



THE TIWI

NEWS for
Traditional
Owners



NEWS from your LAND Council

Good to know

Extraordinary act of Tiwi solidarity - Wurrumiyanga community shows its appreciation to Mantiyupwi family.



See page 5



Chairman's Words

Welcome to the first edition of *The Tiwi* for 2016.

Again we pay our respects to family who have lost close ones over the holiday break.

2016 promises to be another big year in our Tiwi lives. As you read this, our second wood chip ship will have come and gone and our Tiwi workers will be preparing for the next one.

School has started for our future leaders and we ask all of our parents and families to encourage the children in our care to go to school every day so that they will be able to take advantage of the many employment opportunities right here on our own Islands.

It's footy finals time and we wish all of our teams all the best in the battle to the 2015/16 Tiwi Islands premiership.

We have two big elections later this year - in the Territory and Federally, and we wish all parties the best of luck. We have a great working relationship with our current Governments and we want that to continue with whoever wins the elections.

We welcome the appointment of Marion Scrymgour as the new CEO of the Tiwi Islands Regional Council (TIRC) and look forward to developing a fruitful relationship between the Tiwi Land Council and the TIRC in the months and years ahead, for the benefit of all our people.

In what has been a dry wet season, the rains must surely come, so we ask everyone to be careful on our roads, look after one another and enjoy the last of the rains before we move into the dry months ahead.

Mana. Gibson Farmer Illortaminni, Chairman Tiwi Land Council

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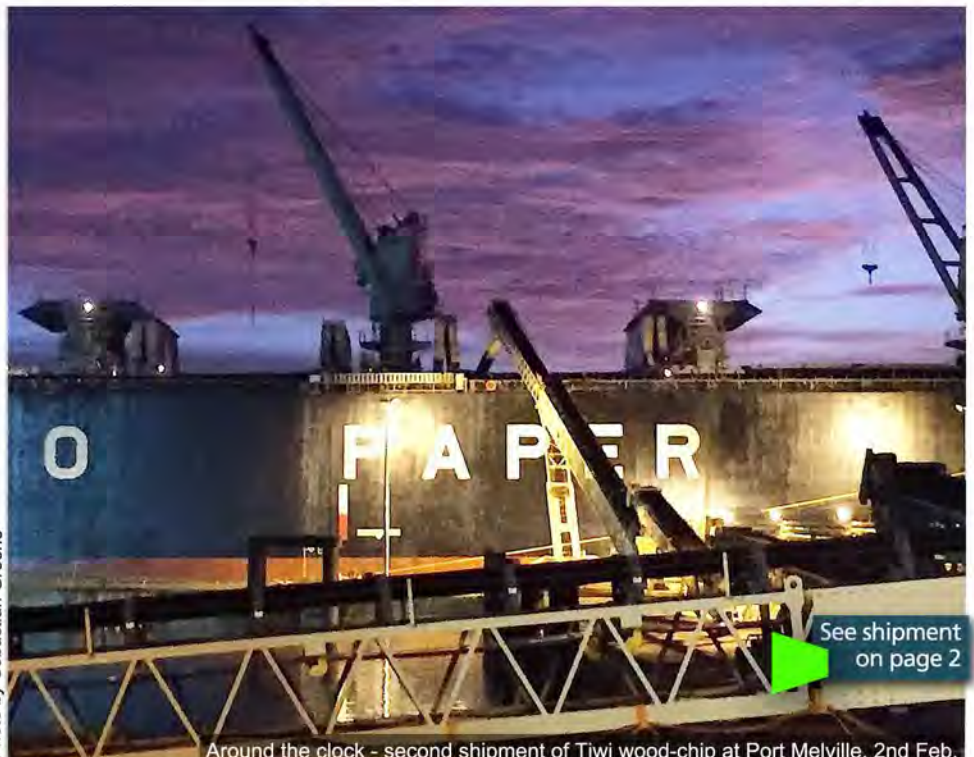


Photo by Sebastian Greene

See shipment on page 2

Around the clock - second shipment of Tiwi wood-chip at Port Melville, 2nd Feb.

Port Melville - second shipment



Day and Night



On 2nd February the Daio Papyrus came into Port Melville the second time to load the Tiwi wood-chip. It was a really special day and evening, a wonderful vibe among both forestry and port staff with everyone having so much purpose, and working all together.



Working around the clock



Photos by Sebastian Greene



Executive Management Committee

EMC's Notes



Tiwi Land Council Executive Management Committee

Hi Everyone,

We are already well into 2016 and things are happening all over the islands now and right throughout the upcoming year!

