



THE TIWI

NEWS for
Traditional
Owners



NEWS from your LAND Council

Good to know

Andrew Tipungwuti appointed
as TLC Deputy CEO See page 2



Photo by
Hilda Smith

Topics

Chairman's Words	1
TLC Organisational Structure	4
Governor General visits the Tiwi Islands	5
Sister Anne Gardiner AM - Senior Australian of 2017	7
EMC Notes	9
TIFL Season 2016-17	10
Farewell Jodie Millsom	12
Nguiu Club Newsletter	13
Tiwi College - Starting the year	14
Tiwi Bombers Youth Girls	15
Xavier Graduates	16

Chairman's Words



Welcome to our February/March edition of *The Tiwi*. Again we pass our condolences to family who have lost close ones over the past months.

I hope everyone's managed to have a relaxing and happy Christmas and New Years break and are now ready to take on 2017, refreshed and prepared to tackle the challenges as well as reap the rewards that await us.

The TLC were honoured to have hosted our Governor General of Australia, Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove at Wurrumiyanga in February.

Sir Peter has a long history with Defence as do we with lots of Tiwi in the Navy and army from WWII and Norforce in more recent years and of course our own Matthias Ullungura capturing the first prisoner of war on Australian soil. Sir Peter and Lady Cosgrove were seriously over the moon on their 'amazing' day and welcome from Tiwi people.



Photo by Mark Muller



Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove in Wurrumiyanga

See page 5

Chairman's Words



Andrew Tipungwuti addressing Tiwi Land Council's Executive Management Committee 2014

It is with great

pleasure that I announce that the Full TLC have unanimously appointed Andrew Tipungwuti as our TLC Deputy CEO.

Andrew has well and truly earned this position, having been appointed as an Executive member of the TLC over ten years ago and learning from some of our great leaders in Jimmy and Charles Tipungwuti, Bernard Tipiloura, Walter Kerinauia, Matthew Wonaemirri, Cyril Kalippa and his father Robert Tipungwuti.

Getting down to business



Andrew Tipungwuti with Dennis Tipakalippa speaking at Port Melville 2015



Andrew as Tiwi Marine Ranger on patrol 2016

Andrew comes into this role with an enormous amount of experience, having worked as our Marine Ranger for many years and also been heavily involved in the establishment of our Ranku Community, as well as Board member of Port Melville, Tiwi Plantations Corporation, Tiwi Islands Adventures, Tiwi Education Board, Tiwi Barge, TITEB, Coastal Fisheries, amongst others, and has also been our TLC representative on the ABA, having successfully argued for and delivered tens of millions of dollars for the Tiwi Islands.

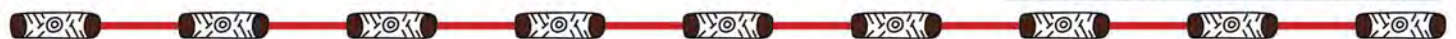
Our past leaders have for many years been asking why we don't have Tiwi people in high Management positions and I welcome the unanimous decision of the Full Tiwi Land Council to Andrew's appointment.

We look forward to more of our Tiwi people striving to become leaders in our Tiwi organisations.

I would also like to welcome Dennis Tipakalippa to our TLC Executive Team. Dennis is a strong Munupi man living at Pirlangimpi and has a lot to offer your TLC.



Andrew and Brian Clancy, CEO TLC attending science meeting Melbourne University



Chairman's Words



We also would like to welcome Josephine Martens to our TLC Team as our Finance Officer. Josephine comes to us with a wealth of finance experience having worked with Tiwi people at Milikapiti, Wurrumiyanga and Ranku over many years.

We have included the TLC Organisational Chart in this edition to reflect these appointments.

In these pages you will read an inspiring speech made by our own Sr Anne Gardiner when awarded the Senior Australian of the Year Award on January 26th in Canberra. In it you will read that Sr Anne, accepted the award, not for herself, but for all Tiwi people. We can all take heart and learn from those powerful words that it's not all about us, it's about giving ourselves selflessly to our family, our friends and our Tiwi community to make it a better place for our children and our children's children. Congratulations Sr Anne, a lifetime spent sharing yourself and your wisdom with Tiwi people continues hopefully for many years to come.

