



# THE TIWI

NEWS for  
Traditional  
Owners



## NEWS from your LAND Council

### Good to know

The International New York Times reports about Jilamara Arts & Crafts. See page 7



The famous newspaper's headquarters in New York City



## Chairman's Words

Welcome to our new April/May edition of your *The Tiwi*. Again we pass on our thoughts and prayers to family who have lost loved ones over the wet season.

We welcome in the start of our Dry season as we do every year, with our Kulama Ceremony, a very important time for all Tiwi. A time when we leave old fights and arguments over the past year behind us, forgive each other and move forward together as one family, looking towards the great weather, fishing and hunting and spending quality time with our family and friends.

In what looks like another big year in the lives of all Tiwi, we have the forestry and Port Melville projects, discussions regarding possible township leasing at Pirlangimpi

and a number of other Land Owner projects throughout the Islands gathering pace.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Maria Harvey to our Tiwi lives. Maria is the new CEO of TITEB who will be taking over the role from our longest serving CEO in Norm Buchan, who will be retiring later on in the year. More on Norm in future editions of *The Tiwi*.

I hope you enjoy this edition of 'Your Tiwi' and a reminder to everyone to talk to me and your TLC Executive, Trustees, Delegates and staff about any issues or ideas you would like discussed.

Mana.

*Gibson Farmer Illortaminni  
Chairman Tiwi Land Council*

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Photo by Meredith Quail



Kulama ceremony at Wurrumiyanga

See Kulama on page 2

# 2016 Kulama Time



Walter Jr Kerinauia

The first weekend of April saw the 2016 Kulama at Wurrumiyanga take place in Coconut Grove with Wally Jr being the master of ceremony assisted by Teddy, Eustace, Stephen Paul, and Calista as the major singers.

In spite of the unscheduled rain in the early mornings of both days everyone has expressed their pleasure of five major singers for the first time in years.

The **yam collectors** were successful in collecting seven large yams out beyond the airport. Much effort was put into the construction of a special stick fire and the use of paperbark to cover the yams during the cooking process.

By the conclusion of the ceremony some 58 Tiwi Traditional Owners had contributed to the running of the 2016 Kulama.



Photos by Meredith Quail



# Executive Management Committee

## EMC's Notes



Tiwi Land Council Executive Management Committee

**It's almost time** to start gearing up for the dry season! Lots of good times ahead.

Before the dry kicks in and you head out hunting with family remember to get your car ready. Stock up on bottled water, maybe extra fuel, food to last a day and night in case you get stuck, vinegar in case of jelly fish sting - maybe even a little first aid kit!

Well, it's been a busy time for the Tiwi Land Council since the last edition of The Tiwi. A lot of small things happening almost every day along with our TLC executive meetings that we have been having on a regular basis. We meet once every two weeks and try to hold the meetings in each community rotating between Milikapiti, Wurrumiyanga, Pirlangimpi and Pickataramoor.

**By conducting regular meetings**, we as an organisation are more able to stay in touch with the real issues, the issues that affect all Tiwi people on a day to day basis. It also helps us monitor the progress of a lot of different and exciting projects that are happening on the islands.

Please remember family and friends, the Tiwi Land Council is your council. Please make contact with us if you would like to ask a question, have an idea, need information or are unsure about something. You can either talk to your TLC rep or can call the TLC headquarters on 8970 9373. Be safe.

*Executive Management Committee*



## Quiz

- Who composed the Kulama song "I stand at Fourcroy with half my face"?  
a) Justin Purutatameri b) Aloysius Puantulura  
c) Joe Puruntatameri
- How many bird species are there on the Tiwi Islands?  
a) 27 b) 56 c) 41

- How long is the longest Cruise Ship in the world?  
a) 360 metres b) 267 metres c) 305 metres
- How many different plant species exist on Tiwi land?  
a) 97 b) 183 c) 216
- When is the next Federal Election?  
a) 2 July 2016 b) 15 Oct. 2016 c) 5 Jan. 2017

# Tiwi Science Reference Committee meets in Melbourne



**The first** of two Science Reference Committee meetings for 2016 was held in Melbourne on the 17th and 18th March. Tiwi representatives were Gibson Farmer Illortaminni, Stanley Tipiloura, Wesley Kerinauia, Leslie Tungatulum, David Guy and Colin Kerinauia.

TLC Manager for Land and Resources Kate Hadden also went down, and we met John and Carla Hicks who have moved to Victoria. We were very happy that Wendy Hoy, who has done so much for Tiwi health, was also able to come along from Brisbane.



Tiwi Science Reference Committee meet at Melbourne University's Baldwin Spencer Building; now the new home of Melbourne University's School of Ecosystems and Forest Science.