The TLC Executive Management Committee have met quite a few times since the middle of January – continuing our fortnightly meetings to keep everything related to your Land Council ticking over.

By the time you read this the second ship to collect Tiwi wood-chip will have been and gone, with another one due early to mid dry season, to export the 3rd ship load. The harvest will continue throughout 2016, making this the year that really solidifies the Tiwi forestry industry. Don't forget to utilise TITEB if you are interested in working for Tiwi Plantations. It will be hard work, but rewarding at the same time.

Port Melville will continue to evolve this year, despite those who don't want to see progress and the associated benefits for Tiwi on Tiwi land. There will be opportunities for work there as well, so please speak with TITEB if you are interested in being involved in these new and exciting businesses right in your own back yard.

Lastly – not long now until that last game of the year for the 2 best teams in the TIFL. Another big day is being planned at Wurrumiyanga, thanks to a lot of hard work behind the scenes from people who make the event possible. We'll help by posting Grand Final day updates at – “The Tiwi Online” on Facebook. It's great to see so many Tiwi organisations using Facebook as a tool to communicate with the Tiwi community. Have a great year everyone!

Executive Management Committee



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

Contact TITEB

**Tiwi Islands Training
and Employment Board
GPO Box 37745
Winnellie, NT 0821**

**Norm Buchan CEO
on Ph: 8941 5988
Mob: 0409 676 852
Email: norm@titeb.com**

Tiwi Islands Football League



- Imalu - Tigers
- Muluwurri - Magpie Geese
- Pumaralli - Thunder & Lightning
- Ranku - Eagles
- Tapalinga - Super Stars
- Tuyu - Buffaloes
- Walama - Bulldogs