Tiwi Plantations Corporation will be conducting consultations in all communities. Our Tiwi Forestry Project is still facing some hurdles but with the continued support of our local member, Lawrence Costa and our Northern Territory and Federal Governments, we are confident that we can get through. TPC was a NT finalist for the 2016 Australian Export Awards.

Our Tiwi Bombers men haven't had a great season, but lots of young men have been given opportunities that will place the team in good stead in coming years. There are some challenges here too that we will need to work our way through, but by working together we will get there. As we all know, footy is religion to us. Everyone, boys and girls, want to be a Tiwi Bomber. They provide a pathway, leadership, role models and bring the entire community together. We look forward to another ten years of the Tiwi Bombers continuing to provide to our spiritual well being.

On the upside, our Tiwi Bombers Under 15 and 18 girls teams are well in the hunt for some finals success so we wish them well in the coming weeks.

The Tiwi Islands Football League Finals are also just around the corner and we wish all teams the best in what promises to be one of the most exciting finals series yet.

As we are getting closer to the end of the Wet, please drive carefully, look after yourselves and your family with the Dry Season just around the corner.

Mana,

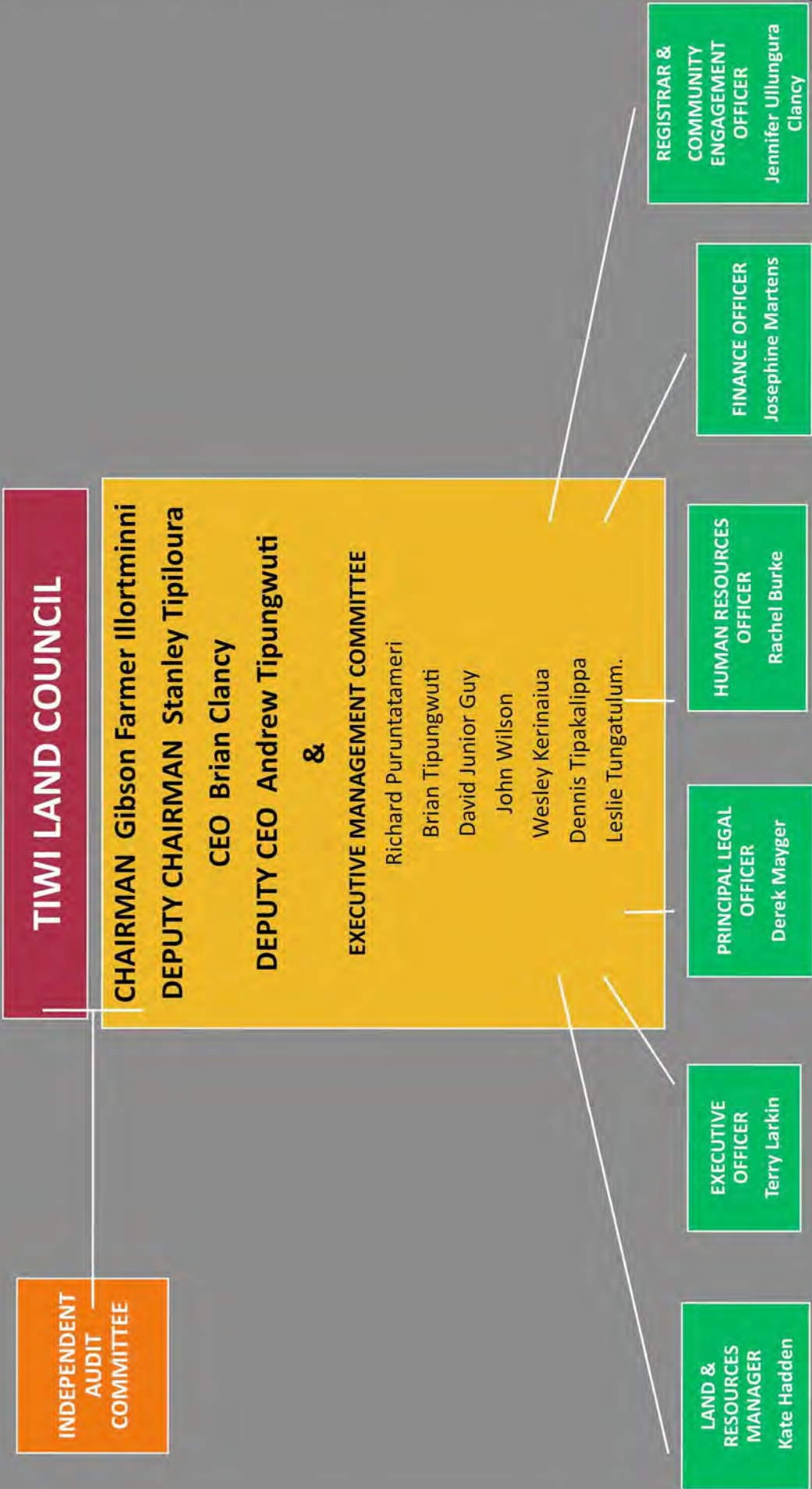
*Gibson Farmer Illortaminni
Chairman Tiwi Land Council*



