



# THE TIWI

NEWS for  
Traditional  
Owners



## NEWS from your LAND Council

### Good to know

New Oyster trial on Melville Island showing early potential.



Oysters grown to four times their original size

### Topics

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## Chairman's Words



Welcome to the first edition of The Tiwi for 2015.

Again we pay our respects to family who have lost loved ones over the holiday period and very recently, we mourn the passing of one of our long term TLC Delegates, who strongly represented the Yimpinari group, was an exceptional footballer and a very much loved member of our Tiwi family.

2015 started with the election of our Chairman and Deputy Chairman positions and I am humbled that the TLC members saw fit to re-elect me as their Chairman for the next three years, along with Stanley Tipiloura as our Deputy Chairman. Stanley is a fine example of one of our young,

up and coming leaders who, having turned his life around, is now reaping the rewards and gaining the respect of his peers, family and wider Tiwi community. Stanley's election gives us all confidence that the next wave of Tiwi Leaders is well and truly upon us and is someone who is up for the challenges ahead.

We see this result as a vote of confidence in the work that your Tiwi Land Council has been doing over the past three years and which was set in train by our great leaders of our past many years ago.

We will start seeing the rewards of the vision and hard work of our leaders, past and present, with our first forestry harvest and developments at Port Melville during 2015.



Gibson F. Illortaminni



Stanley Tipiloura



Portrait photos by Heide Smith



Photo by Kate Hadden

For more photos see page 2

John Wilson, Danny Munkara, Junior Guy, Frederick Mungatopi, Kim B. Wommatakimmi

# Chairman's Words



**Our schools** are back and have hit the road running. We welcome our new and returning Education staff and thank them in advance for the terrific work they will be doing with the kids for our future in all of our Tiwi schools. The Tiwi Bombers, under the leadership and guidance of Willie Rioli, are back in the finals after missing out last year, so we wish them well in their finals campaign.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robert Tipungwuti, who retired at our February meeting. Robert is a two time Chairman of your Tiwi Land Council, established the Ranku community, has seen forestry come to harvest this year,



Robert Tipungwuti in 1988 and 2014, Photos by Heide Smith

has been a leader in Education, establishing the Tiwi College during his time as Chairman and has been one of our all time great leaders of our people over many years. We plan to have a fitting farewell for Robert at our June meeting.

As we see off the last of the wet season over the next couple of months, I call on us all to work together harmoniously for the benefit of all Tiwi people as we move into what promises to be an exceptional year.

*Gibson Farmer  
Illortaminni,  
Chairman  
Tiwi Land Council*

# Executive Management Committee EMC's Notes



## Hello 2015!

Tiwi Land Council's Executive Management team hopes that you all had a fantastic Christmas, spending time with family, hunting, eating and enjoying the festive season. Of course all good things must come to an end, at some point we must put the Christmas tree away and head back to work - and for our children head back to school.

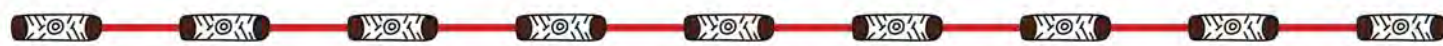
For us here at the Tiwi Land Council, we were all very keen to get back into it. 2015 is looking like a big year with lots of exciting things planned.

2015 is the year that harvesting of our forests will begin! This is such a milestone to be achieved by Tiwi people. The vision of the leaders past is about to realised! That long term vision to create economic development on the Tiwi Islands is happening NOW.

The harvesting equipment is arriving on the islands over the next couple of months. More and more jobs are now available for our children here on the Islands - they are now a reality for those who really want to work - now and into the future.



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The Tiwi Land Council continues to work with the Northern Territory Government with a view to further economic development across the islands for those land owners who wish to continue discussions. We have such good support from the NTG and believe that the NTG are fully committed and proud to be working with us to advance Tiwi people heading into the future.

Recently the Tiwi Land Council held its elections. On the 11th of February a full Tiwi Land Council meeting was held at Wurrumiyanga.