Keep to the facts

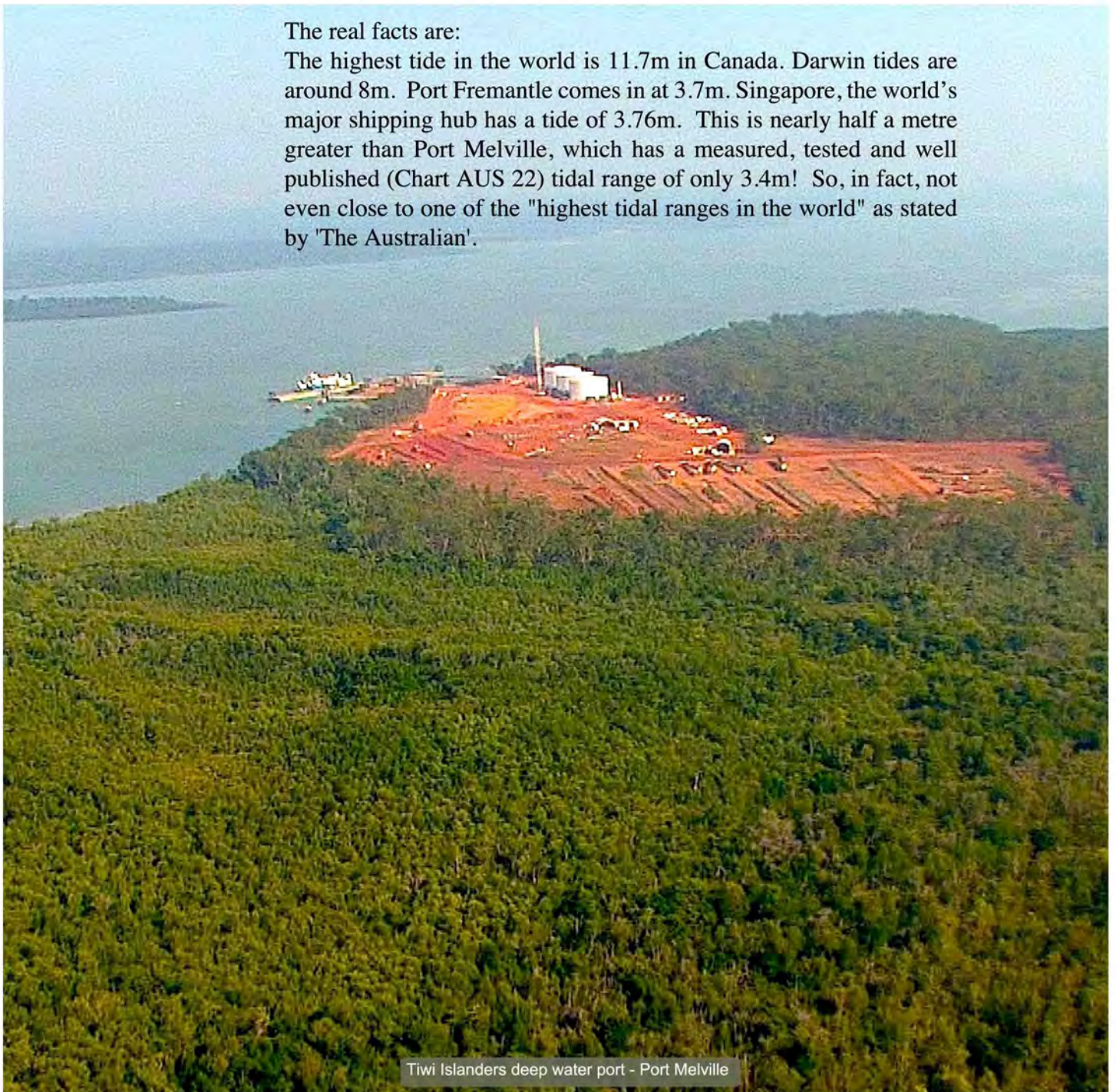


As reported in 'The Australian' on 2nd February, environmental groups are against the development of Port Melville. One of the reasons for their opposition is that the Tiwi port has "one of the highest tidal ranges in the world".

Port Melville was developed to support the Tiwi vision of using land for jobs and landowner benefit. Equally important is the strength of Tiwi people in looking after the natural environment. A lot of hard work and science was used to decide to put the port where it now stands. As well as being away from turtle nesting beaches and other areas of environmental importance, it is in an area where **the tidal range is relatively low.**

The real facts are:

The highest tide in the world is 11.7m in Canada. Darwin tides are around 8m. Port Fremantle comes in at 3.7m. Singapore, the world's major shipping hub has a tide of 3.76m. This is nearly half a metre greater than Port Melville, which has a measured, tested and well published (Chart AUS 22) tidal range of only 3.4m! So, in fact, not even close to one of the "highest tidal ranges in the world" as stated by 'The Australian'.



Tiwi Islanders deep water port - Port Melville

Dolphin & Dugong - Aerial surveys



During October and November 2015, two marine megafauna (turtles, dugongs and dolphins) aerial survey projects were undertaken along the Northern Territory (NT) coast. The helicopter and aeroplane surveys are part of two projects developed by the NT Government through funding from INPEX Ichthys LNG.

The information is still being analysed, but the surveys found that dolphins were wide spread around the coast, and the Australian snubfin dolphin was the most commonly seen species. Around the Tiwi Islands, the survey also counted 145 turtles, 12 Manta Rays and 28 dugongs.

Once the data analysis is complete, the survey teams will hold workshops with all Ranger groups to work out how to best manage the animals and their habitats.

Rachel Groom, Marine Threatened Species Scientist

Coast of Melville Island during aerial survey



Australian snubfin dolphins



Spinner dolphins



Manta ray

Act of solidarity



Wurrumiyanga community shows its appreciation to Mantiyupwi family

With the total failure of Telstra services early on Christmas Eve the Wurrumiyanga community was unable to use EFTPOS facilities until late on Boxing Day. Needless to say many people were very hungry by lunch time on Boxing Day.

The Mantiyupwi Directors and their Outback Store managers met and decided to open the Piliyamyirra Store and allow anyone with a bank card to shop up to \$60 dollars on the condition they repaid the store once EFTPOS was back on line.

Word soon spread around the Wurrumiyanga community and the Piliyamyirra store had to be temporarily closed on several occasions over the next few hours because the number of shoppers in the shop at one time was too great for people to move within the shop.

Over seven hundred were assisted prior to the Telstra services being restored.

We are delighted to report that every person has cleared their debt within the next fortnight which clearly shows that the Wurrumiyanga community appreciated the special service provided by the Piliyamyirra Store on Boxing Day.

*Ray Allwright,
CEO Tiwi Enterprises*



OPENING HOURS

Weekdays
8.30am - 5.30pm

Saturdays
8.30am - 12.00pm



Welcome to the
Piliyamyirra Supermarket
Proudly owned by the
Mantiyupwi Family



Working side by side with

OUTBACK
Stores

Tiwi Tropical Rock Oyster Project



Lots of baskets and oysters are going missing; some oysters have been stolen and eaten. This makes it hard to measure how the oysters are growing.