Prof. Gerd Bossinger, Head School of Ecosystems and Forest Science and Wesley Kerinauia, Tiwi Land Council Executive member



Prof. Wendy Hoy, University of Queensland and Leslie Tungatulum, TLC Executive member

Scientists and researchers from Melbourne University were very interested in Tiwi research ideas, and past and potential research projects were discussed in detail. Some of the projects recently completed or under way include:

- Land use planning to protect the Tiwi environment while still allowing for development;
- How different patterns of burning can affect small mammals and young tree growth;
- The best ways to measure and make sure that populations of threatened species are healthy on the Islands;
- How changes in temperature in the future might affect turtle nesting and turtle populations;
- How the health outcomes for Tiwi people have improved over the last 50 years.

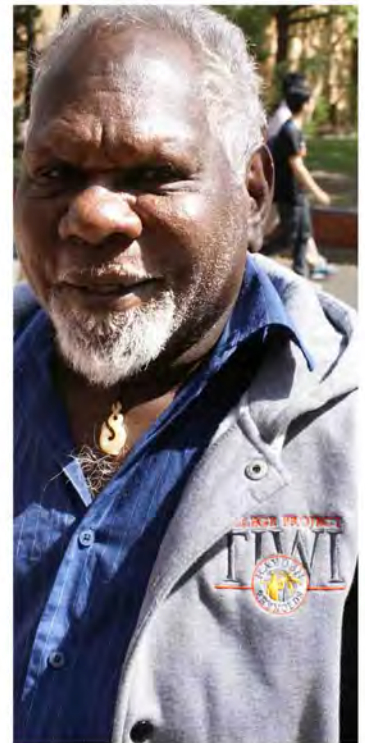


Gibson F. Illortaminni, Chairman TLC and Dr. Emily Nicholson, Deakin University

# Tiwi Science Reference Committee meets in Melbourne



Prof. Janet Hergt, Deputy Dean of Science University of Melbourne heads the SRC meeting



And some research ideas for the future included:

- More work on improving Tiwi health outcomes;
- Impacts of recreational fishing on Tiwi fish stocks;
- Keeping healthy numbers of green turtle and dugong;
- How to best protect the Tiwi Islands from pests and weeds coming from the mainland;
- Checking that the Crested Terns on Seagull Island are not under threat from other nesting birds;
- The potential of Tiwi bush foods as commercial medicines.



These projects and other ideas will all be followed up at the next meeting to be held on the Tiwi Islands, planned for August.

*Kate Hadden, Manager for Land and Resources TLC*



# Large passenger liner visits Wurrumiyanga



Early on the morning of 4th March the early risers were surprised to see a multi deck overseas passenger liner at anchor near Second Creek. However at about 8 am the liner slowly made its way to Wurrumiyanga and anchored about 100 metres in front of the new Barge facility. No one had expected such a large ship to be anchored at the end of Kerinauia Highway.

At around 9 am the first of 14 Zodiacs on board the ship brought the first tourists from the ship to the beach. Soon we had Zodiacs running everywhere and we ended up with over 200 passengers and 50 staff on the foreshore.

The very excited French visitors made their way to the MCPS school hall for a formal welcome to country from Wesley Kerinauia and a group of 20 senior

dancers lead by Wally JR. The children from MCPS showed the visitors that the culture was not dead by performing many dances including the famous bombing of Darwin dance.

The Chief Minister and a large group of press were on hand to record the activities of the exciting day.

The ship's captain invited a class of 21 school children to visit the ship and when they returned to shore it was obvious the glass elevators were the big highlight of the shipboard visit.

When the welcome was over the visitors were broken into groups of about twenty members and lead by a local guide to experience the many unique attractions in Wurrumiyanga. The Patakijiyali museum and Tiwi Design were the most popular sites for the visitors.

*Ray Allwright, CEO Tiwi Enterprises*



French cruise ship Le Soleal visiting Tiwi Islands

Photos by Meredith Quail



**The ship sailed for Darwin shortly after 4 pm. The visit was seen as being very successful by all concerned and already a return later in 2016 is on the drawing boards.**

# Jilamara makes world news



International  
New York Times

Look up the whole article on [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)  
Here some quotes from the article by Jane Perlez:

## Aboriginal Art, From an Isolated Part of Australia, Resonates Far

By JANE PERLEZ MARCH 2, 2016

[..] The artists work in two large, open-sided buildings: one for women, one for men, as called for by tribal custom. Long trestle tables that look out onto a forest of brilliant green palms and towering gray eucalyptus trees make up the work space.

Power tools lie around, evidence of the creation of wooden sculptures that some of the artists carve from trees in an echo of traditional funeral poles.