TLC Organisational Structure



OUTLINE OF ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Governor General visits the Tiwi Islands

2017



As part of the Governor General's visit to the Top End to recognise the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin he came to Wurrumiyanga to highlight the Tiwi effort in helping to defend Australia from a possible invasion by Japanese soldiers in 1942. We all know about Matthias Ullungura capturing the first POW on Australian soil. However, we must pay respect to the many Tiwi men who joined the Army and the Navy where many served on small ships and even submarine supply trips into the Timor islands.

In addition many people who stayed on the island worked with the defence forces that were based at Wurrumiyanga. Two Tiwi women teachers (Elizabeth Kelantamama and Beatrice Kerinaiaua) even set up a school under the trees to continue the children's education and to protect the children from the Japanese planes flying overhead to bomb Darwin. These women received a special Papal award for their wartime efforts.

An Australian air force pilot who bailed out of his aircraft was found on a beach near Pawunapi and was looked after by a Tiwi Family from the Rocky Point area. Over a number of months the family walked the pilot around the coast to Wurrumiyanga.

The Munkara and Tipuamantamerri families assisted in the recovery of passengers from the bombed hospital ship at Fourcroy. The story of Louie Munkara asking Father McGrath for a single bullet was eventually explained by Louie when he advised that he had five POW's over on Melville Island and he could line them up in a straight line and kill all five with one bullet.

continues page 6



Welcome party on Bathurst Island L to R: Brian Clancy, Stanley Tipiloura, Lady Cosgrove, Ray Allwright, Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove, Wesley Kerinaiaua, Marion Scrymgour and Jennifer Clancy

Photo by Mark Muller

Governor General visits the Tiwi Islands



A traditional Tiwi welcome was held in the MCPS hall with the welcome to country from Wesley Kerinauia, a welcome speech from TLC Chairman Gibson Farmer and a speech from the TLC Deputy Chairman and Chairman of the Tiwi Trust, Stanley Tipiloura, of the importance Culture, Education and Economic Development has for our future generations, while Jennifer Ullungura Clancy performed the duties of Master of Ceremonies. The famous “Bombing of Darwin” dance was performed by the male dancers with expert help from the MCPS students. However, the highlight of the ceremony was the three year olds doing their version of the dancing.

During the day visits were made to the Museum, the radio shack, the Matthias Ullungura statue, Tiwi Design, Calvary Aged Care facilities and the Clinic. At the Governor General’s request a competition football game was rescheduled for a 3 pm start. The Governor General met all the players, officials and coaches in the centre of the oval and tossed the coin for the captains. The mighty TUYU proceeded to win the match.

At the end of the visit the Governor General expressed his appreciation for a very ‘Tiwi’ experience, with plenty of smiles, laughter, culture, history and football making up a wonderful day.

A special thanks must go to Ray Allwright who managed to pull all the moving parts together to help create a great Tiwi day.

