



# THE TIWI

NEWS for  
Traditional  
Owners



## Chairman's Words

Welcome to our April/ May Issue of The Tiwi.

This edition comes at the end of our wet and the beginning of our dry season, heralded in with our Kulama ceremony. Kulama is such an important time of our Tiwi lives. It is a time where we can leave our troubles, arguments, fights and challenges that we faced over the past 12 months behind us and start afresh, welcoming in the cooler weather and good hunting and good times with family and friends.

The Dry season is particularly important this year as we bring to fruition the vision of our great leaders, past and present, with the first harvest of our Tiwi Forestry project and Port Melville developments which is needing a strong and growing Tiwi workforce to be successful.

Our Leaders have always known that the answer to rich and rewarding lives for our people is through real jobs right here on our country. With a real job comes the knowledge that we are providing for our families, our fridges are full, our kids are never hungry, and we feel good about ourselves because we are leading lives that our kids want to follow.

The message from your Tiwi Land Council is that if you want to change your life and become the best that we know you can be, then take that next step and contact our TITEB, Forestry and Port Melville staff and join our Tiwi workforce to help us to build the strong, resilient and successful Tiwi nation that gives us and our children the best possible future in the years to come.

Mana, Nimpangi Mantawi

*Gibbon Farmer Illortaminni,  
Chairman Tiwi Land Council*

## NEWS from your LAND Council

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## Good to know

Harvest equipment for our Tiwi Forests gets a work-out at Yapilika Forestry Centre, Melville Island.