After a lengthy election process we are all very pleased to announce that Gibson Farmer Illortaminni received the most votes and was re-instated as Tiwi Land Councils Chairman for another 3 years! Congratulations Chairman.

Deputy chair, the person who came in with the second highest amount of votes, was Stanley Tipiloura. Congratulations to John Boy – the youngest Deputy Chair in the Land Council's history!

*Executive Management Committee*

TLC Chairman and Deputy Chairman Election on 11th February 2015



Photos by Kate Hadden



**Tiwi Land Council elects Chairman and Deputy**

# Mantiyupwi gives back to the Tiwi Community



Due the continuing support from the Tiwi Community to the various Mantiyupwi business ventures the Mantiyupwi Directors have resolved to help some of the local community projects.

Sponsorship of \$15,000 has been provided to the Tiwi Island Football League to enable payments to be made to the various game officials who work so hard to provide our exciting football games each week.



Discussions have commenced with Sister Anne and Catholic Missions for Mantiyupwi Trust to lease the Museum buildings and meet some of the operational costs to run the Museum, and to continue the Museum's ongoing development. The long term goal is to ensure the Museum is there in the future for all Tiwi to be able to study their history.



Part of Museum's collection

Sister Anne Gardener AM

## Tiwi Enterprises - Colin returns



Tiwi Enterprises is delighted to announce that Colin Paarman will be joining the garage team on 6th April. It is planned that Colin will be responsible for the day to day operation of the Garage office as well as doing specialist work on air conditioning problems and all things marine.

The hard working Dale will continue running the mechanical side of the garage and provide the day to day training of our three Tiwi apprentices who are training as our mechanics for the future. A very large special thanks is due to Dale for his efforts over the past twelve months.



Dale



# New Oyster trial showing early potential



The Tiwi Land Council has had a strong relationship with the Darwin Aquaculture Centre for many years, championed by ex TLC Chairman and long time Manager Cyril Kalippa. Cyril has long believed that oysters could be grown out on the Tiwi Islands as a source of food for local people, and maybe even an economic venture in the future. This has also come from his concern that too many areas around the Islands were over harvested, and that soon there wouldn't be any wild oysters for people to collect.