Tiwi Land Council



Photos by Mark Muller

Our Sister Anne Gardiner AM Senior Australian of 2017



Senior Australian of the Year 2017

Sister Anne Gardiner AM

Community champion, connecting cultures and celebrating aboriginal heritage

Honour roll

*Australian of the Year
2017 (extract)*

In 1953, as a 22-year-old member of the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Sister Anne Gardiner was asked to move to Bathurst Island to live among the Tiwi people. Sister Anne has devoted 50 of the 63 years since to enriching community, enhancing opportunity and supporting the Tiwi culture. An advocate of peace, love, local decision-making, Tiwi language and culture, Sister Anne has worked tirelessly to educate generations of children while also establishing community groups from mother's clubs to Little Athletics. Since her retirement as principal of the local primary school, Sister Anne has run regular prayer meetings, founded an op shop and established a coffee shop to support her much-loved community. Sister Anne's labour of love is working with community members to establish the Patakajiyali museum where Tiwi history, culture and language can be preserved for future generations. A key part of the community, Sister Anne is much loved and respected by the Tiwi people and has earned an enduring place in their hearts.



Our Sister Anne Gardiner AM Senior Australian of 2017



Prime Minister
Malcolm Turnbull awards
Sister Anne Gardiner AM

Photo ABC News Jordan Hyslop

Sister Anne's Acceptance speech for the Australia Day Award - Senior Citizen of the Year

“Prime Minister, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, and in a special way, fellow Senior Citizens.

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal People, the traditional custodians of the country on which we are gathered, and pay tribute to the unique role they play in the life of this city.

I am most humbled and grateful to receive this award. I accept it in the name of all Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart who have lived and ministered among Australia's indigenous peoples for more than a century, and on behalf of the Tiwi People of Northern Australia in whose life I have been privileged to share for more than 50 years as an invited member of their community.

As persons, our identity is WHO we are, not WHAT we are. WHO we are is made visible through our spoken languages and lived cultures.

There is not only one way to be a leader; there is not only one language through which to express leadership; there is not only one cultural lens through which to view leadership.

It has been my joy to witness and experience Tiwi People manage organisations, conduct schools and health clinics, train others in a range of areas, and ad-

minister businesses. They have done this by being confident in WHO they are, as their language and culture remain strong. They have done it too, while having to confront substance abuse, suicide, domestic violence and other signs of a community in distress.

Sadly, some of the cultural understandings and their incorporation into policies, which enabled communities such as the Tiwi to maintain and develop their language and cultural strength, while simultaneously engaging with their wider world, are not in place in Australia today. My hope is that this will be redressed in my lifetime. It is of paramount importance that those responsible for policy development consult with the relevant persons and groups among our First Peoples so that policies may recognise and appropriately include their languages and cultures, particularly in areas such as leadership, education and employment.

I invite all Australians to support people such as the Tiwi to be visible **as Australians to all Australians**.

I pray that all people in our wonderful country, Australia, regardless of language, culture, skin colour or religious belief, may stand tall as proud Australians. Thank you.”

Anne Gardiner FDNSC

Canberra, Australia Day 2017

Executive Management Committee

EMC's Notes



Richard Puruntatameri, Leslie Tungatulum, Stanley Tipiloura, Wesley Kerinauia, Gibson F. Illortaminni, John Wilson, Andrew Tipungwuti, David Guy Jnr and Brian Tipungwuti

The Tiwi Land Council's Executive Committee hope that you all had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. We can't believe it's February already! We are back into the swing of things for the coming year and we feel like 2017 is going to be a great year for us all. We are very excited to get back into it, there's lots of things happening and lots of work to be done.

As usual we are keen to share stories with you as they come to hand - about the Port, Forestry, Township Leasing, Fisheries, land and sea rangers, potential and planned economic developments and much more!

Also, we are excited about new changes within our organisation. In the near future we will start work on a new website for the Tiwi Land Council. Our aim is that it will be more user friendly, modernised, with heaps of information that we can keep up to date ourselves on a regular basis to better inform Tiwi people about what we're all about.

