Chairman’s Words

All our families have been touched by sadness these past months. Now, more than ever, we hold each other, not as Yimpinari or Munupi or Malawu, but as TIWI who have together survived because we are ONE people right across these Islands.

We are one people in our pain and sorry just as much as we are one people in our business or sporting triumphs.

It makes us who we Tiwi are – managing our land and respecting each other in all that we do.

The challenges continue for us. Our Governance responsibilities have begun in earnest as we build our business and the organisations of Government that support us. Our elders have planned and thought carefully about our use of land to sustain our lives. We have to do it proper way. That also is Tiwi way. There is no other way.

The Land Council joins with me in our sympathy and sorrow for families of the eleven Tiwi who have passed on since last I wrote. We value the experiences of your lives and the meanings they have for us that we carry into the future.

Gibson Farmer Ilortonaminni,
Chairman Tiwi Land Council
Governance for the Next generation of Tiwi leaders

A while back, your Tiwi Land Council requested that we make sure everyone is trained properly to manage all of the ‘Tiwi Owned’ things that are happening on the Tiwi Islands. They could see that the Forestry and the Port would bring more and more opportunities for Tiwi to manage their own lives. With some of the older leaders sadly no longer with us, or retiring from their leadership roles, it is really important that the younger Tiwi people step up to learn how things are done. Governance training can help future leaders to do exactly that!

In early May, KPMG delivered the pilot version of the Land Council’s long planned “tailor made for Tiwi” governance training. Those who took part in the pilot suggested a few changes for KPMG to make before they begin delivering it to Tiwi Land Council members initially.

Then directors of other Tiwi organisations are welcome to sign on as it is rolled out. We are also hoping to get the course accredited by Melbourne University so that those who successfully complete it have a certificate on completion.

KPMG have generously put together this 2 day course from scratch, on an honorary basis (for free!). The first course will also be at no cost. Any Tiwi organisations who wish to take part in future governance training sessions with KPMG over the coming months please contact:

Tiwi Land Council HQ on 8970 9373 or admin@tiwilandcouncil.com.

Rachel Burke and Terry Larkin, Tiwi Land Council
Managers’ Notes

Again we pay our respects to family who have lost loved ones over the past weeks. We are losing too many of our people to sickness and far too young, so we ask all of our family to look after yourselves and family members.

Your TLC Managers and Delegates have continued to work behind the scenes for the benefit of all Tiwi people. Port Melville developments are continuing to gather pace and your Tiwi Forestry project is back on track for our first harvest this year, so keep an eye out for community notices advertising training and employment opportunities for Tiwi people over the next couple of months. If you are interested in working with Tiwi Plantations or at Port Melville, see your friendly TITEB staff in all communities for more information.

Your Tiwi Land Council has helped facilitate the coming together of all the Tiwi owned organisations, which make up Tiwi Corporate and include: Bathurst Island Housing, Mantiyupwi Trust, Tiwi Resources Trust, Tiwi Plantations, Port Melville, Munupi Trust, Portaminni Trust, Tiwis Islands Adventures, Tiwi Enterprises, Wulirankuwu Trust, Tiwis Islands Training And Employment Board, along with unincorporated land groups; Mirrakawuyanga, Malawu, Tikalaru, Yimpinari.

Representatives from these organisations have come together to talk about issues that affect their business, challenges that they face and ways in which all Tiwi owned organisations can work with and help each other for the benefit of all Tiwi.

Many people would have seen the Tiwi Corporate logo proudly sponsoring the Tiwi Bombers Football Club. Two meetings of Tiwi Corporate have taken place and it is planned that Tiwi Corporate will come together every couple of months, led by Tiwi Corporate itself.

Common issues identified by Tiwi Corporate include: Training and retention of staff; Education; Family problems; Accommodation for Tiwi workers; Communication; Rumours; Financial risks; the lack of support from all banks; the need to employ more Tiwi people, including in top positions; the need for reliable and qualified people; Tiwi people with the right skills; People who can work a full day and turn up every day to get the job done; Leaders needing to talk to their followers to get commitment from the young Tiwi; Teaching work ethic and commitment; the need for members of Tiwi Corporate to go back to their people and talk about these meetings and what has been discussed, openly and transparently.

Tiwi Corporate also spoke about how each organisation can help make other Tiwi organisations stronger by sharing resources, utilising each other’s services and looking for other ways to assist each other.

As Bernard Tipiloura said at the initial Tiwi Corporate meeting: “when one of us falls over, the rest of us need to help them back up”. A real traditional Tiwi message that shows the strength and power that can come when we are all working together, for all Tiwi, Tiwi way.

Management Committee Tiwi Land Council
It is over 10 years now that nesting turtles have been counted along 10km of beach at Cape van Diemen on Melville Island. This is the longest running successive year monitoring of Olive ridley turtles anywhere in Australia. Before this project, there had been no nesting studies for this turtle in Australia, and very little was known about its nesting biology, feeding behaviour and migration patterns.

This project has provided the first comprehensive information for Olive ridley nesting biology in Australia.