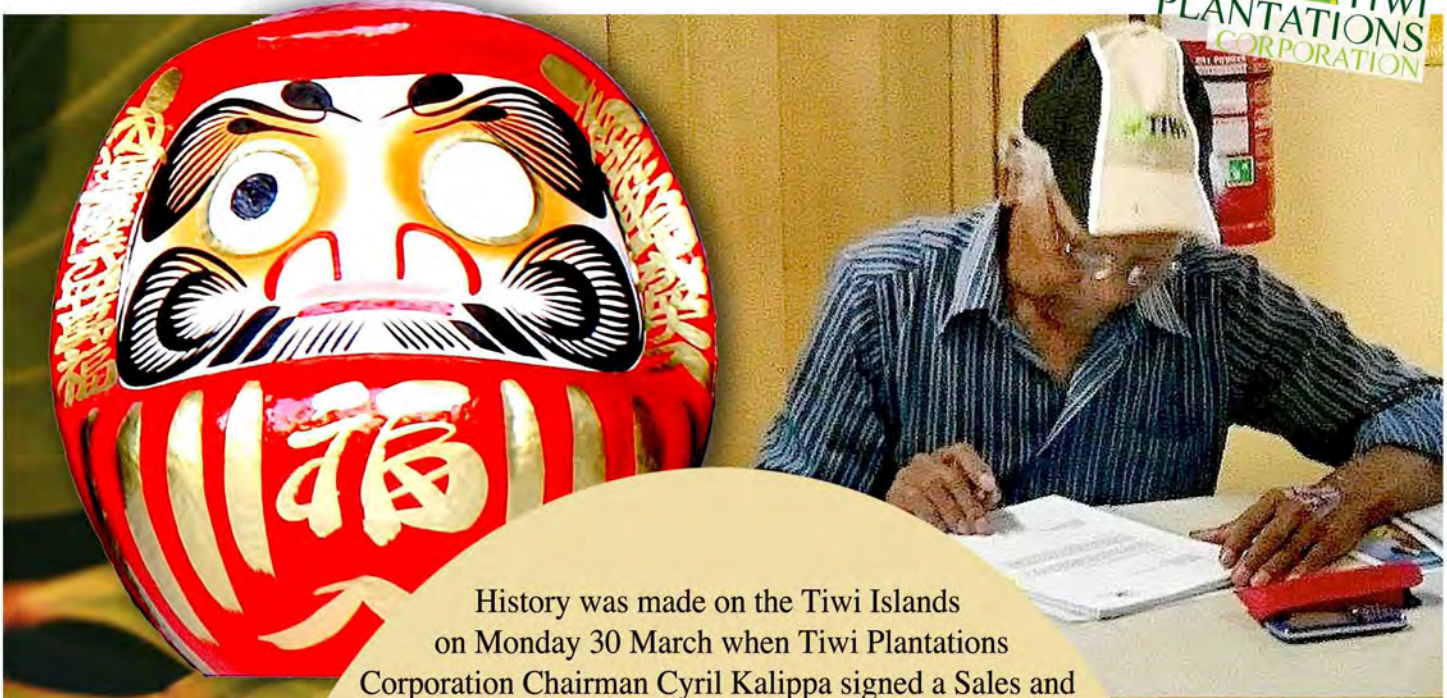


TPC and PMPL Boards R to L: Kim Puruntatameri, John Wilson, Roger Smith, Wesley Kerinaiaua, Cyril Kalippa OAM, Dennis Tipakalippa, Andrew Tipungwuti in front of our brand new Petersen 5000H chipper

See page 2



# Tiwi Forests - History made



History was made on the Tiwi Islands on Monday 30 March when Tiwi Plantations Corporation Chairman Cyril Kalippa signed a Sales and Purchase Agreement for Woodchip, then countersigned by Makoto Tatara, Managing Director of Mitsui Bussan Woodchip Oceania Pty Ltd in Melbourne the same afternoon.

Tiwi Plantations Corporation Chairman Cyril Kalippa

The agreement is for the export of up to 400,000 green metric tonnes of Tiwi woodchip to Japan every year for five years, total value of the five-year contract would be between AUD 125 million and AUD 150 million.



In the meantime, the first Peterson 5000 H wood chipper was started up in the same week to send sample Tiwi woodchips to Japan. Japanese representatives are expected to visit the Tiwi Islands on Monday 18 May. *Roger Smith, TPC*



Skidder and Feller buncher inspected by Cyril Kalippa TPC, Quentin Pope, Jodie Millsom and Craig Phillips, PMP



# Tiwi Resources and Tiwi Forests



Tiwi Resources Pty Ltd



Last year Tiwi Resources PTY LTD was successful in getting ABA financial assistance to purchase harvesting equipment to commence the sale of wood chips. The money was obtained in Tiwi Resources name so that every Tiwi will benefit from the Tiwi Plantations operation.

The largest unit of the equipment (the Peterson Woodchipper) has arrived and has already been tested producing sample wood chips for sending to Japan. To date \$4.85 million plus GST has been paid for equipment with the ABA funding.

ABA has been very helpful in the process to date and they have given Tiwi Resources the authority to mortgage the equipment they have funded to purchase additional equipment for harvesting.

Discussions are in progress with various financial institutions to fund the purchase of additional equipment. The main item to be purchased is a second woodchipper which will cost around \$1.8 million depending on the Australian dollar value at the time of purchase. Trucks, a second fellerbuncher and a second skidder will also be purchased.

Tiwi Plantations will be paying hirer fees to Tiwi Resources which will be used to purchase new equipment in the future, pay the financial institutions for the additional equipment and also to provide income for distribution to all Tiwi through the existing Tiwi Resources distribution system for family support.

The first load of wood chips should depart Port Melville in the middle of the dry season.

*Ray Allwright, Tiwi Resources*



Forestry harvest product:  
wood chips



# EMC's Notes

**Firstly**, we take time to pay our respects to those who have lost loved ones in the past couple of months.

A steady start to 2015 so far. Another Wet Season is behind us and we look forward to the Dry and all that it brings! Congratulations to the Wulama Doggies on their deserved Premiership victory – what a finish to the match! Bad luck to Pumarali, such a close game. Great to see the Tiwi Bombers finish off their season strongly as well – looking promising for a push further up the ladder when the NTFL season returns later in the year.

Port Melville construction continues – with one of the next stages of construction – building a woodchip storage facility, so that when the harvest of forestry starts very soon, there will be a place to store the woodchip before they are sent off overseas on the ‘chip ships’!

Chief Minister Adam Giles, along with Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu, visited the Port facility and attended a Tiwi Land Council Executive meeting in March, along with a group of Munupi leaders. The Northern Territory Government continue to be very impressed with the long planned vision on the islands of a Tiwi economy to benefit ALL Tiwi – with jobs becoming available for those who really want to work.