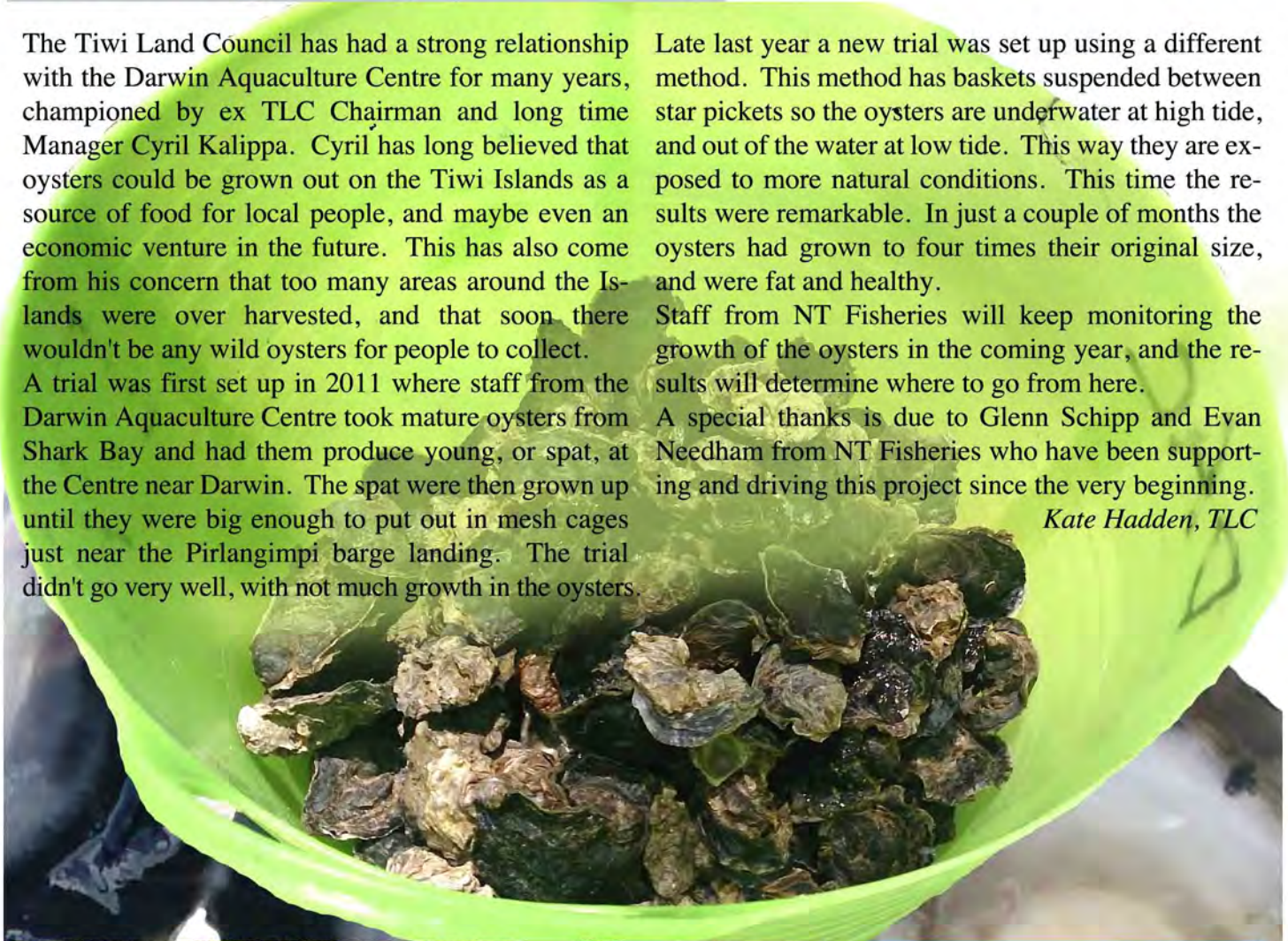
A trial was first set up in 2011 where staff from the Darwin Aquaculture Centre took mature oysters from Shark Bay and had them produce young, or spat, at the Centre near Darwin. The spat were then grown up until they were big enough to put out in mesh cages just near the Pirlangimpi barge landing. The trial didn't go very well, with not much growth in the oysters.

Late last year a new trial was set up using a different method. This method has baskets suspended between star pickets so the oysters are underwater at high tide, and out of the water at low tide. This way they are exposed to more natural conditions. This time the results were remarkable. In just a couple of months the oysters had grown to four times their original size, and were fat and healthy.

Staff from NT Fisheries will keep monitoring the growth of the oysters in the coming year, and the results will determine where to go from here.

A special thanks is due to Glenn Schipp and Evan Needham from NT Fisheries who have been supporting and driving this project since the very beginning.

*Kate Hadden, TLC*



Cyril Kalippa - the force behind the oyster trial



Land ranger Jose Pruntatameri, Marine ranger Dennis Murphy and Cyril Kalippa



Trial oyster farm



# Barge Landing project continues to progress



Photo by Meredith Quail

Rusca Brothers are continuing to make good progress on building the new barge landing facilities at Wurrumiyanga. The NT Government is currently working with the Tiwi Island Regional Council to redesign the road system to link the new barge facilities with the proposed ferry pontoon. Because of the wet season it will be some months before the new road is completed.



## Quiz

1. How many weeks of the 52 week year can we harvest trees?  
a) 27 weeks b) 35 weeks c) 45 weeks
2. Who is the newly elected Chairman of the Tiwi Land Council?  
a) Frederick Mungatopi b) Stanley Tipiloura  
c) Gibson F. Illortaminni
3. The Tiwi Land Council has had 8 Chairmen in 40 years. How many have had more than one term as Chairman?  
a) 5 b) 4 c) 2
4. Australians run up a lot of personal debt. On average how much does each Australian owe?  
a) \$20,000 b) \$40,000 c) \$80,000
5. What species of traditional aboriginal food remains the biggest industry today?  
a) Yams b) Barramundi c) Oysters
6. Who recently won the Telstra Study Award?  
a) Marie Clancy b) Jericka Mungatopi  
c) Amber Tipiloura
7. Australian families live in households. If the family numbers are changing what are the changes?  
a) Getting smaller b) Getting bigger c) Staying the same
8. We have six Barge landings. Which one is having large freight sheds, lighting and infrastructure built?  
a) Snake Bay b) Ranku c) Wurrumiyanga