And when there is a need for a deep-red ocher, the artists simply heat orange ocher from the ground in a saucepan over an outdoor fire until it turns vermilion. [..]

“We are living with white society and also living with my culture,” Pedro Wonaeamirri, 42, a prominent Tiwi artist, said as he showed a visitor around the Jilamara center. “It is really hard to choose which is

better. We are living both ways — we are used to it.” Mr. Wonaeamirri, whose work hangs in many Australian museums, said he abhors Western methods in his art. [..]

Mr. Cook, who started painting as a teenager, is scheduled to show his work in Paris this year. A tall man who was dressed one day recently in jeans and a checked shirt, he is not exactly sure how old he is, probably about 60, he said. [..]

Tiwi Art is different. They keep true to traditions once used to paint their ancestors’ bodies.



Pedro Wonaeamirri

Raelene Kerinauia

Timothy Cook

Pauletta Kerinauia

Brian F. Illortaminni

Glen Farmer

### Jilamara Artists

#### QUIZ ANSWERS from page 3

1c) **Joe Puruntatameri**  
in 1980 saddened by family  
moving into town.

2b) **56**  
(Tiwi Plant and Animal Book)

3a) **360 metres**  
Allure of the Sea, built 2010

4c) **216**  
(Tiwi Plant and Animal Book)

5a) **2 July 2016**  
Prime Minister Turnbull says  
all the Senators and all the  
Members will need to be  
elected or re-elected on this  
day.

# Patakijiyali Museum

PATAKIJYALI  
MUSEUM



Over the past few years Sister Anne has been responsible for major additions to the Patakijiyali Museum and further expansion of theme displays are currently being developed. These include the “Tiwi Sports Persons Hall of Fame” and the “Early Nuns’ experiences at Wurrumiyanga”. Recently the “Second World War audio visual exhibit” was completed along with the “Radio Shed” exhibit. Both of these exhibits are as good as any exhibits in Darwin.



Patakijiyali Museum, Wurrumiyanga



Sister Anne Gardiner AM



All local residents are invited to visit the PATAKIJYALI museum “free of Charge” on a regular basis.

Recently a \$5 dollar entrance fee was set for outside visitors to the museum but it does not apply to the local community.

The Mantiyupwi Directors would like to invite all Tiwi residents to visit the Patakijiyali Museum and experience the opportunity to see your history, which is being recorded for future generations to appreciate.

*Ray Allwright*



# Land Rangers recognised



**Tiwi Land Rangers** have been recognised for their outstanding work with the Australian Government on quarantine surveillance.

Representatives from the Tiwi Land Ranger program were invited to attend workshops and networking meetings in April, which were attended by Willie Rioli and Vivian Kerinaia. The meetings were designed to allow key Rangers to meet with other ranger groups that have only just begun to carry out quarantine monitoring in their areas. Willie and Vivian were able to talk to the other groups about delivering contracted biosecurity services, and share their experiences.

The Tiwi Land Council has a strong record of protecting the Islands from unwanted pests, and won a Quarantine Award in 2003. The relationship continued to grow, and the Ranger program has been contracted to the Australian Government for many years to carry out surveillance work across the Islands. Their work has been so successful that they are used to trial new techniques before they are rolled out to other areas. *Kate Hadden TLC*



Participants at the workshop

Photo by Vanessa Drysdale,  
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

# Magpie Geese at Goose Creek

## Message from TOs



**Magpie Geese** are an important food resource for Tiwi people. Traditional Owners from Goose Creek are concerned that geese from their area are being over hunted, leaving behind only small geese with very little fat.

It is important that the food resources on the Tiwi Islands are kept healthy for generations to come, so that tomorrows children and grandchildren can enjoy the same food as people today.

Traditional Owners of Goose Creek have respectfully asked that Goose Hunting in their area is only carried out between October and January.

**Goose Creek will therefore be closed to goose hunting between February and September.**

Closing areas off to hunting is needed to keep goose numbers high, and to allow adult birds to breed and produce more young. The closure put in place by Traditional Owners for Goose Creek is the same as the closures elsewhere across the NT, which has been shown by scientists to keep the populations healthy for the future.

*Goose Creek Clan Group*

# Students across Australia learn about the Tiwi culture



The Double Helix magazine featuring the Tiwi calendars story

**More than 11,000 students** across Australia are learning about Tiwi seasonal and environmental knowledge through a children’s science magazine called Double Helix.

In the latest issue of the magazine a story about the Tiwi Seasons and Tiwi Plants and Animals calendars is featured, along with two full page lift outs of both calendars. The calendars of Tiwi knowledge were developed by CSIRO in collaboration with Traditional Owners and the Tiwi Land Council.