**Everyone might have** seen on the news recently that much of the machinery for the forestry harvest is now on the islands. This brand new specialised equipment will soon be working through the plantations of Acacia mangium trees. The sooner the Dry Season starts, the sooner the harvest can start – and it’s looking like sooner rather than later.



Tiwi Land Council Executive Management Committee



**It's an exciting time** - and remember - all of this was planned decades ago by Tiwi leaders of the past. Their vision was jobs on the islands for Tiwi people. There will be more and more jobs coming up at the Port and with forestry for those who really want to work.

So in our next issue of The Tiwi we will have further updates on all of the Port and forestry operations as they really kick into gear in what promises to be one of the busiest and most promising years on the Tiwi Islands.



Tiwi Land Council members 1988

Photo by Heide Smith

**Don't forget** to take these training and job opportunities as they become available – these are the days your leaders, many of whom have now passed on, dreamt of for ALL Tiwi people to benefit from.

*Executive Management Committee  
Tiwi Land Council*



**Take the next step  
Join our Tiwi workforce**

**Contact TITEB  
Norm Buchan  
on 8941 5988**





# Chief Minister visit Port Melville



CM Adam Giles, Glen Samsa, PMP, Cyril Kalippa and TLC Managers during arrival of the forestry equipment at Port Melville

On the 5th of March Chief Minister Adam Giles, along with an entourage of cameras and reporters and our very own MLA Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu, flew across to the Tiwi Islands for a day's visit at the ever expanding Port Melville.

Part of this visit was so that Mr Giles could take the time to attend a Tiwi Land Council Executive manager's meeting, along with a range of other guests on the day.

A 'sod turning ceremony' on the site of the new wood-chip storage facility, as mentioned in the Executive Manager's notes in this edition of 'The Tiwi', was also undertaken.



Visiting Port Melville

While here he also announced the Development Framework Agreement – another stepping stone toward economic development on the Tiwi Islands. Should investors be interested in working with Tiwi people on Tiwi land, this Development Framework Agreement will act as a kind of rulebook for those approved to invest in business on our islands.

Mr Giles said – "This is an inspirational deal, unheard of I think in Australia, but particularly in the NT where significant leadership has come from the local people ... who have the foresight to pursue economic opportunities, who have the vision to look outside the square about the way things are done, but particularly have a focus on creating jobs."

Terry Larkin, TLC

## Port Melville development



Port Melville 11 April 2015

Photos by Sean London, Project Manager



Tank 1 roof construction in March



Tank 1 with roof in April



Installation of roof plate



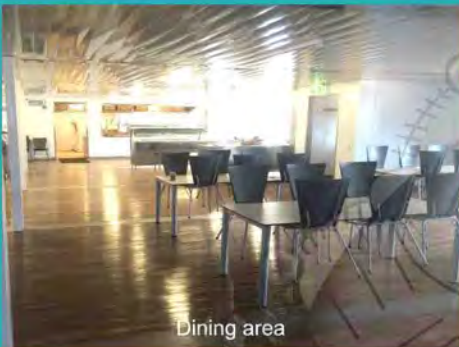
# Port Melville development



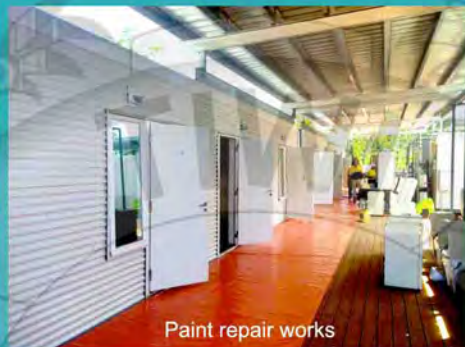
Works continue to progress on both the Tank Farm & Village Accommodation Projects at the Port Melville site. The roofs are going onto the tanks as you read this. We are in the home stretch for finishing the Accommodation Village and I expect that Practical Completion will be granted by the end of April. The site communication and entertainment system has been installed. Have a look at some of the images from building site.

Accommodation Village  
Barbecue area

*Sean London, Project Manager*



Dining area



Paint repair works



Office area



Pipework in bund



First section gantry truss and pipework



Pipework from tank



Firewater tanks, pumps and pipework



Civil works north side of bund



WWTP in ground discharge pipework



# It's Nearly Fire Time!



Controlled burning



Traditional Owners have been meeting through the Tiwi Islands Fire Committee to see how fires burnt across their country last year, and to plan for this year's burning. CSIRO has shown us that if country is burnt early in the dry season instead of late, then it saves carbon going into the air. If enough carbon is saved, it can be sold through carbon markets.