Quiz answers on page 11

# Forestry and Port



- Under the direction of the Tiwi Plantations Corporation Board and in keeping with the long term vision of Tiwi Elders, the Tiwi Islands Forestry Project is nearing harvest. Harvest is due to start in March/April, with the first woodchip ship proposed to leave in May.

- Tiwi Plantations Corporation Board is Chairman Cyril Kalippa, Directors Gibson Illortaminni and John Wilson, and Appointor Andrew Tipungwuti. New nomination for Director is Kim Puruntatameri who has accepted the nomination.

- The first ABA grant equipment is starting to arrive. The Tiger Cat fellerbuncher is in Darwin. The Tiger Cat skidder is in Brisbane and should be in Darwin shortly. The Peterson chipper is in Albury-Wodonga and is expected to arrive in Darwin on 23 February. The ship loading equipment is on board ship to Melbourne. Should be here before the end of March.

- Mitsui have given us a draft five-year Sale and Purchase Agreement of Woodchip. Glen Samsa and Gary Inions will travel to Tokyo in early March for discussions with Mitsui on marketing strategy and to make presentations to pulp and paper mills. The agreement should be signed by the end of March.

- Daio paper are interested in Tiwi woodchip and have asked for a second sample which has been sent to them. Other samples have been sent to other Japanese and Chinese paper mills. Japanese woodchip prices are looking good. Chinese woodchip prices are okay. Independent laboratory analyses of Tiwi woodchip samples show that they have the same colour and the same chemical usage as Acacia mangium woodchips from Vietnam and Indonesia, but they produce about 10% more pulp.

- Mitsui Oceanic Lines has nearly completed its due diligence and are almost certain that they will have no problem bringing in a 3.6 million cubic ft woodchip vessel but are just doing some final checking with Ezion.

- We are in the final stages of discussion with Commonwealth Bank for a loan to purchase the remaining equipment and to construct the woodchip storage and receival depot at the port. We expect to receive advice of the loan any day now.



- Chairman of Port Melville Pty Ltd is Andrew Tipungwuti. New Directors nominated to the Port Melville Board, and have accepted the nomination, are Dennis Tipakalippa, Kim Puruntatameri and Wesley Kerinaiaua.

- Work on Port Melville is proceeding well with a 30,000,000 L diesel storage facility under construction, together with 120 person accommodation village. The diesel storage facility will provide fuel for shipping at the port and the accommodation village will provide accommodation for Tiwi workers at the port and working on ships, as well as for non-Tiwi personnel. It is expected that this work will be completed this dry season.

- Ezion is working with the NT EPA on their Operational Environmental Management Plan for the Port.

*Roger Smith, TPC*

# Developments at Port Melville



The works continue to progress at a rapid rate at the Port Melville Development.

This project would be considered large scale anywhere in Australia and is happening right here on Tiwi.

Since the last update the most significant milestone/feature is that the steel fuel storage tanks have started coming up out of the ground.

When these 3 tanks are completed each will be 16m high x 30m diameter and will hold 10 million litres of fuel for a total tank farm holding capacity of 30 million litres. With the favourable weather conditions that we have had this construction is on schedule for completion by mid-2015



Tank 1 welds

The Accommodation Village is also nearing completion, which will see residents in the camp in March. Although the main purpose of the village is to support the Port Melville operations rooms may be rented by people who require accommodation on the Tiwi Islands. Should you have any enquires on this please contact TEMSB (ph 8930 6500).

A good number of local Tiwi people are already working in various positions on the construction works, however recruitment for jobs in ongoing operational roles on the Port is just around the corner. To be considered for these positions you should either contact Titeb 8941 5988 or Dean Rioli 0488 697 810.