NT Fisheries, the Tiwi Land Council and Munupi P/L have been working together with the Tiwi community, growing baby oysters to good eating size.

If these trials are successful this could mean local oyster farms being run by Tiwi people in Tiwi oceans. Oysters could be sold into the local community and also into Darwin restaurants.

Tiwi Marine Rangers and NT Fisheries are studying how the oysters grow, so together with the community we can find the best way to farm oysters in waters around the Tiwi Islands.

When the oyster spat (small young oysters as shown in the photo) go into the ocean they are less than 5mm and will take 2 years to grow to eating size.

In October 2014 1000 baby oysters (spat) were put into growing baskets at the Tiwi Islands. Now there are only 300 oysters left, mainly due to poaching (16 months later).

To make sure this research continues, it is really important that no one touches or takes the oysters while they are growing.

The project will depend on two-way communication and support from the community.

One long-line is currently located at Pirlangimpi. There was another long-line at Pitjamirra but it broke during rough weather over Christmas.

5000 more baby oysters (spat) were put into the long-line baskets on the Tiwi Islands in late January. The Tiwi Rangers and Fisheries Staff are looking for another location for the second longline trial.

It is up to Tiwi people to decide if they want oyster farming to happen or not. For these trials to turn into small businesses for Tiwi people we need to look after the long-lines and stop taking the oysters.

Samantha Jane Nowland, NT Fisheries

Kate Hadden, TLC



Tiwi Rangers and NT Fisheries staff deploying long-lines at Pirlangimpi



Banana Freckle update



Just over two years 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. No banana freckle was found anywhere else on the Tiwi Islands.

Milikapiti was declared a “Quarantine Place” for banana plants on 5th February 2014. The area under quarantine goes from Karslake in the north to Sabu Landing in the south, and from Shark Creek in the west to Timrambu in the east. This area is also known as a “red zone”. All of the banana plants within the red zone had to be removed, and this was carried out by staff from the Milikapiti Farm. They also did regular checks around the community to make sure no new bananas were planted, or that any suckers came back.

**Please help
keep the Tiwi Islands
pest and disease free.**



TIWI ISLANDS QUARANTINE



This dry season, the NT Government will oversee trial plantings of banana plants at Milikapiti. These plants will be watched carefully to make sure the fungus does not reappear, and is truly gone from the area.

In the meantime, Milikapiti remains a **Red Zone. This means that banana plants cannot be moved within, into or out of Milikapiti. **Under quarantine legislation it is an offence to bring banana plants into Milikapiti from other communities or the mainland.****

Kate Hadden, Tiwi Land Council

Tiwi carbon workshop



On the 10th December last year Tiwi Land Rangers got together with CSIRO scientists to talk about what is happening with carbon and fire studies on the Tiwi Islands.

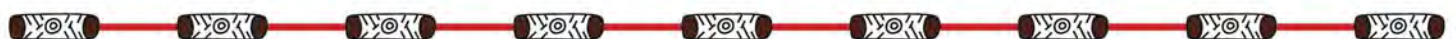
The best news is that the 2015 fire season sent less carbon emissions into the air than in 2014. So well done to everyone for “Thinking about your burning”. If we can keep this going then there might be opportunities to earn money by burning areas early, and not burning too much.

Other exciting news was the research being done by CSIRO on storing carbon in the ground, which might also provide opportunities for income later down the track.

The workshop also saw presentations from researchers looking at how different ways of burning might affect small mammals like gliders and possums. A surprising early outcome suggests that feral cats hunt better in areas that are burnt a lot later in the year. More work is needed to prove this, but it looks like burning early and burning less can be bad for feral cats - which is always a good thing!

Kate Hadden, TLC

Thinking about your burning



Quiz

1. Why is the tide at Port Melville so low?
a) The moon does not pull so hard at Pirlangimpi.
b) Apsley Strait not big enough for full tide to get in and out within six hours.
c) The Timor Sea has lower tides than elsewhere.
2. How long does it take a Chip Ship to get from Tasmania to Japan?
a) 10 days b) 12 days c) 16 days

3. How long does it take a Chip Ship to get to Japan from Port Melville?
a) 6 days b) 9 days c) 11 days
4. Humans have the biggest brain size related to body size. What animal is closest to human brain size?
a) Elephants b) Dolphins c) Great Apes

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

PO Box 40724
Casuarina NT 0811
Shop 7
Moil Shopping Centre

A big thank you for all the support and well wishes I have received following the passing of my mother and also during my long stay in hospital. Family is so important in helping us get through hard times. I am pleased to be back on my feet again and feeling lighter, getting stronger each day.