Sea turtles are long-lived and the numbers nesting each year change naturally. Nobody knows why the numbers vary, and it has taken years to find out if the population is healthy and staying around about the same. The graph below shows the average number of turtles that nested each night in April between 2006 and 2014.

![Average number of turtles nesting per night](chart.png)
Some of the things we have found out over the years include:

- The nesting season is between February and November, with the main peak in April.
- An estimated 1500 nests are laid each year along the 10km of beach.
- Nesting success is very high at nearly 99%. Nesting success is the number of successful nests resulting from nesting attempts.
- The average size of adult nesting turtles is 69cm, however size is not an indication of breeding age. One of the smallest turtles measured has been nesting for several years, while one of the largest was in her first breeding season.
- The average number of eggs laid in each nest is 85.
- Hatching success is very high at around 85%. This means that of every 100 eggs laid, 85 will hatch successfully. Nearly all of the hatchlings make it out of the nest to head out to sea.
- Turtles can lay more than once during a season. Re-nesting intervals for Olive ridleys were recorded for the first time in Australia, and varied from 12 to 23 days.
- By tagging turtles and putting on satellite transmitters, we found that many Olive ridley turtles return to the same beach to nest each time.
- The Tiwi Islands Olive ridley turtle population is healthy in that around 20% of nesting females are nesting for the first time. The required rate for sustainable populations is between 10% and 20%.
- Many adult females have short breeding cycles. One third of them returned to breed after only 1 year.
- Different females breed at different times of the year.
- Research over the last 10 years has not disturbed nesting turtles or caused a reduction in egg production.

Kate Hadden, Tiwi Land Council
In January this year 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.

In accordance with the Plant Health Act, Milikapiti was declared a “Quarantine Place” for banana plants on 5th February. 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 known as the “restricted area”, and will stay a restricted area for 12 months. Banana plants cannot be taken in or out of the restricted area, or moved around within the restricted area.

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

At the end of May, the NT Government will be meeting with Commonwealth Quarantine to develop a plan for dealing with the disease across the Darwin region, including the Tiwi Islands. Once the plan is finalised we will be notified, and all banana plants in Milikapiti will need to be removed.
Not a lot going on at Ranku? Think again! Tiwi Artists have developed sales through our own Fishing Lodges that have inspired the RANKU - TIWI lure, now a must have item for our tourists.
A great initiative of Ranku people coordinated by Louise at the Store and Manager Nigel of TIA.
NT Government Leasing Proposal & Economic Development Progress

The Northern Territory Government, with the support of the Tiwi Land Council, has been discussing the possibility of leasing up to 10,040 hectare of land on the Tiwi Islands.
The aim of leasing this land is to attract new business to the Tiwi Islands and increase the number of jobs available for Tiwis. This is in line with the Tiwi Islands Memorandum of Understanding signed in December 2013.

Four public consultation meetings were held on this topic during May 2014: Two in Wurrumiyanga; one in Pirlangimpi; and one in Milikapiti. Future meetings on this topic may be held during June 2014. Please monitor the Tiwi Land Council Facebook page for upcoming meetings. You are also encouraged to contact your Land Council representative to discuss the proposal further.

Consent has been provided by the Tiwi Land Council for the Department of Land Resource Management to start land capability assessments investigating the suitability of land for economic development. Officers from the Department of Land Resource Management started soil and water tests in North East Bathurst Island (Malau land) in May 2014. This work is taking place to determine the suitability of the land for agricultural development and will continue throughout the dry season.

In addition, work recently started on preparing an Economic Development Plan for the Tiwis, which aims to set a long term direction for creating new businesses and jobs through the land leasing proposal and identifying complementary opportunities.

Sharyn Innes and the Northern Territory Government have set about speaking to business owners and interested parties about business and job growth. So far, many Tiwi businesses have been consulted about this Plan.

This work will continue during June and July 2014.

So, if you have any business and job growth ideas that you would like to discuss, keep an eye on the Tiwi Land Council Facebook page for upcoming sessions.

Also, you may contact: Hayley Richards from the NT Government on 8999 6488 or Sharyn Innes directly on 0400 626 065.

NTG Budget update

The NT Government 2014-15 Budget was released on 13 May 2014. Key NT Government expenditure to take place in 2014-15 in the Tiwi Islands includes:

- Continued support for the Tiwi Islands ferry service
- A “pop-up” monthly Territory Business Centre to provide business services throughout the Tiwi Islands
- Investigating land uses in the Tiwi Islands to facilitate economic development and employment opportunities
- Strategic assessment of land and water suitability for agricultural development
Middle School Girls are participating in a series of art and culture workshops run by senior Tiwi Elders.

Every Wednesday they visit the Jilamara art centre for an afternoon of fibre craft, bark painting, yoi yoi, and face painting. The students also love to sing and laugh in the back of the Troopies on their way to and from Tiwi College.

We thank the Tiwi Land Council for supporting the Tiwi elders who come in to the art centre and share their very important roles as cultural teachers.