*Shaun London*

*Project Manager - Infrastructure*



South-east tank farm



Kitchen serving area



Walkways at Accommodation Village already in place



# Message from Member for Arafura

The New Year has got off to a busy start and I am pleased to be working again closely with the Tiwi people and the Tiwi Land Council this year.

It has been an unsettling time for the government in recent weeks and it is a reminder that it is time to focus on our communities and ensuring that people are at the centre of everything we do. The new Indigenous Affairs Ministry will be key to helping our young generations break free of the welfare cycle. The government and I will continue to progress the important issues related to economic development, roads and infrastructure and on the 5th March the Chief Minister, Adam Giles and I will visit the Port Melville development.

I continue to work closely with the NT government to progress the design of the Wurrumiyanga and Paru pontoon. Whilst there have been some engineering challenges with this project, the NT Government is committed to finding additional funds to support Tiwi Enterprises to successfully complete this project.

My office has supported our local schools and community organisations to apply for some grant funding for the NT government, such as the Back to School Sport vouchers and the Community Benefit Fund that provide our community with some great sporting, recreational and cultural opportunities. The NTG Remote Home Ownership team and I were present at the last Tiwi Toll Bombers game for 2014 to discuss the benefits of owning your own home.

I was honoured to be part of a number of Year 12 end of year education awards and the Wurrumiyanga Australia Day event. A special congratulation to all the young recipients of these awards and I urge our community to continue to support our young people in their future journey.

I look forward to working with Tiwi people to progress the various ideas and matters you have raised with me over the last few months. I will be attending Parliamentary Sitings in February, but will be back in the Tiwis early March to conduct a series of meetings, meet 'n' greets, community barbeques and more....Stay tuned, look out for posters in the community or contact Rachel at my electorate office on 8999 6950/0429 919 539 for further details.



**Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu, MLA**  
Member for Arafura  
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Mobile: 0429 919 539  
Email: [electorate.arafura@nt.gov.au](mailto:electorate.arafura@nt.gov.au)

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Francis X. Kurrupuwu at Tiwi Land Council meeting with Gibson F. Ilortammi and Stanley Tipiloura

# Xavier Catholic College Wurrumiyanga



The College community congratulates Jericka Mungatopi on receiving the Northern Territory Board of Studies 2014 Telstra Remote Indigenous Student Award. She received the award at Parliament House in Darwin on Friday the 13th of February, 2015.



Jericka Mungatopi  
with family and Francis X. Kurrupuwi

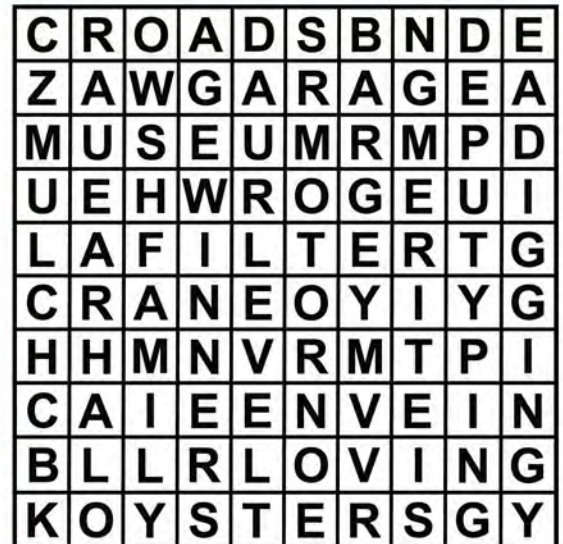


Jericka Mungatopi  
in front of NT Parliament House, Darwin

## Find the word

Find the 20 words below in the grid.  
The words can go forward, down or diagonally.  
Some letters can be used for 2 or more words.  
Draw a coloured line around each word as you find it.