Welcome back to a new year – hope it will be a happy one for you all. Parliamentary Sittings begun in February and I will continue to travel to Darwin each month to be your voice in Parliament. I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks as I travel between Melville Islands and my Tiwi office in Wurrumiyanga, before I head over to West Arnhem in March. Please contact Rachel at my Electorate Office on 0429 919 539 or electorate.arafura@nt.gov.au if you wish to meet with me, have any questions or would like to find out how you can support me over the coming months. Get on to my new Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu MLA](http://www.facebook.com/Francis_Xavier_Kurrupuwu_MLA), like and stay in touch.

Francis Xavier Kurrupuwu
Member for Arafura



My biggest support, my wife Ancilla and I – 'off to work'.



Chief Minister, Member for Arafura, NT Minister Bess Price and the Tiwi crew at the Launch of the Aboriginal Affairs Strategy, Parliament House February 2016. For more information on the strategy go to: <http://www.digcs.nt.gov.au/office-of-aboriginal-affairs>.

Job Ad

Part time job opportunity exists with the Local Member for Tiwi Islands! Based in Wurrumiyanga with some travel to Melville and Darwin required. Some office skills, good people skills and the ability to work independently. Training and ongoing support provided. Immediate start. Approximately 3 days per week. Contact Rachel on 0429919539 or talk to your Local Member for more information.

QUIZ ANSWERS from page 8

1. b)

2. c)

3. a)

4. b)

Tiwi College report



Awana



Girls academy

2016 has begun extremely well, with Tiwi College bursting at the seams with students! We have never had so many students begin the year. It's a great testimony to the faith the Tiwi people have in our college and the ability of our staff to care for the young Tiwi. We want as many young Tiwi coming to Tiwi College – run by Tiwi, for Tiwi.

Many of our staff have stayed on at Peaceful Picka from last year. We have welcomed 3 new staff to Tiwi College, this year.

Claire Semmens is our Middle School Girls teacher. Aaron Semmens is our Middle School Boys teacher and Emily Alexander is our new Girls Academy Coordinator.

We are also pleased to announce that Richard Djorlom is our new Assistant teacher for the Senior Boys class, after David Henry-Whiting was successful in obtaining an apprenticeship in Darwin.

We are so happy to have these people as part of our "Picka Family" – we hope their stay on the Tiwi Islands is full of adventure and appreciation for the rich Tiwi culture.

There should be no doubt that our Senior School are leading the charge this year with an engaging SEDA program for the young men & a challenging program of Stage 1 and Stage 2 units for the young women.

We have raised the bar in the middle school and our Primary school is in their second year of Direct Instruction. We are ensuring that their work is become more challenging so that they have the ability to meet the demands of the Senior School when they are old enough.

Our Academic Program matches that of any similar school on the mainland – so parents should feel comfortable about their students staying "on island" to get a good education. We have spent years working hard to ensure we live up to the expectations of our community in this area.

Our Academy Program this year is set to be the best ever; action packed with sporting opportunities, cultural experiences and camps and incentive trips. Tippa and Emily are working hard to ensure they develop fit young role models who shine both on and off the field.

The care provided by our Family Group Home parents is exceptional. Their regular tuition helps develop independent students, ie cooking for themselves, cleaning their rooms daily and cleaning around the house. Their "Lifeskills" program enables student to learn about themselves and others around them and become "good people" who give back to others and community.

A clear difference at Tiwi College is that we all focus on ensuring our students are "Work Ready" for when they wish to get a job. We believe we are doing this well !

May 2016 be a happy one for you all. Mana

Ian Smith, Principal



Middle school girls term 1



Boxing drills



Tiwi Islands Football League



Tiwi Grand Final
Sunday, 20 March 2016
Wurrumiyanga

Imalu - Tigers Muluwurri - Magpie Geese Pumaralli - Thunder & Lightning
Ranku - Eagles Tapalinga - Super Stars Tuyu - Buffaloes Walama - Bulldogs



Tiwi Bus Service - Job Ad



Are you interested
in being a bus driver?

We will be working with
TITEB to provide
training for drivers.

Please contact Mark or
Ray on 8978 3755 if you
are interested in this, or if
you already have your
bus licence.

