knowledge and skills in a trade and we have already had graduates transition into jobs on Island in this field. This year we have a record number of graduates and we are very proud of Stanley Tipungwuti, John McLennan,

John Kantilla, Dion Apuatimi, Paulinus Stassi and George Portaminni for their achievements.

**Our Senior Young Women** have partnered with Northern Territory School of Distant Education (NTSDE) since 2013. Through this partnership they work towards completing a year 12 NTCET Certificate of Education. The class have worked extremely hard this year and we are very proud of Kim and Freda's for their achievement.

**I am so thankful for all the families** and staff who have assisted our graduates in reaching this goal. We will again celebrate these achievements along with all our students at our Tiwi College Graduation Ceremony Friday 6th of December.

**We wish you all a safe and happy holidays and look forward seeing everyone to start 2020.**

*Mana, Stuart Ward, Principal Tiwi College*