The 2014 fire season was not a good season for carbon anywhere across the Top End, reminding us that we have to consider how the seasons are going when we do our fire planning. Even so, there are still things we can do to try and reduce hot, late season fires. This includes getting out and burning country earlier, and putting in firebreaks so that late fires don't run. This also helps to protect our forest industry by keeping hot fires out of the plantations.

This year we will be running "Tiwi Fire Week" between the 18th and 22nd May. Tiwi Fire Week is all about letting people know what is happening with fire management on the Tiwi Islands. We will be visiting Tiwi communities with visitors from CSIRO and Bushfires NT, so look out for the banners to see when we will be coming to you.

**And remember - THINK ABOUT YOUR BURNING**



## Quiz

1. Tiwi College attendance rates are 84%. What are the attendance rates of other remote schools in NT?  
a) 64% b) 71% c) 90%

2. How many tonnes of wood chip will one Chip Ship carry?  
a) 15,000 tonnes b) 25,000 tonnes  
c) 30,000 tonnes

3. How many tonnes of wood chip can be harvested from our plantations?  
a) 1.1 million tonnes b) 1.4 million tonnes  
c) 1.8 million tonnes

4. How old is our own Tiwi Training Board?  
a) 4 years b) 11 years c) 16 years

5. Where did the name ACACIA come from?  
a) Greek name b) Latin tree name  
c) Queensland person

6. What writing made acacia wood so famous?  
a) Government report b) The Bible  
c) Folk song

7. Mitsui is the name of the Company buying Tiwi wood chip. How old is Mitsui?  
a) 26 years b) 68 years c) 139 years

8. How many workers are worldwide employed by Mitsui?  
a) 15,000 b) 50,000 c) 100,000



# Tiwi Science Reference Committee meets in Melbourne

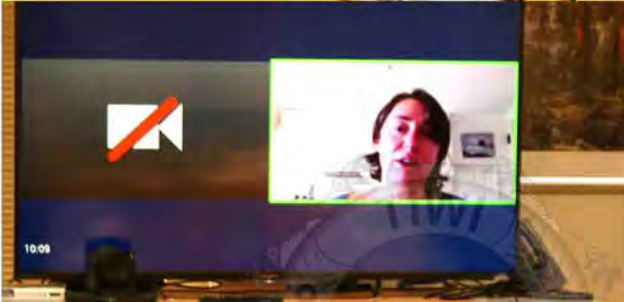


L to R: Gibson F. Illortaminni, Kate Hadden, Prof. Gerd Bossinger, Prof. Janet Hergt, Wesley Kerinauia, Willie Roberts, John Hicks, Lesley Tungatulum, Dr. Peter Vesk and Jose Puruntatameri



Representatives from the Tiwi Land Council Executive, Land Rangers and TLC staff met with scientists from Melbourne University in February. The meeting followed on from a quick trip in November last year, where members agreed that the TLC/University of Melbourne Science Reference Committee was a valuable forum that should continue to operate. The Committee was established by the Tiwi Land Council in February 2011, and its purpose is to advise the Tiwi Land Council on matters that have a scientific or research basis. It does this by:

- Providing advice on science-based issues raised by the Tiwi Land Council
- Advising on applications that come to the Tiwi Land Council from other bodies or individuals wishing to undertake research concerning the Tiwi and the Tiwi Islands
- Identifying areas of research that can provide benefit to the Tiwi, identifying researchers who could carry out the research and brokering the engagement between those researchers and the Tiwi
- Identifying potential sources of funding to support research activities that would be of benefit to the Tiwi





# Tiwi Science Reference



The meeting on the 26th of February was held at the Victorian School of Forestry in Creswick, about two hours drive west of Melbourne. In the morning we talked about what work has already been done under the SRC, what research is needed on the Tiwi Islands, and how the Committee should operate into the future. Possible projects included the use of natural resources by emerging industries such as Port Melville and forestry, impacts of feral animals such as cats in the bush, managing buffalo for food, documenting Tiwi Elders knowledge about the natural history of the Tiwi Islands, research into kidney disease and health, and many more.