Senior Traditional Owner, Bernard Tipiloura said there has been a significant loss of knowledge over the past 10 to 15 years on the Tiwi Islands.

“We’re worried that kids are not learning culture so we need to think of new ways to teach them and these calendars will make a huge difference,” he said.

“I feel very good about the calendars. The more of these things we can do, the better it will be for Tiwi culture. We need to educate the children so they can take over from us when we’re gone.”

The Double Helix magazine story about the calendars will now help students across Australia learn more about Tiwi culture.

The calendars, which were produced as part of an Inspiring Australia Unlocking Australia’s Potential grant, were launched in Tiwi schools last year.

*Barbara McKaige, CSIRO*



Bernard Tipiloura

# Army Major Cisco Babui

leads the Xavier cadet unit to their annual camp



**On Sunday** the 4th April the Xavier College cadet unit caught the Sea link ferry for a week's camp in Darwin.

The cadets were to be accommodated at the Darwin RAAF base while most of their training would be out at Robison Barracks.

We are sure a great time would be had by all the students.



Photos by Meredith Quail



# Children's Safety at Piliyamyirra Supermarket



Most nights several children can be seen playing on the roof of the Piliyamyirra Supermarket and the Tai Du takeaway.

There is a high risk that a child will be seriously hurt if not killed because some of the children are smashing the electrical conduits with hammers and tomahawks.

This damage is being done to avoid the security cameras recording their actions.

If a live wire touches the roof all the children on the roof at that time will be electrocuted.

As the children climb on to the roof, they are using the security lights as steps and breaking them.

Quite often when the children set off the security alarms at Piliyamyirra Supermarket I arrive on site to see many adults standing around and doing nothing about the children.

It is clearly the parents' and community responsibility to ensure the safety of all children in Wurrumiyanga.



The Directors of Mantiyupwi (the owners of the Shopping complex) are very concerned about the children's safety. They have approved a \$60,000 project to erect barriers to stop the children climbing onto the roof.

This is a totally unnecessary expenditure.

If parents accepted responsibility for the behaviour of their children such spending would not be required.

**Parents please ensure the safety of your children by taking steps to stop them climbing on the roof before a child gets seriously hurt if not killed.**

*Ray Allwright, CEO Tiwi Enterprises*

# Tiwi College report - Our story



Photos by Hachette Publishing and Dianne 'Tictac' Moore



Tiwi College senior girls

Ngingawila Ngirramini – Our Story the latest book to come out of Tiwi College and is the 3rd book to be written by the senior girls class. It encapsulates the Tiwi lifestyle through the perspective of nine teenage girls.

The journey began on a weeklong writing workshop in Sydney, where the group worked alongside published authors Anita Heiss and Pamela Freeman as well as a team from Hachette Publishing. Each girl wrote about her heroes, sacred places and proudest moments.

While in Sydney the girls had a surprise meeting with ILF ambassador, Jessica Mauboy, learnt to surf with Layne Beachley, toured Google Australia and Barangaroo Point Reserve.

*Tiwi College*

**Additional print runs will be made and the book is available online at most major bookstores.**

The girls were also able to share stories and traditional dances with students at Rozelle Public school.

Since then, the book has become a best seller, completing selling out before it could be distributed to bookshops and schools.

The trip was not possible without the generous financial support of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Also thank you to the Hayden-Reynolds Project for organising the extra activities while the girls were in Sydney.





## BreastScreenNT Cancer Screening Service



**Are you a woman aged 50 years or over with no breast problems?**

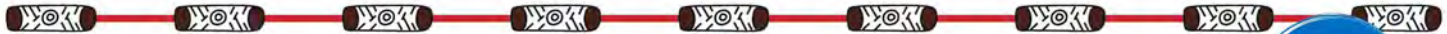
The BreastScreenNT Bus is offering  
**FREE** screening mammograms (breast X-Rays)

**We are bringing the Mobile 4WD to  
Wurrumiyanga  
17-26 May 2016**

13 20 50



Fax: (08) 8922 6440 [www.nt.gov.au/health](http://www.nt.gov.au/health) PO Box 40596 Casuarina NT 0811



# Building the Red Cross Centre



Photo by Meredith Quail

The work on the Red Cross Centre at Wurrumiyanga commenced on 28 April 2016.

# Tiwi Grand Final



20 March - Grand Final day at Wurrumiyanga

**Tiwi Grand Final**  
**Sunday, 20 March 2016**  
**Wurrumiyanga**



Photos by Rachel Burke



**Grand Final**  
**- between -**  
**TUYU Buffaloes**  
**and**  
**Muluwurri Magpies**



**The Magpies got off to a good start**  
**but TUYU battled hard all day to stay in the game**  
**until late in the last quarter..**

**Magpies won...**