In some good news, we have just approved ICTV to come across to Wurrumiyanga to do some filming on TIFL Grand Final Day, to cover the playoff for our

premiership! Great that our league will once again get the media coverage it deserves. The ICTV crew will arrive earlier in Grand Final week – so keep an eye out for them!

We encourage all members of the community to talk to us. If you have any feedback, good or bad, we want to hear from you. Or if have any concerns please feel free to contact us.

Mana.

Executive Management Committee



Good to know

The Tiwi Islands Forestry Project:

- the only 100% owned indigenous forestry project
- 42 Tiwi have been employed with low turnover
- 6 vessels have successfully delivered wood chip to the Japanese market
- TPC is the major customer of Port Melville
- TPC was a NT Finalist for the 2016 Australian Export Awards



Tiwi Football is one of most exciting community football leagues in Australia. This is one of the reasons why so many people come out to Bathurst Island on the third Sunday in March to watch two Twi teams battle it out on the green grass of the monsoon-watered Wurrumiyanga Oval for the Maurice Rioli Cup.

This season has seen Muluwurri setting themselves up for a back to back premiership. Even though they do not have a home ground, even though they are from a small community, the boys from Milikapiti have produced some of the best football of the past two seasons.

The coach last year for Muluwurri was Connell Tipiloura, who led Muluwurri to a well deserved premiership through the hardest possible course. Muluwurri ended the

season in third place so had to play in the first semi, then the preliminary and then the grand final. This year Muluwurri, coached by Scotty Daniels, appear to have cemented their place at the top of the ladder and will probably end the season as minor premiers (at the date of writing this article there are two games to go before the finals.)

This year we have ICTV (Indigenous Community Television) from Alice Springs making the long trip up to film the Grand Final and TEABBA (Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association) will be broadcasting a live call of the action on the day.

One change we made this year was to schedule all Muluwurri home games at the Pirlangimpi oval. It was felt that Muluwurri were having to travel too much for each game on the Wurrumiyanga oval.

We hope that the money acquired by Tiwi Islands Regional Council for the refit of the Milikapiti oval will be spent during the dry and that the ground will be ready for games when our season starts again in October.

We also started a Thursday night game which was very successful, even though during the first game, Pumaralli v. Tuyu, the rain started coming down in the third quarter and did not let up. The Wurrumiyanga Club Bistro put on a meal and people could come out in the evening to watch a game.

Some highlights – a visit from a couple of Essendon Bombers players, the coin toss by the Governor General, the first Muluwurri Tapalinga clash, the first Ranku win, the last Tuyu Walama game and the time Ranku beat Tapalinga.

TIFL Season 2016-17



TIFL would like to thank our major sponsor, the Tiwi Islands Regional Council, for all their support of Tiwi football. TIRC maintain, water, cut and clean all our ovals, pay for the water bill for the irrigation that keeps the grounds green during the dry, pay the power bill for the lights used on a night game, provide transport across the strait each Saturday and are a major contributor to the Grand Final. Without this support, TIFL would not be able to continue.



LOOKING TO 2019-20

Last but not least, the first TIFL season and Grand Final that I am aware of was in 1969-70. So in 2019-20 we will be celebrating 50 years of TIFL. This is a significant milestone and TIFL would like to make it a very special year. We will be proposing some more life members to TIFL, picking a Tiwi team of the half century, inviting teams from other competitions to compete in our Lightning Premiership and making sure that it is a season to remember.

Chris Smith, TIRC



Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove meet the Bulldogs and Buffaloes

Farewell Jodie



At the end of last year we said another sad goodbye - this time to forestry's Jodie Millsom, who left the Tiwi Islands and moved to NSW. Jodie started with forestry in 2006 when it was still Great Southern days. Working in plantation establishment, she spent long days walking in the bush marking out the plantation boundaries. Later on she moved over to the Environment Team and set up a lot of the environmental monitoring still being carried out today.

Jodie was passionate about the special plants and animals on the Tiwi Islands, and kept a close eye on forestry operations to make sure they were properly looked out for. She also monitored the natural environment - making sure there was no impact on creeks and waterholes, managing quarantine so that no pests came onto the Islands from forestry operations, working really hard on weed management, helping us out with feral animal sightings, and too many other things to mention.