Today we were very lucky to have Pedro Wonaemirri share his knowledge with the students before he heads off to Melbourne tomorrow for his exhibition opening at Alcaston Gallery.

Anne Mcmaster, Tiwi College
Rioli to Coach Tiwi Bombers

Toll Tiwi Bomber President
Mick Burns today announced that 1989 Nichols Medallist and former Hawthorn listed player Willie Rioli will be the island club’s 2014/15 NTFL TIO Premier League Coach.

200 game NTFL premiership player Willie Rioli Snr whose record also includes premierships as a player and coach with Tiwi Island club Imalu will lead the club in its 8th season.

Burns said that Rioli has earned enormous respect within the Tiwi and NT Football community for his attitude for both his sporting prowess and in his business roles.

He has a long history of success in both fields which the Toll Tiwi Bombers Board are confident will be amongst many qualities he will bring to what is accepted as the toughest coaching role in the NT with players drawn from 5 island communities, Darwin and interstate.

Willie Rioli was the youngest member of the Champion 1988 NT Bicentennial team before moving to Perth in 1989.

Drafted by Hawthorn in 1990 from St Marys via South Fremantle and playing under then Coach Alan Joyce he was at the club for their 1991 AFL Premiership which featured AFL legends John Platten, Gary Ayres, Dermot Brereton, Jason Dunstall and Robert Diperdominico.

The new Toll Tiwi Bombers Coach has a son Willie Jnr starring with the Northern Territory Thunder at present along with nephews Shannon and Benny. He is an uncle of current Hawthorn star Cyril.

President Mick Burns also announced former AFL Geelong and Adelaide forward Ronnie Burns and former AFL Swan and NTFL Player Life Member Brian Stanislaus as Assistant Coaches.

Burns said his namesake, Ronnie, has also coached successfully in Melbourne suburban leagues in addition to assistant roles at several NTFL clubs.

The NTFL TIO season beginning in October will include 4 Home games at Real Estate Central Oval at Wurrumiyanga.

Quiz

1. Who was chairman at the last “Tiwi Corporate” meeting?
   a) Wesley Kerinauia  b) Willie Rioli  c) John Wilson

2. What is a Budget?
   a) list of money spent last year
   b) list of money expected to come in and ways to spend it
   c) list of money earned past year

3. How old is the Tiwi Land Council this year?
   a) 15  b) 26  c) 36

4. How much money did Ranku Artists make in their first year selling art to our Fishing Lodges?
   a) $850  b) $2800  c) $4000

5. How fast can a crocodile run?
   a) 8-10 kph  b) 12-14 kph  c) 18-20 kph

6. How much of the world’s water is frozen in ice?
   a) 2%  b) 8%  c) 10%

7. How many buffalo in the world work for people on farms?
   a) 80 million  b) 110 million  c) 130 million

8. Which is the longest Tiwi River?
   a) Johnson River  b) Goose Creek  c) Jessie River

Quiz answers on page 11
## Fly Tiwi Timetable

**DARWIN - BATHURST IS. - DARWIN**

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**DARWIN - GPT - SNB - DARWIN**

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**CHARTER FLIGHTS**

BATHURST ISLAND – NGUUI - WURRUMIYANGA
GARDEN POINT – PIRLANGIMPI
SNAKE BAY – MILUKAPITI
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
CALL

RAY AVIATION: 08 8927 8111 or 0427278110
Ray Allwright – Bathurst Island 0427 455 600

Hardy Aviation is a Territory owned and operated company that was established in Darwin in 1991 servicing the Tiwi & Melville Islands.

**QUIZ ANSWERS from page 10**

1. b) Willie Rioli
2. b)
3. c) 36 years. First meeting was the 7th September 1978
4. c) Over $4000
5. b) Only 12-14 kph over a short distance, but they can launch half their body length quicker than that.
6. a) Only 2% is ice, 96% is ocean, 1% is fresh on land and the rest is vapour/clouds.
7. c) 130 million. Buffalo are the world’s most domesticated animals used by people.
8. a) Johnson River is 51 km long.
CELEBRATING TIWI WOMEN
PUPUWI NGORRAMUWU
LET’S STAY STRONG

TIWI WOMEN PROTECT
CHILDREN, FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE.

PROTECT TIWI WOMEN
KEEP THEM HEALTHY, HAPPY & STRONG, SO THAT TIWI FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITY CAN BE HEALTHY, HAPPY AND STRONG.

WELLBEING CENTRE, ON WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE
COME, HAVE A HEALTH CHECK, LISTEN TO SOME HEALTH STORIES,
GET SOME LUNCH & TAKE HOME A GOODIE BAG.

Munupi Family Meeting
When: 10.30am 4th June 2014
Where: Pirlangimpi Club
Why: To discuss 99 Year Lease Offer

BBQ lunch will be provided.
Contact Yvonne or Emma on 89411162 for travel information
and assistance.

Are you looking for
Vehicles for Hire?
Accommodation
for Rent?
Lawn Mowing?

Contact Yvonne or Sharon on 8941 1162 or visit
www.tiwi enterprises.com