In the afternoon we were given a guided tour of the Creswick saw mill, where training could be provided to future Tiwi Forest workers. Then we went into "Wombat Forest" where a number of field sites have been set up to study how the forest uses carbon. One of the sites is looking at the effects of different fire regimes on the forest - a project we are also doing on the Tiwi Islands.

Everyone agreed that it was a valuable and interesting day, and we all look forward to the next meeting on the Tiwi Islands later this year. *Kate Hadden, TLC*





# Message from Member for Arafura



**Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu, MLA**  
**Member for Arafura**  
**Phone: 8999 6950**  
**Mobile: 0429 919 539**  
**Email: [electorate.arafura@nt.gov.au](mailto:electorate.arafura@nt.gov.au)**

**PO Box 40724**  
**Casuarina NT 0811**  
**Shop 7**  
**Moil Shopping Centre**

As a community advocate for economic development, I was pleased to accompany the Chief Minister, Adam Giles to inspect the Port Melville facility and see the signing of an agreement between the NT Government, the Tiwi Land Council, Tiwi Resources and the Tiwi Aboriginal Land Trust in early March. This agreement provides a future for our children and grandchildren in areas of tourism, agriculture, forestry and aquaculture.

I have met with various people both living and working in the Tiwi's, all with an interest in forming partnerships with Tiwi people that have the potential to strengthen culture, the local economy and health and wellbeing.

Please come and speak with me if you would like more information on these meetings or maybe you too have an idea or solution you would like to raise with me.

Each month I will provide a prize for the best community suggestion /solution!

This month I have visited Jabiru and Gunbalanya and I am pleased to be bringing some of these ideas to Tiwi. These include; the establishment of a pop up/moving electorate office (look out for my tent); providing work experience for a young Year 9 student; and working with the Parliamentary Education Service to provide a series of fun and educational sessions on the role

as a parliamentarian, how to vote and speaking up for community issues. For information on any of these activities and how you can get involved in please contact my office on 89996950.

Over the coming weeks, I will have my pop up tent both in Wurrumiyanga and Melville Island before returning to Darwin for Parliamentary Sittings on the 27th April.

In closing, my thoughts and prayers to family and friends who have lost loved ones recently.



I look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks and invite you to like my new Facebook page Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu MLA -Arafura or contact my office on 8999 6950/0429 919 539 anytime. Mana

*Mr Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu, MLA  
Member for Arafura*

## QUIZ ANSWERS from page 7

1.a) 64% is the average attendance at remote schools in NT

2.c) 30,000 tonne chip load on a 50,000 tonne ship

3.c) Tiwi plantation calculate 1,863,000 tonnes of acacia chip will come off all the plantations.

4.c) 16 years. Established by Matthew Wonaeamerri as TLC Chairman in 1999.

5.a) Greek name for a baby girl meaning: 'she who knows'.

6.b) The Bible in the Book of Exodus "Thou shalt make an ark (box) of acacia wood".

This was to hold the ten Commandments. The box went missing in 586 AD.

7.b) and c) both are correct. Mitsui was founded in 1876 but stopped trading because of war. It started up again in 1947.

8.b) 50,000 in 140 offices located in 64 countries.





## Awuna

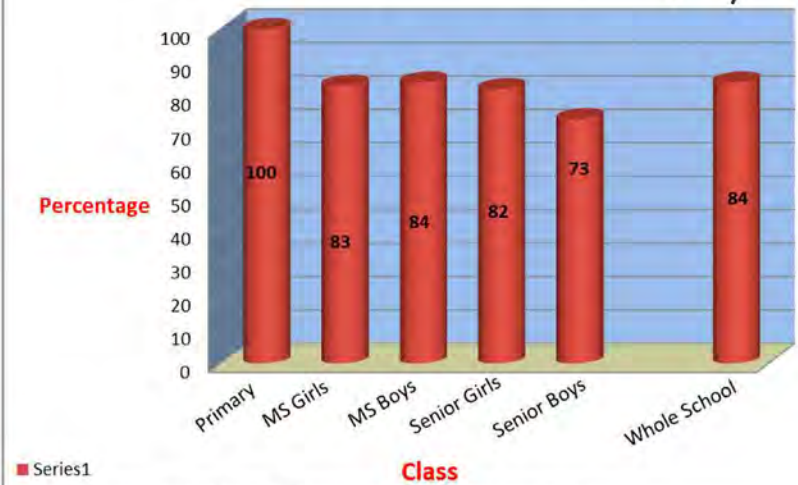
2015 has begun extremely well, with fantastic new staff and a wonderful sense of community throughout Pickataramoor.