Jodie was also passionate about and supported the aspirations of Tiwi people, believing that a thriving forestry industry on the Islands would help support Tiwi lives.

After more than 10 years we will miss Jodie's dedication, her willingness to help out no matter what the job, her genuine care of the Tiwi environment, and her genuine care for Tiwi people. We wish her well in her new job closer to Family. NSW Forestry sure has gained a valuable new employee!



*Kate Hadden
Tiwi Land Council*



Jodie Millsom and Kate Hadden at Open Day start of the forest harvest 2015



Forest apprentice's graduation 2011



Nguiu Club Newsletter



Nguiu Club progress report as at 1st February 2017

Since Mantiyupwi Pty Ltd signed an agreement with ORIC and Outback Stores to rescue the Nguiu Club from financial failure I am delighted to report that excellent financial progress has been made to date. This has been achieved by both tightening financial controls and our Tiwi staff working well with the Outback Store managers to implement many small improvements in Wurrumiyanga. The original debt of \$197,445 has been cleared. Steps are being taken to obtain approval to have some Tiwi security staff and planning is taking place to run a training course at Wurrumiyanga.

We have started addressing some of the more urgent repairs and maintenance tasks that have not been addressed for a number of years. Most of the electrical work has been completed and work has started on improving the bistro facilities including the installation of a larger oven. This will permit a new expanded range of healthy hot meals being available by mid-April. It will be some months before we are up to date with all the essential maintenance, however we now have the cash to carry out the work.

Application has been made for BASIC CARDS to be approved for purchases of food items from the bistro.

Unfortunately I have to report that the bar staff has discovered that some clients have been using forged beer tickets. The quality of these forged tickets is extremely high. We do not know when the passing of forged tickets started but it was more than one person involved in presenting the forged beer tickets. The long term losses could have been many thousands over many years. Steps have been taken to stop the illegal practice. Anyone caught using invalid tickets will be handed over to the local Police.

The Mantiyupwi Directors believe this community needs a successful club for all members of this community to enjoy. They have agreed with ORIC that no profits will ever be given to Mantiyupwi Pty Ltd as ORIC desires the Nguiu Club is to remain as a community asset and not a Mantiyupwi asset. All profits will be spent on improving the facilities and infrastructure at the club and then supporting sporting teams, students activities and community facilities like Aged Care and the Museum.

We have formally approached authorities for a review of all the old Nguiu Club banning's of Tiwi people. We have made very little progress on the review to date but we will continue our discussions with the relevant authorities.

The new Nguiu Club Committee consists of 6 Mantiyupwi, plus 2 non-Mantiyupwi. The committee members are Wesley Kerinaiaua, Angelo Orsto, Jennifer Clancy, Stacey Parker, Russell Pupangamirri, Derek Timaepatua, Danny Munkara and Ivan Fernando.

The committee has started sponsoring community activities such as a women's football team, the community Xmas concert and a Xmas BBQ. My committee members would like to thank everyone for their support and understanding as we are working through the many tasks required to take the Nguiu Club back to its good old glory days.



Yours faithfully

*Wesley Kerinaiaua
Chairman
Nguiu Club Aboriginal Corporation*



**NGUIU CLUB
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
C/- Post Office, Wurrumiyanga
Via Winnellie NT 0822
Ph: 08 8978 3979**

ICN 8335 ABN 50 795 279 768

Tiwi College - Starting the Year



Awana! Hello from Peaceful Picka.

Starting the Year

Tiwi College has had an exciting start to 2017. We have record numbers here at Pickataramoor! 3 of our classes are full and have a waiting list of students who want to join. We are really proud that so many Tiwi people want their young people to come to Tiwi College for their education.

We also say thank you to the students for their great attitude about returning to school after the holidays. The weather and roads have made transport difficult. Thank you to all the students who patiently waited for our troopies to get to their community!



Senior Young Women's Maths Class

New Staff

Nearly all of our staff have stayed on at Peaceful Picka from last year. As our school grows, we also welcome new staff to Tiwi College.