CHAIRMAN	OYSTERS	WINNERS	MERIT
GARAGE	MUSEUM	CRANE	MULCH
FAMILY	HALO	TYPING	DIGGING
BARGE	MOTOR	LEVEL	ROADS
FILTER	DEPUTY	LOVING	TORN



## QUIZ ANSWERS from page 6

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1.b) only 35 weeks during the dry   | 4.c) Total Australian household debt is close to \$2 trillion. That is nearly twice as much as households receive as income. | 7.a) In the past 20 years more and more households are made up of just single people. Two million now live by themselves of a total of nearly 8 million households. |
| 2.b) Gibson F. Illortaminni. Elected Deputy Chair is Stanley Tipiloura                | 5.c) Oysters. 180 million are sold each year.  | 8.c) Wurrumiyanga at a cost of \$2m from NT Government.   |
| 3.b) Jimmy Tipungwuti, Matthew Wonaeamirri, Robert Tipungwuti, Gibson F. Illortaminni | 6.b) Jericka Mungatopi   |   |

# Banana Freckle update



**Just over a year ago** Banana freckle disease was found on banana plants at Milikapiti. Banana freckle is a disease that affects the leaves and fruit of banana plants. While it is not harmful to humans, it affects the commercial value of the fruit. The disease was also found on many properties across the Top End of the NT.

Since the first discovery, Tiwi Land Rangers worked with Biosecurity officers from the NT Government checking banana plants across the Tiwi Islands to see if they had the disease. All of the plants have been checked, and no more banana freckle has been found.

**Milikapiti was declared** a “Quarantine Place” for banana plants on 5th February 2014.

The area under quarantine covers the whole of Milikapiti community including the airstrip. This area is also known as a “red zone”.

Banana plants cannot be taken in or out of a red zone, or moved around within a red zone.

**The NT and Commonwealth Governments** have finalised their plan for dealing with the disease, and all plants within a red zone must now be removed, including those in Milikapiti. New banana plants cannot be planted in a red zone until 12 months after the whole of the NT is free of the disease.



Milikapiti Farm staff removing banana plants



**The Milikapiti Farm and Nursery** has been approved by the NT Government to be the responsible organisation to remove all banana plants from Milikapiti. They submitted a quote to the NT Government which was accepted, and have now removed all plants from the community.

**Milikapiti is the first community** in the NT to remove their bananas. So while the banana freckle infection was not a good news story, the treatment of it will bring much needed income to Milikapiti Farm.

*Kate Hadden, TLC*



## RESTRICTIONS ARE IN FORCE

If your property is located within a red zone, no bananas can be planted, propagated or grown on your property until area freedom is declared after the eradication is complete.

Banana plants cannot be moved within, into or out of red zones.

Banana plants can only be moved within red zones for disposal at your local rubbish tip in the red zone.

# Tiwi Ferry New Timetable



## Schedule from 1st February - 31st March 2015

DAY	DEPART CULLEN BAY	DEPART WURRUMIYANGA
Thursday	8:00am	11:00am
Friday	8:00am	3:15pm
Sunday	11:00am	1:45pm (2:00pm Paru)

Subject to change without notice

For reservations please visit

Sealink website: [sealinknt.com.au](http://sealinknt.com.au)

anytime or phone 1300 130 679 during office hours

## Schedule from 1st April - 30th November 2015

DAY	DEPART CULLEN BAY	DEPART WURRUMIYANGA
Thursday	8:00am	3:15pm
Friday	8:00am	3:15pm
Sunday	11:00am	1:45pm (2:00pm Paru)

## Please note new fares for the Tiwi Island Ferry service From 1st March 2015

The multi ticket is not replaceable or refundable, so please take care not to lose it as SeaLink is unable to replace lost tickets.

Pre-booked services are not available on the multi ticket. If you wish to pre-book and hold a confirmed place on a particular service, please purchase a full fare.

Please refer to the SeaLink website [sealinknt.com.au](http://sealinknt.com.au) for terms and conditions

	ONE WAY	RETURN
Adult	\$52.50	\$105
Concession (Seniors Card or Healthcare Care)	\$40	\$80
Child (5 – 14 yrs)	\$27.50	\$55
Infant (4 yrs and under)	Free	Free
Family Ticket (2 adults, 3 children)		\$280
Multi Ticket (10 trips)	\$395	