Many of our staff have stayed on from last year. All of our Family Group Home parents have remained and we have a strong sense of togetherness. We are calling ourselves the "Picka Family".

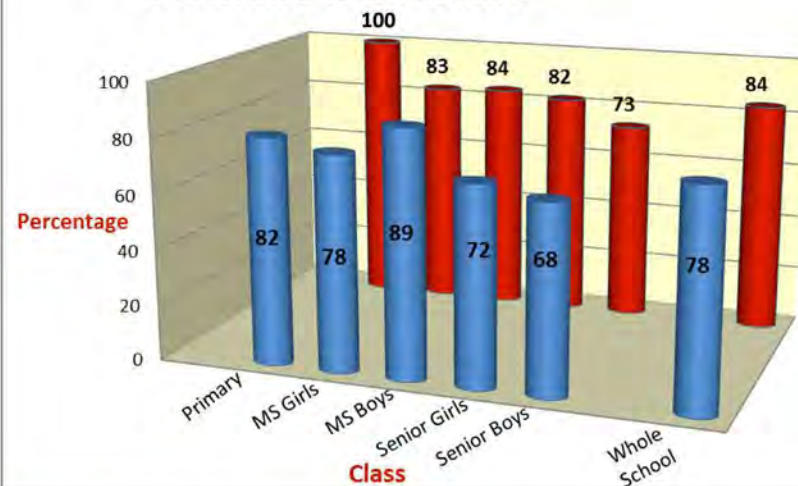
We believe the students are really feeling this positiveness around the school, as our attendance rates have been excellent for this time of the year. We now are completely full in all of our classes – with room only in our Senior Girls class for a few more students. This has made all of our staff feel so proud.

As well as our strong focus on literacy and numeracy, some of our great programs have grown stronger this year. Our SEDA program for the Senior Young Men is going very well, with most of the class earning certificates for completed unities already. They will be out and about during the dry season, taking classes in communities.

### Tiwi College Average Attendance 2



### Tiwi College Average Attendance Collection 1 vs Collection 2



The Hayden- Reynolds Garden is flourishing and the kitchen has been used by all of our girls' classes for some great cooking lessons as part of their elective units. In a great and exciting initiative, 2 of our students; Alex Guy and Demetrius Puruntatameri will be working as paid apprentices on the farm this year.

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# Tiwi College - Senior Boys Art

Our Family Group Home Lifeskills program has been an amazing success with FGH Parents teaching our students how to live longer, healthier lives and how these attributes can be passed on to their children, when they are parents. This term we look forward to their annual Fete. Be on the look-out for the advertisements for this, later this term. We would love to have our Tiwi College community here at the Fete.



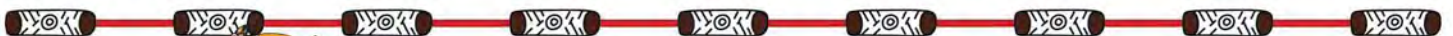
Term 2 is set to be an exciting one for all at Tiwi College!



Surf Board designs painted on wood by John Michael Moreen, Brayden Puruntatameri, Lachlie De Santis, Kingy Ullungura, and John Pupungameri.

During term one the Senior Boys were creating designs for their Surf Board shapes on large wood panels as part of their art curriculum. 12 of the best designs will be selected for an art exhibition at Torquay in Victoria to be displayed during the International Surfing Titles at Bells Beach. The cultural art exchange is seen as an important one for Indigenous Australia. Term 2 is set to be an exciting one for all at Tiwi College! Mana.

*Ian Smith, Principal*



## TIWI FIRE WEEK

From 18th to 22nd May

With visitors from CSIRO and Bushfires NT  
Look out for the banners to see when we will be coming to you.

**And remember - THINK ABOUT YOUR BURNING**