Bobette Joran and Jessica Stassi are 2016 Tiwi College graduates who now have full time jobs at the College. Bobette is the new Primary Assistant Teacher. Jess is the Assistant to the Farm Manager. We are very proud to welcome them into the staff team!

Matthew Godenzi is the new Senior Young Men's class teacher. He has taught in schools and outdoor camps in Victoria, as well as working for the bush fire service.

Rhiannan Parker is replacing Emily as the Girls Academy Coordinator. Rhiannan was in charge of boarders at MITS (Melbourne Indigenous Transition School) last year.

Malakai and Kelera Waqa are the new Family Group Home 3 houseparents. They have many connections to the Fijian community who are already at Tiwi College.



New staff Rhiannan Parker, Bobette Joran, Kelera Waqa, Jess Stassi, Matt Godenzi and Malakai Waqa

Leadership Team

This year we have some changes in our leadership team. In Term 1, Principal Ian Smith is on long service leave. For Term 1, Sila Pati and Ailsa MacFie are the Co-Acting Principals. We are working together to run the school.

In Term 2, Ian will return to train our new principal, Stuart Ward. Stuart will spend the first term mentoring his replacement teacher and being part of the leadership team.

This year, Isoa Waqairagata is replacing Solo as the Family Group Home Coordinator. He has been at Picka for many years and knows our students well.



Leadership team Stuart Ward, Brian Clancy, Ailsa MacFie, Isoa Waqairagata and Sila Pati

Our School

We are proud to provide a quality education at Tiwi College, so that Tiwi students do not need to leave their country to go to school. Every classroom has 2 teachers: a qualified teacher and a Tiwi Assistant Teacher. Most of our 2016 graduates have already started jobs. We keep in contact with our graduates to help them transition from school to work.

Our Family Group Home parents continue to be the "home away from home" for students. They provide love, care, laughter and guidance. Their Lifeskills program also helps educate students about health, hygiene, good relationships and caring for others.

Our Academy Program continues to support positive choices in students through the Traffic Light Incentive System, which leads to prizes, reward dinners and reward trips.

We look forward to an exciting and fulfilling 2017!

*Ailsa MacFie
Co-Acting Principal*



Former student Annis Guy employed now in a local job

Tiwi Bombers Youth Girls



Awana, Tiwi Bombers Youth Girls have continued their good form post Christmas and both teams, under 15s and under 18s are currently sitting second on the ladder. Weather and travel options have been ongoing challenges affecting play some weekends, but the girls attitudes and will to play rain, hail or shine is impressive.

It's been so exciting to see the AFL Women's League take off and wouldn't it be amazing to see Tiwi girls there in a few years time. So we hope families and community keep encouraging the girls to attend school and training and choose a healthy lifestyle.

Mentions and congratulations go out to Marietta (Rayma) Puautjimi (pictured) who is leading the league for goal kicking in under 15s, playing mostly as a midfielder. Also to Shikira Henry and Phyllisia Palipuaminni who took part in the Woomeras camp last week, alongside former Bomber Gerrica Heenan. We look forward to seeing more players get opportunities to take part in talent pathways.

We started this program in 2015 with the dream to see Tiwi young women have brighter futures too. We couldn't have done it without volunteers who turn up week in week out to help out and all of those based in community who make sure the girls train and get to Darwin to play.

We also give special thanks to our sponsors: Accor, Sealink, Telstra, Pirlangimpi Store, Milikapiti Club, Milikapiti Store, NUA, Boots for All, Sports Tape Wholesalers who make it all possible. Please support those who support us.

We could never find a better group to coach, so thank you girls, we've made some amazing memories. Nimpagni.

Karina Gray, Youth Girls Leadership Program Coordinator



Marietta (Rayma) Puautjimi





Xavier Catholic College Wurrumiyanga

Quality Catholic Tiwi
Education
Year 7 to Year 13



Photo taken by Northern Territory School of Distance Education (NTSDE)

The College community congratulates the
graduating class of 2016; Dulcie Niki, Jaslyn Austral,
Trish Tipiloura, Eileen Tipungwuti and Edmena Kantilla.